



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

President's Message:

Our club survives on the strength of its members. While we have added some strong new collectors to our ranks lately, it is one person in particular I would like to acknowledge in this month's column. It should come as no surprise to casual participants that Jim Giacomazzi is deserving of this year's APS-sponsored Spark Plug Award.



Jim is our current Vice President and Program Chair. He consistently (persistently?) scouts for presenters who add interest to our meetings. He also does at least one presentation himself every year. Jim manages large member auctions. He hosts lotting parties at his home, stores large collections for our club, identifies and prices innumerable stamps, and provides auction sheets to our members. Of course, he is auctioneer as well! Severin Morger and Jim provide material on a regular basis in the form of ten silent auction lots at each of our regular meetings.

This year, Jim coordinated our largest community service effort to date. At his urging, our club donated over \$2,000 to worthy causes and charities. He has held a position on the PENPEX committee for many years. He was a past Secretary, helps with the snack bar, coordinates show publicity, and participates in the setup and breakdown each year.

Jim is editor of our award-winning newsletter the *Stamp Chatter*. He did not start with it that way. During his tenure it became nationally recognized by the APS. As if this is not enough, Mr. Giacomazzi actively encourages new members and attempts to identify those who may have an interest in joining our club.

We all have our excuses for not doing as much as Jim. He has them too - but still manages to add a huge amount to our collective Sequoia Stamp Club experience. Congratulations and a big Thank You to this year's APS Spark Plug Award winner.

Craig Butterworth, Sequoia Stamp Club President

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2016 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- Apr. 12 – Swap Meet (Table available for a \$1 fee.)
- Apr. 26 – Responsible Custodianship by Craig Butterworth. Silent Auction
- Apr 29-May 1: [WESTPEX](#), SF Airport Marriott Hotel, Burlingame**
- May 10 – Live Auction of Club & Youth Group Donations
- May 24 – Executive Board Meeting (6:15) Open to the public.
- Buying and Selling on eBay by Jay Strauss. Silent Auction
- June 7: Annual SSC Picnic** (Behind the Community Activities Bldg. - 5 pm)
- June 11-12: COALPEX**, Walnut Creek Community Center
- June 14 – U.S. Airmail Special Delivery Issues, 1934-6 (Hideo Yokota Grand Award Exhibition Collection) by Jim Giacomazzi. Silent Auction
- June 28 – Member Live Auction

“Stamps R Us” Youth Group

A big mailing was sent out to youth club members in March. The mailings contained stamps, album pages, hinges, puzzles, and other related stamp items. The packets were sent to the 36 youth club members, including the six new members who were signed up during the recent PENPEX Show. Three work days were held prior to the mailing for sorting and organizing the packets. The work was supervised by Youth Chair Preston Chiappa assisted by volunteers John Corwin, Jim Giacomazzi, Ken Perkins, and Miriam Thurston. It was an enjoyable task and more club members are encouraged to volunteer to work on the next big mailing. Members are also requested to donate any extra stamps to the Youth Group, especially colorful topical stamps that can be included in future mailings.



Preston Chiappa with volunteers Jim Giacomazzi and John Corwin sorting stamps for the youth group mailing.

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>
729	John	Kofranek	Alameda	Swiss, Czech, U.S. Postal History
730	Stanley	Flowerdew	San Jose	Great Britain & Colonies
731	Milo	Drussai	Half Moon Bay	U.S., Russia, Space covers, EFO's
732	Leon	Levy	Burlingame	Worldwide
733	Jolene	Abrahams	Livermore	General, Music Topicals
734	Louis	Lang	West Point, CA	Diverse
735	John	Vogel	San Leandro	Worldwide
736	George	Leslie	San Jose	Japan, France, Victorian British
737	Amy	Zou	Sunnyvale	China
738	Stanley	Fuelscher	Cupertino	U.S., Line pairs, Ducks
739	Phillip	Holck	Livermore	Worldwide
740	Ballard	Cheatham	Salinas	Perfins & Precancels
741	Said	Haimor	Danville	Iran
742	Gerry	Fields	Saratoga	Pre 1940 U.S., Australian States
743	Ted	Hogan	Palo Alto	U.S., Philippines
744	Vincent Carlo	Non	So. San Fran	U.S., Worldwide
745	Chris	Palermo	San Carlos	U.S., Ireland, Italy, Rail RPO/RMS
746	Cecilia	Mendiola	San Jose	Beginner
747	Cathy	Phalen	Redwood City	Ireland, Minerals, Airmail etiquettes

