

Stamp



Chatter

Volume No. 45—Issue No. 2 w296

Apr, May, Jun, 2014

SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second** and **fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, at 7:05 pm. Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

More info at:

www.penpex.org/ssc

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President's Message:

As I write this, I have been in office two months as SSC President and have enjoyed every minute of it. People have commented that they are grateful for putting a speaker system in place. One 5-year member said that this was the first time he had heard an entire meeting.

At the meeting on February 25, each attendee was given a SSC 2014 Yearbook which included a list of committee members, complete 2014 SSC schedule, photos from last year activities, and a current and up to date member roster. Also, a Member Handbook was distributed to members who had not received the 2012 SSC 65th Anniversary Book. I want to thank Ken Perkins, Jim Giacomazzi, Paul Swierstra, and Dar Hickok for helping me get the two books to members so quickly. Paul is now actively delivering the Yearbook to members who could not attend. In April, members who have not received a Yearbook will be mailed one.

I also want to thank Leroy Harbaugh for serving as SSC librarian for the past 15 years. As the librarian, Leroy has made available to members the club's current Scott Catalogues along with many other resource books. Leroy has decided to pass on the role to Craig Butterworth, who has graciously volunteered to serve as the current SSC librarian.

Remember to check the website for the most recent schedule, www.penpex.org/ssc/schedule, which includes local stamp shows. The newest Member Handbook is always available at www.penpex.org/ssc. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Kristin Patterson, Sequoia Stamp Club President



2014 Stamp Calendar & Sequoia Club Program Schedule

- Apr 8 – Governing Board mtg – 6 pm. (open to all members) “Other Hobby Night” Bring items from your non-philatelic collection for show and tell.
- Apr 22 – Live Auction – Inglis Consignment Sale
- **Apr 25-27: WESTPEX**, Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Burlingame.
- May 13 – Pan American Post Office at Wake Island by Larry Christiansen.
- May 27 – Swap Meet
- Jun 10 – Presentation by Fritz Gelb.
- Jun 24 – “A Wandering Philatelist” by John Dusel.

Fountain of Youth

On Tuesday, February 18, the Youth Committee met for its first semi-annual mailings. Present were Stephen Sexton, VP of Sequoia, Richard Coleman, LeRoy Bertsch, Hank Shoolman, Cathy Bradford and myself, the Chair. We were pleasantly surprised when Sequoia president, Kristin Patterson, arrived to lend a hand. Six mailings were prepared for 44 Youth members: one large and five (5) smaller mailings. Twelve mailings annually reinforce the value of membership to our youngsters. Plans were discussed of a potential BBQ for local Youth participants and their parent(s). As always we encourage Sequoia members to spread the word about our almost unique system of perpetuating philately among the young who represent the future of our great hobby.



Youth Committee members clockwise from front left: LeRoy Bertsch, Hank Shoolman, Cathy Bradford, Steve Sexton, Darlene Hickok, and Richard Coleman.



Membership Side Car/Getting To Know Us

A random sampling of member information.

By: Hank Washauer

Hank Washauer Joined 1979
Born San Francisco, CA
Started collecting in 1979
Lowell High Academic
City College of San Francisco - Business
Expense Analyst - Simmons Company

Fritz Gelb Joined 1987
Born Austria
Started collecting at the age of 8
Had to leave at the 8th grade and move to China
Furniture Store owner

Jim Giacomazzi Joined 1992
Born Salinas, CA
Started collecting at the age of 8
UC Berkeley - Political Science
University of Pennsylvania - Education
Teacher - Sequoia HS District

Kristin Patterson Joined 1997
Born Madison, WI
Started collecting at the age of 11
Marquette University - Electrical Engineering
Technical trainer

Miriam Thurston Joined 1997
Born Brooklyn, NY
Started collecting in 1986
School of Fine Arts - San Francisco, CA
Graphic artist - Ampex

