

# San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

July 2018

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### Club Website

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### Club Blog

[www.sjscblog.net](http://www.sjscblog.net)

### Filatellic Fiesta Website

[www.filatellicfiesta.com](http://www.filatellicfiesta.com)

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the San Jose Stamp  
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## APS Board of Directors Elects New President

May 23, 2018



Today, the Board of Directors of the American Philatelic Society elected Robert “Bob” G. Zeigler to complete the term of President of the Board. Zeigler replaces Mick Zais, who was recently confirmed to serve as Deputy Secretary of Education in Washington. The term will expire in August 2019.

“I’m honored the Board has put their trust in me to serve as President. We have made great progress since I joined the Board in 2016 on improving the outlook of the APS and the hobby. I am committed to working with the Board to build on that success and continue pushing to grow our membership in the months ahead.”

Zeigler, who hails from Indianapolis, Indiana is a Life Member of the APS, and has been a member since 1973. In 2016, Zeigler was elected Vice President by the APS members, serving on the Board of Vice Presidents. He previously served on the APS Board of Directors as a Director At-Large from 2001 to 2003.

Outside of philately, Zeigler has been a trial attorney since 1980, with a focus on defending health care professionals and hospitals in malpractice lawsuits.

On the collecting side, Zeigler has specialized in collecting Switzerland for more than 40 years. He has served the Society as a member of the Expert Committee for Switzerland for more than 30 years. In addition, Zeigler has served as a philatelic judge in over 90 shows, often as Chief Judge. In 2009, the APS honored him with the Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Award for National Service. Aside from service to the APS, Zeigler has served the hobby as past President of the Indiana Stamp Club, which annually sponsors INDYPEX, one of the national World Series of Philately shows. He has also held the office of President for the American Helvetia Philatelic Society (the Swiss specialists’ organization), in which he is also a Life Member.

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## Club Blog & Website

### Blog Updates

No Activity

### Website Updates

Minutes of 06/06/18 club meeting uploaded.  
Calendar updated.  
Minutes of 05/16/18 club meeting uploaded.  
New article uploaded to “SJSC in Print” page.  
June 2018 Newsletter uploaded.

## Remember the dates!

July 18 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting  
July 21-22 El Dorado Hills Gold Rush Paper Show  
July 28-29 Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show



## President's Message

Are we having fun? I hope so! We are a social club and a primary purpose is that we have fun. There are a lot of ways we can turn our common interest in stamps into a fun and engaging way. I'd like to challenge those who haven't come to a meeting in a while to come out to a meeting. We've been enjoying starting the meetings at 7:15 to facilitate time for everyone to have time to engage in personal conversation. Our recent meetings have featured some excellent presentations and discussions. I'm working on more interesting philatelic speakers for the fall, so I most strongly encourage you to make the time to attend. If you don't like to drive at night, just let me know and I'll see if there is another club member who could give you a ride.

Another great reason to get back in the habit of attending meetings is we're also having "challenge nights". Everyone is encouraged to bring in something that presents a challenge to you. This could be in a wide variety of ways. Our club has an amazing array, width and depth of knowledge to advise on philatelic issues.

In addition to our regular meetings, we have our annual summer picnic coming up on Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Shadow Brook Cabana Club (same place as last year). We have a very relaxing and enjoyable time. Please sign-up ASAP as the club holds us to a 30 person maximum. The club will provide BBQ chicken, corn-on-the-cob, & drinks. Please bring an appetizer, salad/veggie, or dessert.

We'll be hosting the registration table at Chris Clemon's show at Napredak Hall on September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a GREAT chance to promote Filatelic Fiesta to local stamp collectors. I'm in the early stages of planning a raffle for everyone who comes and returns to Fiesta will be entered to win a nice prize. It is my goal to use this show as a great way to trademark club hospitality by roaming the show and talking with people.

Continued on next page



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## *Presidents Message continued...*

Road trip anybody? I'm thinking about a couple of trips to places that are of interest to us. How about going to Castle Air Museum near Merced? What is philatelic about an air museum you ask? Not much, expect that a bunch of us are interested in vintage aircraft. They have approximately 40 WWII and Cold War planes to view. Are you interested in going? Drop me an email and we'll find a date. Another choice is the museum at NASA Ames Visitor Center & Moffett Field Historical Society Museum.