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.

Results of 2015 Sequoia Stamp Club Survey

At the end of year, SSC members were asked to fill out a survey to evaluate various activities of our club. 31 surveys were received, rating 22 club activities in five categories. The ratings were from 1 to 10, with 1 being unsatisfactory and 10 being outstanding. Results of the survey are shown below. The highest rating was received by our annual show, PENPEX, with an average score of 9.8! Also receiving high marks was our *Stamp Chatter* newsletter. It is not surprising that one of the most popular activities of our club is the silent auction. It received 18 perfect scores of 10, with an average of 9.2. In general, it seems that our club prefers auctions, social events, and presentations over a variety of contests and games and the general business meeting which received lower marks. However, it is interesting to note that no activity listed scored less than 7.0 and that speaks well for our current leadership. The feedback from this survey can be valuable as it shows our strengths and also areas that can be improved.



Members looking over silent auction items, a very popular club activity.

<u>Auctions (8.5)</u>	<u>Presentations (8.0)</u>	<u>Contests (7.3)</u>	<u>Social Events (8.4)</u>	<u>Misc. Items</u>
Silent Auction 9.2	Member Talks 8.5	Philatelic Quiz 7.5	Holiday Party 8.5	PENPEX 9.8
Live Consign 8.8	Non-member 8.3	Philatelic Bingo 7.5	Summer Picnic 8.4	<i>Stamp Chatter</i> 9.3
Live Member 8.7	PowerPoint 8.2	Cover Contest 7.4	Pizza Party 8.2	Website 8.9
Live Donation 8.2	APS Videos 8.0	Scavenger Hunt 7.0		Youth Group 8.2
Swap Meet 7.6	Past Pres. 7.0			Bus. Meeting 7.4

Daytime Stamp Groups

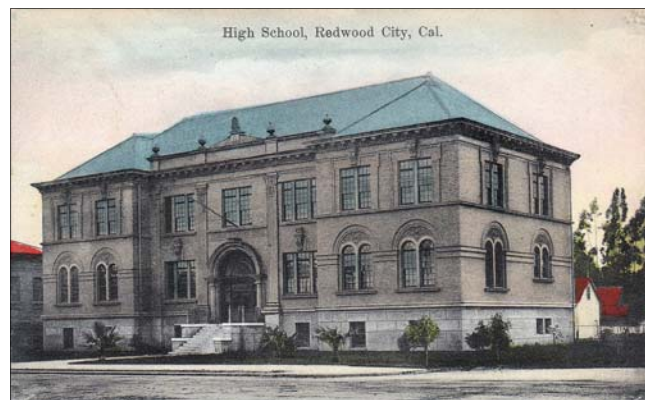
For stamp collectors who would prefer to attend a stamp club during daytime hours, two options are now available. The Little House Stamp Club, which previously met in Menlo Park, is now assembling at the CAB at Red Morton Park in Redwood City on the 1st Wed of every month at 10:00 AM. It is an informal



group whose main purpose is to gather socially and acquire stamps through trade or auction. For more information, call Ray Boller at (650) 366-9697 or Miriam Thurston at (650) 368-3994.

