

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

September 2018

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the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

Dr. Cheryl Ganz Appointed APS Vice President



Reprinted from the APS Blog.

Today, (June 11, 2018), APS President Bob Zeigler announced the appointment of Dr. Cheryl R. Ganz, a notable Chicago-area collector, to serve as Vice President on the APS Board of Directors for the remainder of the term ending in August 2019. Pursuant to the APS Bylaws, Dr. Ganz was unanimously approved by the APS Board of Directors.

“Cheryl is well known throughout the hobby for her outstanding exhibiting, writing, and researching, so she brings a wealth of experience to the Board,” said Zeigler, “Her good judgment and creative thinking will make her an excellent fit for the Board and a win for the APS membership.”

Ganz, a life-member of the APS, first joined in 1976. She was recognized with the prestigious Luff Award in 2016 for Exceptional Contributions to Philately. Her exhibit, “Zeppelin LZ-129 Hindenburg Onboard Postmarks” was the 2018 Single-Frame Champion of Champions awarded at AmeriStamp Expo in Birmingham. She has also been selected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Ganz earned a PhD in U.S. history from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Ganz is a Smithsonian Institution curator emerita following her retirement as the chief curator of philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and as lead curator of the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, the world's largest postage stamp gallery. She currently serves as vice-chair on the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, which selects subjects and approves designs for U.S. postage stamps.

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Table of Contents

Page

- 3 Labor or Leisure
- 5 The Expertizing of Stamps, Part 2
- 7 Summer Picnic Photos
- 8 The Berlin Airlift
- 9 2018 US Holiday Stamps
- 11 APS 2018 Web Awards – SJSC wins Vermeil

Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates

No Activity

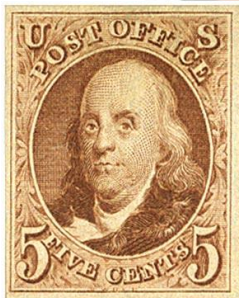
Website Updates

New Article added to the “SJSC in Print” page.
Minutes of 08/15/18 club meeting uploaded.
Minutes of 08/01/18 club meeting uploaded.
Photos from the Summer BBQ added to “Past Events” page.
New video added to the “videos” page.
Minutes of 07/18/18 club meeting uploaded.
New website added to “Links” page.
August 2018 Newsletter uploaded.

Remember the dates!

Sep 5 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting
Sep 8-9 Great American Stamp Expo
Sep 19 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting
Sep 21-23 Santa Clara Stamp, Collectibles & Coin Show

Presidents Message



Benjamin Franklin wrote in a 1789 letter that “Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

It is ironic that Ben would appear on the first stamp and that stamps would become an exception to his “law”: *No stamp collection has been or ever will be completed.*

It is inherently part the human nature of people who collect stamps never feel like a collection is complete. Even when it is exhibited for a gold medal or other high award, there is an itch to continue to improve or expand it some way.

Another trait of stamp collectors is our high level of curiosity. While our interests cover a wide swath of subjects, it is a common attribute. Personally, I love American history and, consequently, my biggest collection is a “classic” US collection in a Scott National Album. I have a half dozen small collections spanning subjects like the postal history of Lisbon NY to the “Celebrate the Century” series issued at the turn of the millennium.

Our club is fortunate to receive many donations from people who have collections that they inherited and don’t want or by some other mechanism. Consequently, my living and dining rooms are filled with many boxes of unprocessed donations.

No two donations are the same and cover a very wide spectrum of philately. I have regular work parties at my home to turn these accumulations into something we can use in our club youth activities, sell to members, or sell at Fiesta. However, only a few regulars come over to help. Please seriously consider coming to the next work party and lending a hand. You may find something for your own collection or at the very least, enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow club members as we “work”. A light snack and drinks are available to add to the fun.

You doubt you’ll find anything for your own collecting? That could be true, but I’m willing to bet you that you’ll see something you’ve never seen before. Feed your natural curiosity and see something different. If you’re busy that day or cannot get away for a few hours, I’m happy to supply you a box of stamps that need soaking or an album that needs to have the stamps removed. Just let me know and we’ll work something out. Long time club member Dave Gilman has soaked several boxes of stamps for the club and it really helps.

So how about it? Feed your collection, feed your curiosity, feed your stomach with snacks, feed your club’s youth programs, and feed your sense of accomplishment for contributing to the club.