Looking for something more "philatelic" to get involved with? How about working on the many donations our club has received? There is a wide variety of ways to help. For example, Dave Gilman takes home a box of stamps on paper and returns them off paper. This is extremely helpful and he does it at home at his convenience. The work sessions are an enjoyable way to spend the afternoon with your fellow club members.

How are you going to help at Fiesta this year? If you're a member of the SJSC, you're on the Filatelic Fiesta team. There are lot of ways to help. I know we have a few members who live outside the geographic area, but we may find a role for you. Everyone here can help with registration, sales, auction, hospitality, youth, and other responsibilities.

To summarize, we can have fun at the following:

- Regular club meetings
- Summer Picnic
- Road Trips
- Donation Work
- Registration at Napredak Hall show
- Filatelic Fiesta

Come to a few or come to all these events. Got other ideas? I want to hear them. Let's have fun!

*Brian*

## *Statue of Freedom Stamps to be issued at APS headquarters*

First responders – firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical service professionals – will be honored sometime this year on a single commemorative stamp, according to a new schedule and announcement of new stamps from the U.S. Postal Service. The date and location of the stamp's release was not announced.



A group of three high value stamps – \$1, \$2, \$5 – featuring an image of the Statue of Freedom which stands atop the Capitol Dome also were announced. The stamps will have a formal first-day ceremony June 27 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. The date – a Wednesday – coincides with the midway point of the American Philatelic Society's annual Summer Seminar on Philately.

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## Statue of Freedom continued...

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The new stamps were announced, along with a full calendar of release dates for other stamps from June through September.

Also newly released was a full design of the previously announced John Lennon stamp pane, which will be part of the Music Icons stamp series, whose previous releases have included stamps for Johnny Cash and Janis Joplin. The John Lennon pane of 16 features the same basic image design, but each of four rows features different colorations. A black-and-white photograph of Lennon seated at his white piano appears on the reverse side of the stamp pane, along with Lennon's signature and the Music Icons series logo.



The complete summer release schedule is as follows (all stamps are first-class forever stamps unless noted):

### [\\$1, \\$2, \\$5 Statue of Freedom - June 27](#) [Bellefonte, Pennsylvania](#)

O Beautiful - July 4 - Colorado Springs  
WWI: Turning the Tide - July 27 - Kansas City  
The Art of Magic - August 7 - Las Vegas  
Dragons - August 9 - Columbus Ohio (StampShow)  
U.S. Air Mail - August 11 - College Park, Maryland  
John Lennon - Sept 7 - New York City  
Birds in Winter - September 22 - Quechee, Vermont

The Statue of Freedom Stamps to be formally issued at the headquarters of the American Philatelic Society feature the head of the statue that tops the United States Capitol dome, in a modern interpretation of an engraved vignette originally created for a 1923 stamp (\$5 Head of Freedom Statue).

The engraved artwork was originally created for the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing by John Eissler (1873–1962). Rendered in emerald green (\$1), indigo (\$2) and brick red (\$5), the tightly cropped enlargements highlight the solid and dashed lines and the crosshatching characteristic of engraved illustrations. The \$1 and \$2 stamps will be sold in panes of 10; the \$5 stamp in panes of four.

American sculptor Thomas Crawford (1814–1857) created the allegorical Statue of Freedom during the mid-1850s. She wears a variation on a Roman helmet — circled by stars, topped with an eagle head, and embellished by feathered plumes meant to evoke Native American headdress. Installation of the statue onto the new Capitol dome was completed in 1863.

All three stamps are printed in intaglio and were designed by Art Director Greg Breeding.

Likewise, the First Responders stamp was previously unannounced. The digital illustration is a symbolic scene that shows three first responders in profile, facing right, as they race into action. From left to right, the first figure is a firefighter carrying an axe. The second figure is an EMS worker, with the EMS Star of Life visible on her cap, upper arm and emergency bag. The third figure is a law-enforcement officer shining a flashlight toward unknown danger ahead.

