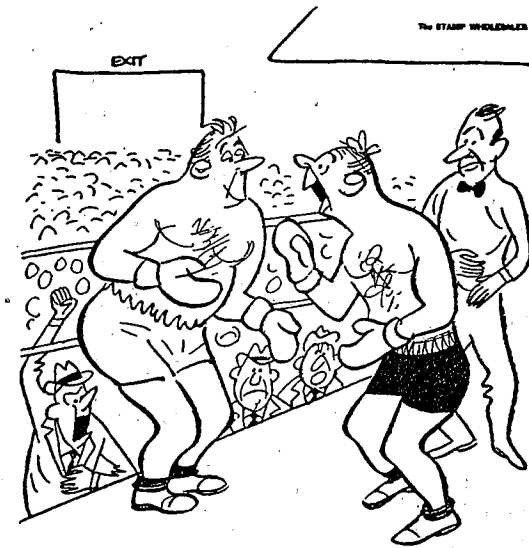
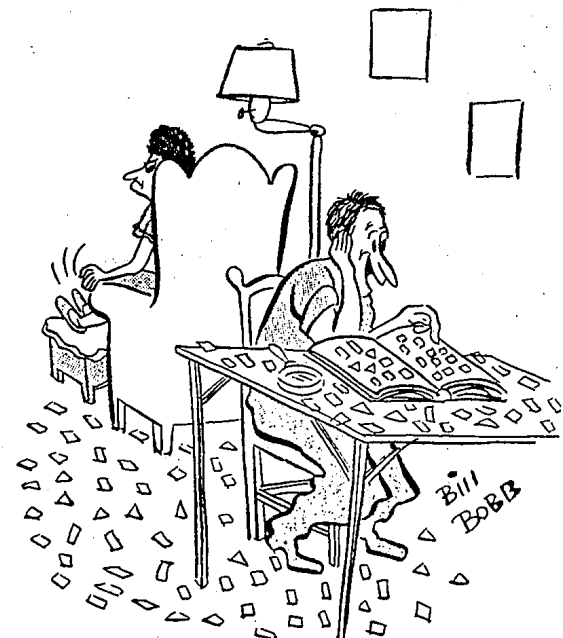


UnHinged...By A. Nu. Year



"Do you really have that one? Well, I have a pip of a stamp I'll bet you wished you owned!"



"1,245,387 ... 1,245,388 ... 1,245,389 ... 1,245,390 ..."

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Stamp Chatter

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Newsletter of the Sequoia Stamp Club, Redwood City

From the President

We are about to start out the year 2009 with a new slate (this is the last time in this century that zeros are juxtaposed) Following is the Roster List for 2009:

President	Hank Washauer
Vice President	Ernie Lee
Secretary	Darlene Hickok
Treasurer	Richard Griffone

Executive Committee

Directors at Large	Bill Dutcher
	John Dusel
Program	Ed Rodriguez
Librarian	Leroy Harbaugh, Jr
Membership	Bill Dutcher
Auditor	Fritz Gelb

Other committees for 2009

Live Auction	Paul Swierstra
	Steve Morger
	Jim Giacomazzi (Auctioneer)
Silent Auction	Richard Griffone
	Steve Morger
Refreshments	Chris Thompson
Newsletter	Ernie Lee
Circulation Newsletter	Paul Swierstra
Youth/Beginners	Darlene Hickok
Nominating Committee	Darlene Hickok
Council Representative	Hank Washauer
APS Representative	Bill Dutcher
PENPEX	Kristin Patterson
Hostess/Sunshine	Joan Doherty

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Upcoming Meetings

February 24
Executive Meeting
APS Film

March 10
My Experience Selling My
Stamp Collection - Fritz
Gelb

March 24
Airports, Part 2 -
Ernie Lee

April 14
Live Auction

April 28
Galvinas Islands -
Ed Rodriguez

May 12
Short Talkon Flowers -
John Dusel

Ernie Lee is Recipient of APS "Sparkplug Award"

Every stamp club has a few "movers and shakers." They're the ones who really get things done, come up with new and fresh ideas and make it all look easy. All too often these people go unrecognized for their accomplishments and commitment to the group. The APS Certificate of Award (also known as the "Sparkplug Award") is one way for us to say thanks.

This year's winner of the "Sparkplug Award" for the Sequoia Stamp Club is Ernie Lee. Ernie has been a member of the club since 2004, and is also a member of the American Philatelic Society. His primary collecting interests are aviation, China, Great Britain, and Scandinavia. The award was announced at the December meeting of the club, and Ernie was presented a framed certificate by Sequoia Club president Jim Giacomazzi.

