

# Stamp



# Chatter

Volume 48 - Issue No. 4 w310

Oct, Nov, Dec, 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.

Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 235  
San Carlos, CA 94070

More info at:  
[www.penpex.org/ssc](http://www.penpex.org/ssc)

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### President's Message:

With this edition of Chatter we turn the year's corner to autumn, holidays and winter. Often these are among the year's best weeks for collecting as colder weather draws us indoor to hearth, table and stamp den. Now is a good time to think about what collecting milestone you'd like to reach before December ends. I hope to acquire one or two more US classics, from our silent auction, friends in the club or (last resort) a live auction, to complete an album page or two.



The club year continues to impress with a great start to the Larke consignment at live auction (thank you to the Larke family and our buyers!) thus far. Yours truly introduced the club to analytical philatelic techniques and we also had a video presentation on duck stamps and a terrific pizza party in San Carlos. In the coming weeks we need your help with PENPEX, coming soon on Dec. 2-3. Please think about how you can donate your time (as a volunteer), talent (as a contributor of ideas) or treasure (as a consignor of auction lots). Please plan to attend the show, work a shift as a volunteer, or come as a buyer. Every contribution is valuable and helps ensure that dealers return year after year.

We also need your help as a club committee member, officer or program presenter. What part of your collection can you show and teach about? Any other ideas for programs? We are setting up the 2018 calendar now and need your contributions. At our next meeting, please share a stamp story! Our meetings are enriched by hearing of your acquisitions, show or auction experiences, and exhibit plans. Can we serve you better in some way? Please write me: [chris\\_palermo95125@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com).

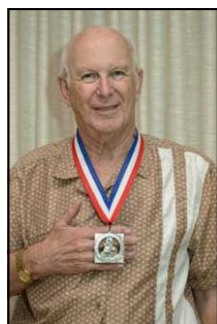
Christopher J. Palermo

### 2017 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- Oct 6-8: WINEPEX**, Marin Civic Center, San Rafael.
- Oct. 10 – APS Video on Doctoring of Postage Stamps. Silent Auction.
- Oct. 24 – Exec Brd Mtg (6:15 p.m.) Open to the public. Members Live Auction.
- Oct 28-29: East Bay Collectors Club Annual Stamp Show**, Civic Center Assembly Hall, Walnut Creek.
- Nov 4-5: SACAPEX**, Scottish Rites Masonic Center, Sacramento.
- Nov 11-12: Filatelic Fiesta**, Elks Lodge, San Jose.
- Nov. 14 – Real Picture Postcards by Ed Bierman. Officer Nominations. Silent Auction.
- Nov. 28 – Tin Can Mail by Janice Wallace. Election of Officers. Silent Auction.
- Dec 2-3: PENPEX**, Community Activities Building, Redwood City.
- Dec 12 – Holiday Party. Raffle. Silent Auction.
- Dec 26 – No meeting. See you next year.

## Important Notice Regarding PENPEX Silent Auction Lots

Jim Mosso has announced that all lots for the PENPEX Silent Auction need to be submitted by the end of October. Due to the large number of lots that are entered into the auction, he needs time to process the items. It is a big help when members mount their items securely and fill out the auction slips clearly giving an accurate description of the entry. Members may set the starting bids for their items, but all entries must have a minimum starting bid of \$5.00. Past experience has shown that reasonable minimum bids (20 - 30% of catalog value) tend to get the most active bidding. You can pick up auction slips from Jim Mosso or download copies from the attachment to the email sent out by John Corwin with the minutes of the Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Remember that the auction is only as good as the items that are submitted by club members.



David with  
APS award.

### David Abrahams Receives APS Award

Congratulations to Sequoia Stamp Club member David Abrahams who recently received a special pin from the American Philatelic Society celebrating his 50 years of APS membership. David, who joined our club in 2011, commutes to our meetings all the way from Livermore along with his wife Jolene who is also a club member. David specializes in Great Britain, and has given presentations on the Penny Black and other early British issues. David has taken over the job of PENPEX secretary, and is also in charge of the welcome table. He presents a friendly face to all people entering the PENPEX Stamp Show. Let's show our appreciation to David by making some nice donations for the PENPEX raffle.

