

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 48 - Issue No. 2 w308

April, May, June 2017

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:

After a deep, wet winter, spring's burst of energy is upon us. Now is the time to think about and start executing on your collecting goals for 2017. Take an inventory of your collections, get valuations in order, identify wants or needs, plan show attendance or start a research project. Try starting with just two or three goals so you have an achievable list. Here is mine: (1) Complete a 1-frame exhibit on "Mails of the Pacific Coast Companies"; (2) Complete my collection of Irish singles, 1922-2000 (two stamps to go!); (3) Attend WESTPEX, APS StampShow 2017, and PENPEX.



Shows are on my mind as I've just returned from APS AMERISTAMP EXPO in Reno. We had a strong showing! Members Joe Coleman, Greg Cykman, Scott English, Vesma Grinfelds, Peter Leffler, Bud McLellen, Mike McGee, Kristin Patterson, Jessica Rodriguez, and Jim Sauer spent an enjoyable two or three days shopping at the 40-dealer bourse, viewing exhibits, and attending educational meetings. I was proud to witness Joe and Greg receiving their 25-year APS membership awards from Mick Zais, APS President. (See page 2 for photos and more.) Sequoia Stamp Club has been an APS member chapter for decades, entitling the club to vote on officers and access numerous member benefits. In 2017, I'd like our club to add 5 new members to APS-- could one of these be you? To learn about APS' many member benefits, you can ask me or APS Executive Director Scott English, who's joining our second April meeting. As just one, you can get PDF copies of research articles from APS' extensive library in Pennsylvania in just one day at nominal cost, typically \$5. You get access to insurance, online stamp buys, a great monthly magazine, national fellowship with other collectors, and more. Look closely at www.stamps.org today and if you join, let me know.

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2015 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- Apr 11 – Philatelic Quiz by Wally Jolliff and Ken Lewetzow. Silent auction.
- Apr 25 – Executive Board Meeting (6:15 p.m.) Open to the public. Scott English from APS. Silent Auction
- April 28-30: WESTPEX**, Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Burlingame, www.westpex.com
- May 9 – Larke Consignment Live Auction
- May 23 – Tin Can Mail by Janice Wallace. Silent Auction
- June 6: Annual SSC Summer Picnic**, CAB. 5 pm
- June 13 – The Early Air Navigation Program of Russia, the Russian Air Fund Stamps by Victor Ivashin. Silent Auction
- June 17-18: COALPEX**, Civic Park Community Center, Walnut Creek
- June 27 – Million Dollar Duck video. Silent Auction

President's Message (Cont'd from page 1.)

Do you have a stamp, cover or album page of which you are proud, or that is unusual? Don't forget to bring them to our meetings for display. Questions about a new collecting area or a troublesome cover or stamp? Our social time between 7:05PM and 7:30PM is your golden opportunity to ask others about your material.

And, if you can help us with a presentation, activity or other program item, please step up. Pete Leffler has spent several weeks planning our 2017 program but a few slots remain and we are anxious to tap the knowledge, experience and skills of our members. Many thanks from me to all our members who have made the club's first quarter of 2017 a success. The energy and devotion of everyone working on our auctions, communications, outreach and other activities is truly inspiring.

Until I see you again, may all your gum be never hinged, and all your album spaces be filled.

Chris Palermo, President, Sequoia Stamp Club

Club Members Receive 25 Year Pins at APS Show



Joe Coleman

Sequoia Club members Joe Coleman and Greg Cykman each received their 25-year American Philatelic Society membership pins from APS president Mike Zais at the recent show in Reno. Joe is a new member of our club, while Greg joined in 2011. Joe said that he usually remains in the background, but was very excited when he found out that he was to be recognized by the APS. Both Joe and Greg enjoyed the show, viewing the exhibits, attending seminars, and making purchases from the dealers in the sales area. Eleven members of the Sequoia Club attended the show, many joining our club president, Chris Palermo, for dinner on Friday night.



