

Reminder Regarding the PENPEX Silent Auction

The PENPEX Show is coming up soon and as usual there will be a silent auction. The items in the Silent Auction are provided by the members of the Sequoia Stamp Club. Jim Mosso is currently seeking good items to place in the auction. Members may set the starting bids for their items, but all entries must have a minimum starting bid of \$5. You are urged to submit your auction lots to Jim Mosso as soon as possible, but at least by the first meeting in November. You can also pick up the auction forms from Jim. Be sure to mount your items securely and fill out the auction slips clearly, giving an accurate description of the entry. British Commonwealth material, such as the item shown, have proven to be very popular. Let's make this a good auction - remember, it's only as good as the club members make it!



“Stamps R Us”



Kjell Enander reports that the next mailing is a larger one and that he, Preston Chiappa, and Rich Coleman are making plans for it. They will need help creating packets of stamps for that mailing. They will announce the dates of those packet-building activities at an upcoming meeting.

Closed Album

We were informed by Linda Williams that her father, Larry Christiansen, suffered cardiac arrest and passed away on Aug. 8, at the age of 93. He was residing at Gordon Manor at the time still in recovery from a fall that had taken place at his home in Redwood City.

Larry joined the Sequoia Stamp Club in 1997 and served as club vice-president in 2000 and 2001. For many years he served as chairman of the set-up committee for PENPEX, always making sure on Friday that the tables and exhibit frames were correctly arranged and on Sunday that everything was put away in timely fashion.

Larry's collecting interests were listed as U.S., plate blocks, WWII, and topicals. However, his expertise was in the area of Pan American flight covers. Having worked for Pan Am back in the day of the China Clippers, he was our expert on this topic. He gave many presentations over the years on various flights, always illustrated with covers from his extensive collection.

The club is currently in the process of helping Linda dispose of her father's collection. The remaining items will go on sale at PENPEX 2016 and in a live auction scheduled for the second meeting in January of 2017. Larry was a very friendly and extremely popular member of the Sequoia Stamp Club. Our condolences go out to Linda and to other family members.



Larry loved to socialize at the club events such as the Pizza Party & Summer Picnic.

Newsletter Staff: Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, President's Message: Craig Butterworth, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Graphics: Miriam Thurston, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Youth: Preston Chiappa, Photographer: Ken Perkins, Printing: John Corwin, 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.

Elizabeth Gaddini Receives Collectors Scholarship

Elizabeth Gaddini and her mom were guests at the Sequoia Stamp Club meeting in Redwood City on Tuesday, July 12. Elizabeth was presented with the newly established Collectors Scholarship, a \$500 award to be given annually by the club to a graduate of Sequoia High School who has achieved academic success and also demonstrated an interest in a hobby or activity that has enriched their life.

Elizabeth spoke to club members about her collection of alligators which she has gathered from her overseas travels. She showed examples of wooden, ceramic, and knitted alligators that hold memories for her of the various parts of the world that she has visited. Each one is very special to her and they all are reminders for her of the unique cultures from which they originated. One of the most unique was a beautifully carved alligator from Africa made from Congolese black wood. Another one showed the vibrant colors and patterns of Mexico. Elizabeth made many of her overseas trips on missions with her father Gary, who is the lead pastor at Peninsula Covenant Church.

Sequoia Club Vice-President Jim Giacomazzi presented Elizabeth with a topical collection of over fifty alligator stamps that had been donated by members of the club. Elizabeth plans to attend the University of Georgia, Athens in the fall and major in international business. We wish her success in her future endeavors.



Reflections on the American Philatelic Society StampShow 2016 in Portland

by Kristin Patterson

On August 3, the day before the opening of APS StampShow in Portland, I attended my last APS Board Meeting as a Director-at-large. These meetings are open to the public so at anytime anyone can attend. But with that said, I have taken on a new position as American Philatelic Research Library Trustee, so I am still involved with the APS.

Now back to StampShow which is a four-day show, that I attended all four days and still wish it was longer. It was nice seeing other SSC members including our newest member, Scott English, APS Executive Director. I attended two First Day Ceremonies and many seminars. The first thing I do when attending a stamp show is see what presentations are taking place as I can never learn too much. I also get to know who has similar interests as I have so that in the future if I have questions, I have someone to ask.

The show had 85 dealers including dollar tables and two auctioneers running a total of 4 auctions. The venue provided that dealer tables, exhibits, auctions, and meeting rooms were close by. I also volunteered a couple hours each day to help the APS allowing me to meet other collectors who are also helping out or who are attending the show. I highly urge that when the opportunity allows, that you also attend an APS show. The next one is on March 3-5, 2017 in Reno, NV.



Linn's Stamp News/linns.com Aug. 22, 2016 photo.

2013-16 APS Board: seated (l-r): Kouri, Patterson, Pres. Reinhard, Zais, and Zwillinger, Standing: Grant, Nilsestuen, Lombardi, Saadi, and Haimann.



Sequoia Stamp Club members at the APS StampShow in Portland. From left: John Corwin, Kristin Patterson, Jessica Rodriguex, and Scott English.

