

# San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

January 2022

## 2022 Club Officers\*

### President

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### Vice President

\*David Occhipinti ..... 408 723 0122

### Secretary

\*Dave Gilman ..... 408 264 1953

### Treasure

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## Filatelice Fiesta 2021

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### Awards Chairman

Open

### Club Website

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

### Club Blog

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

### Filatelice Fiesta Website

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

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San Jose, CA 95173



the San Jose Stamp  
Club on Facebook

## Happy New Year Everyone!

I trust everyone is keeping safe in their New Years plans. I'm looking forward to our first meeting of the year. However, as I watch how rapidly the Omicron Covid-19 variant is spreading I believe the best thing is do this meeting via Zoom only, Sorry, I don't think it wise for us to gather in person at this time. I very much want to get back to meeting in-person, but this just is not smart right now. There will be NO meeting in-person.

I'm committing to a much higher "philatelic" content in each meeting. Dave Gilman had offered to give a presentation on WWII ration stamps but we'll have to wait to see it. Nevertheless, I'll find something we can see over Zoom. Any volunteers? I urgently need club members to volunteer to host a presentation, especially those of you comfortable doing it over Zoom.

We plan to offer a Zoom option for the rest of the year. Note that the connection information is the same for all of 2022, I hope this will make it simpler for anyone to join as their circumstances require participating over Zoom.

*Brian*

Coin Expo San Jose: Rare Coin, Gold & Silver Bullion, Stamp & Collectibles Show

DoubleTree Hotel San Jose  
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, CA  
Friday February 4, 2022 10:00am – 6:00pm  
Saturday February 5, 2022 10:00am – 5:00pm

<https://griffincoin.com/coinexpo-san-jose>

Admission: \$6, \$2 off with coupon available at link above

San Jose Stamp Club dealer members Gary Morris and Doug Gary will be at the show.

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## Table of Contents

### Page

3	Profile – Alan Joyce
4	Profile – Margarete Miller
5	Dealing with a stamp collection you inherited
7	Postal History Sunday
10	Christmas Advent Craft Faire

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## Club Blog & Website

**Blog Updates** No Activity

### Website Updates

December 2021 newsletter uploaded

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## Remember the dates!

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## President's Message

It's January, so it's time for the annual look back on what we accomplished and how we go forward. Setting goals is really tough in a pandemic, nevertheless, here we go.

Pandemic aside, I remain optimistic for the new year. We have several new members, and they represent a diverse demographic. It is terrific that we are gaining both older and younger; men and women; different collecting interests; and beginners to very the experienced.

**Meetings:** I am committed to a high level of philatelic content in meetings. It has drifted off as it is difficult to host presentations for both a live audience and guests on Zoom. Therefore, starting with the January meeting, we will only meet on-line with no in-person component (sorry Denny's). This is much easier technically than doing a hybrid while keeping us all safe. We'll go back to meeting in the library as soon as it is safe and they are open to meetings.

**Stamps:** With a LOT of hard work, especially from John Kochever, Dave Gilman, Preston, David Occhipinti and others, we've turned a huge mess in my

living room into a huge stamp inventory in my living room. There are dozens of boxes with millions of stamps sorted by country and topic. While the primary use for these stamps is our youth and beginner programs, all members are encouraged to look through the boxes for stamps and covers to add to your own collection. We've still more work to do, so please come out the next time I announce a work party.

**Filatellic Fiesta:** We pulled off a successful show in 2021, with decent attendance and even made a modest profit. We took a one leave on hosting WSP exhibits. To keep our show going, almost everything is being questioned. It also put a tremendous strain on a few individuals. This includes the date, venue, and exhibits.

An important element of making Filatellic Fiesta a success this year was the support of the other local stamp clubs: Fremont, Monterey, and Pajaro Valley Stamp Clubs. Growing these relationships will help us build a strong philatelic community in the southern Bay Area.

**Youth Programs:** While the pandemic caused Scout-O-Rama to be cancelled, a successful stamp collecting merit badge class was held in October with 30 youth attending. The Christmas Advent Craft Fair was a success with dozens of people engaging a stamp project.