Greg Cykman

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>
749	Jessica	Rodriguex	San Jose	U.S. and Costa Rica
750	Scott	English	Bellefonte, PA	Cuba and Postal History
751	Roy	Teixeira	Sunnyvale	Portugal & Col, Norway, Israel
752	Jerry	Spain	San Mateo	France, Monaco
753	Nestor	Nunez	San Bruno	Philippines, Malaya
754	Marvin	Ray	San Mateo	United States
755	Joe	Coleman	Portola Valley	US, Germany, Russia
756	James	Southward	San Mateo	Diverse
757	Michael	Serdy	Half Moon Bay	Western Covers

Newsletter Staff: Editor: Jim Giacomazzi; Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Features & Photographer: Ken Perkins; Cartoon: Miriam Thurston; President's Message: Chris Palermo; Youth: Richard Coleman; Caboose: Kristin Patterson; Printing: John Corwin; 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.

-Inferno-
Dan & Verge Visit the Stamp Show
 by Ken Perkins

Room I

In the middle of my life I awoke
 In a dark forest, having lost
 The straightforward path.¹

But I met my old friend
 Verge, who promised
 To lead me out of this hell.

After passing through strange places,
 As we strolled along a peaceful street,
 We came upon a large sign.

'Stamp Show', it read
 Directing us to enter a
 Small, low building.

Upon entering, we were greeted
 By a smiling man who was seated,
 Surrounded by bottles of wine.

"Welcome to our show!" he exclaimed,
 Offering us a chance to purchase
 Tickets to win prizes, such as the wines.

Lacking any local currency,
 We had to turn him down,
 But gladly accepted a program.

Room II

The program showed a number of rooms,
 One little room down the hall to our left
 Was labeled 'Youth'.

"Perhaps we can find our lost youth
 There", I told Verge, who morosely
 Answered "I don't think so."

But we walked down the long hallway
 To the small room, where we beheld
 Many children sorting little pieces of paper.

Upon noting the tiny letters, numbers,
 And portraits on the papers,
 We both exclaimed "What are these?"

The grey-beard in charge of the room
 Explained, "They're postage stamps.
 They pay to have letters sent."

"But they are not sending letters now."
 I told him, "So what value do they have
 To these poor children?"

"Oh, none." the grey-beard exclaimed
 "The children just collect them
 For the fun of it."

Verge, adopting a serious tone,
 Reminded the grey-beard of what befell
 Socrates for corrupting Athens' youth.

Room III

Leaving the ill-used children behind,
 We entered the next room,
 The largest in the building.

In its center we beheld rows of displays,
 Surrounded by low tables covered with
 Boxes, and these tiny colored 'stamps'.

The displays seemed to attract no one,
 But the tables were occupied by old men
 Studiously examining small envelopes.

Coming closer to a table, we saw stacks
 Of small red boxes, all with labels,
 Containing rows of the small envelopes.

¹ This first line is an amalgam of several translations of the first line of Dante's Divine Comedy.

Inferno (Continued from page 3.)

The envelopes had transparent fronts,
Which allowed us to see that each held
One or more ‘stamps.’

The ‘stamps’ and boxes carried names,
Some of which we recognized, but many
Were completely new to both of us.

Each envelope bore a name, a cryptic number,
Some other strange cyphers,
And what apparently was a price.

From time-to-time, one of the old men
Seated at the tables would ask the people
Behind the tables a question.

Or hold a long discussion about
‘Perforations’ or ‘catalog numbers,’
Often ending with a discussion of price.

Verge offered that this strange scene reminded
him of the Temple in Jerusalem,
With its buying and selling.

“Nothing good can come of this,” he muttered,
“It reeks of avarice and greed;
This must be one of the circles of hell.”

Room IV

As we were exiting this disturbing hall,
We saw a small anteroom
With a sign advertising food.

In it we beheld poor men and women
Assembling bread, meats, and unrecognizable
items onto plates of paper.

In the center of the room was a
Monstrous stove for roasting those same
Poor enslaved souls when they were done.

“Ah, this must be punishment for some sin,
Perhaps gluttony,” my guide told me,
“Making this the third circle of hell.”

Room V

Taking our leave of this sad view,
We once again found ourselves in the hall
And proceeded to the ‘Silent Auction Room.’

Entering it, a man seated at a small table
Asked us if we wanted a bidder number:
“You can only bid if you have a number.”

Politely declining his kind offer, we entered,
Noticing that it was filled with long tables
Surrounded by old men with heads bowed.

Taking this to be some private mourning cere-
mony,
We made a hasty exit, only to be asked
If anything was of interest.

If so, we were told, we could bid on it,
And if we were the highest bidder,
We would win the item.