### News from the Club Library

Club librarian Eduardo Martino has announced that all volumes of the 2018 Scott catalogue are now available for checkout by members. They may be checked out for two weeks, but must be returned at the next meeting in case other members wish to borrow them. Catalogues are much easier to handle now that Scott has divided each volume into a Part A and Part B. They are about one-half the size and weight of the previous books.

Thanks to some recent donations, the library also has other books for checkout. Chris Palermo donated a copy of the recent book, "The One Cent Magenta: Inside the Quest to Own the Most Valuable Stamp in the World", Jim Giacomazzi has donated "FDR and the Post Office", Pete Leffler donated a couple of new books, "How the Post Office Created America" and "Neither Snow nor Rain", and Marsha Brandsdorfer donated "A History of Britain In Thirty-Six Postage Stamps" by Chris West on which she based one of her recent feature articles for the Chatter. Also available for checkout is the video "Million Dollar Duck", part of which was shown at one of the club meetings. It is the story of how the art design for the annual duck stamp is chosen.



Eduardo Martino,  
club librarian

A big thank you to Eduardo for all his work in handling our club library.

**Newsletter Staff:** Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, President's Message: Chris Palermo, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Cartoon: 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/SSC](http://www.penpex.org/SSC) or email us at [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).

## Photos from Recent Club Activities



Jay Strauss, Miriam Thurston, Craig Butterworth et al enjoying Armadillo Willy's at the summer picnic.



Jose Lopez looking at stamps in Steve Morger's red boxes during Swap Meet.



Gerry Fields shares his wide knowledge of the art of Bonsai with fellow stamp club members.



Herb Huber showing off his tool collection during Other Hobby Night.



The Moore's and Sexton's enjoy Pizza Night at Blue Line Pizza.

# PENPEX CABOOSE

PENPEX is now approaching in less than 2 months. Which means for most of us that there will be a great stamp show within 10 miles of our home. The show will be held December 2 and 3, 2017 at the Redwood City Community Activities Building. The doors open at 10 am both days. A complete schedule is available at [www.penpex.org/show/schedule](http://www.penpex.org/show/schedule).

## PENPEX Volunteers Needed

The PENPEX is run by 100% volunteers. It needs your help to function, if for just a couple hours or for a day, please consider helping out in one or more of the following areas:

- Help with setup on Friday at 1 pm. We need people to set up tables, place chairs, position exhibit frames, and assemble the show program. If you cannot help until later, we can use help mounting exhibits at 5 pm. A light dinner will be served after the frames are up. Contact Eduardo Martino, 650-888-7598 or [gualicho@yahoo.com](mailto:gualicho@yahoo.com).
- Be the first to greet people as they enter the show at the Welcome Table on Saturday and Sunday. Contact David Abrahams, 925-447-9386 or [dmabril@comcast.net](mailto:dmabril@comcast.net).
- Nothing is tastier than helping at the Snack Bar. You can help collect money, fill orders, or make sandwiches. Contact Kjell Enander, 650-571-7939 or [KJELLO@aol.com](mailto:KJELLO@aol.com).
- If you love being surrounded by stamps, join us in the auction room. We need help registering potential bidders, watching over the room, and closing the auction. Contact Jim Mosso, 650-369-8979 or [bjmosso@comcast.net](mailto:bjmosso@comcast.net).
- If you are youthful at heart, consider helping in the Youth Area. Take the time to show future collectors how to have fun with stamps. Pass on your enthusiasm to the next generations. Many games will be set out for visitors to partake in. Contact Preston Chiappa, 408-252-8474 or [chiappap@aol.com](mailto:chiappap@aol.com).
- Want to deal with happy stamp dealers, then help make them homemade sandwiches or be the person to deliver their lunch. Take about 2 hours each day. Contact Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643 or [kristin\\_email@yahoo.com](mailto:kristin_email@yahoo.com).