To meet our goals, we need to do the following:

1. Volunteer to host meeting presentations.
  - a. For a few(?) over Zoom only
  - b. Live and on Zoom when the pandemic abates
2. Engage
  - a. Find your niche on how you can best contribute to the club
  - b. How will you help with the clubs programs?
3. Provide your input on our club's future. Now is the time for you to speak up. Please stay safe and join our Zoom meetings.

Regards,

*Brian*

## SJ Stamp Club Profile - Alan Joyce



My name is Alan Joyce. I grew up in San Diego, California and originally moved up to the Bay Area for college. Since graduating from Stanford (Go Cardinal!), I've continued to live in the area — first in Palo Alto and now in Mountain View — while working as a Product Manager at Google. Currently, I live near the San Antonio train station in Mountain View, but in pre-pandemic times I would take frequent trips down to San José to cheer on the Sharks at SAP Center.

I've only recently become interested in philately, starting a small collection this past summer. My primary interest is mainly in acquiring stamps to use in sending letters, so any interesting U.S. stamps I can get near face value are generally fair game. I'm also interested in stamps from unique or remote locations, such as remote island nations and other small territories, especially when they depict maps or landmarks from those locales.

I don't have any specific plans for my collection, although I do plan to maintain the total size of it at a manageable level, in part by actively using most of the stamps I'm collecting. When I got into wine collecting a few years ago, I acquired quite a bit of wine before really figuring out what I enjoyed drinking most. I'm determined to take a more careful approach with stamps, especially as I'm just getting my bearings for the hobby.

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## *+++ Dues Time +++*

It's that time of year again for your annual club dues. Please pay them in a timely manner so the treasurer doesn't have to harass you for months on end for you to pay them. Thanks

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## SJ Stamp Club Profile – Margarete Miller



My name is Margarete Miller. I am a recent new member to the organization. I am originally from San Diego but have been living in the South Bay with my husband and two children for 10 years.

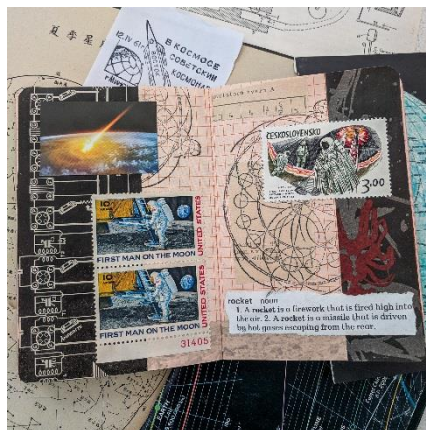
I am a collage artist. I enjoy creating art with vintage papers like old letters, envelopes, postcards, book pages, etc. I also love using postage stamps to embellish my pieces.

I don't have a specific type of stamps that I collect. I would say I "accumulate" different kinds of stamps—some topical, some by country (I love Czechoslovak stamps), some by color, and some by age. I don't keep my stamps in albums. I prefer them loose in clear envelopes so that I can see what's inside, and I am able to select a stamp for my art rather quickly.

I also enjoy creating "correspondence art", which is sending small-scale art (in my case collage art), through the mail. I love encouraging others to "play" with stamps and use them in creative ways. There are so many stamps that have little to no value, so why not think about ways they can be put to use?

Some of my favorite projects to do with stamps are making art rolodex cards, postcard art that I mail to friends, or creating small journals where I can highlight specific stamps.

I have met several of the members of the SJSC, most recently at the latest Filatelic Fiesta. I look forward to meeting more of you as time permits.



## *Dealing with a Stamp Collection You Inherited*

*By Brian Jones (SJSC)*

The following is intended to help someone who has come to have a stamp collection who is not already a stamp collector. First, one might consider becoming a stamp collector. It can be a lot of fun and a great way to learn about what you collect. One does not have to continue to collect what one inherited.

If you are intent on disposing of the collection, the following will give you some ideas. Before you sell it all, you might consider saving some of it as a family heirloom. Consider writing what is known as a “legacy letter”. It documents something about the person who collected these stamps as a memory of him/her about what interested them in stamps; mention if you know a favorite stamp; tell antidotes and a binder of stamps turns in family treasure.