“This sounds like gambling to me.” I told Verge,
“Surely one of the many sins
Of which we have been warned.”

We left quickly, looking back to see if the
Building was indeed labeled
“Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.”

But saw instead that over the building,
Lifted in the fair breeze, was a flag
Of red, white, and blue, with stars.

Author’s note: Composed with guidance from,
and apologies to, Dante Alighieri. The immedi-
ate seed of the idea for this attempt was planted
by Seymour Chwast’s Dante’s Divine Comedy,
a 2010 graphic novel. There are many fine edi-
tions of Dante’s work, among them is the on-
line Princeton Dante Project, with a line-for-line
translation at <http://tinyurl.com/PrincetonDante>

PENPEX CABOOSE

On January 21, 2017, PENPEX held its wrap-up meeting and appreciation brunch at Sizzlers. Thirteen people attended and we had a great discussion about the past PENPEX show as well as what to improve for future shows. I would like to welcome David Abrahams to the PENPEX Board. He has volunteered to take the position of Secretary. Also, on the board are Chair Kristin Patterson, Vice Chair Craig Butterworth, Treasurer Eduardo Martino, and Board of Directors: Kjell Enander, Jim Gaicomazzi, Jim Mosso, and Steve Sexton.

In the previous PENPEX Caboose, I included numerous photographs. But, here are a couple more.



Richard Clever of Asia Philatelics helping two of his customers.



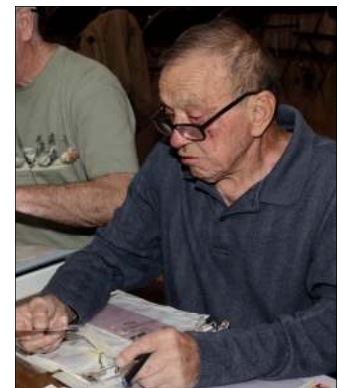
Miriam Thurston standing in front of her Bronze Award-winning American Flag exhibit.

Closed Album

On December 21, 2016, Erwin Schmidmeister passed away after a long battle with cancer. Just three weeks before his death, Erwin was busy helping set up tables for the PENPEX Stamp Show. I asked Erwin if he would put out the free material from the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies (CNCPS) box. He was more than willing and after he was done he asked what more he could do as all the tables were now set up. He then took on the task with Chris Thompson of putting black table cloths on 34 tables. He also helped Eduardo and the team hang the PENPEX outdoor banner. (See photo in previous *Stamp Chatter*.)

Erwin attended the show both days and was even there for take down on Sunday afternoon. I was so pleased when he asked if he should put the remaining free flyers back into the CNCPS box in alphabetical order as they had been when he took them out. He was willing to help anywhere that was needed.

Erwin is a prime example showing that you should never stop doing what you love and it is never too late to join a stamp club. Knowing his condition was terminal, he became SSC member #748 on April 12, 2016. His passion was both U.S. and German stamps. He attended most meetings and enjoyed bidding on auction lots. May he rest in peace.



North Korea Stamps

There are few laboratory tests in any environment that so clearly measure the differences in political systems as did North and South Korea. Divided after complete devastation during WW II, the North took a Maoist and Stalinist central planning model and the South a capitalist American model. The results have been so dramatic that if this were a medical study it would have been called off for ethical reasons.



The South has prospered and become one of the wealthier nations in the world whereas the North has gotten to the point where most of the 24 million people who live there are starving and would die without massive food aid. Over the next few years succession issues should affect North Korea. Kim Jong-Un heir is a thirty one year old boy, who has been educated in the west. Whether he has any real power or whether he will move North Korea to a capitalist democratic model is unknown. Indeed, it is even unknown whether North Korea's leaders will move towards war with the south which many consider a real possibility.

As far as stamps are concerned, North Korea has been a prolific issuer. Philatelists are always looking for the next China - a country whose stamps had been plentiful and where internal economic success leads to a huge increase in stamp collecting and great financial gain to the early holders of those stamps. India has conformed to such a model with its stamps rising smartly. But North Korea will not join this list. Its economy is not small - it is minuscule. The people are not poor - they are destitute. Add poorly educated to the list and it would take decades of rapid economic growth to even move North Korea to the levels of a developing country. So save your money. If North Korean stamps ever begin to increase in price you will have a long warning period in which to buy them.