The firefighter is in red, the EMS worker in white and the police officer in blue, colors that are both patriotic and symbolic of the profession. The dark background and signs of smoke in around the figures suggest the wide range of situations that demand the immediate attention of a first responder.

Artist Brian Stauffer worked with art director and designer Antonio Alcalá and designer Ricky Altizer to create this stamp.



## Independence Day - July 4th

**Independence Day**, also referred to as the **Fourth of July** or **July Fourth**, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and were no longer part of the British Empire. The Congress actually voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the National Day of the United States.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain rule.<sup>[5][6]</sup> After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

Coincidentally, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, another Founding Father who was elected as President, also died on July 4, 1831. He was the third President in a row who died on the anniversary of independence. Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872; so far he is the only U.S. President to have been born on Independence Day.



## Banknotes - Quick Identification Techniques By Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

Three security printers, beginning in 1870 and lasting until the early 1880's, printed the Bank Note issues. These firms were the National, the Continental and the American Bank Note Companies.

The order in which they became producers of U.S. stamps should be memorized. Take note that the initial letter of each company, "N", then "C" and then "A" is in reverse alphabetical order. By remembering this N-C-A sequence you will have taken the first step in your classification efforts.

For years collectors have been frustrated by the "secret marks", or lack thereof. The paper and grills have also puzzled them. In short, one of the problem areas most frequently encountered by U.S. collectors has been the Banknotes.

Dealers are no less guilty. Don't assume that just because one makes a living from stamps that the individual is unfailingly competent at identifying every stamp that appears in their sight. You must become proficient in qualifying your philatelic purchases. Knowledge is the key.

Let's learn the quick identification techniques that will eliminate the majority of the confusion that has prevailed over this Issue.



This copy of Scott No. 215, the four-cent carmine stamp of 1888, was among the most striking of the Bank Note issues. Like all such stamps printed by the American Bank Note Company, it is on soft paper.

First, gather all of your Bank Note stamps that need to be identified. Remove all of the grilled stamps from this group. These grilled stamps will all be National issues unless Lady Philately has smiled on you and you encounter the supreme rarity, namely the Continental "J" Grill.

Next we'll make our paper evaluation so that we may separate the Americans from the Continentals. The papers of the Bank Note Issue are commonly referred to as "hard" or "soft". This has proven to be one of the main stumbling blocks for collectors over the years.



The author's "test stamp" for proving a soft paper stamp is the two-cent Columbian issue, Scott No. 231. It's a great stamp for using Herman "Pat" Herst's "flick" test.

Years ago I learned that if I took a known hard paper stamp and a known soft paper stamp, I would have a ready reference file for comparison purposes. These reference stamps are NOT Bank Note issues. I use the 2¢ Columbian as my soft paper reference stamp. The soft paper American Bank Note stamps were printed on the same paper as the Columbians. My hard paper reference is Scott 65, another inexpensive issue. The hard paper Bank Notes were printed on the same paper as this common 1861 stamp.

When you have selected one each of your hard and soft paper reference stamps, hold them up to a light and notice the difference.

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## Banknotes continued...

The hard paper will show an even texture throughout the stamp and it will be a bit translucent. The soft paper will be coarser with an uneven texture. It will also be mottled in appearance.

There is another test if you are still in doubt. It is known as the “flick” test. It was demonstrated to me many years ago by Pat Herst. Hold your reference stamps to your ear and gently flick the paper. You cannot help but tell the difference. A word of caution is in order. Years ago the Bank Note Issues were much less expensive than they are today. Use extreme caution if you decide to use this “flick” test as you can easily crease and damage an expensive stamp.

Your pile of soft paper stamps are those of the American Bank Note Company. The hard paper pile will be either Nationals or Continentals. We'll need to identify these by color or secret mark.

The Continental Bank Note Company obtained the printing contract for United States stamps in 1873. Not desiring to have their work confused with their predecessor, The National Bank Note Company, they added “secret marks” to their dies of the one-cent through 12¢ denominations so as to make identification of their product an easy task. They felt that their product was superior and they did not want to be accused of poor workmanship.