I hope to see you soon at a work party or to get you stamps to soak or album to work on.

As you know, we lost our good friend Hubert recently. A memorial mass was held for him on Saturday August 4th. It was very good see a good showing of representatives from both the stamp and postcard clubs at his memorial. The club is donating to the American Diabetes Association in his memory. If you would also like to contribute to the ADA in Hubert’s memory, let me know and I’ll give you directions. Please pray for comfort for Mary-Ann in this difficult time.

Brian

Labor or Leisure?

© 2001 Renée Gentry. (Contribution from Jim Sauer)



The long weekend is almost here! September 3 is the day the Post Office will close for Labor Day; most of us will not be working.

Today we think of Labor Day as more of a day for leisure, for sunning at the beach or picnicking in the shade. But just 50 years ago, the U.S. Post Office issued the Labor Day stamp to honor the working class—the men and women who were American Labor.

The postage stamp, a 3-cent issue, was enough to cover domestic letter delivery at the time. The stamp features a man, a woman, and a child on a blue background—developed from the central education and leisure are built. Lest the picture leave any doubt, the cornerstone upon which the woman is seated reads, “Labor is Life.” This quote is attributed to Carlyle.

Labor is Life

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)—a Scottish historian and sociological writer—was one of the most important social critics of his day, concerned about the living conditions of British workers. His lectures (published in 1841) affirmed his belief in the necessity for a strong, paternalistic government. Contrasting the disorder of modern society with the feudal order of 12th-century England in his 1843 work *Past and Present*, Carlyle wrote, “Even in the meanest sorts of Labor, the whole soul of a man is composed into a kind of real harmony the instant he sets himself to work.”

Just a year after Carlyle’s death, on the other side of the Atlantic, the Central Labor Union held its first Labor Day

holiday—a “workingmen’s holiday”—on Tuesday, September 5, 1882. Workers in New York City took the day off to celebrate their achievements by marching in a parade and enjoying various amusements. By 1884, the Central Labor Union urged other organizations to celebrate and exhibit “the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations” on the first Monday of September.

Several municipalities and industrial centers participated in Labor Day celebrations by 1885 and 1886. New York was the first state to introduce a bill to designate Labor Day as an official holiday, but the first state to actually pass such a bill as law was Oregon on February 21, 1887. By 1894, 31 states (out of 44) had passed similar laws making Labor Day a holiday.

The Labor Day Sleeper

The year prior was the start of an economic depression known as The Panic of 1893. The year is also known for one of the most famous labor strikes in the United States.

Pullman, Illinois (now part of Chicago) was a town that Thomas Carlyle would likely have been proud of. It was a company town that had run smoothly since its founding in 1880 by George Pullman, president of the famous railroad sleeping car business. The town was strictly organized: row houses for the laborers, modest Victorian houses for the managers, and a luxurious hotel that served both as Pullman’s residence and the hospitality headquarters for visiting customers and suppliers. The rent (set by Pullman) for these dwellings was automatically deducted from the workers’ weekly paychecks—drawn from the Pullman bank.

But the Pullman Palace Car Company was not immune to the economic hardships of The Panic of 1893. As the demand for sleeping cars declined, Pullman tried to preserve profits by cutting labor costs. A lay off reduced his workforce from 5,500 to 3,300 employees. Remaining employees saw their wages cut by an average of 25 percent. Rents, a source of income for Pullman, naturally saw no corresponding reduction. The Pullman workers went on strike.

Continued on next page

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Labor or Leisure continued...

The American Railway Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, was sympathetic toward the Pullman workers. Railroad workers across the U.S. refused to operate trains carrying Pullman cars. Rioting and burning of railroad cars soon followed, and the strike instantly became a national issue.

Claiming that strikers had interfered with and delayed the delivery of U.S. mail on July 4, 1894, President Grover Cleveland dispatched 12,000 army troops. On August 3, the strike was broken. Transportation of the mail resumed and trains once again pulled Pullman sleepers, but workers continued to protest President Cleveland's harsh methods. Appeasing the working class became a top priority. In the immediate wake of the strike, President Cleveland signed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday.

Labor Revisited

Labor today is not the labor of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The 10-hour day and six-day work week were the norm in 1900. Even household chores were far more laborious than they are today. The simple task of doing the laundry, for example—as reported in a recent U.S. News issue—took a great deal of time and muscle.

