

Stamp



Chatter

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Oct, Nov, Dec, 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:

Stamp collecting is one of the world's safest hobbies, if you avoid paper cuts and use proper ventilation when working with watermarking fluid. Stamp collecting does not require that I own a fire or bulletproof jacket, be on my feet all day, have paparazzi wanting my photo, nor drive long distances to enjoy the hobby.

Yet, through stamps, we can visit sites from the distant past, far from our homeland, or difficult to get to by just pulling out our stamp album and taking a moment to examine the little treasures. I have been to Antarctica, to the great Egyptian pyramids, and to the moon without leaving the comforts of my stamp room.

We can see animals from far away countries that are too dangerous to be near or are extinct. In our hands, we can view these animals via a stamp without fear of being attacked. This may be one reason stamp collectors live so long.

Lastly, we do not panic that we will run out of material. In fact most of us would say "we have too much stuff" and yet we are always looking for more. Keep enjoying the hobby and good luck with the hunt.



2014 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- Oct 14 - Governing Board Meeting: 6:00pm (open to the public). Club Meeting: 7:05 "Cover Contest" Bring your smallest, largest, oldest, furthest traveled, and more. See page 8 for more details. Silent auction.
- Oct 25-26: **East Bay Collectors Club 69th Annual Show**. Civic Center, 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA.
- Oct 28 - Nomination of 2015 Officers. Members Live Auction.
- Nov 1-2: **SACAPEX**. Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Sacramento.
- Nov 11 - Pizza Party 5:00pm at Mountain Mike's, 120 El Camino Real, Redwood City. There will be no meeting at 7 pm since the CAB is closed.
- Nov 14-16: **Filatelic Fiesta**. Gateway Hall, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose.
- Nov 25 - Election of 2015 Officers. "The Penny Postal: Gone But Still Collectible" (APS video). Silent Auction.
- Dec 6-7: **PENPEX**. Community Activities Building, Redwood City. Show opens at 10:00am both days.
- Dec 9 - Annual Holiday Parry. Silent auction.
- Dec 23 - **No Meeting**. See you next year!

Fountain of Youth

We had a nice turnout at our last committee working meeting with volunteers Preston Chiappa, Jim Giacomazzi, Cathy Bradford and Marty Moorbrink arriving to help. Ken Perkins wrote a great article on Dead Countries that was used in this youth mailing. A big applause goes out to our committee members, Richard Coleman, LeRoy Bertsch, Steve Sexton, Andrew Sexton and Hank Shoolman for a job well done this year. We are saddened with the passing of one of our committee members, Hank Washauer, who mainly assisted with membership.



Youth is the key to the future of our hobby!

A list of needed topical stamps and U.S. issues will be handed out at the meeting or included in this Chatter if room is available. Thank you to all of you who have donated so far from our last topical plea. A welcome goes out to Preston who has stepped in to be a permanent youth committee member. A reminder to all club members to always look for potential new members for the youth group. Since we are a learn-by-mail club, youth do not have to live locally to become a member.

Respectfully submitted, Darlene Hickok, Chair

Membership Report

Membership in the Sequoia Stamp Club continues to grow. Word must be spreading about our super interesting programs, fantastic silent and live auction sales, great social events, friendly members, and ridiculously low yearly dues. Here is a list of our latest enrollees along with their collecting interests:

<u>No.</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Collecting Interest</u>
717	Anthony	Kakis	Burlingame	Topicals: Music
718	Harold	Boyer	Tucson, AZ	Classic WW & USA
720	Rosalie	Bock	Sedona, AZ	Queen Victoria & family
721	Charles	Dymond	Half Moon Bay	Canada & WW
722	Ed	Bodoh	Pittsboro, NC	S. America & WW
723	Kelly	Solis-Navarro	Lima, Peru	Topicals: Flowers, Art
724	Lewis	Miller	Redwood City	Germany
725	Linda	Vetter	Redwood City	U.S. and U.N.
726	David	Dirkes	Oakland	Philatelic Literature
727	Roger	Skinner	Los Altos	Himalaya area, Postal History, RPOs
728	Andre	De Wild	San Carlos	Europe, Pre-1950 U.S.

Like Us - PENPEX & Sequoia on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/penpexstampshow>

If you use Facebook, be sure to "Like" the PENPEX and Sequoia Stamp Club page. We share our blog posts, and closer to the PENPEX Stamp Show we will post news and information about the event. Also share the page with your family and friends who like stamp collecting.