There can be no doubt of Ernie's qualifications for the award. In 2008 he served as chairperson for Penpex, our local stamp show. Because of Ernie's leadership and coordination of efforts, everyone who attended the show agrees that it was a rousing success. For the past two years Ernie has served as editor of the Chatter, our club newsletter. Because of Ernie's expertise in graphics and printing, the Chatter has expanded and improved to a point where many of us feel it is deserving of national recognition.

As program chairperson for the club this past year, Ernie put together a wonderful calendar of events from films to swap meets to pizza parties. One of our best programs this past year was Ernie's presentation on various airports around the world. Everything Ernie does is done with great enthusiasm, whether it is a report from a Portland stamp show that he attended or a review of Lawrence Block's latest book featuring a stamp-collecting hit man. Ernie always has a new idea up his sleeve, such as his latest survey to find out what was the most popular stamp among our club members.

Ernie has been elected by fellow club members to serve as vice-president of the club for 2009. It is hard to imagine that Ernie can do more to serve the club than he has during this past year. But knowing Ernie, he will probably find a way. Next time you see Ernie, give him a pat on the back for all he has done for the club, and a big congratulations for being this year's winner of the "Sparkplug Award."



Ernie was presented a framed certificate by 2008 Sequoia Club president Jim Giacomazzi.

Stamps R Us News (Sequoia Youth/Beginner Club)

Darlene Hickok is planning to begin the first of six mailings to the Sequoia Stamp Club youth division ("Stamps R Us") by the end of January. Marsha Brandsdorfer is working on a few "How To" articles for the mailings. In the mailings, we like to include variety packets as well as some topical stamps that the children have said that they are interested in and a group of variety/topical stamps to soak off paper. The youth committee helped in putting together packets from donated stamps. The youth committee includes Darlene, Marsha, Leroy Bertsch, Richard Coleman, Joan Doherty and John Inglis. Presently, we have about 34 youth and/or beginner members. Three members signed up at December's Penpex

Thank You From PENPEX

I never got the chance the chance to personally thank the large number of volunteers who helped with our 2008 PENPEX show in December.

Right after the show, I was seriously ill with renal kidney failure that resulted in a 21 day hospital stay at Kaiser. I was released on December 31, New Year's Eve. What a way to start a new year.

The results and feedback from PENPEX were quite positive. Jim Mosso reports that the silent auction had good action and above average bidding.

Our dealers were quite happy with the business side of stamps. There were quite a few people in attendance.

The picture below was taken from our thank you breakfast for volunteers and general PENPEX executive meeting held at Paul's Restaurant in San Mateo. We had a good turnout for this event and the food was mighty tasty.

Again, a BIG thank you for your help.

Ernie Lee
2008 PENPEX Chairman



The Caboose

PENPEX COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Kristin Patterson
Vice-Chairperson	Ernie Lee
Secretary	Hank Washauer
Treasurer	Bill Dutcher
Sequoia Pres.	Jim Giacomazzi
Peninsula Pres.	Paul Ortega
Program/Graphics	Ed Bierman
Mailing List	Darlene Hickok
Facility	Kristin Patterson
Setup	Eduardo Martino
Bourse	Kristin Patterson
Registration Desk	Ernie Lee
Exhibits	Vesma Grinfelds
Awards	Paul Ortega
Judges	Vesma Grinfelds
Frames	Open
Seminars	Ed Rodriguez
Cachet Program	Hank Washauer
Cachet/Cancel	Miriam Thurston
Banquet	Open
Raffle	Darlene Hickok
Public Relations	Hank Washauer
Silent Auction	Jim Mosso
Snack Bar and Dealer Lunches	Leroy Bertsch
Security/Insurance	Bill Dutcher
Welcome Area	Ernie Lee

Leonardo Da Vinci

by Marsha Brandsdorfer



The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose recently had a huge educational exhibit called “500 Years Into the Future” about Renaissance artist Leonardo Da Vinci and Renaissance Engineers. After seeing the exhibit, I did a search on eBay for Leonardo Da Vinci stamps and discovered that there were many worldwide stamps and beautiful souvenir sheets of Da Vinci and his art. Collecting Da Vinci stamps and souvenir sheets would make a nice topical collection.

Leonardo was born on April 15, 1452 in a small town, Vinci, Italy. His full birth name was “Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci”, meaning “Leonardo, son of (Mes)ser Piero from Vinci.” As a young boy, Leonardo liked to draw and his father was aware of Leonardo’s talent. So when Leonardo was a young teen, his father made arrangements for him to live and work with the famous Italian artist Andrea del Verrocchio in Florence, Italy. Being an artist was a respectful trade during the time so his father hoped that his son would learn to be better at his craft.

At the studio, Verrocchio received orders from customers, mostly for religious paintings. Verrocchio was commissioned to make a painting of the baptism of Jesus. He allowed Leonardo to paint one of the angels. The angel was so beautiful that Verrocchio realized that his young apprentice was more talented than even himself.

