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Filatellic Fiesta 2023

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Better Late than Never



At the Council meeting on April 29, 2023 Brian Jones was honored with the Chaloner Award. The award is given to a local person who has contributed to the enhancement of philately in Northern California. Brian has served as president of the San Jose Stamp Club since 2012. Under his leadership, membership has grown, and he has returned financial stability to the club. Most club meetings now have a speaker or presentation. The programs and activities have increased, and the club now hosts a reception area at their annual show.

Brian leads a Boy Scout stamp collecting merit badge program each year and has helped over 50 boys a year earn this badge. He also serves on the national BSA committee to edit the merit badge book and other committees to help create more opportunities for youth to learn about stamp collecting. Brian also serves as chairman of Filatellic Fiesta, the stamp show that is sponsored by the San Jose Stamp Club. He has succeeded in making the show a regional event with the participation of other Bay Area clubs. A recent session hosted 34 scouts, including 8 young women, where they were introduced to the basics of stamp collecting. He is a third-generation scout leader and stamp collector. Up to now he has facilitated over 800 scouts in earning the stamp collecting merit badge. Congratulations Brian.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

April 2024 newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

President's Message

We're all members of this club as we share a passion for stamps. Exactly what each of collects varies widely. From the conversations I have with collectors, it common to hear about how we enjoy the continued learning, challenge of finding what we need to grow our collection and sharing the camaraderie of sharing our interest with other collectors. Even if we collect the same country or topic our collections can be very different. As much as we enjoy collecting, the popularity of the hobby is waning.

We all know the many positives of being a stamp collector. A key to long term life of philately is communicating more effectively what we enjoy about collecting. Of course, no hobby is right for everybody, but enough of us have been enjoying our collecting to build a vibrant community that includes clubs, societies, specialty libraries, web resources, and a community of professional dealers. Lets keep it alive and well with positive actions before it is too late.

However, it is obvious our beloved hobby is shrinking as more collectors are passing away than new people starting up a collection. It is my contention that the issue is the widening gap between what we love about our hobby and how it is

perceived by non-collectors. First and foremost, we are fighting against the current generations trend to eliminate "stuff" out of their lives. Printed books are being replaced by e-books; few buy a movie on a DVD as they subscribe to streaming services; and new music is no longer purchased on a CD (or any other physical format) as it is downloaded to a phone or other device.

Another major issue is the perception that our hobby is stuck in the past. While the on-line and new resources are exploding, many of us in the hobby insist on sticking doing their collecting as they have since before computers where invented. Don't get me wrong, there is NOTHING wrong with "old school" collecting. My own US collection is in a Scott National album, and I use conventional resources when adding to it. As a long time collector, I have multiple magnifying glasses on my stamp table and can grab one of them to examine a stamp. All I'm saying is to not be so closed minded that you won't use the magnifying lens app on your cell phone when you don't have a magnifying lens handy. Another example is that there is a worldwide stamp identifier book on my table, and I still use it from time to time. Did you also know there are apps you can load on your phone that do a pretty good job? So if our "own" are slow to embracing 21st Century technology, it is not at all surprising that those outside the hobby see us stuck in the past. I'm planning to write about my favorite new resources in future newsletters. Everyone is encouraged to contribute an article on their favorite 21st century resource.

I firmly believe that our beloved hobby can have a huge renaissance if we do a couple of things. The core problem we need to address is that far too few people know the great reasons to collect. There is no better way to learn / keep in touch with one's heritage in a country than to collect its stamps. I've had great feedback from people when I explain as have wanted a way to explore the family's history. Many just have no idea what a great way to keep connected to country that to collect its stamps. Let's pause on that, as it is critically important. LOTS of people want to be connected to their family heritage. They just don't realize what a great opportunity stamp collecting can offer.

San Jose Stamp Club

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Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

May 2024

Then to get them started, they need someone to help them learn collecting basics including the different ways to collect. A traditional stamp album is terrific way to collect a country, but not the only choice.

All of us have a love for something like art, music, sports, pets, flowers, or just about anything. Often, we cannot keep a dog where your living, or indulge in your interest in your circumstance. For example, I have several small collections around my interests in Peanuts, Looney Tunes, and impressionist art. I simply still enjoy the cartoons of my youth and learned to love the art of Claude Monet and Renoir. I'll never be able to own a genuine Monet but can enjoy collecting them on stamps. I've also merged my work on my family history in the small town of Lisbon NY with philately.

This has a natural connection as my paternal grandfather died while serving as the town postmaster. I've collected a variety of covers postmarked from Lisbon and have an extensive collection of real photo postcards of the town. They contribute to both my documentation to my family history and collecting.

Just about everyone I talk to think there are a lot of rules they will have to follow if they start collecting. The concept that all they have to do is learn how to handle their materials comes as a real shock. There is a widespread perception one must use a conventional stamp album and focus on minutia details like perforations and watermarks. It would greatly benefit the hobby to develop resources to help people start a collection in a constructive and creative way. It is refreshing to see the APS is offering new resources for beginners. I would like to more creativity be encouraged as it can be a real boost to encouraging people to collect.