Philately Don't Get No Respect

by Ken Perkins



I was reading a review of an art exhibit in a recent issue of *Art News* when the writer took a gratuitous swipe at stamp collecting: "(Hanne) Darboven's...fastidiousness and fetishism bear a strong resemblance to those of a hobbyist stamp collector, which she once was." Stamp collecting being dissed by the world of avant-garde art as "fastidiousness and fetishism"? As the old saying goes, 'People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones'.

But stamp collecting has long suffered from a lack of respect. Just 2 years after adhesive postage stamps had been invented, *Punch*, the weekly London humor magazine which was itself barely a year old, stated: "A new mania has bitten the industriously idle ladies of England. To enable a large wager to be gained, they have been indefatigable in their endeavors to collect old penny stamps; in fact, they betray more anxiety to treasure up Queen's Heads than Harry the Eighth did to get rid of them."

And as the new hobby took hold in Britain, one Charles Lever, obviously no fan of European royalty, wrote of stamp collecting in *Blackwood's Magazine* in 1864: "Is it the intention to establish a cheap portrait-gallery of living princes and rulers?...What curiosity can any reasonable being have to possess the commonplace effigies of the most commonplace-looking people in Europe?" Even the King of England wasn't immune; here's British diplomat Sir Harold Nicolson writing about King George V: "For seventeen years he did nothing at all but kill animals and stick in stamps."

Even our own President Franklin D. Roosevelt, renown as a fellow collector, didn't please everybody with his choice of hobby. His wife Eleanor, asked if she had any hobbies of her own, reportedly replied "One collector in a family is enough...If you had ever lived with one you would realize that."

We stamp collectors are attacked from all sides. Even Nobel laureate Ernest Rutherford, President of the Royal Society, managed to use our hobby to label most of science as second class when he famously said 'Physics is the only real science. The rest are just stamp collecting.' And then there's the wonderful headline from the June 18, 2014 edition of the *Washington Post* reporting the sale of the unique British Guiana 1 Cent: "Rare stamp sold for \$9.5 million. Last owner was crazed killer."

So what's to be done? Maybe we should look for a new target for peoples' humor. Pokemón Go looked like a good one, but the crowds of young people wandering in front of the Beach Chalet, ignoring the glorious ocean view in favor of their tiny screens, seem to be dissipating already. Politicians are too easy a target, particularly in this election year, and Congress probably already rates even lower than stamp collecting.

Maybe we should just keep on collecting and trying to let young people know all the things stamps can teach us: history, geography, science, music, etc. After all, when somebody asks about Aleppo, many a stamp collector could give a cogent answer.

Britain's Postal History

by Marsha Brandsdorfer



It was Rowland Hill who initiated post office reform. Instead of the recipient paying to receive mail, Hill reasoned that postage should be paid by a single rate by the sender. A competition was thus held for the design for the new penny postage. The winner for the stamp entry was from William Wyon which portrayed a profile of Queen Victoria. Other artists and engravers improved upon the design and when it was approved by the Queen, the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp was issued on May 1, 1840. The Penny Red was issued the following year as canceling the Penny Black effectively turned out to be a challenge.

The Penny Lilac was later introduced to replace the Penny Red. Thirty-three billion of these stamps were issued. The demand for stamps was strong, as during the Victorian period, the British wrote letters as readily as emails or texts are sent today.

Edward VII became King in 1901, after his mother passed away, this became the Edwardian era. During this era, there were many radical movements. For instance, Postmaster General Henry Fawcett's wife, Millicent Fawcett, argued for women's suffrage. A British stamp honored Ms. Fawcett in 2008.



During WWI and WWII, many postal employees were women while men were off to war. Mail was highly censored, particularly during WWII. About ten thousand people were employed at the twenty censor offices in the United Kingdom, wherein employees opened mail from service men checking that their letters did not give out information which could be received by enemy spies.

Britain still suffered economically after WWII. A big help to the economy was the sponsoring of the 1948 Olympic Games by England, also known as the Austerity Games, because of post-war rationing and frugal spending. The Olympic Games helped in uplifting spirits, and gave pride to the people.



In 1964, new Postmaster General Tony Benn wanted to have more attractive stamps issued to the public. He notified leading stamp designers for new ideas. Benn also requested that a smaller cameo of Queen Elizabeth be designed to be put on stamps,

instead of the large portrait of her, which was presently on postage stamps. He even tried to get her head removed altogether, but of course, the Queen disapproved of this suggestion.

By 2000, the post office's letter business was declining. The internet affected postal mail. However, there would always be a need for postal mail. Birthday cards, Christmas cards, invitations to weddings and Bar Mitzvahs would be sent by mail. Personally, I write letters to my pen pals, and I still pay most of my bills by mail. Stamps continue to be collectibles, and the post office encourages this with the production of attractive stamps such as the British mini sheet issued in 2011, celebrating the marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

Information in my article is taken from **A History of Britain In Thirty-Six Postage Stamps** by Chris West.