Another long-standing club that meets during the day is the Belmont Stamp Club. They meet on the 4th Monday of each month at the Senior Center at 20 Twin Pines Lane in Belmont. Their main activity is philatelic discussion and trading stamps. For additional information call Richard Coleman at (650) 341-7978.

Redwood City Postcards



Our program for February 9th was a presentation by Ed Bierman on Redwood City postcards. He showed items from his collection with a variety of views from the early 20th century to modern day, including many old downtown scenes. Ed has lived in Redwood City for 15 years and it is evident that he loves the history of this city.



Ed presenting program.

A Stamp Collection Saved Their Lives in Nazi Germany

Part One of Two

Born in February 1901 in Ribnitz, eastern Germany, Max Lichenheim was 7 years old when his father, a collector, gave him a cigar box filled with stamps. Two years later, the youngster had more than 1,000 stamps from around the world. Little did he know that, by 1939, those stamps would save his family's life in their flight from Nazi Germany.

Lichenheim was devoted to the study of philately and investment, and eventually inherited his father's extensive collection. He also studied law at universities in Hamburg and Cologne. At the University of Rostock, he earned the title of Doctor of Law and in 1932 passed his bar examination.

While in school, Lichenheim met his beloved, Margaret Lindenberg. Six years younger, Margaret worked at a nearby firm. Knowing the way to his heart, she cut out every foreign stamp that crossed her desk.

On Jan. 27, 1933, the couple married and moved to the resort town of Brunshaupten. Built along the Baltic Sea coast, the idyllic destination was famous for its beaches, "spa town" architecture, extended promenade and marina. There the attorney-at-law opened his practice and the newlyweds envisioned a full and happy life. That soon changed.

By Jan. 30, Adolf Hitler became chancellor and head of the German government. On March 10, the Nazi Schutzstaffel, or SS, established Germany's first concentration camp at Dachau. In April, Jewish-owned stores were boycotted. Jewish doctors, lawyers, and civil servants were forbidden to practice. Quotas were placed on "students of foreign race," including German Jews who had been part of the country's populace for more than 1,000 years.

Max's law sign was destroyed and he was forced to close his practice. Facing an uncertain future, they returned to Rostock, opened a small tobacco shop to make ends meet and lived in constant fear. In November 1938, their lives were threatened.

During the two-day pogrom called Kristallnacht — or "Night of Glass," a state-sanctioned, violent attack against Jewish communities in Germany — Nazi storm troopers ransacked thousands of Jewish-owned businesses and homes. They set fire to synagogues, killed scores of Jews and arrested and deported some 30,000 people to concentration camps.

"My husband was outside looking at the devastation," Margaret recalled in family papers. "They picked him up right there and took him into Schutzhaft at Altstrelitz."

Loosely defined as "protective custody," schutzhaft needed no due process. Many incarcerated Jews were then sent to the Dachau or Buchenwald concentration camps.

"It was more than terrifying," she said. "Neighbors to the left had disappeared. Neighbors to the right were gone."

Max was fortunate. Imprisoned for nearly four months, he was permitted to write letters and Margaret was allowed to visit him once.

When an aunt in Berlin bought Max a ticket to Shanghai — which at the time had "no emigration authorities and could be easily entered" — Margaret showed the ticket to the Gestapo and Max was released. Selling some rare stamps to a friend, "a serious collector and Nazi," he was able to book passage for Margaret.

"We packed under the eyes of the Gestapo," Margaret remembered. "They tore open feather beds, took a knife to the furniture, stomped on my typewriter, and smashed all the glass."

Allowed to take only 10 marks, the Licheheims rode by train to Italy on April 18. At the border, they and their belongings were searched. Items were confiscated. Margaret's diamond rings survived hidden inside a cotton potholder.

"They would've killed [us] if they found them," she said.

Max's valuable foreign stamp collection, reported as "valueless" by the Nazi connoisseur and friend, was sanctioned to leave Germany with him.