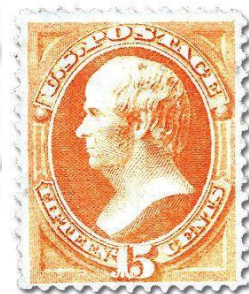
The secret marks of the one-cent through 12¢ denominations are fairly easy to discern by comparing your stamps with the illustrations in the Scott Specialized Catalogue. Don't have one? One of a few years ago can be picked up for a very modest cost.



Scott No. 141 The National Bank Note Co. printing of the 15-cent value. White Wove Paper—Thin to Medium Note the line over the “os” of “Postage” at the top of the stamp that is nearly complete. See text on differentiating between this National printing from the Continental.

The 15¢ is another story in itself. The following was relayed to us by our good friend Tom Priester. He visited the late Lester Brookman in his Minneapolis stamp shop in 1968 and Mr. Brookman offered an indisputable method of differentiating between the National and Continental printings of this stamp. Incidentally, Brookman was an openly warm and friendly person who loved to “talk stamps”, especially the early issues.

He said that the National printing of the 15¢ has a line over the “os” of “Postage” at the top of the stamp that is nearly complete. The Continental printing has an open spot on the line over the “os”, except for the ribbed paper varieties on which the line is nearly complete as on the National. Many experts believe that the ribbed paper 15¢ was the first Continental printing of that denomination and thus produced from plates that had not yet been worn down so much that the fine lines were no longer visible.



Scott No. 163 The Continental Bank Note Co. printing of the 15-cent value. White Wove Paper—Thin to Thick

Scott notes that, on the 15¢ Continental, “In the lower part of the triangle in the upper left corner two lines have been made heavier forming a ‘V’. This mark can be found on some of the Continental and American (1879) printings but not all stamps show it.

The National 15¢ is always a bright orange while the Continental is a yellow-orange. The later American Bank Note Company printings are all re-engraved and can easily be told apart from the others by a glance at the Scott illustrations.

Students have long debated as to whether or not the 24¢, 30¢ or 90¢ exist with secret marks. None has been found. It is generally accepted that secret marks were indeed added to the dies of these denominations but that new plates containing these secret marks were not prepared.

**Continued on next page**

## Banknotes continued...

Today, the primary identifier for these three denominations is by color or paper.

The 24¢ purple can generally be assumed to be a National printing although the Philatelic Foundation has certified as genuine a 24¢ on vertically ribbed paper. That is the unique stamp listed as Scott #164 showing a valuation of \$357,500 as the price paid at a 2004 auction sale. Specialists believe that only Continental used ribbed paper. If Continental also produced this denomination on regular paper, it is not discernible from the National Scott #153.

The 30¢ and 90¢ are identical in design in both the hard paper printings of the National and Continental companies. If a grill is undetectable, take a look at the color. The 30¢ National is almost always a jet black, very similar to the 30¢ American soft paper stamps. The 30¢ Continental is a grayish black and sometimes a greenish black.

The 90¢ National is definite rich carmine while the Continental is a rose-carmine (close to dull carmine). With regards to the grills that appear on the Nationals, they are as follows; "H" Grill on all denominations. This is about 10 x 12 mm with 11 to 13 by 14 to 16 points. This grill is often very faintly impressed on the paper and not all the points will show on every stamp.

The second grill type, the "T", is about 8 ½ x 10 mm with 10 to 11 by 10 to 13 points in the grill area. This "T" Grill appears on certain 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 6¢ and 7¢ denominations of the National printings.

The Continental "J" grills were of an experimental nature and measure about 7 x 9 ½ mm.



## Crime and Postal History: Bring in the Marines!

By George Corney  
- Originally Published in October 1993

During the 1920s, two of our Presidents ordered the Marine Corps to help guard the U.S. Mail. Here is a look back at a time when rules of engagement were simple, straightforward, and uncompromising.

On November 7, 1921, two bandits sneaked aboard a train near Paxton, Illinois, and brought it to a stop at gunpoint. The robbers then used the engineer to trick the mail clerks into opening the mail car. When the mail clerks saw a robbery was in progress, they pulled the engineer inside and relocked the mail car. Good move, but the robbers were a resourceful pair. They set off explosives under the car, breaking it open and making off with the registered mail while leaving behind a number of wounded postal employees.