Newsletter Staff: Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Graphics: Miriam Thurston, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Youth: Darlene Hickok, Photographer: Ken Perkins. Printing: John Corwin, Librarian: Craig Butterworth, and Webmaster: Ed Bierman.

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.

The Inverted Jenny

by Marsha Brandsdorfer



On May 14, 1918, twenty-nine year old William Thomas Robey went to his local post office in Washington, D.C. He was a stamp collector and he was ready to spend his \$24 on a sheet of the new two color 24 cents airmail stamps commemorating the biplane called "Jenny." The Jenny would be the first plane used to fly the world's first regularly scheduled transportation of mail by air from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia and New York. Robey was looking forward to adding these stamps to his collection.

When the post office clerk sold him the sheet of 100 stamps, Robey noticed that on the stamps the Jenny biplanes were printed upside down. The sheet must have acquired its error when the paper was turned the wrong way on the printing press when it was time to apply the second color. Robey recognized right away the value of this special find. Robey asked to see other sheets to see if there were more and went to another post office nearby, but he could not find another sheet with the rare errors.

Robey was so proud of his find, he told a coworker about the inverts. The coworker, possibly jealous, told a local post office of Robey's discovery, which informed postal inspections to make a visit to Mr. Robey, threatening him that the government would confiscate the sheet of inverted Jennys. Robey decided that he needed to sell the stamps quickly. He was concerned about the postal inspectors and also believed that if more error sheets did show up, it would lower the value of the one he had.



He contacted several dealers and collectors and finally sold the sheet of inverted stamps for \$15,000 to Philadelphia dealer, Eugene Klein. Klein lightly numbered each stamp on the back in pencil so that future philatelist researchers could trace the ownership of each stamp, before selling it for \$20,000 to philatelist Colonel E.H.R. Green, who inherited his fortune from his mother, Hetty Green, who before her death was considered the richest woman of her time.

Over the years, the stamps have been sold and resold and for the most part the prices for the inverts often continued to rise. The Jenny invert, perhaps one of the most famous stamps of the world is an attraction to investors, as well as people who just want to own the celebrated stamp.

The U.S. Post Office Department has since created die proofs of the error in the original colors. These die proofs were later used to print the 2013 two dollar stamps commemorating the Jenny inverts. Several international stamps have also reproduced the inverted Jenny, and I have seen the inverted Jenny illustrated on mouse pads, coffee mugs, t-shirts, and other memorabilia.

To learn more, I recommend the book: [The Inverted Jenny: Money, Mystery, Mania](#) by George Amick.



What Are Those Funny Little Circles on the Back of my Stamps?

By Ken Perkins

Non-collectors thinking about stamp collecting could be forgiven for believing that the front of the stamp must be the most important part of a stamp. After all, the colorful designs, values, country names, and postmarks are all on the front. But we wily philatelists know that there's lots of interesting stuff to be found on the back of a stamp too.

Some of the stuff on the back of stamps is a pain: unpeelable 'peelable' stamp hinges are a common plague. But some stamps show carefully applied, tiny hand-stamps on their backsides. On the backs of some recently acquired Bavarian stamps, for example, I found small (7.5mm diameter) circular stamped markings containing the words "INFLA BERLIN" and "ECHT", along with the letter "H" in the center.



Well, "ECHT" is German for 'genuine' or 'authentic', so this must be some sort of authenticating mark. A little research on the web revealed that "INFLA BERLIN" is a German philatelic group dedicated to research on the German inflation issues of the post World War I period. Among their members are philatelic experts who will, for a fee, render their opinion as to the authenticity of German area stamps and cancellations. The little hand-stamp on the back of my Bavarian stamps means that an INFLA BERLIN expert has certified that this stamp is genuine. And the "H" identifies the expertizer.

One odd issue is the fact that my "INFLA BERLIN" expertized stamps aren't particularly valuable. The Bavaria Scott #209 shown, for example, is a 1919-1920 issue with a 2010 value of \$14.50 in used condition. The *\$14.50* is, however, in italics, and a check of the widely ignored "Understanding valuing notations" section in the introduction to the Scott catalogue reveals that "Stamp values in *italics* generally refer to items that are difficult to value accurately". The catalogue goes on to say that "For inexpensive items, a value in italics represents a warning." One such warning is that when the used stamp is valued much higher than a mint one, it's essential to be certain that the cancellation is genuine and contemporary. Bavaria Scott #209 is valued at only 60 cents mint, much less than the \$14.50 used stamp.