Leonardo stayed at Verrocchio’s workshop for thirteen years. While there, he improved his skill and became a member of the painter’s guild. He followed the methods of other painters and also experimented with his own techniques. For instance, he wanted his paintings to have a more three-dimensional feeling. Thus, he learned about perspective, i.e., figures up close had to be bigger than figures that were supposed to be in the background. It is at Verrocchio’s studio that he painted “The Annunciation” which showed an angel appearing to Mary to advise her that she is going to give birth to a son.

Eventually, Leonardo decided to move up north to the city of Milan, Italy where he was hired by the Duke Ludovico Siorza to help him design new weapons. This is where Leonardo started keeping notebooks. Some of them were exhibited at the Tech Museum. Leonardo has made numerous sketches in these notebooks, many of which included his designs for weaponry. The Duke asked Leonardo to paint a mural in the large dining area of his castle. Leonardo painted what later began known as “The Last Supper.” This painting portrays the scene where Jesus tells his twelve disciples that he knows one of them will betray him. Jesus is shown in the middle of the painting. Each of his followers seems surprised by the news. Only one man is leaning forward seemingly separate from the group. He is Judas and he will be the one to betray Jesus. Since Leonardo had decided to experiment and put varnish on the wall and use tempera paints, this masterpiece painting now has cracks in it. Experts have tried to fix it the best they could, but there remains damage.

Milan was taken over by the French in 1499, so the Duke lost his power and fled Milan. Leonardo left as well. He did not take much with him, but he did take his notebooks. Many of the notebooks and pages from the notebooks have been lost, stolen or destroyed over the years. But what remains indicates how advanced Leonardo was for his time. He was interested in machines, flying (which of course had not been achieved until the Wright brothers in 1903). He was interested in human anatomy. He had even dissected bodies, which was illegal since he was not a medical doctor. He had sketches in his books and wrote his notes reversed in mirror language. No one knows for sure why he did this. Did he write this as a code so that it would be harder for others to read his notes?



Leonardo ended up back in Florence. It is there, that he worked on many paintings, including the famous “Mona Lisa.” I saw this painting at the Louvre museum in Paris, France almost ten years ago. The woman’s calm half smile makes her appear as if she is keeping a secret.

After a few years, Leonardo returned to Milan where he lived on and off for several years. And finally in 1516, Leonardo moved to France, being given the use of the manor house Clos Lucé near King François I of France’s residence at the royal Chateau Amboise. It was here that

he spent the last three years of his life. The King became a close friend and enjoyed having many discussions with Leonardo. It is legend that on May 2, 1519, the King held Leonardo’s head in his arms as he died.



CORK STAMP CANCELLATIONS BY LOREN SINGH

Those who collect late nineteenth century (1847-1899) United States stamps, also known as “the classics” should be familiar with the cork stamp cancellations used during that era. They are similar to the rubber stamps of today; however, they were carved on bottle corks, pressed into inkpads, and used to cancel stamps affixed to covers that were sent through rural post offices. There were far more rural post offices then, when outgoing mail was processed by hand in the post office of origin. Today outgoing mail processing is largely mechanized, and mail is canceled by machines in regional mail processing centers rather than in neighborhood post offices.

Back in the “good old days,” some post offices did not have their own name-and-date imprint hand stamp cancellation device, so inventive postmasters came up with the idea of the cork stamp. Bottle corks were readily available and when carved with an artistic design or letter of the alphabet and used as a stamping or canceling device, worked well.

Being a general collector, I have only just a few of the “classic” stamps in my collection. But I like looking at stamp and auction catalogs, and thus became intrigued with cork stamps to the point where I wanted to make some myself. I am not an imbiber of alcoholic beverages; I abstain from them by choice. Friends, neighbors, and family members who love their wine were more than happy to save and give me their small hordes of corks. Making the stamps is quite easy, and just takes a razor blade, ballpoint pen, a good eye, and a steady hand. Natural corks are best, and corks made of plastic or other synthetic material should be avoided. Natural cork carves easily, but can crumble. Plastic “corks” are hard to carve and lack the porosity to absorb much ink.



When starting to learn the craft, it is easiest to carve in straight lines and right angles. Simple designs and letters of the alphabet without curves are good to start out trying to carve. As you go along, your imagination will enable you to visualize more complex designs. You can use the curves of the cork’s circumference in your design or letter, and avoid having to carve them yourself. You can visualize contrasts between background and image, and vary the effect of the same design or letter. You can let your imagination run wild!

The hardest design to carve is the famous “bull’s eye” cancellation because it is full of circles and curves. A razor blade likes straight lines and balks at curves, so carving a “bull’s eye” remains a challenge. Stamp collecting and cork carving are complementary hobbies. They give us a chance to learn, to be creative and to develop manual dexterity. What a combination!