The ordeal started at 4:00 a.m., after the clothes had been left to soak over night. Each load took about 50 gallons of water (about 400 pounds), which had to be carried from somewhere.

Clothes were scrubbed by hand, wrung out manually, carried outside in baskets heavy with the weight of wet clothing, and hung to dry. The process was repeated for each load until the chore was completed, usually by the end of the day. Talk about work!

Perhaps it is fitting to reflect again on the scene depicted in the Labor Day stamp. The everyman laborer stands strong and proud while the woman and child leisurely peruse the prose of a book. Some may think this book to be one of academic value, while others might fancy it to be one of leisurely interest. One conclusion is clear: The labor of yesterday beget both the pursuit of leisure and of academic liberty today.

As so summarily stated by the Department of Labor: "The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership—the American worker."



A nice cover submitted by Jim Sauer with 8 Scott 1082 Labor Day Stamps. The stamp was issued in 1956.

The Expertizing of Stamps, Part 2

by Hans Stolz

The German currency reform, which introduced the D-mark on January 25, 1948, required new stamps in the new currency. For Berlin the German 1947 definitives were overprinted in red. It is a simple overprint, easy to forge and a very tempting way to transform the nearly worthless 1947 definitives into real money. They appeared shortly after the red Berlin overprinted stamps were issued. It was soon discovered that the fake overprints under ultraviolet light looked black, whereas the genuine overprints light up in red. The reaction of the forgers was "sorry about that" and started using an ink that fluoresced red. However the genuine overprints are on a new printing of the 1947 definitives which fluoresce differently. For example, under ultraviolet light the genuine 1m olive green shows the basic stamp as a bright golden yellow. The forgery on the original 1947 printing shows the basic stamp as a dark brown.

Some inks for stamp printing were purposefully made water-sensitive. These are called fugitive inks. A number of early Russian and Bulgarian stamps, which were printed in St. Petersburg, tend to lose part of their design when soaked in water. Some issues of the Netherlands Indies are water-soluble and lose their image when immersed in water. And a number of Great Britain stamps change color in water.

From the beginning, postal administrations have been very worried that people may attempt to remove cancellations and cheat them out of a few nickels.

OVERPRINTS. Overprints are generally typographed. A few, such as the high values of the Krakau issues of Poland, or the first air post stamps of Japan are lithographed. Some are engraved, such as the Mexico corbata and barril overprints, or the pseudo-engraved Sokol and Olympic overprints of Czechoslovakia of 1925-26. Even handstamp overprints exist, such as the 1900 Tientsin provisional of the German offices in China, or the 1010 Faroe Islands 2o provisional. The majority of overprints are not printed on the original issue, but rather on a second printing of that issue. There are two reasons for this. First, the original issue has been distributed to the post offices and no sufficient stock is available. The second reason is that a sheet of stamps is considerably weakened by the perforation holes and can

not easily be fed into a printing press. Anyone who has handled, for example, a sheet of a 3¢ U.S. commemorative can easily appreciate this. These second printings of the basic stamps often differ considerably from the original printings.

Some examples follow:

Belgium: the October 1930 Labor Bureau overprints, seemingly applied to the July 1930 Independence Issue, have the names of the artists and the engraver at the foot of the stamp. The original stamps have not. For the 1918 Red Cross overprints the colors of the basic stamps were changed.

Iran: the first air post issue of 1927 appears to be overprinted on the 1909 Coat of Arms issue, except that the air post issue is perforated 111½. The 1909 issue is 12½x12.

Italy and Colonies: all Servizio di Stato overprints are on stamps that have the same original design, but have different colors.

United States: the Kansas and Nebraska overprints were applied to a new printing of the basic stamps. Not only are the colors slightly different, but the gum breakers are also farther apart.

Germany: the 1931 Polar Flight overprinted stamps have vertical watermark and vertical gum ridges. On the original Zeppelin stamps both are horizontal.

The normal sequence of producing an overprinted stamp is: gum is applied to the paper, the original design is printed, the overprint is applied, and perforating completes the process. This is of importance in expertizing when an overprint is a continuous web or band. Since perforating is the last operation, the perforating pins cut through the overprint, leaving a clean edge. A similar overprint on a stamp, already perforated, would show a spillover of the ink into the perf holes.

Continued on next page

Expertizing continued...