On October 20 of the same year, two masked men in Lake Charles, Louisiana, tried to rob the wrong mail messenger. At 10:45 pm, the messenger, driving his horse and wagon, was carrying the mail from the post office to the railroad station when two would be robbers sprang from behind some bushes. While one held the horse's bridle, the other pointed a gun at the messenger and demanded he surrender the mail. The messenger refused and was shot through the stomach and hand. Fearing the noise of the shots would lead to their discovery, the bandits fled, pursued by the wounded messenger until he fainted from loss of blood.

Mail robbery in those days was really lucrative. From 1919 to 1921, about \$6 million was lost to mail robbers- and back then \$6 million was real money. The worst loss was at a robbery on Leonard Street in New York. Five sacks of registered mail carrying an estimated \$2.4 million in cash and negotiable securities was snatched in one heist.

Lest mail robbery look too attractive for our own good, keep in mind that those were the days before the advent of electronic transfer of funds. Banks and other financial institutions routinely shipped large amounts of cash and negotiable bonds by registered mail.

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## Crime / Postal History continued...

Mail robbery today would be far less profitable.

By the end of 1921, things had gotten so bad that Postmaster General Will H. Hays requested President Harding to direct the U.S. Marine Corps to help guard the mail. On November 7, the same day as the Paxton train robbery, the President sent the following terse letter to the U.S. Navy Secretary Edwin Denby:

**My Dear Mr. Secretary:**

**You will detail as guards for the United States Mails a sufficient number of officers and men of the United States Marine Corps to protect the mails from depredations by robbers and bandits.**

**You will confer with the Postmaster General as to the details, and will issue the necessary instructions in regard to the performance of this duty.**

**Very truly yours,**

**Warren G. Harding**

Within a few days, 2,200 Marines and 53 officers, taken mainly from the expeditionary forces kept alert at Quantico, Virginia, and San Diego, California, were spread throughout the country guarding the mail. They usually worked in small detachments of two or three Marines.

And they meant business. Navy Secretary Denby, a former Marine, sent a message to the Corps, which reads in part:

You must, when on guard duty, keep your weapons in hand and, if attacked, shoot and shoot to kill. There is no compromise in this battle with bandits.

If two Marines guarding a mail car, for example, are suddenly covered by a robber, neither must hold up his hands, but both must begin shooting at once.

One may be killed, but the other will get the robbers and save the mail. When our Marine Corps men go as guards over the mail, that mail must be delivered or there must be a dead Marine at the post of duty.

The orders given to the Marines by their officers echoed Denby's tough approach. The box on the next page gives the special orders issued to the Marines guarding the mail out of Richmond, Virginia. Similar orders were issued throughout the country.

In addition to the special orders, the Marines were provided a training manual in question-and-answer format. The 105 questions and answers were designed to provide most of the information the Marines needed to fulfill their mission. Here's a sample:

Q. Suppose he [the robber] is using a gun or making threats with a gun in trying to escape?

A. Shoot him.

Q. Suppose the thief was apparently unarmed but was running away?

A. Call halt twice at the top of your voice, and if he does not halt, fire one warning shot; and if he does not obey this, shoot to hit him.

Q. Is it permissible to take off my pistol while on duty; for instance, when in a mail car riding between stations?

A. Never take off your pistol while on duty. Keep it loaded, locked, and cocked while on duty.

Q. Is there a general plan for meeting a robbery?

A. Yes; start shooting and meet developments as they arise thereafter.

Q. If I hear the command "Hands Up," am I justified in obeying this order?

A. No; fall to the ground and start shooting.

Q. Is it possible to make a successful mail robbery?

A. Only over a dead Marine.

The 2,200 Marines couldn't guard every mail truck, railway car, wagon, and post office in the country. On November 19, 1921, Postmaster General Hays informed Post Office Department management that Marine guards

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## Crime / Postal History continued...

could only be requested for registered mail of considerable value, especially that carrying currency and negotiable bonds. The post offices consolidated these valuable shipments as much as possible to reduce the number of Marines needed.

