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Filatellic Fiesta 2022

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the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

Sad News



I received a phone call from Jack Drew, son of long time club member John Drew that his father has passed away. I include here the obituary from the San Jose mercury. There will be a memorial service and lunch on November 5th. Details are in the obituary. Club members are invited to attend.

John R. Drew III, a fourth generation native of Santa Clara County passed away of heart failure at the age of 92. He graduated from San Jose High School in 1948 and graduated from San Jose State in 1952 where he was an active member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He met his wife of 63 years, Nancy Hardy, at a mutual Greek function and was married shortly after. John and Nancy loved to dance, socialize with their dear friends, and never missed a summer vacation with their family at Lake Tahoe. John worked 25 years as an estimator for San Jose Steel before opening his own estimating business. John started stamp collecting at a young age and moved on to Post Cards, First Day Covers, and Western Historical Covers. He was a member of the Western Cover Society for an astounding 54 years, received many awards, and held every office, except treasurer, in the years 1976-2012 (36 consecutive years). He was a member of the San Jose Stamp Club, and the San Jose Post Card Club. He joined the Masons early on and became a Master Mason with the Willow Glen Fraternity Lodge. In 1960, John and Nancy outgrew their Willow Glen house and designed and built their custom house in the foothills of North/East San Jose. John reconnected with his family roots at the Almaden Quicksilver Mines by volunteering his time at the Museum as a researcher and docent. He was there for over 25 years and was awarded a plaque for his many hours of service. John helped Nancy take care of the four grandchildren for over twelve years, three days a week so that sister Anne and Kelly Drew could go to work as teachers. John was a wonderful chef and tried out many meals with the kids and family, especially his BBQ Smoked Turkey and Cioppino. They both loved to see the grandkids grow and prosper. John was predeceased by his parents, brother Dean Drew, wife Nancy Drew, and daughter Anne Carlson (Drew). He is survived by his son, Jack Drew (wife Kelly Drew), grand children Katie Paruso (Drew), (husband Ben Paruso), Justin Drew (wife Angela Drew), Lisa Casagrande (husband Daren Casagrande), Julie Haro (husband Bert Haro), and two great grand children, Mason Casagrande, and Leo Haro. His sharing of time, love, and energy was endless and he enriched the lives of so many people along the way. He will be greatly missed. A Celebration of Life will be held at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at Foothill Presbyterian Church; 5301 McKee Rd., San Jose, CA. Lunch will be served immediately after the service. For the caterers count, please Call 408-640-5614 by 10 AM October 31 if you wish to attend. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association: www.alz.org; or to the American Heart Association: www.heart.org.

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San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

November 2022

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

October 2022 newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

President's Message

Fiesta Time!

We're just days away from our annual show. There is NO more time to delay in getting involved. It's time for all of us to pitch in and make the show happen. The pandemic has abated and looking forward to human interaction again! Andy has lined up a wonderful bourse, there is an amazing line-up of guest speakers and the Philippine Society is our guest society again. A popular aspect of our show is the hospitality table as everyone loves free coffee and snacks! There are several jobs that don't take any physical effort, just a positive attitude. Please use SignUpGenius to register when and where you can help. Just call or email any questions or concerns.

Our show and club have SO much potential in front of us. Now that we're back to meeting in person, we can return to having presentations and other activities. I believe that if we start working with the library, we can do some things to attract new members. Fiesta has the potential to be all we want it to be, but we've GOT to get more involved.

I'm excited to keep our youth activities going in 2023. The recent Scouting merit badge class we had 34 Scouts (including 8 young women) learn how to start collecting. The Scouts will be attending FF to complete their badge and hopefully some will continue to collect. The following week, I'm hosting a Christmas stamp

album program at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos Advent Craft Fair. I also have ideas on how to use some of our donations to engage with local senior living communities.

I am deeply disappointed that there ZERO response to last months call for help. Will 2022 be the end of Filatelic Fiesta? Is this it? We all need to pitch in and make the show a success. I'm hopeful many of you are planning to pitch in but just haven't spoken up yet. Now is the time! We can be an active and fun club and show if we all grab an oar and pull to each's ability.

New Member!

Let's all welcome our newest member, Denis Norrington. He is a long-time dealer in San Francisco doing business as "Arrow Stamp Company". He contacted the club to take out an advertisement in the show's program and has decided to join the club. Denis is also a member of the APS and Sequoia Stamp Club. He has already offered to write articles for our newsletter. Let's all welcome him to the club.

Zoom Meetings:

With the pandemic slowing down and vaccines catching up to the latest virus variants, it expected we'll see a boost in-person attendance at meetings. Nevertheless, we have members who live far away to drive and others who cannot drive at night and we should continue to make the club available to them. However, the SJ Library turns off their WiFi access afterhours, so we need to provide our own network. Our friends in the postcard club are having the same issue, so plans are being worked on find a solution for both clubs. A wireless hot-spot router was recently purchased and tests are being scheduled to see if this will work for both clubs.