The Nixie Clerk, She Ain't What She Used To Be (to the tune of 'The Old Grey Mare')

by Ken Perkins

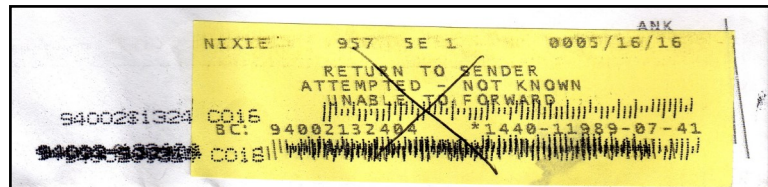
"The new data-rich environment is a significant step forward in the tracking of letter mail and will help improve both service and efficiency."

So says a 2007 document issued by the US Postal Service explaining how their increasing use of automation will help mail delivery. Maybe so, but this bedraggled envelope missed the benefit train.

Supplied by the Eye Surgery Center of San Francisco, where I recently had cataract surgery, the envelope was rejected 3 times by the USPS. We mailed it from our home in mid-May. Despite the correct address being printed on the envelope by the Eye Surgery Center, the USPS's yellow Postal Automated Redirection System (PARS) label shows the letter was sent to the 'Nixie' section, presumably in San Francisco.



'Nixie' is the postal service name for a piece of undeliverable mail, and the Nixie Clerk was a postal service employee whose job was to find the destination of undeliverable mail. The word 'Nixie' itself comes from the English slang 'nix', which was in turn derived from the German 'nichts', meaning 'nothing'.



And sure enough, in this case, nothing is exactly what was accomplished. The envelope was returned to us a few days after we mailed it.

We wrote the street address number more clearly along with an admonition to 'Try again...' and re-mailed it. And back it came again, with a new San Francisco postmark and bar code. We took it to my eye doctor's office on my next visit, thinking that since the doctor was a partner in the Eye Surgery Center, they might have somebody going there who could take it with them. But no, this is the 21st Century; nobody actually carries documents from one place to another, so they just put it in their outgoing mail. So here is, back home again, with three San Francisco postmarks.



I know where the Eye Surgery Center is, but I've run out of eyes to operate on, so I am not going to hand-deliver the envelope. The Center knows where they are.

Google Maps knows where they are. But the Postal Service cannot seem to find them. Maybe the Postal Service needs eye surgery...?

PENPEX CABOOSE

We may not be able to predict the weather two months out, but we can speculate a great PENPEX stamp show on December 3 and 4, 2016. We already have 14 dealers and the U.S. Postal Service, silent auction lots are piling up, new youth activities are planned, and exhibits are coming in.

Speaking of exhibiting, PENPEX is a great place to show your exhibit, whether it is one frame or 8 frames. The show will have two accredited judges who are happy to give you pointers. Best of all the entry fee is free. Sequoia Stamp Club members can enter just 1 page in the club "My Favorite Things" frame with a maximum of 4 pages. Again, a way to show interested collectors what you are passionate about. For an entry form go to www.penpex.org/show/exhibits.

SSC members also can sell items in the Silent Auction. See page 2, for more information on how to sell your material and what has been big sellers.

Once again our own Miriam Thurston has created a gorgeous Shirley Temple cachet (see image to the right.) The cachet will be on sale for \$2 with a Saturday, December 3 show cancel. She is also working on a second design for Sunday. You can always bring your own cachets and get them canceled at booth #16.

The Youth Area will be catering to beginners and young collectors under the age of 18. They will have fun activities with stamps involved. The kids get to take the stamps and their projects home with them once they are done.

Those helping with the show setup on Friday, we will begin at 1 pm with table and chair layout followed by frame setup. The Youth Area also needs people to help layout the activities for kids on Friday.

PENPEX opens at 10 am both days and closes 5:30 pm on Saturday and 4 pm on Sunday. The silent auction closing at 2:30 on Sunday, will have over 500 lots of single stamps to worldwide collections at great starting prices.



See you
 Dec. 3 & 4, 2016
 at **PENPEX.**

Visit our website, www.penpex.org, to learn more about this free stamp show. We look forward to seeing you. Bring a friend and your want list.



15 yrs on 9-11

PHIL A. TELICK
& SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'
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Vote on Nov. 8



A Salute to the War Veterans

The Red, White & Blue
The US AMERICAN FLAG

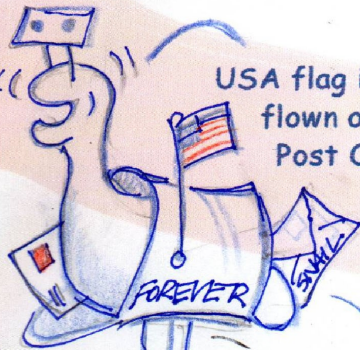


The flag is waved at 4th July Parade the Olympics and Sports Arenas.

Allegiance to the flag, 'Stand having right hand over your Heart' recite the Pledge.



White House Washington DC



USA flag is always flown over the Post Offices.

I could use one of those arms?

Don't forget the "Forever" Stamps

Miriam



FYI: The stripes represent the original thirteen colonies that declared independence from England. The stars symbolize the current fifty states. White signifies purity and innocence, red signifies valor and bravery, and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. A one-frame exhibit of the "American Flag" will be on display at the PENPEX Stamp Show December 3 and 4, 2016.



1st flag by Betsy Ross.