And a check of the INFLA BERLIN website reveals that their round hand-stamp is only used on stamps with legible, genuine cancellations. That explains the appearance of an expert's mark on a stamp I can afford.

But wait...reliable sources on the web tell me that some INFLA BERLIN markings, including the type I've been discussing, have been forged! Fine...now the expert marks need expertizing. What's a poor collector to do? As luck would have it, I found a website illustrating the forged "INFLA BERLIN H" marking, and the ones on my stamps look genuine. If the decimal point in the Scott value were a couple of places to the right, I'd consider having the stamp re-evaluated, but as it stands, I'm happy with the current situation.

Here in the USA we stamp collectors don't like any markings to be added to our stamps: we're more accustomed to stamps being expertized via a certificate containing the expertizers' opinions and a photo of the stamp. Such certificates are issued by the APS' American Philatelic Expertizing Service, as well as others. Apparently our European cousins aren't so picky.

Not all European expertizing is done by marking the stamp, however. I have an Italian stamp which came with a short letter from a dealer in Padova. Written in 1994, the dealer announces to the stamp's owner: "I'm returning your piece to you; unfortunately, the cancellation is forged...please send 15,000 Lire for my services and postage." Pretty cheap expertizing: in 1994, 15,000 Lire was about \$9.00 US.

Annual Summer Picnic Enjoyed by All

Sequoia Stamp Club held its annual summer picnic on August 19 at Red Morton Park in Redwood City. As usual, the salads and desserts brought by members to share were delicious, and the main course of chicken, ribs, brisket, pulled pork, and beans supplied by Armadillo Willy's was better than ever. A good turnout of 38 people enjoyed the food and socializing on a typically warm evening in Redwood City, which as we know has "climate best by government test". Don't forget to mark your calendar for our next social event which will be the Pizza Party at 5:00pm at Mountain Mike's at 120 El Camino Real in Redwood City on Nov. 11. The Pizza Party will be held in place of our regular meeting which has been canceled due the Community Building being closed for Veteran's Day.



Digging in at the food table.



Beautiful day for a picnic.



Alain (left) and Steve share stories.



A big hello from Marty (right) and Al.



Peter (left) and Kjell in deep conversation.



I hope they're not talking about Preston!

Closed Albums

Henry Washauer (1922-2014)

Past SSC president and active member, Henry Washauer (SSC #419), passed away on August 15. His memorial service was held on Sept 7 at his synagogue, Congregation Beth Jacob, in Redwood City, with many attendees, including a good representation from the Sequoia Stamp Club.

Although a sixty-five year resident of San Carlos, Henry was a proud native San Franciscan who graduated from Lowell High School and attended San Francisco City College. He went to work for the Simmons Mattress Company, and worked for them for 38 years before retiring in 1979. Besides belonging to the Sequoia Stamp Club, Henry was also active in the San Mateo Astronomical Society, the Focus Photographic Society, and the San Mateo Elks Club. One of Henry's proudest accomplishments was his Bar Mitzvah in 2009 at the age of 87. Henry was predeceased by his wife LaVerne and is survived by daughter Wanda Patane, son Gary Washauer, two grandchildren, and a great grandson.



Hank, as he was known by his friends, served as Sequoia Stamp Club President in 1983, 1986, 1998, and 2009. He also served as PENPEX Stamp Show Chair from 1986-93, 1996-7, and 2000-2 for a total of 13 years. He was involved with numerous Sequoia Stamp Club committees including membership and youth. Due to health issues, Hank had not attended meetings or PENPEX shows for the past couple of years, but he was always in touch via the phone and emails. We are indebted to him for his time, effort, and involvement with the stamp club and show, and he will be missed by all club members. May he rest in peace.

Frank Mott (1914-2014)



Frank Mott joined SSC in 2006 as member #627. On May 14, 2014, at age 99, Frank passed away just two months short of his 100th birthday. Frank was born in Canada July 16, 1914. He immigrated to Northern California at age 9 and grew up in Palo Alto. He was a regional sales manager for DuPont, retiring after 30 years. His hobbies included garage sales, metal detecting, stamp and coin collecting and gardening. He was preceded in death by his wife, of 62 years, Dorothy; and his second spouse, of 10 years, Neva. He is survived by daughter, Judy Donnelson; son-in-law, Ken; grand-daughters, Erin Trupp, Shannon Lemus and Kelly Donnelson; and six great-grandchildren, all of Las Vegas. In 2013, he moved to North Las Vegas to live with his daughter. The photo at left was taken of Frank in 2009 on his 95th birthday which he celebrated with the Sequoia Stamp Club.