Darlene Hickok Joined 2001
Born Half Moon Bay, CA
Started collecting in High School
Business courses for Administrative Asst
Computer tech - Stanford University

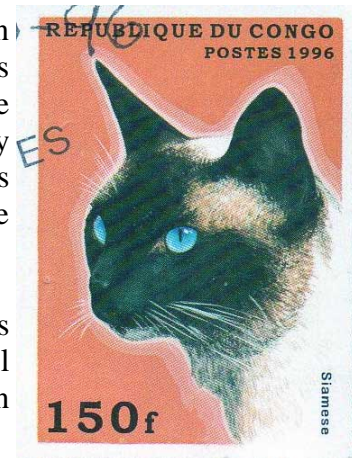
Steve Sexton Joined 2007
Born London, England
Started collecting at the age of 4
Attended University of London - Mathematics
VP Quality Engineering EMMS Inc.

Newsletter Staff: Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Graphics: Miriam Thurston, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Printing: Darlene Hickok, Photographer: Ken Perkins, and Advisor: Hank Washauer.

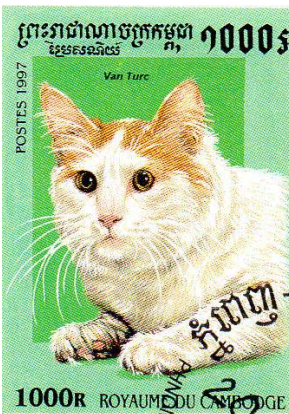
The **Stamp Chatter** is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: www.penpex.org or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

“Cats on Stamps” by Marsha Brandsdorfer

Topical collecting of cats on postage stamps can be fun. Cats have been around for thousands of years. An old Arabian legend connects the cat’s creation with Noah’s Ark. A pair of mice was taken on the Ark but the mice reproduced multiplying very quickly and the Ark became infested by these rodents. Noah consulted with the lioness for assistance. He passed his hand three times over the lioness’ head and the lioness squeezed out the very first cat, which was to aid as a natural mouse trap.



The history of the domestic cat began in Egypt and there is evidence of this as tombs had mummified cats. The cat was identified with the powerful moon goddess Pasht. Egyptians also established cats were important in their role for mice control.



Cats have survived through the ages as independent solitary hunters. Capable of surviving and adapting, a cat, without someone to help feed and take care of it, can manage on an imperfect diet. If it needs to survive on its own without nutritious cat food, the cat can eat mice, birds, fish, and insects. They may eat scraps of food left over from human meals that they find in the trash. However, a cat can be finicky about what it eats. Cats rely strongly on their sense of smell and make decisions about food by smelling it, as a good scent means good food to a cat.

A cat’s vision is exceptional at night, and even better than a human’s sight. However, in the daylight, their vision is like other nocturnal animals and poorer than a human’s eye sight. Their hearing is not necessarily better than humans, but they can hear a different range of sound frequency. They are smart and they can learn. Occasionally, there is a cat that appears not to be trainable, but most cats can be taught how to use the indoor litter box, or taught not to jump on the dining room table to steal food. Also scratching posts should be provided to allow cats to claw when they need to do so, so they don’t claw on one’s furniture.



Cats that are lucky enough to have owners are enjoying a longer life span thanks to veterinarians and are eating well thanks to commercial cat food. Nonetheless, there is a huge homeless population problem. When I was in Greece in 2007, I discovered that it was mandatory for the community to oblige itself to the care and treatment of stray cats and dogs. The United States is not so strict, but there are good hearted people who take care of strays and many cities have non-profit organizations to help unwanted animals. We can collect stamps to celebrate and promote cats. There are many different kinds of cats. As there are dozens of cat stamps available in the US and internationally, you can try to collect one species or just collect cats in general.

Most of my information was researched from the book, Wholly Cats by Faith McNulty and Elisabeth Keiffer.