Anyone who lives in the area but cannot drive to meetings, please reach out to see if another club member might be able to give you a ride. If you cannot get to the meeting or not feeling well, we'll hope to see you on Zoom.

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Club Business:

Two very important pieces of club business need our attention.

Dues: Yep, it's time for our annual dues. Let's keep them the same at \$12 a year. Please send in your check soon.

Club Officers: It's also time to nominate new club and show officers – including club president! Yes, I will accept the vote... Please speak up and volunteer to take a leadership position. We'll have the vote in December.

Brian

New Donation

The club continues to receive generous donations. The Gatts Family of San Jose donated 6 shoe boxes of first-day-covers, miscellaneous event covers, postcards and loose stamps. There are some wonderful items in this donation. We are fortunate to have been the beneficiary of their generosity.

The Gatts Family provided the following biographical information in honor of the man who generated this collection.

"Paul Ruben Gatts was born in 1898 in Ohio. He was an avid artist and collector of stamps and postcards. He spent many quiet hours researching and purchasing first day issue stamps. Although Paul Gatts, my father, did not get to travel extensively in his lifetime, he did in his own way travel all over the world learning about foreign places and unique events.

We hope this donation brings smiles, increases understanding of significant historical events, and teaches organization and preservation techniques.

To your sister club that collects postcards we have also donated many cards of interest that are not always seen. The Gatts family is thankful that these will bring joy to others."

Continued from page 1

Some Photos from when John received the Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition award from the APS at WESTPEX 2018.



John with his son at the awards ceremony.

**Dues time, Get your annual dues to
Andy as soon as you can.**



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PRESS RELEASE FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

34 SCOUTS EARN STAMP COLLECTING MERIT BADGE

October 31, 2022

The San Jose Stamp Club (SJSC) in cooperation with Scout Troop 339 hosted 34 Scouts to work on earning the stamp collecting merit badge on Saturday October 15th, 2022. As Scouting now includes young women, this class included 8 young women. The merit badge teaches the basics of the hobby and focuses on the fun of collecting.

The SJSC uses its donations to offer Scouts the opportunity to collect almost any country in the world or a variety of topics. Collecting stamps from a country important in one's family heritage is a wonderful way to learn about its important people, history, culture, and beautiful places. Youth especially enjoy collecting topics like cars, dinosaurs, animals, plants, space, movie characters and others. It can be challenging to find the 75 different stamps on a topic as the badge requires. The Scouts will attend the Filatellic Fiesta Stamp Show to tour a show and do a final sign-off on their badge.

SJSC President Brian Jones organizes and leads the merit badge work session. He is a 3rd generation scout leader and lifelong stamp collector. He came to leadership positions in organized philately through teaching youth. Over the years, he has facilitated over 800 Scouts earning the stamp collecting merit badge.

Each Scout is issued a 3-ring binder stocked with tongs, perf gauge, manila stock sheets, Vario type stock sheets to facilitate earning the badge and hopefully continuing to collect after earning badge.

Sadly, stamp collecting merit badge has fallen into being one of the rarest merit badges in the pantheon of 120 merit badges. More clubs are encouraged to take the challenge to teach this badge as it is very rewarding and helps grow the next generation of stamp collectors.

Sincerely,

Brian Jones

Brian Jones

Cell Phone: 408-300-3377

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General Chairman, Filatellic Fiesta Stamp Show

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Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Class Photos:



Hidden Datestamps, Cancellations and Embossed Images Revealed

by Steve Swain

11th of August 2013

Do you have stamps in your collection that obviously have had some sort of cancellation or marking applied to them but you can't determine exactly what those markings are because they have faded or were applied lightly or applied with a hard to see color?

An inexpensive image discovery tool is available from retroReveal.org that just may solve your stamp mysteries. The site provides image processing that allows you to view a stamp in a variety of "color spaces", thus allowing hidden features of the image to be revealed. *(This article is neither promoting the purchase nor use of retroReveal. The discussion is provided for awareness only.)*



For example, the 5-cent U.S. Foreign Exchange revenue stamp to the far left below certainly shows some sort of cancellation, but it is very difficult to discern what it is. An image of the stamp processed through retroReveal clearly shows a datestamp of **"CANCELLED / JUL 8 1887 / AMERICAN EXPRESS"** as seen in the two color space images. (Images rotated for viewing.)



An exemplary confirmation of the value of image processing to reveal cancellations is the marvelous fancy cancellation made abundantly clear on the 2-cent Washington shown here. Two of the numerous color space choices generated for the original stamp image are shown.



How does it work?