(Originally Posted January 17, 2017 in <https://www.apfelbauminc.com/blog/north-korea-stamps> by John Apfelbaum. Reprinted by permission of the author.)

Club Wins Prize in FRESPEX Raffle

At the SSC meeting on Feb. 28, it was announced that the FRESPEX stamp show to be held in Clovis on March 11-12, 2017, was having financial problems and was holding a special raffle to raise money. Sequoia Stamp Club members voted to purchase \$100 worth (100 tickets) to help support the Fresno club & show.

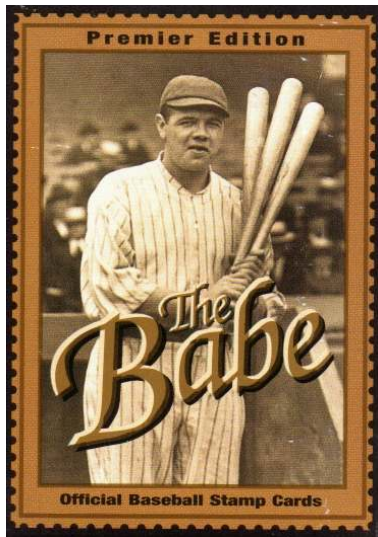
At the March 14 meeting, President Chris Palermo announced that Sequoia Stamp Club had won the 2nd place prize! The club is now the owner of a nice 3-margin, used copy of U.S. #1 with a red cancel. Plans are to auction or raffle the stamp at a future SSC meeting.



Example
of U. S. #1

Babe Ruth

by Marsha Brandsdorfer



In 1995, Guyana issued unique self-adhesive postage stamps resembling a set of 12 baseball cards honoring the legendary Babe Ruth. Ruth has also been memorialized on other international stamps, and to date three U.S. postage stamps: Scott # 2046 (1983); Scott #3184a (1998); and Scott # 3408h (2000).

Born on February 6, 1895, in Baltimore, Maryland, George Herman Ruth, Jr. was a rumpus child, who refused to go to school. It did not help that his father owned a saloon so Ruth would be around notorious characters. At the age of seven, Ruth was placed in a school for boys who were orphans or whose parents could not take care of them. His mother passed away when he was fifteen, and six of his seven siblings died as babies. Only Ruth's sister, Mamie, survived past infancy and lived until the age of 91.



While at the orphanage, Ruth had a strong talent for throwing, catching, and pitching a baseball, and was put on the school baseball team. Ruth was recruited to the Orioles minor league baseball team in 1914. It was here that he received the nickname "Babe Ruth" for being a new "babe in the woods." He was also called "The Bambino" meaning "baby" in Italian, for engaging in childish stunts and joking around.



After the minors, Ruth was drafted into the Boston Red Sox, where his resilient pitching and hitting of home runs helped the Boston Red Sox win the World Series in 1915, 1916, and 1918. Nonetheless, Ruth was becoming a nuisance, as he liked to stay out late, causing him to become tardy to games the following day. Yet, due to his growing popularity with fans, he requested double his salary. Instead, after the 1919 season, Ruth was sold to the New York Yankees, which was considered a horrible team at the time. However, Ruth turned the luck around for the Yankees, who went on to win several World Series games. The Boston Red Sox fell to last place, and would not win another World Series until 2004, which became known as the "Curse of the Bambino." Ruth was very gracious,

and never hesitated to give his autograph. Fans loved him and his grand personality. When the Yankee Stadium opened in 1923, a New York reporter called it "The House that Ruth Built."

By the 1934 season, due to health problems, this became his last season with the Yankees. Babe then played a short time for the Boston Braves, and although he was still a big draw to his fans, physically he just could not play well anymore. When he left the Braves, Ruth enjoyed golf for exercise and recreation. *The Babe Ruth Story* by Babe Ruth and Bob Considine was published a few months before Ruth's death from cancer at the age of 53, on August 16, 1948 in New York City. This book and *Babe Ruth and the Baseball Curse* by David A. Kelly were used as my research for this article.