PENPEX CABOOSE

The PENPEX show is December 6 and 7, 2014. This show gives us the opportunity to be involved in a great local show. We can always use dedicated workers, even if it for just a few hours during the show. Please contact show chair Kristin Patterson at penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com or (408) 267-6643.

First, if you are interested in showing other collectors what you collect, how about entering your material as an exhibit? The entry form is available at www.penpex.org/show/exhibit-form. You can enter 1 to 8 frames (each frame has 16 pages) or as a SSC member you can enter 1 to 4 pages in the philatelic finds area. Either way the price is the same. It is FREE. So enter before November 1.

Now is the time to get any stamp related items that you are interested in selling to Jim Mosso for the Silent Auction. Jim will have forms available at SSC meetings.

The youth area has hours of fun with young and future collectors. If you would like to sit down for awhile and talk about what you love to collect, this is the area for you. Contact Dar Hickok about signing up for an hour work slot.

Other areas that volunteers are needed are the Welcome Area and Snack Bar. Contact Jim Sauer if you would like a sit-down job or contact Kjell to help at the Snack Bar.

If you have some stamina and like moving things, setup starts at 1:30 pm on Friday, December 5. A snack will be served after setup is done. As many of you know the show closes on Sunday at 4 pm and because of our top-notch takedown group, we will have everything packed up by 6 pm. So please come and help us close up.

The chart at the right lists all committee leaders. Feel free to contact them if you have specific questions or would like to help out. Each volunteer is given a gift voucher that can be used at any dealer table during the show.

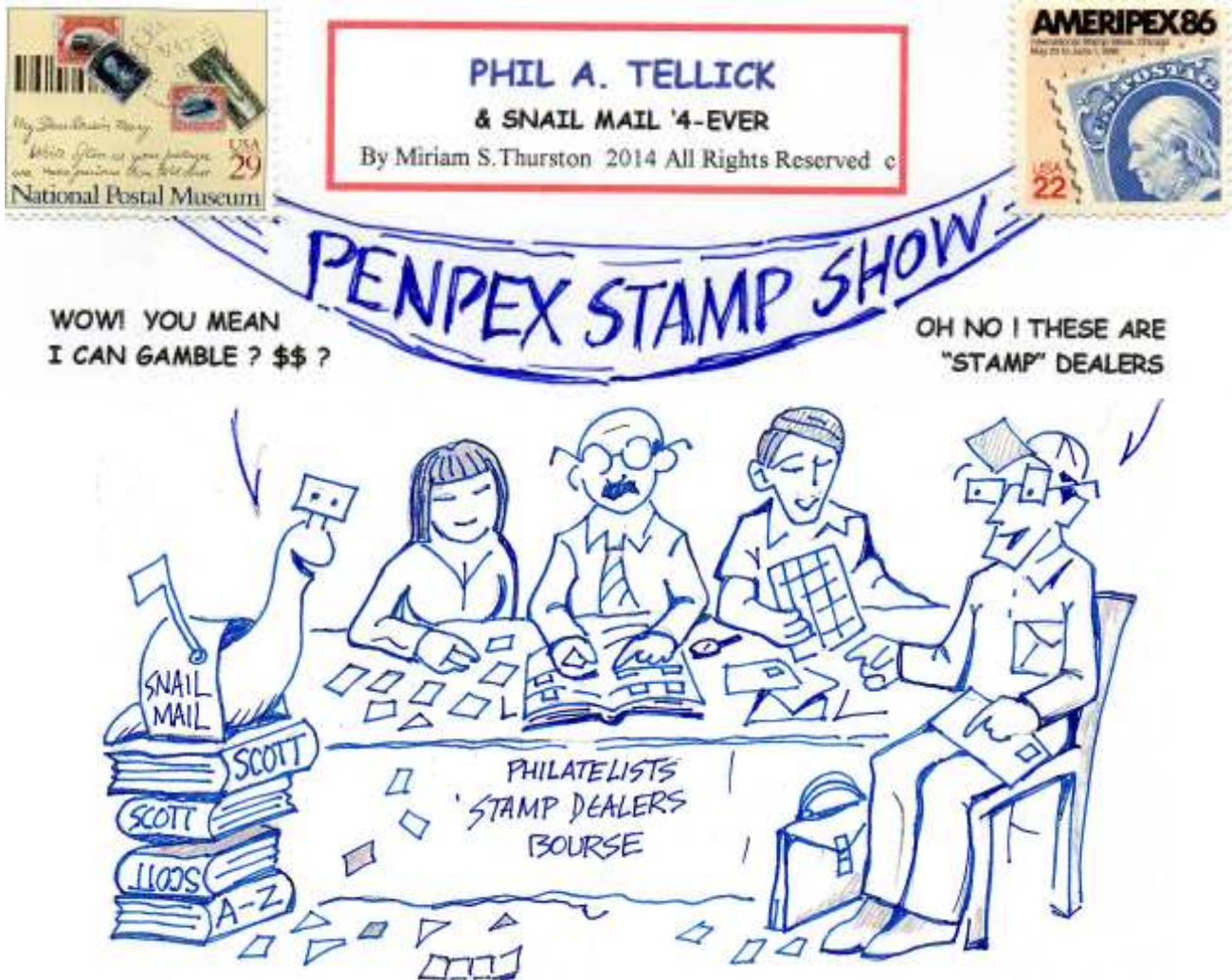
Also, do not forget PPX hosts an awards banquet on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5:30 pm at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City. You can purchase a ticket for \$20 which includes appetizer, dinner, dessert, and gratuity.