There is something for everyone. What makes it fun is that you can help while socializing with fellow collectors.

## An Opportunity to Exhibit

PENPEX reserves 66 frames for exhibits. This is your opportunity to show your material and share your knowledge with other collectors. There is no charge to enter. The entry form, prospectus, is posted on the website at <https://www.penpex.org/show/exhibits>.

For Sequoia Stamp Club members, there is also the option to enter 1 to 4 pages. Yes, just an 8½" x 11" piece of paper with your material and some information about it. A great way to start small with big rewards.

The deadline is November 1, 2017. So get your exhibit in soon. Contact Vesma Grinfelds, 415-643-3800 or [vesmag@gmail.com](mailto:vesmag@gmail.com).

## PENPEX Silent Auction

The PENPEX Silent Auction is always a popular activity at the show. The auction will have over 500 lots for sale. If you are interested in submitting one or more lots, get them to Jim Mosso by October 24. If you cannot attend a Sequoia Stamp Club meeting to give Jim your material, please call him at 650-369-8979 to arrange a special time to meet.

“The following article on Northern California was written by Ken Perkins for the Sequoia Stamp Club Youth Group ‘Stamps R Us’. Twice a year the youth members are mailed an American Philatelic Society mini-Album. This article accompanied the mini-Album on Northern California.”

## Northern California

San Franciscans think their City by the Bay is the most important place in Northern California. Maybe in the whole state, and the Postal Service seems to agree with them.

Take a look at this stamp: the bridge taking up most of the stamp is the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The city skyline is San Francisco’s...you can tell by the TransAmerica Pyramid building at the far right. The palm trees tucked into the upper right corner are supposed to represent Catalina Island off the Southern California coast. And the California Poppies at the lower left are the state flower. The stamp might as well say ‘Welcome to San Francisco’...after all, San Francisco’s Embarcadero has palm trees too!



Northern California is much more than just one city. Just south of San Francisco lies Silicon Valley, centered around Cupertino and Stanford University. If you’ve got any kind of smart phone, tablet, computer, or game machine, there’s a good chance it was designed in Silicon Valley. Many cities around San Francisco Bay are home to companies and universities involved in genetic research and engineering.

East of San Francisco, you can visit Sutter’s Mill on the South Fork of the American River in Coloma where in January of 1848, a few flakes of gold were discovered by James Marshall while the lumber mill was being built. The gold find started the Gold Rush of 1849, and over the next 7 years over 300,000 people came by land and sea to California. Folks who came for gold in 1849 were called ‘49ers’, long before the football team borrowed the name. Old mines, and a few active ones, are still visible in the Sierra foothills east of California’s capitol, Sacramento. So are some of the huge piles of gravel left behind by the later placer mining operations.

Not everyone came looking for gold. If you wear denim Levis, you’re wearing a cloth originally meant for the tents of the 49ers. Levi Strauss came west to run his family’s store and discovered his blue denim cloth made fine tough pants for the hard-working miners...the cloth didn’t work too well for tents anyway.

The far north of California includes two now-dormant volcanoes: Mts Shasta and Lassen. And on the northern coast you find the world’s tallest redwoods in cool, foggy forests. Which brings us back to San Francisco where, looking out at the wide Pacific Ocean from Land’s End, you can imagine the long gone Ohlone Indians singing of ‘Dancing on the edge of the world’.

Written by Ken Perkins, who is almost a native Northern Californian.