Many of the collections that get donated to our club's charitable activities are really only accumulations and too disorganized to be considered a "collection"

". Far too many people never made the transition from buying materials and never making the transition to collecting, much less philately. Therefore, their heirs see little choice than to simply give away these materials. Very few of the donations we receive are well organized, structured stamp collections. Therefore, it would best to keep that in mind and plan to support new collectors on getting their materials organized into a collection their happy with making that transition.

So, let's start building our hobby up with a generation of new collectors who see the value and fun of collecting and know how to handle their materials.

I very much welcome your input on my comments.

Brian

Philatelic Calander:

May 11: 10am – 4pm; **Scout-O-Rama in History Park**

With Boy Scout Troop 290, a stamp booth is offered to event attendees
Participants get to build a stamp project created around one of the US
stamp sets like the State Birds & Flowers; Prexies; Liberty; Famous
Americans; & others.

May 24: 1:30pm; Stamp Presentation at Terraces of Los Gatos

Giving a presentation on stamps and covers to the residents in the assisted
living area. Plan is show some of the commorative covers we've received
and perhaps do a stamp project.

June 5: 7:00 – 8:30pm; Stamp Club Meeting

Pearl Ave Branch of the San Jose Library, in the Community Room
Guest Speaker: you – what will you present?

TBD: Presentation at Pearl Ave Library

Host a program targeted to getting attendees interested in starting
collecting. Exactly what the program will be is undecided. A new
PowerPoint presentation will have to be created.

WESTPEX 2024

We are lucky to have a national caliber stamp show here in the Bay Area. WESTPEX is the biggest show west of the Rockies (Mississippi?) and it's right up the road from us. I was only able to attend for a few hours and saw a good turn out. I don't know the actual attendance numbers, but it was better than the past couple of years, but not yet back to pre-pandemic levels. The dealers I spoke with had a decent show, but the high fees make it tough to make a big profit. Also, theft is an increasing problem and I know one dealer paid a local collector to stand outside his booth to watch the customers. The USPS held a First Day of Issue ceremony for new \$1 stamp. The theme this year was the 150th anniversary of the UPU and there were some wonderfully creative exhibits to support this.



The Great American Stamp Collector: FDR

Once a young stamp collector became a dealer for a time. Eventually though, his youthful infatuation with stamp collecting gave way to other interests and he eventually went on to write about popular motion pictures. Perhaps you've heard of him - [Roger Ebert](#)?

In his review of *Hyde Park on Hudson*, a film about an affair that President Franklin Roosevelt carried on with his distant cousin Daisy, Ebert writes:

"As Daisy, Laura Linney plays a 50-ish single woman with great sympathy and affection for her distant cousin. Roosevelt uses her as a confidant, in their first meeting proudly showing her his stamp collection, maybe as a test; later, he confides that when he's besieged by bores, they can usually be depended upon to drift away when his stamp albums come out."

Philatelist In Chief

Of course philatelists know that Roosevelt wasn't just a stamp collector, as it's quaintly put in the film. His philatelic activities were many. He contributed to the design of U.S. stamps, turned Lindbergh into a philatelic flyer, promoting airmail for the USPOD -- Lindy even got his own stamp, in contravention of the post office's rules against honoring the living on a stamp -- and amassed a collection of [covers](#), U.S. and foreign essays, special printings from his postmaster James Farley (ultimately resulting in the scandal known as [Farley's Follies](#)) and generally used his position to avail himself of items unavailable to the common collector. On the other hand, he didn't do anything any other stamp collector wouldn't do in his position, when faced by the great number of mouth-watering philatelic items available to him.

It is said that Roosevelt's last official act as president was to agree to Postmaster General Walker's request that he buy the first sheet of the new *Toward United Nations* stamp when they went on sale on the first day of April 25 1945. But that was not to be as Roosevelt died on April 12. It was also Roosevelt's plan that gift albums containing the stamps be presented to the delegates at the first UN Peace Conference, the event the stamp were tied into.

In a document made available via the FDR Library from PMG Walker, seeking the okay of a design for the stamp and dated April 9, 1945 is the following: "As the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will have to begin work on this stamp immediately, we would appreciate your advice as to the design and denomination just as soon as possible. If you will have someone telephone us your decision it would be appreciated."

The Nation - And Stamp Collectors - Mourned

Two weeks later the stamp was on sale in San Francisco, the Peace Conference took place, with the delegates receiving commemorative albums from the Secretary of State and the philatelic event in conjunction with the peace conference was itself history. It must have been a bittersweet thing for stamp collectors though, knowing the philatelist in chief had closed his last album.

And while the stamp was printed and on sale in perhaps record time, those that made cachets for FDCs were unable to update with the sad news in time. Cachets for the peace conference stamp make no mention of FDR's death, while a number, like that showing the Yalta Conference, actually picture him.

The world released many FDR memorial stamps in the months following his death, and has continued to commemorate the world leader/philatelist over the years. The U.S. offered a commemorative set of three, which had their first day at Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park. The man who had famously said "I owe my life to my hobbies, especially stamp collecting," had finally himself become the subject of stamps.

Immediately following his death there appeared on the philatelic market cacheted event covers, canceled on April 12 1945, for those who want to mark their history with a philatelic souvenir. While in many cases such covers could be less than tasteful, as it may seem the maker is merely cashing in on tragedy, one could believe that FDR himself might approve. A stamp collector honored on a philatelic cover? Even for an individual of Roosevelt's status that would be a sweet coda to a lifetime in stamp collecting.

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