### **Value:**

The first thing most people want to know is how much the collection is worth. The best guide for this is what was spent building the collection. If the stamps were saved off the mail; bought in shrink packages at discount stores; or very inexpensively, then the collection has very little cash value. Likewise, if a modest amount was spent, then a similar value can be expected at sale. Only when a huge amount was paid for the stamps can a huge amount be expected when sold. It just doesn't happen that stamps that were collected for very little investment become valuable.

To sell the collection, you have a couple of options.

### **Selling to a dealer:**

Advantages: you walk out with cash/check at price you agreed to. This can be the easiest process with little effort and know what you're getting.

Look for stamp shows in your area to meet up with dealers from throughout your region to review the collection. A stamp show aggregates most of the stamp dealers from across a wide area into one venue. It may be possible to get multiple offers at a stamp show. It is recommended to visit the show on the last day as dealers will have more time to look at buying collections.

Disadvantages: a dealer generally pays well for stamps he knows he can sell in the short term, but a lot less for material in the collection that does not match up well to what they may have to sell to another dealer or wait a long time to find a customer to purchase.

**Continued on next page**

## **Selling at an auction:**

Advantages: One can make a more money than selling to a dealer. It is best to find a dealer who's typical material is similar to what is being sold. High-end auction houses draw high-end clientele, so if you selling mid-range material, this is not a good fit.

Disadvantages: It typically takes longer to get your money. Most importantly, one doesn't know what you're going to get. Auctions can greatly exceed expectations and can also disappoint.

It really depends who shows up and bids. This is impossible to predict, so selling to a dealer has the advantage of certainty.

## **eBay:**

Advantages: eBay is the great connector. This is especially true of exotic or hard to find material. The seller and buyer(s) can be in vastly different geographies and eBay is the best way to connect the seller and buyer. If the materials to be sold are hard to find but not particularly valuable, this can be a great resource.

Disadvantages: A real snake pit if you're not already an expert on what you're selling. It is highly discouraged for neophytes as one can get taken. Most buyers are bargain hunters, so there is no assurance of what you'll make. A significant challenge is properly listing material. If one is not familiar with the material, it is a difficult to get stamps listed properly. Also, one must be prepared to ship the items around the country or world. This can take a lot of time and effort.

## **Donation:**

Advantages: This is especially good for the most common material and can take very little effort. Dealers don't want to purchase more quantity of stamps they may already have a lot of. Inventory that take more time and energy than their worth. It is recommended to donate a stamp collection to a stamp club that has an active youth program. Donating can be easiest option with little preparation work required. It also can be very satisfying to give the stamps to youth and others. Depending on your personal financial situation, one may able to declare the collection value at a higher level than one would have gotten in cash.

The San Jose Stamp Club teaches stamp collecting merit badge for Scouts, run a Christmas stamp program, and a stamp booth at a Scout fair and other youth/beginner programs. These all run on donations.

Disadvantages: No cash. It's that simple.