Deutsche Einheit

by Ken Perkins

“Deutsche Einheit” read two ordinary looking stamps issued by Germany on October 3, 1990.

Two words, two stamps; the hopes and fears of millions of people.

Conrad Schumann, John F. Kennedy, Günter Litfin, Ronald Reagan, Peter Fechter, Erich Honecker, and Chris Gueffroy.

“Ich bin ein Berliner.” “Mr. Gorbachov, tear down this wall.”

“You are leaving the American Sector.” “Checkpoint Charlie.”



On the 9th of November, 1989, at the end of a routine evening press conference, East German spokesman Günter Schabowski is asked about a new law allowing East Germans to cross into West Berlin. ‘How soon will the new law go into effect?’ asks a reporter. Schabowski, who has been handed information about the new law just minutes before the press conference, mistakenly answers “...*sofort, unverzüglich*”... “immediately, without delay.”

Schabowski’s comments are the lead items on both East and West German evening news at 8PM. By 11PM some 11,000 incredulous East Berliners have gathered at the Bornholmer Strasse gate, shouting ‘Open the gate’. Faced with an unstoppable crowd, the dreaded Vopos do just that. All over Berlin that night, the gates are opened. The Wall has fallen.

On October 3, 1990, an event occurs which was unimaginable just a few years before. Four days short of it’s 41st anniversary, the German Democratic Republic is dissolved and Germany, with the agreement of the World War II victors, is once again a united country.

Deutsche Einheit...German unity, didn’t come without problems. Despite reunification being approved by the governments of the World War II Allies who defeated Germany, many citizens of those countries feared a more powerful, reunited Germany. The economy of the former East Germany was a wreck: in order to develop it, Germany has transferred between €100 billion and €140 billion each year to the 5 new states added to the Bundesrepublik in the former East Zone. And the 5.5% income tax surcharge, devoted to rebuilding the new states and slated to last until at least 2019, is quite unpopular.

An equally serious problem is what Germans call the ‘Mauer im Kopf’...the ‘Wall in the Head’. Many West Germans (‘Wessis’) see the Easterners (‘Ossis’) as being lazy and poor, while the ‘Ossis’ see the ‘Wessis’ as selfish snobs. So despite all the money being sent to the East to revitalize the economy, and the migration of some 18% of the East’s population to the West since reunification, social integration has been slow.

But the reunited Germany has become the economic powerhouse of the Euro Zone and a key player in dictating the terms of the recovery packages offered to weaker Euro Zone partners whose economies are in deep trouble. And East German raised and educated Angela Merkel, who became Germany’s first female Chancellor in 2005, has proven herself one of the most powerful leaders in the world.

No Time Like the Present

by Kristin Patterson

As an APS Director-at-large, I attended the APS AmeriStamp Expo on February 14-16, 2014 in Little Rock, AR. The APS board met on Thursday, Feb. 13 for all-day meetings. This was one of the most productive meetings that I have been a part of in my 2.5 years on the board as the APS looks to increase membership.

On Wednesday evening, the board was invited to Ron Robinson's home for dinner and socializing. Ron joined the APS in 1976 and is member #100,827. He and his family were very welcoming as was all of Little Rock.

Even though, Little Rock is south of San Jose, it was much colder. You definitely needed a jacket there. But the host Marriott Hotel had direct access to the Convention Center where the show was being held. So I never had to go outside.

The show did not have as many dealers as in past shows and attendance appeared to be down. Snow storms on the East did hinder some travelers. But comments from dealers appeared that they had done fine, so the people who did attend bought material.

I spent most of my time working the APS StampBuddy Booth, where volunteers welcome attendees, answer questions, and encourage them to become more active in the hobby. I gave many tours of the show while explaining what the dealers had and pointing out some interesting material in the exhibit frames. I met many friendly, new collectors and enjoyed talk with them one-on-one.