The Marine guards often worked long and lonely hours. Where possible, they were quartered in government buildings, many setting up camp right in the post offices. Where military rations were not available, a food allowance of a dollar a day was granted each Marine. That amount increased to four dollars a day to cover meals and lodging for Marines on extended duty on the mail trains.

The Marines didn't have to put their special orders and training to the test-the mail robberies came to a screeching halt. From the day the Marines assumed guard duty until March 15, 1922, when they were withdrawn, not a single attempted mail robbery took place.

The lull in mail robberies continued until April 1923 when a mail messenger in St. Louis was relieved of \$2.4 million worth of registered mail. By 1926, things were again at a crisis point.

The final straw came in October in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where a group of gunmen shot down a mail truck driver and made off with 5,150,000.

Postmaster General Harry New asked Congress for money to create a special force of armed guards and to build armored mail cars. While this was being done, he requested President Coolidge to reassign the Marines to guard the mail.

This time, the country was divided into eastern and western zones. Again, the expeditionary forces from Quantico and San Diego were the primary source of manpower. General Smedley Butler, a two-time Congressional Medal of Honor winner, commanded the Western Zone, and General Logan Feland commanded the Eastern Zone. In all, 2,500 enlisted men and officers served as mail guards.

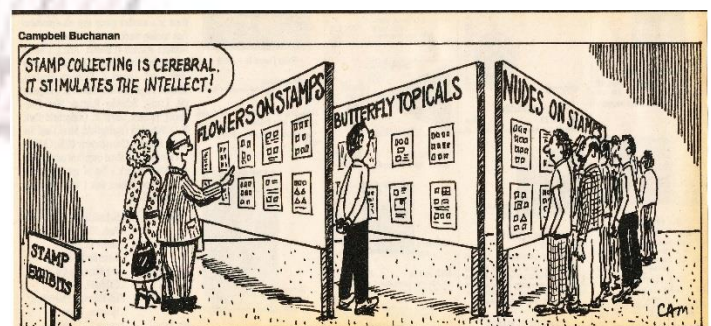
By 1926, the robbers had increased their firepower by use of automatic rifles and machineguns. The Marines responded in kind. In addition to pistols and shotguns, the Marines were armed with Thompson submachineguns.

This time, a Marine did fire his weapon. On the night of October 26, while guarding a Seattle-bound train. Private Fred Jackson found a stranger on the mail car platform. Despite the fact they were travelling about 25 miles per hour, Jackson ordered the man off the train. When he refused, Jackson fired a shot over the man's head. Needing no further persuasion, the stranger dove into the cinders while Jackson fired one more round for emphasis. That was the only contact between a possible robber and the Marines as once again mail robberies ceased abruptly.

The Marines were extremely popular with the citizens of the communities where they were stationed, and found time to engage in community activities despite their long mail guarding hours. In a letter to his father, General Butler, the Western Zone commander, described how his Marines stationed in San Jose, California, had been challenged to a shooting match by the local rifle club. Because the San Jose Postmaster had bet a considerable sum on the Marines, Butler arranged to have some champion sharp-shooters assigned temporarily to San Jose, allowing the Marines an easy victory. Wrote Butler:

"He [the postmaster] is in some money, and his boasting attitude has been sustained, so he is pro-Marine for the rest of his life. His local shooting club is somewhat downcast, and charges us with jobbing, as they call it out here. However, the rules of the match were only that the team should be composed of San Jose mail guards, and because we shifted the personnel of the guards the night before is our business."

By February 1927, the Marines were needed for an expeditionary force headed for Nicaragua, and were relieved by newly trained security forces of the Postal Service. Twice during a period of 5 years, the Marines had brought to a standstill a series of dangerous mail robberies-at the cost of two rounds of ammunition.