Typographed overprints are made with plates that are either typeset or made up of electrotype or stereotype cliches. In the typeset cases each individual overprint differs to some extent from any other on the same plate. When in 1941 the Free French administration in St. Pierre & Miquelon overprinted their available stock of stamps with "France Libre", it was done with movable type in a setting of twenty five. This resulted in twenty five different types, which can be plated. In the more common method, using electrotype or stereotype cliches, all overprints on the sheet are identical.

Overprints that consist of words or letters, and virtually all do so, and that are made with a plate consisting of cliches, are by virtue of their manufacture all identical for each stamp. The precise line-up and spacing of the letters always show particular characteristics that are specific for that overprint. Some of these are quite pronounced. The 1943 German occupation stamps of Montenegro show the second "a" in the word "Verwaltungsausschuss" leaning to the left and quite close to the "s". The strength of the impressions and the inks used are also always characteristic. When one looks through the stamp, the "frameling" and the relative transparency of the ink are distinctive for each particular overprint. This is almost impossible to duplicate. Some "frameling" is so strong that they are visible to the naked eye, such as the Iceland Balbo flight or the Spain 1950 25p Franco Visit.

SEPARATION. The stamps in the 1840s were imperforate and had to be separated by scissors or folded and torn. More efficient means of separation were soon developed. For example the second issue of Finland has serpentine roulettes of different sizes. This was not very satisfactory and was never tried again.

The first postage dues of Bulgaria have lozenges punched out in the margins between the stamps. Different forms of rouletting proved to be much better. But by far the most effective means of separation is perforating (punching out small holes, thus leaving small bridges of paper between the stamps which now can easily be torn from the sheet).

The early Portuguese India stamps were locally made and were perforated using steel bars with pins in the form of a comb, placed in the margins between the stamps, and hit with a hammer. Some of the holes are round, others are square, and some did not punch out too well. Japanese

Cherry Blossoms were perforated a similar manner, using what is referred to as short tool or long tool.

With the advent of perforating machines, two distinct methods were developed: line perforation and comb perforation. Line perforation was used for United States stamps. It accounts for the irregular perforations at the four corners of the stamp and also for the varying sizes of the stamps in the same sheet. Comb perforation produces stamps that are always the same size and have regular corners. Comb perforations can sometimes identify different printings of the same issue. A good example is the Great Britain Q.E. II first castle issue, which can be identified by the width of the top teeth on the sides of the stamp. The DeLaRue printing has the topmost tooth on each side narrower than the others. In the Waterlow printing the topmost teeth are wider than the others. Generally, comb perforation holes are cleaner and more perfectly round than the holes made by line perforation.

Some countries used different perforating machines at the same time, producing stamps with larger and smaller perforation holes. For example the Netherlands 1869 to 1891 issues, or the United States 1954 coils. The gauge of the perforation and the size of the perforation holes are of importance in expertizing. The Heligoland original stamps are perforated 13½x14¼. The Hamburg reprints are perforated 14. The Leipzig reprints have smaller holes than the originals. The most precise tool for examining perforations, and measuring its exact gauge and the size of the holes, is another stamp of the same issue.

A number of stamps exist both perforated and imperforate. There are different reasons for this. Some stamps were purposefully left imperforate to accommodate coil makers or for presentation purposes. Other factors were involved in some cases. The first issue of Russia was intended to be perforated. The contract called for the stamps to be available on January 1, 1858, Julian calendar. The delivery of the perforating machine, which was on its way from France to St. Petersburg, was delayed by the winter weather. To fulfill the contract about half of the already printed 10k stamps were issued without perforations. The United States Civil War revenues were also intended to be perforated, but constraints of time caused unfinished stamps, still imperforate or partly perforated, to be pressed into service.

Continued on next page

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Expertizing continued...

GUM. The adhesive used for stamps is commonly called gum. An adhesive forms a bond by filling in the minute pits and fissures present in the paper. The effectiveness of an adhesive depends on malleability, cohesive strength and surface tension which determines how far the adhesive penetrates the tiny depressions in the bonding surfaces. In its simplest form the adhesive for stamps is made with gum arabic with an addition of glycerin to prevent excessive hardening. Other substances for making gum are agar, algin, animal based glues, dextrin, polyvinyl alcohol and many others. Many different gums were made. Some had disastrous consequences. In 1935 Germany issued the Ostropa souvenir sheet. The gum that was used contained sulfuric acid. It destroyed the paper, turning it into a dark brown substance that is not only unsightly but also very fragile. Hanover used on some of its stamps a red gum that is tenacious and difficult to remove. Some early Austrian stamps have a gum made with a formula that does not allow for it to be soaked off. It swells up in water and can be partially rubbed off but not totally removed. Some stamps were issued with part gum for the purpose of saving raw material, such as the Estonia 1923 air posts which show on the back ungummed circles, or the Madagascar Consular Mail stamps which have gum only on one upper corner. Many countries in tropical climates issued stamps without gum and had glue pots at the post offices.