After spending a restless night in a cheap room at the harbor, the following morning they joined some 700 other Jewish refugees onboard the luxury Italian liner, *Guilio Cesare*. Called the "refugee ship of the East," they sailed to Shanghai, a 25-day voyage. Free from Nazi tyranny, the Lichenheims knew not what lay ahead.

(To be concluded in the next issue of the Chatter)

The original article written by Eileen Hallet Stone appeared in the Salt Lake City Tribune on Oct. 11, 2015.



The Burning of the White House

by Marsha Brandsdorfer

The White House is celebrated in stamps. Its history is long and colorful. But on August 25, 1814, the White House was destroyed, looted and burnt, along with many other government buildings during the British invasion of The War of 1812.



Prior to this attack of Washington, D.C., President James Madison, who anticipated such an occurrence when British troops were stationed at the port of Benedict, Maryland, ordered that records be removed from the Department of State. The staff tried to save as many federal records and valuable archives as possible, including the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. The documents were moved to Leesburg, Virginia, which was about thirty-five miles outside of the city, where they were locked in a cellar vault of an abandoned house.



At the White House, first lady Dolley Madison helped to save the Gilbert Stuart 1797 life-size painting of former President George Washington, and cabinet papers. Their items ended up at the Bank of Maryland in Baltimore for safekeeping. The documents that were saved continued to remain in various stages of storage until they could be transferred to the National Archives which was built in 1935. Many documents and valuables, however, were left behind in the haste to get out of Washington, D. C.

As predicted, the British invaded Washington, D, C, and they destroyed as many public buildings as possible, including burning the White House. They also destroyed most of the rest of the records left in the city.

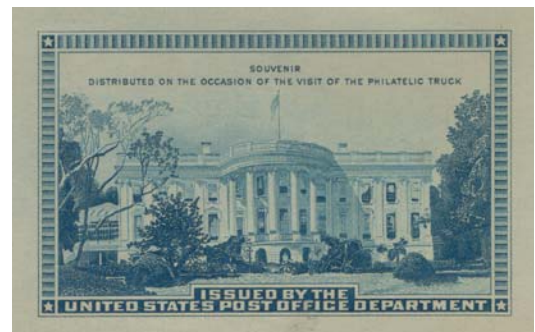
Initially, after the invasion, there was a question as to whether Washington, D.C. should remain the capital or if it should be abandoned and moved elsewhere. However, Congress decided to keep the capital where it was, and to concentrate on rebuilding the city. As the damage was extensive, it took years for the White House to be cleaned up from the debris from the fire, and it was reconstructed by its original architect, James Hoban.



When James Monroe became the fifth President of the United States in 1817, he would become involved in acquiring interior furnishings. He wanted to obtain "articles of the best kind." Monroe offered furniture from his Paris home to decorate the White House. Other furniture was bought in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. Through the passage of time, some of the original items remained, some were lost or damaged, and many of the original pieces can now be viewed at the James Monroe Museum and

Memorial Library located in Fredericksburg, Virginia. All succeeding Presidents continued the tradition of trying to seek out "articles of the best kind" to decorate the White House.

My research came from the White House History, Journal No. 35, entitled "After the Fire," published by the White House Historical Association.

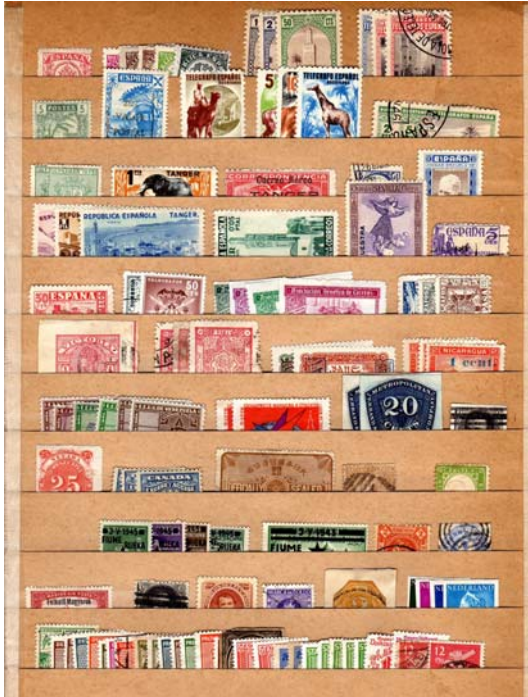


Treasures of the Sequoia Auction

or

Stamps? I don't got to show you no stinking stamps!