When you upload a stamp image to retroReveal.org, the image will be processed and will allow you to view the stamp image in a variety of color spaces, thus allowing hidden features of the stamp image to be revealed. These color spaces, or models, provide a way to describe and understand colors in terms of a series of values, such as RGB (Red Green Blue) or CMYK (Cyan Magenta Yellow Black). The resulting processed images are shown in a black/white format, thus filtering out colors that obscure the hidden or difficult to see markings.

After processing your uploaded stamp image, it can be seen in the Channel Inspector with a variety of the color space modifications. Some color spaces provide no additional enhancement or understanding of the cancellation or marking. But some provide very convincing awareness of exactly what was hidden. In certain color spaces, even unsuspected features of the stamp may become starkly clear.

Examples of these seemingly hidden markings are illustrated with the below New Zealand stamps. For both the 9-pence and the 1-schilling stamps, it almost appears as if there are no markings on either stamp.

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But after processing images of these two stamps through retroReveal, we see a very pronounced manuscript cancellation on the 9-pence stamp and an “**APR 1904**” datestamp on the 1-shilling stamp (image rotated for viewing).

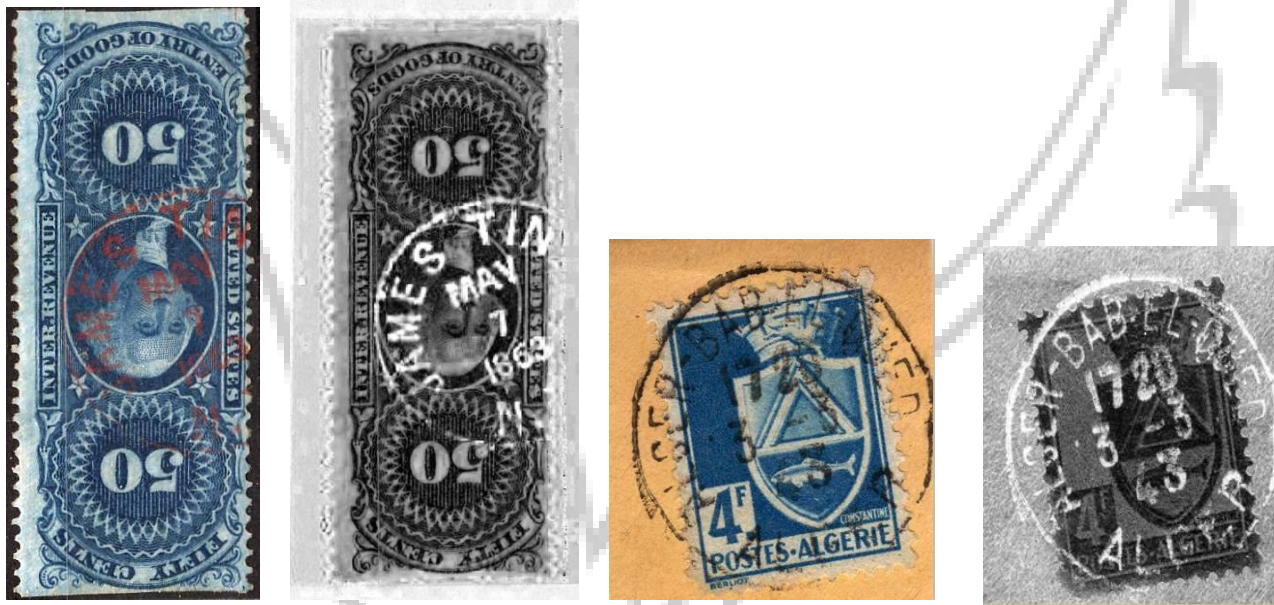


As with the New Zealand 9-pence issue above, the cancellations on the 1-pound British South African and 4-cent U.S. revenue stamps below are almost impossible to discern due to the “incompatibility” of the ink color of the cancellation and the primary stamp color. But after processing the stamp images, their cancellations become abundantly visible.



Sometimes, the most revealing color space is the simple “negative” space as seen with the below stamps. The “**MAY 7 1863**” circular datestamp on the 50-cent U.S. revenue

stamp and the “1720 3 -3 43” datestamp on the Algerian stamp are clearly visible after processing the images.



Lastly, cancellations on some stamps are embossed, not inked on. These 3-dimensional cancellations are extremely difficult to see without image enhancements. The “**B.B & CO. / AUG 11 1863 / BOSTON**” embossed cancellation on this 1-dollar U.S. Foreign Exchange revenue stamp is completely revealed after processing through retroReveal.



End Note

Although not designed solely for processing images of postage stamps, retroReveal can be an invaluable tool for any philatelist who desires a complete understanding of the seemingly hidden markings and features of their stamps.

For more information about using retroReveal, visit their website at <http://retroreveal.org/>. The site is hosted by the University of Utah's J. Willard Marriott Library.

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