Normally gum is applied to the paper before printing. Therefore, the layer of gum is of uniform thickness, even on deeply engraved stamps such as the 1951-55 German welfare semi-postals. If applied after printing, the gum would accumulate in the recessed areas caused by the engraving. To counteract the tendency for stamps to curl, gum breakers or gum ridges are sometimes applied. Some Swiss stamps have what's called grilled gum. Many different gum formulas and the different gumming methods the paper make it seem that there are as many different gums as there are stamp issues.

The perforating process cuts through the gummed paper. Under magnification the edge of the perforation hole shows the layer of gum on the paper, neatly cut, exactly to the edge.

San Jose Stamp Club / San Jose Postcard Club Joint Summer Picnic

August 18, 2018



The Berlin Airlift

June 27, 1948 to May 12, 1949

After World War II, the Allies partitioned the defeated Germany into a Soviet-occupied zone, an American-occupied zone, a British-occupied zone and a French-occupied zone. Berlin, the German capital city, was located deep in the Soviet zone, but it was also divided into four sections. In June 1948, the Russians—who wanted Berlin all for themselves—closed all highways, railroads and canals from western-occupied Germany into western-occupied Berlin. This, they believed, would make it impossible for the people who lived there to get food or any other supplies and would eventually drive Britain, France and the U.S. out of the city for good. Instead of retreating from West Berlin, however, the U.S. and its allies decided to supply their sectors of the city from the air. This effort, known as the “Berlin Airlift,” lasted for more than a year and carried more than 2.3 million tons of cargo into West Berlin.

It was quickly settled: The Allies would supply their sectors of Berlin from the air. Allied cargo planes would use open air corridors over the Soviet occupation zone to deliver food, fuel and other goods to the people who lived in the western part of the city. This project, code-named “Operation VITTLES” by the American military, was known as the “Berlin airlift” (West Berliners called it the “Air Bridge.”).



Flying low, preparing to land, over a crowd of appreciative Germans.

The Berlin airlift was supposed to be a short-term measure, but it settled in for the long haul as the Soviets refused to lift the blockade. For more than a year, hundreds of American, British and French cargo planes ferried provisions from Western Europe to the Tempelhof (in the American sector), Gatow (in the British sector) and Tegel (in the French sector) airfields in West Berlin. At the beginning of the operation, the planes delivered about 5,000 tons of supplies to West Berlin every day; by the end, those loads had increased to some 8,000 tons of supplies per day. The Allies carried about 2.3 million tons of cargo in all over the course of the airlift.

Life in West Berlin during the blockade was not easy. Fuel and electricity were rationed, and the black market was the only place to obtain many goods. Still, most West Berliners supported the airlift and their western allies. “It’s cold in Berlin,” one airlift-era saying went, “but colder in Siberia.”



Planes lined up and loading supplies for Berlin.

By spring 1949, it was clear that the Soviet blockade of West Berlin had failed. It had not persuaded West Berliners to reject their allies in the West, nor had it prevented the creation of a unified West German state (The Federal Republic of Germany was established in May 1949). On May 12, 1949, the Soviets lifted the blockade and reopened the roads, canals and railway routes into the western half of the city. The Allies continued the airlift until September, however, because they wanted to stockpile supplies in Berlin just in case the blockade was reinstated.



Post card with pictorial cancel depicting the “Air-Bridge” posted within the British Zone from Charlottenburg to Wilmersdorf dated October 1, 1948.

Most historians agree that the blockade was a failure in other ways, too. It amped up Cold War tensions and made the USSR look to the rest of the world like a cruel and capricious enemy. It hastened the creation of West Germany, and, by demonstrating that the U.S. and Western European nations had common interests (and a common foe), it motivated the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), an alliance that still exists today.

Today, some seventy years later, Russia is still a threat to world peace, and with no end to their saber rattling in sight, notwithstanding the destruction of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany.

All info from the web, where there is much, much more to this story.