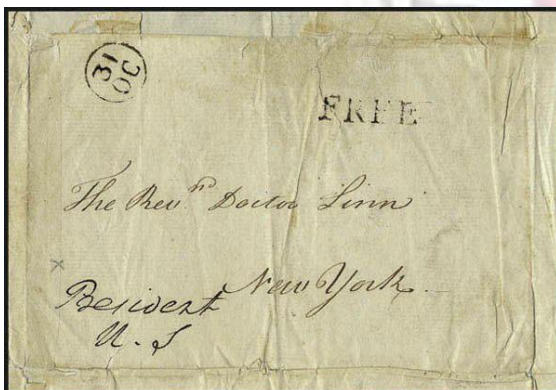


## Postal History and Presidential Autographs By Sam Paige

A former president of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and recipient of the APS John N. Luff Award, the late Creighton Hart forged his name in American philately with a monumental study of the U.S. 1847 issue and its usages. But the late Mr. Hart's greatest love was his pursuit of the autographs of American Presidents (and their wives, too) on pieces that had a philatelic relation. Whether it was a free frank of our first President, or a bank check signed by Chester Arthur, all were items included in the Hart collection.

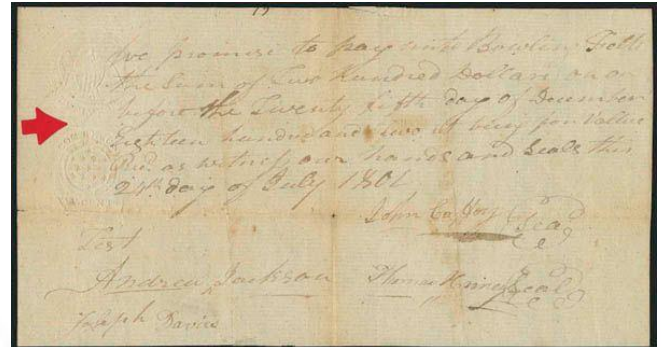
Creighton Hart was also an inveterate greeting card designer—who would use gems from his collection as focal points for Christmas cards, missives looked forward to by his many friends each holiday season.

Personally, I like the fact that such presidential autographs are still available and at prices that, though not cheap, are within the range of many of us especially philatelists looking for a nice place to put their money with an eye to appreciation. We were impressed recently with the realizations at Robert A. Siegel's December auction where Presidential autographs brought prices that made good sense.

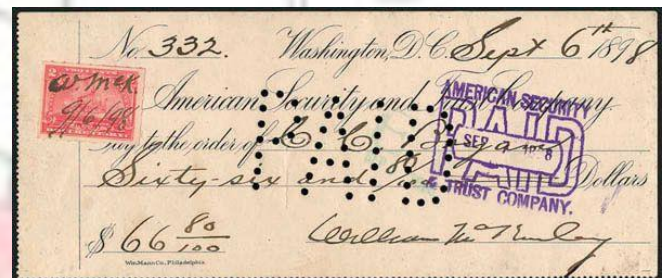


Take, for instance, the George Washington free franked folded letter shown here. Its realization was \$4,500, and in my opinion, something well worth purchasing and holding onto for the future. Remember folks, the number of Washington free

franked letters will never expand to meet future demand. That price is excellent in comparison to the item's great rarity.



But the one I really, really like is the signature of Andrew Jackson, our seventh President, on the promissory note of Jackson's nephew. This item bears a rare embossed revenue stamp that is pointed to by the red arrow. Its enchantment lies in its relationship to Jackson's wife, Rachel—a woman much wrongly maligned and about whom movies have been made! It realized \$700, not a princely sum, but one within the reach of many collectors.



For \$550, the high bidder picked up the colorful bank check signed by William McKinley—and which was signed by him while he was President (that's sometimes very hard to accomplish with some Presidents). The two-cent Battleship revenue stamp makes this very philatelically desirable.

On rare occasions, we have seen a philatelic exhibit of philatelically-related Presidential autographs. Most such signatures are not out of sight, monetarily, but a several are: the chief rarity being the signature of William Henry Harrison who was President for exactly one month in 1841. Also the first President to die in office, his signature as President is very rare.

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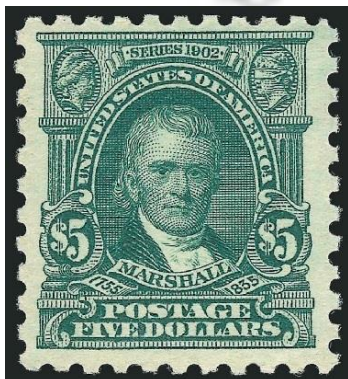
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