One person who I gave a tour to was Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola. He collected stamps as a young boy, but had not done anything since then. I told him there is no time like the present, but suspected that his current job took much of his time. He did call a friend to tell him about the show and encouraged him to attend.

I could tell Mark still had the collecting bug when his eyes lit up when dealer Stephen Taylor gave him four FDI covers of the Arkansas State Stamp of 1936. Mark mentioned giving them to his twin sons. Maybe this could be a family hobby.

There is no time like the present to mention your hobby to others and answer their questions. I know that we all get excited about our collection and it shows when we talk about our stamps. So while you are enjoying it, share it with your friends.



At AmeriStamp Expo 2014, (left) past APS President Wade Saadi, Kristin Patterson, and APS President Stephen Reinhard.

The Beginning 172 Years Ago...

by Stephen Sexton



The **Penny Black** was the world's first adhesive postage stamp in a public postal system. It was issued in Britain on 1 May 1840, for official use from 6 May of that year.

All London post offices received official issues of the new stamps but other offices throughout the United Kingdom did not, continuing to accept postage payments in cash only for a period. Post offices such as those in Bath began offering the stamp unofficially after 2 May.

The idea of an adhesive stamp to indicate *pre-payment* of postage was part of Sir Rowland Hill's 1837 proposals to reform the British postal system; it was normal then for the recipient to pay postage *on delivery*. A companion idea, which Hill disclosed on 13 February 1837 at a government enquiry, was that of a separate sheet that folded to form an enclosure or envelope for carrying letters. At that time postage was charged by the sheet and on the distance travelled.

The Penny Black is not a rare stamp. The total print run was 286,700 sheets with 68,808,000 stamps and a substantial number of these have survived, largely because envelopes were not normally used. Letters in the form of letter sheets were folded and sealed, with the stamp and the address on the obverse. If the letter was kept, the stamp survived. However, the only known complete sheets of the Penny Black are owned by the British Postal Museum.

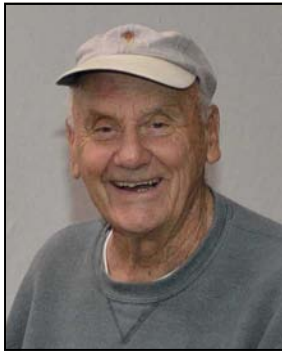


The **Two Penny Blue** or The **Two Pence Blue** was the world's second official postage stamp, issued after the Penny Black. It was issued in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and was first sold to the public at the London Inland revenue office on the 6th May 1840. Except for its denomination, the design is exactly the same as the 1d black and was struck from the same die.



The **Penny Red** was a British postage stamp, issued in 1841. It succeeded the Penny Black and continued as the main type of postage stamp in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland until 1879, with only minor changes to the design during that time. The color was changed from black to red because of difficulty in seeing a cancellation mark on the Penny Black; a black cancel was readily visible on a Penny Red.

Steve Morger Chosen for Life Membership



Steve Morger

Congratulations to Steve Morger, a club member since 1992, is the newest Sequoia Stamp Club Life Member. Steve has been collecting stamps for over 70 years and his main interest is worldwide stamps up to 1940. He enjoys trading stamps and attending local stamp shows. He is a life member of the American Philatelic Society.

Steve has served as secretary of the Sequoia Stamp Club and currently is involved in both the silent and live auctions at club meetings. His honesty and integrity are above reproach, and he is highly respected by his fellow club members. He started the original PENPEX silent auction and continues to work at the show each year as a valued volunteer.

Steve does a lot of work behind the scenes at the club. Every year he drives out to Armadillo Willy's in Foster City to pick up the food for the summer picnic. Because he is a member of Costco, he volunteers to shop for the PENPEX snack bar. He has even picked up a second cake for the awards banquet! He put together an interesting Disney exhibit when club members were asked to participate in a one-page exhibit project.