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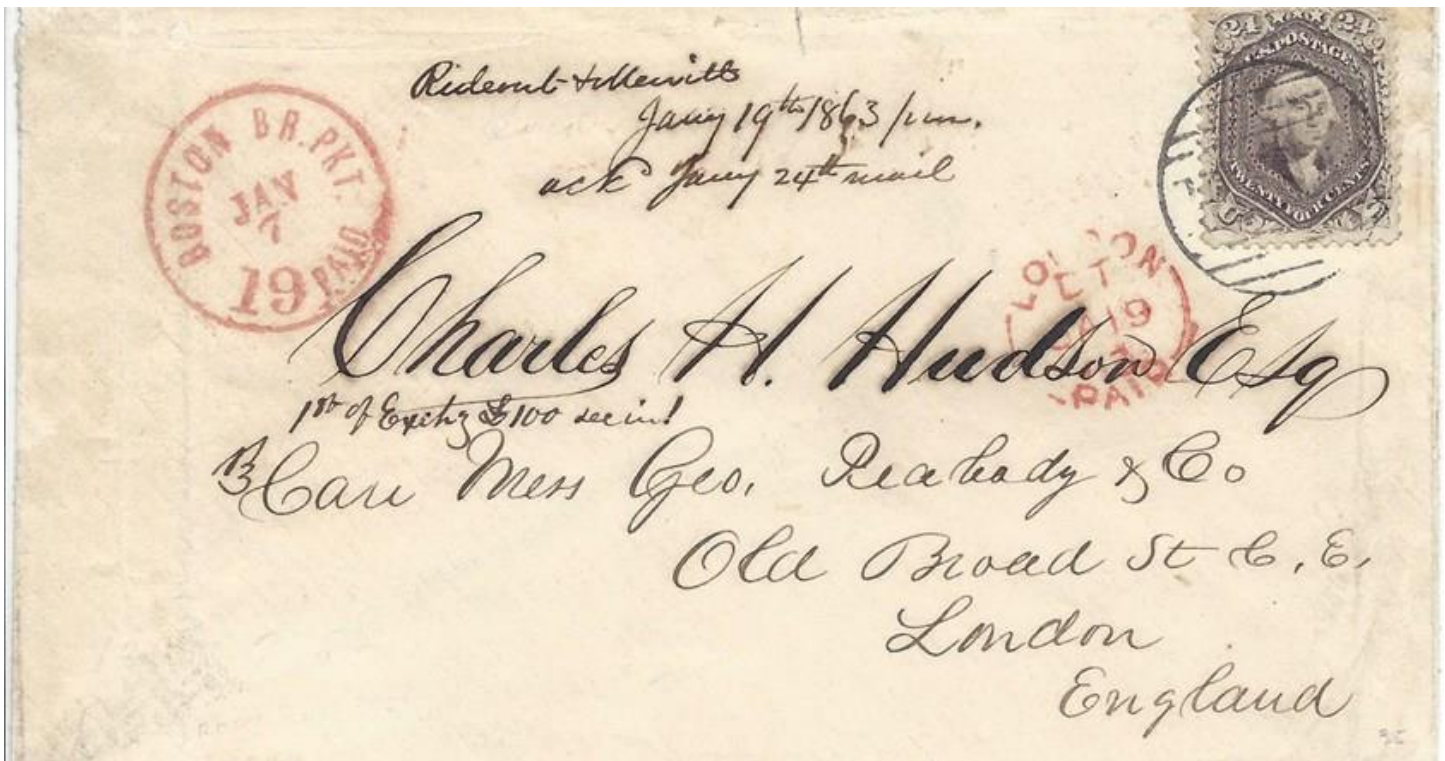


## Postal History Sunday - New Language

12/19/2021

Postal History Sunday is a weekly online blog post produced by Rob Faux, who farms a small-scale, diversified operation, writes for the Pesticide Action Network, and also happens to enjoy postal history. In an effort to reach out to others during the pandemic, Rob began creating these posts to share a hobby he enjoys, postal history. Postal History Sunday can be found on Rob's postal history blog at [gffpostalhistory.blogspot.com](http://gffpostalhistory.blogspot.com) or on his farm blog at [genfaux.blogspot.com](http://genfaux.blogspot.com).

The following is the first of a series and was originally published on January 17, 2021. It has been edited for use on the APS website.



This week, we're going to explore the language that I read when I look at a piece of postal history. Don't worry, there isn't a quiz at the end! We'll just keep it light and... hopefully... fun!

### Boston to London-1863

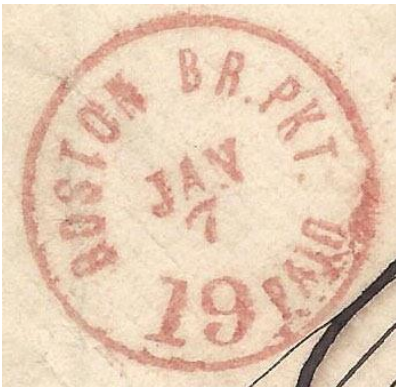
I'm going to start us by reading about the trip this letter took from Boston, Massachusetts to London, England. There is a single stamp at the top right that represents 24 cents of postage. It just so happens that the price of mailing something from the US to England at that time was 24 cents, so it was cancelled with a round grid marking with the word "PAID" on it in black ink. This was done so the stamp could not be reused.