PHIL A. TELLICK
& SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'
 By Miriam S. Thurston 2017 All Rights Reserved c



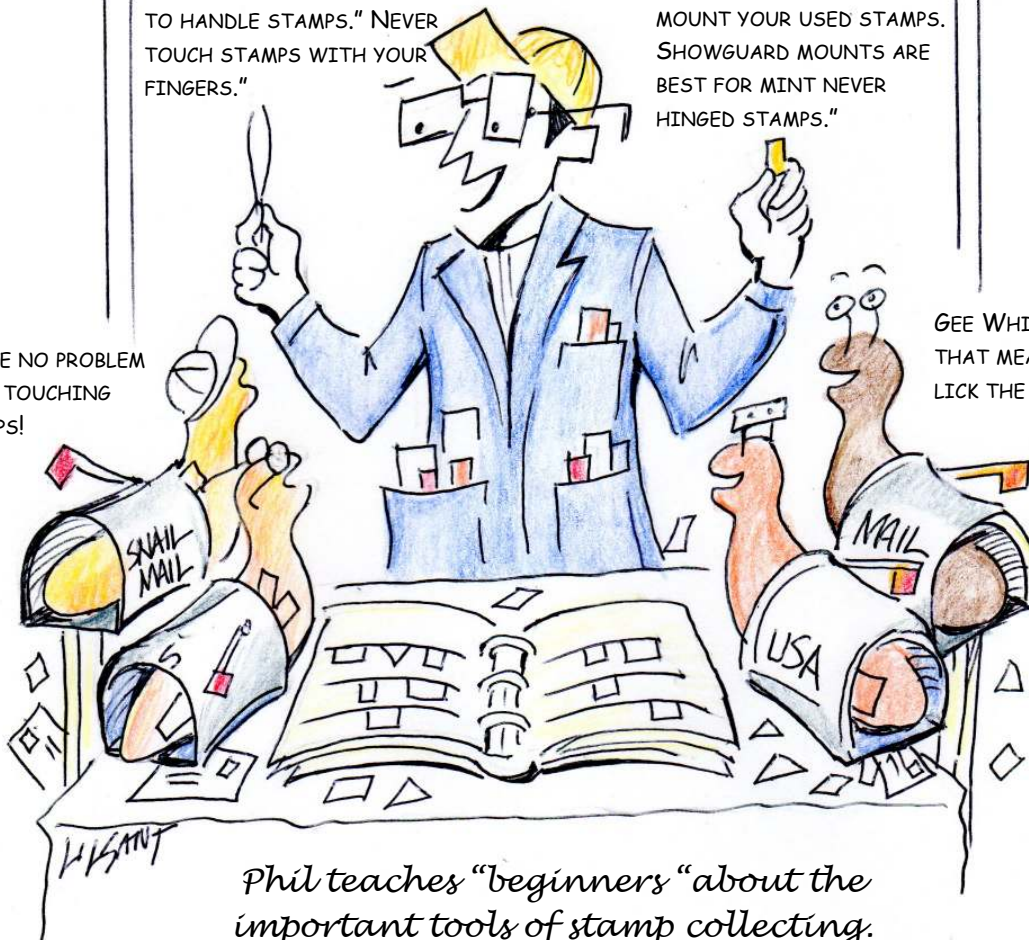
Mounting Stamps in an Album

"ALWAYS USE STAMP TONGS TO HANDLE STAMPS." NEVER TOUCH STAMPS WITH YOUR FINGERS."

"USE PEELABLE HINGES TO MOUNT YOUR USED STAMPS. SHOWGUARD MOUNTS ARE BEST FOR MINT NEVER HINGED STAMPS."

I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH TOUCHING STAMPS!

GEE WHIZ! DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T LICK THE STAMPS?



Phil teaches "beginners" about the important tools of stamp collecting.

FYI: When you get a stamp album, you should also purchase (1) **stamp tongs** for handling stamps, (2) **hinges** for mounting stamps, and (3) a **magnifying glass** for examining details on stamps. Stamp tongs is the name given to the special tweezers used when handling stamps and the sooner a collector learns to use them the better. They should have flat ends so that a stamp can be held firmly without the damage a sharp point could cause. Hinges are something you're going to use by the thousand during your life as a stamp collector. They are sold in packages (usually containing 1000) and the most popular are folded for use. Don't moisten hinges too liberally, and if you want to move a stamp after you've mounted it, wait until the gum on the hinge is thoroughly dry. A magnifying glass is more useful than you may imagine. A lot of the details on stamps are too small to read easily and having a magnifier is very convenient. These basic tools can be purchased at a local stamp store, from a dealer at a stamp show, or over the internet.