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Festivals and Flowers Usher in Second Quartet of 2018 US Holiday Stamps

Reprinted from APS Blog



On July 24, the United States Postal Service unveiled four more stamps for the 2018 holiday season, to be dedicated at first-day-of-issue events to be announced soon.



First of these is a Poinsettia Global Forever stamp that prepay a one-ounce letter to any country where First-Class Mail International service is available. As with all Global Forever stamps, this stamp will have a postage value equivalent to the price of the single-piece First-Class Mail International 1-ounce machineable letter in effect at the time of use (currently \$1.15). These stamps can also be used domestically to prepay postal service of the same or lesser value..

phillipmartin.info

The stamp features a view of a poinsettia from above, capturing the beauty of the green leaves, red bracts and yellow flowers in the center of this seasonal favorite. Poinsettias are now as much a part of the holidays as evergreens and mistletoe, with tens of millions sold annually.

The art director for this stamp was William J. Gicker, with design by Greg Breeding and a photograph by Betsy

Pettet. The stamps will be issued in self-adhesive panes of 10.



A traditional holiday stamp at the domestic Forever rate depicts the Madonna and Child by Francesco d'Ubertino Verdi (1494–1557), the Florentine Italian Renaissance painter known as Bachiacca. This stamp features a detail of Bachiacca's oil-and-gold-on-panel painting "Madonna and Child," which dates from the early 1520s, showing the Christ child clutching a bouquet of jasmine, a symbol of divine love, alongside the Virgin Mary.

This painting is part of the Jack and Belle Linsky Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. William J. Gicker served as art director for this stamp, and Greg Breeding was the designer. Like all U.S. Forever stamps, it will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail single-ounce rate.

A new Forever-rate stamp celebrating the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah will be the U.S. contribution in a joint issue with Israel Post. Details of the Israeli stamp were not yet available when this report was compiled.



Hanukkah recalls the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the second century B.C. Tradition relates that during that event, the Jews had only enough sacramental oil to light the Temple lamps for a single day, yet the lamps burned for eight full days. Celebrations marking this miracle include the ritual lighting of the nine-branched menorah used only during Hanukkah. Eight branches hold candles representing each of the eight nights and days of Hanukkah, and the ninth is used to light the other candles.

Continued on next page

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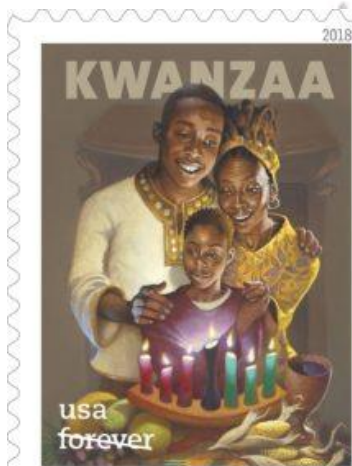
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2018 US Holiday Stamps continued...

The stamp shows a menorah created using Jewish folk art papercutting techniques. Artist Tamar Fishman made a pencil sketch, then cut the two-dimensional image on white paper, highlighting the design by using blue-purple and green papers for the background. Outlining the menorah, a shape reminiscent of an ancient oil jug alludes to the Hanukkah miracle. Also included near the bottom of the stamp are two small dreidels — spinning tops used to play a children's game during the holiday — and a stylized pomegranate plant with fruit and flowers. Art director Ethel Kessler was the designer.

A family-centered celebration, Hanukkah games, songs, gifts and food all contribute to making the holiday festive and fun for family and friends. Hanukkah begins on the 25th of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar, a date that falls in late November or December. In 2018, Hanukkah begins at sundown Dec 2.



The USPS also has announced its seventh Kwanzaa stamp in the last 21 years. Kwanzaa takes place over seven days from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, celebrated by many African-Americans.

According to the USPS, "The stamp depicts a man, woman and child adorned in a mixture of western and traditional clothing, paying tribute to the holiday's focus on the contemporary African-American experience, while also drawing on African roots. The family is gathered around a kinara (candleholder), the warm light from seven candles (mishumaa saba) illuminating their faces."