From a historical standpoint, you can guess that the American Civil War was raging, with fighting at Stones River (Tennessee) and Fort Hindman (Arkansas). The Emancipation Proclamation had just gone into effect on January 1. Yet, as momentous as all that might have been, business went on.

Let's start by looking at the smaller handwriting at the top-center of the envelope. This was written by the addressee (Charles H Hudson) and it was his way of recording information for future use. This personal docket included the date he received the letter (January 19), the date he sent a reply (January 24), and who sent him this letter (Rideout & Merritt).

While this docket has nothing to do with the postal aspects of this envelope, it does give us some background as to the purpose of this mail. It also provides us with checks for consistency to be sure all is as it should be here. The red London marking at the right (by the name Hudson) also gives a date of January 19-that's a match with the docket, so things are lining up nicely!

You might also note that both the London and Boston markings are in red ink and they both include the word "PAID." This is one way post offices communicated that postage was properly paid. So, the pieces fit together. There is a stamp that is the right amount for the postage of the time. There are two markings that show that both the US and British postal services saw this letter as paid to the destination. And, the dates on the various postal markings line up with expected travel times and dockets.



Let's look more closely at the Boston marking. There is actually more information that I can extract just by knowing what I am seeing-by knowing how to read this "language."

## **Br. Pkt**

This is an abbreviation for "British Packet." A packet was a steamship that carried the mail across the Atlantic Ocean. Some mail packet companies had contracts to carry the mail for the United States (an "American Packet") and some had contracts to carry mail for the United Kingdom (a "British Packet"). This marking actually gives me a chance to identify the ship that carried this letter

from Boston and across the Atlantic!

On January 7, 1863 the Europa left Boston. This ship was owned by the British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company-a shipping line that is often referred to as the Cunard Line (for its founder Samuel Cunard). It arrived at Queenstown, Ireland on January 17 and probably went on to Liverpool the next day.

## **19 Paid**

Well, we all understand the "Paid" part. But, what's with the "19?" Didn't we say that it cost 24 cents to mail this letter?

Indeed, we did! And, yes, it DID cost 24 cents. The issue is that the United States provided some of the mail service and the British provided the rest of the mail service to get from point A to point B. At this time, it was important to account for how much of the 24 cents went to each postal system so each could cover their expenses.

Five cents covered the mail services within the United States. Sixteen cents paid for the Atlantic voyage. Three cents covered mail service in the United Kingdom. Since the British had the contract with the Cunard Line, they had to pay the shipping company. So, the British needed 16 cents for that and 3 more cents for their own mail services. This marking simply says the United States must pay 19 of the 24 cents they collected in postage to the British Post Office. They kept the remaining five cents.



## Christmas Advent Craft Faire

Submitted by Brian Jones

The Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos hosts an annual Christmas Craft Fair on the first Sunday of the Advent Season. A wide variety of projects are offered including making tree ornaments, wreaths, and seasonal gifts.



A very popular project for the past few years is building a “Santa” or “Madonna and Child” stamp collection using the APS albums. People of all ages have enjoyed sitting and going through our inventory of Christmas stamps and filling in the spaces on each page. We thank friend of the club Kristin Patterson for creating “Madonna and Child” album as it appropriate to have a project for non-secular stamps at a church.

We offer the guests an acid-free temporary gum from “Tombo” to attach the stamps as it much easier than having to teach how to use hinges and this gum does no harm to the stamps. These are purchased at Michaels

Young people enjoy these projects so much, I hear parents begging their kids to find just one or two more stamps so they can move on to another project. It is refreshing to hear kids beg their parents to let them finish their album. Christmas stamp coloring projects are offered for our youngest guests.

So, for those in this hobby who say “kids won’t put their smart phone down long enough to do stamp collecting”, try offering something that is fun and engaging and people of ages will participate. The best thing to see is how parents bring their kids in to do a project and wind up pulling up a chair and participating with their kids in what becomes a family project. Further, for anybody who has done these albums in past years, we offer some other fun collection projects. The projects using the 1938 National Park series and the Presidential series.



Lastly, a huge THANK-YOU to all the SJSC members who helped soak and sort Christmas stamps; Amee Jones for putting up with all the mess preparation created; and to friend of the club and PCLG member, Jim Stoner for helping all afternoon.



# San Jose Stamp Club

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