There is a cash bar. Contact Stephen Sexton for more information and purchasing tickets.

PENPEX passed new bylaws in order to move forward in becoming a 501(c)3 organization. Our first order of business was to elect a new 7 to 13-member board of directors with terms (in parentheses) that end either in Jan 2016 or 2017. The new 8-member PPX board consists of Chair Kristin Patterson (2017), Vice Chair Craig Butterworth (2016), Secretary Jim Giacomazzi (2017), Treasurer Eduardo Martino (2016), and Directors at large: Jim Mosso (2017), Ed Rodriguez (2016), Kjell Enander (2017), and Stephen Sexton (2016). The board has some paperwork to complete and then will proceed with filing for 501(c)3 status.

Tell your friends, relatives, coworkers, and neighbors about the show. We look forward to seeing you at the show.

Committee(s)	Leaders	Contact
Dealers /Facility	Kristin Patterson	408-267-6643
Youth Area	Darlene Hickok	650-366-6132
Setup and Takedown	Eduardo Martino	650-888-7598
Program/Graphics/Website	Ed Bierman	ed@biermans.com
Welcome/Registration Area	Jim Sauer	hjamessauer@yahoo.com
Exhibits /Judges	Vesma Grinfelds	vesmag@gmail.com
Awards Banquet	Stephen Sexton	650-299-9940
Silent Auction	Jim Mosso	650-369-8979
Cachet/Cancels	Miriam Thurston	650-368-3994
Public Relations/ Publicity	Jim Giacomazzi	650-365-2956
Snack Bar	Kjell Enander	650-571-7939
Photographs	Ken Perkins	650-593-3406
Seminars/Meetings	Ed Rodriguez	650-595-4386
Security	Craig Butterworth	650-387-9325



FYI: There are various types of “dealers.” For example there are car dealers and casino dealers. Phil is referring to stamp dealers. Stamp dealers buy and sell postage stamps and other philatelic items such as supplies and literature. They may specialize in certain types of material. The stamp market at a show is called a “bourse”. At the upcoming **PENPEX 2014 Stamp Show on Dec. 6 & 7**, there will be many dealers available with their extensive offerings of mint and used stamps, covers, post cards, supplies, and other items available for purchase. Be sure and get to know these highly qualified, knowledgeable, and friendly PENPEX dealers as they can be a very helpful resource in building your collection.

Sequoia Stamp Club “Cover Contest” (open to all members)

On Tuesday October 14th. we are holding a “Cover Contest”. Bring your entries, clearly stating which category (see below) they are being entered in. If there are ties, a panel of 3 judges will be appointed and all decisions are final. The winner of each category will receive an interesting cover for his or her collection as a prize.

- Smallest (in size) and Largest (in size)
- Traveled the furthest (come with the number of miles)
- Has the most stamps on it
- Highest face value stamps (please state in US dollars)
- Oldest (can be ‘stampless’)
- Most postal markings (can be worldwide)

Good Luck and see you with your entries on Oct 14th.

Stephen Sexton, Vice President SSC



Could this cover at 4” x 2 1/2” win for the smallest? Or with date of 3/20/1891 win for the oldest? We shall see!