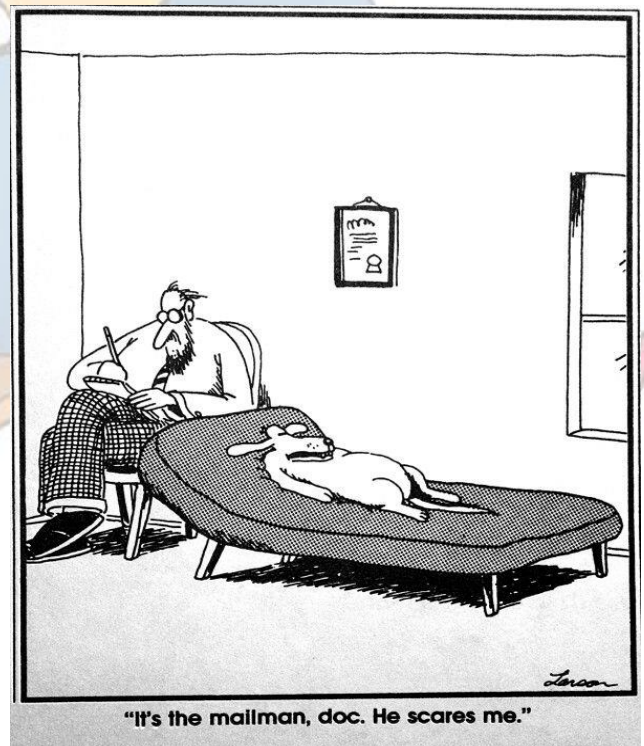
Other important Kwanzaa symbols on the table include ears of corn (muhindi) and various fruits and vegetables (mazao); the unity cup (kikombe cha umoja); and the mkeka, (the straw mat on top of which everything is placed).

Created in 1966, Kwanzaa was conceived as a unifying holiday, drawing on African traditions, taking its name from a Swahili phrase meaning "first fruits." With origins in Africa's first-harvest festivities, Kwanzaa combines elements of many of these communal traditions in a contemporary celebration of African-American culture.

Artist Floyd Cooper worked with art director Derry Noyes, who designed the Forever-rate stamp.



A se-tenant issue of four "Sparkling Holidays" Forever-rate stamps depicting classic images of Santa Claus painted by famed commercial artist Haddon Sundblom was previously announced and featured on the APS Blog on June 26 ("US Postal Service to issue Iconic Santa Stamps").



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APS 2018 Web Award Winners

Gold

Reprinted from the APS Blog

The American Philatelic Society is pleased to announce the winners in this year's Chapter and Affiliates Web Awards recognizing website excellence. A total of nine groups participated in this competition, which was open to all APS chapter clubs, all clubs or federations that run stamp shows, and their qualified affiliates.

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the Internet to commerce and communication in 21st-century America. From ages 9 to 90, more of us turn to websites and other web connections for ideas and information, knowledge, advice and learning at every level than any other resource. Whether we're trying to reach complete beginners or advanced specialists, the presence of the stamp hobby on the worldwide web is a potent voice for our pastime, and a bright path of a long and creative future.

Each of this year's websites in the APS competition was evaluated according to a variety of categories, which assessed their overall content, structure and navigation, visual design, functionality and interactivity. The judges for the 2018 Web Awards were Terry Dempsey of Grayson, Georgia; Charles "Chip" Gliedman of Ridgefield, Connecticut; and Jessica Rodriguex of San Jose, California.

Special mention must be made of two of this year's Gold Award medalists. It's a "three-peat" for the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections, which marks its third straight year as a Gold Award recipient, while the American Topical Association is a seven-time Gold Award winner, having been ranked in the top class ever since the awards were first bestowed in 2012.

All entrants received a certificate and distinctive electronic award badge to post on their site signifying their award level and competition year.



American Topical Association



Collectors Club of Chicago



Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections



Empire State Postal History Society



Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

Continued on next page

September 2018

Page 12

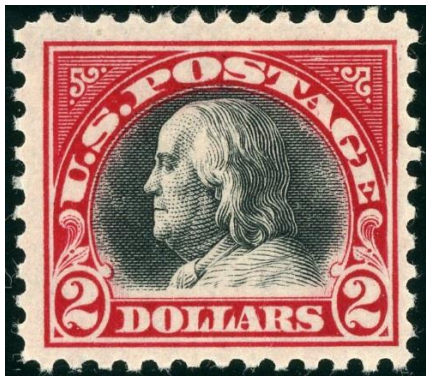
San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

September 2018

America's 100 Greatest Stamps



#70 – Scott 547 1920 2 Dollar Franklin



#69 – Scott J1 1879 1 cent Postage Due



#68 – Scott 68 1904 10 cent Louisiana Purchase

Club Member/Dealers

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