Steve is one of the friendliest and most active members of the Sequoia Stamp Club, rarely missing a meeting and always stepping up when asked to perform some service for the club. In 2012, he was selected for the APS "Sparkplug" Award which is given to a member who has gone out of his way to help the club. Steve is a deserving life member of the Sequoia Stamp Club.

[Five-cent "Golden Gate", Panama-Pacific Exposition Commemorative Issue, 1913](#)

by Ed Bierman

Continuing our articles on the 1913 commemorative Panama-Pacific Expo stamp series is the 5-cent stamp showing the "Golden Gate" – the entry way to the San Francisco Bay. The 3rd stamp in this series was part of a set to commemorate both the discovery of the Pacific Ocean in 1513 and the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. It was also to promote the Panama-Pacific Exposition that would take place in 1915. The 5-cent "Golden Gate" stamp was an appropriate symbol of all of these events.



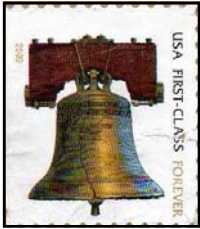
1913 5c Panama-Pacific Expo Stamp

The 5-cent stamp is a beautiful dark blue, bearing the design of L.C. Schofield. The Golden Gate Bridge is not seen in the stamp, of course, because construction didn't start on the bridge until 1933. A five-cent stamp at the time would have paid for international first class mail. Statistics show that 29 million stamps were printed of this issue.

This article was originally posted on Ed's blog on May 21, 2013. To read the entire article and view related video go to: www.penpex.org/page/5/.

PHIL A. TELLICK
AND SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'
 By Miriam S. Thurston- All Rights Reserved C

PHIL A. TELLICK IS GIVING A TALK AT A STAMP CLUB TALKING ABOUT THE FOREVER STAMPS TO THE SNAIL MAIL STAMP CLUB MEMBERS



The first "Forever" stamp was issued on April 12, 2007 and was sold for 41 cents. It is still valid for mailing a one ounce first class letter today.



FYI: The "FOREVER" stamp does not mean that it takes *forever* for the US Postal Service to deliver a letter. Forever stamps can be used to mail a one-ounce letter regardless of when the stamps are purchased or used and no matter how prices may change in the future. The first Forever Stamp went on sale for 41 cents in April 2007 and it featured an image of the Liberty Bell. In 2011, all first-class one ounce stamps became forever stamps with the exception of stamps in coils of 500, 3,000, and 10,000. Forever Stamps are always sold at the cost of regular First Class Mail, which today is 49 cents.

Reminder From the Sales Committee

Submit all material to the auction chairperson prior to the start of the meeting on the date of the auction. Each seller is required to **fill out the club's pre-printed form describing the lot and submit the form with the material.** The description must include catalog number, accurate description of condition, catalog year used for pricing, and other relevant information, such as complete or partial set **and whether or not the stamps have been hinged.**

Each lot submitted must have a minimum value of \$5.00 and this will be the lowest starting bid. Lots of lesser value should only be entered in the club's silent auctions.

Sellers may NOT specify a starting or minimum bid. Sellers are allowed one free bid to protect their lots. Additional bids by the seller are permitted but the lot will be treated as "sold" and subject to the 10% commission.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the live auction a successful part of the club program.

Request From the Youth Committee

The Sequoia Youth committee is asking that club members donate stamps that are needed for youth group mailings. Stamps requested are topical items in the following categories:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Africa | 10. Great Britain |
| 2. Airplanes | 11. Machinery |
| 3. Animals | 12. Marine life |
| 4. Baseball | 13. Movies/Actors |
| 5. Christmas | 14. Non-denominated |
| 6. Coins on Stamps | 15. Plants/Nature |
| 7. Czech | 16. Plate Blocks |
| 8. Europe | 17. Rocks/Minerals |
| 9. India | 18. Sports |

Please keep topics separated so the committee does not have to sort through them again. Thank you for your help on behalf of our youth group.