By Ken Perkins



Lot number 16 of a recent Sequoia silent auction, a cream-colored cardboard stock page, was labeled "Misc". And an accurate enough description it was at first glance. Plainly showing on the top half of the stamps, the only part visible on this pre-Mylar page, were phrases such as "Telegrafos España", "Asociacion Beneficia de Correos", "Stamp Duty", "Excise/Accise", and "Marca da Bollo", with a scattering of other very miscellaneous stamp-like objects. So, primarily a bunch of fiscal/revenue/telegram stamps.

I do collect revenue stamps, but only American ones, so I dismissed this lot on my first pass along the table and moved on to other offerings. But we always get to have a second look at the silent auction lots before the auction ends, so I followed the crowd to the table to browse some more.

And on my second look I spotted a few stamps in the third row from the bottom with a familiar word peeking over the cardboard: "FIUME" in black overprint ink. Also visible was a black overprinted date: "3-V-1945", and "RIJEKA". Well, I collect Italian stamps issued up to the end of WWII, and Fiume, a city on the Adriatic, has a long association with Italy and Italian territorial ambitions. Nobody else being interested in poor old "Misc" lot 16, Steve's cry of "TIME" made it mine.



When I got a chance to have a closer look at the overprinted stamps, I found they were not listed in Scott, but then lots of interesting stuff is not in Scott Catalogue. I had to turn to some Italian-language catalogs (Sassone, CEI, Unificato) to find them. They were from the Italian Social Republic's 1945



Monumenti Distrutti (Monuments Destroyed) issue, overprinted by Yugoslavia for use in Fiume (Rijeka is the Croatian name for Fiume) and the surrounding area during their occupation of the city which began on May 3, 1945. The Paris Treaty of Feb. 10, 1947 ceded Fiume to Yugoslavia; it's currently the third largest city in Croatia, one of the new countries formed after the 1991 break-up of Yugoslavia.

My second chance to look over this lot provided me with some stamps with a convoluted history; stamps originally issued by a short-lived Nazi-backed Fascist government in Northern Italy which were then overprinted by the newly-established Stalinist-style Communist regime in Yugoslavia.

From now on I will be sure to give the silent auction lots a second look before Steve calls "Time".

The Many Faces of Abraham Lincoln

By Miriam Santoriello-Thurston

At the 2015 PENPEX Show I presented a three-frame exhibit of President Lincoln on stamps, postcards, cachets, and more. I was surprised to have won the Silver Award, plus the ATA 3rd Place ribbon/medal, and an Achievement Silver pin by the judges. These Lincoln stamps shown below are a few that were in the exhibit. Note: Lincoln was the first president to be photographed.



I would encourage those who have collected special stamps to take advantage of exhibiting your stamp collection in this year's annual PENPEX Show on Dec. 3 & 4, 2016. In preparing an exhibit you will learn a great deal about your stamps, plus find enjoyment in arranging your material. Who knows, you might even win an award at the Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

PHIL A. TELLICK
AND SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'
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The Irony of a Visit to the Post Office!



FYI: Next time save yourself the hassle of waiting in line at the post office. Go to [USPS.com](https://www.usps.com) to find information on the most convenient and affordable shipping and mailing services. Use their quick tools to find locations, buy stamps, calculate postage, schedule a pickup, or access other services that are available online. All from the convenience of your own home or office.