## Cover Collecting



Cover collecting did not begin at the same time as did stamp collecting. Philately had its start in earnest about 1860, and, really, until about 1910, cover collecting was something collectors did when they didn't have the time to wash the stamps they needed for their collections off the envelopes on which they had bought them (this is why so many earlier stamps are so much rarer on cover than off). In a few cases, such as Pony

Express covers or Civil War Patriotics, much of the collecting interest had to do with the cachet on the envelope and the usage that the cover received (rather than the stamp) so that there were a few early cover savers. But serious postal history collecting had to wait until the efforts of Henry Gibson, Sr. Gibson was the first collector who looked for rare usages of stamps on covers and assembled a major collection that was sold in the early part of the twentieth century. It was his financial success as a cover collector that began the impetus for the second great wave of cover collecting that began about 1930.

Covers come in two broad types—the first, as collected by Gibson and postal historians today—are stamps on envelopes or unstamped envelopes that went through the post for some commercial, military, or social purpose, for which the mail carriage was incidental to the users real end, which was the delivery of the message. In other words, these covers are non philatelic. The second broad category of cover collecting, which began around 1920, are covers that were designed, even before posting, for collectors. They include First Day Covers, Airmail covers, Zeppelin Covers, Naval Covers, and many other types that fit this broad designation.

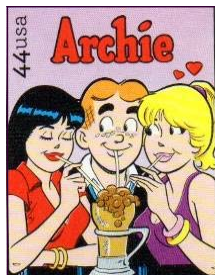
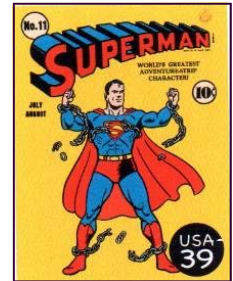
Philatelic covers began to be very popular about 1930. Collecting items of this type gave collectors a great deal to do at a very low cost, both prime considerations in an era with little money (it was the Great Depression) and few new issues. Philatelic covers increased in popularity for about forty years until about 1970. If you are an aging baby boomer, you probably have First Day Covers from an old collection that you inherited or which you acquired as a kid. But you don't collect these philatelic covers today. The reason is simple. Philatelic marketers destroyed this market by creating an ever increasing series of philatelic covers at very high prices. All of the Readers Digest and Franklin Mint type promotional covers that became popular in the 1970s sell today, when they sell at all, at very small fractions of their original value. True cover collecting, that is postal history collecting, has always been a significant, though niche, aspect of the hobby. Today, it continues to remain important, unaffected by the vicissitudes of the philatelic cover market.

(Originally Posted September 4, 2017 in: <https://www.apfelbauminc.com/blog/cover-collecting-stamps> by John Apfelbaum. Reprinted by permission of the author.)

# The History of American Comic Books

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

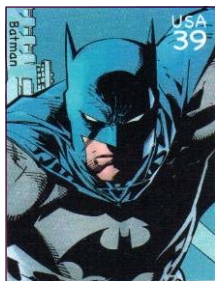
According to Shirrel Rhoades' book, A Complete History of American Comic Books, the initial beginning of comic books was in the 1930s with 64 pages of comic strips reprinted from the newspapers. Finally by 1935, comic book titles started experimenting with original characters and stories. This seemed to go so well, that Detective Comics, founded in 1935, introduced Superman in 1938. This became the beginning of what was to be known as the Golden Age of Comics. Other superheroes were then developed, the most popular of which was Captain Marvel, whose alter ego was young Billy Batson who could change into the superhero just by saying "Shazam."



Other new genres came out from other publishers, including western comics, war comics, romance comics, comics based on television shows, Disney comics, and teen comics, the most popular of which starred Archie Andrews, and his friends from Riverdale High. William M. Gaines who took over Educational Comics ("EC") after his father Max Gaines, who founded the company, died in a boating accident, introduced stories of crime, horror and science fiction. He also published a humor comic, Mad. Nevertheless, Dr. Fredric Wertham, a clinic psychologist, wrote in his 1954 book, Seduction of the Innocent, that comic books were a horrible influence on youth, corrupted their morals and contributed to juvenile delinquency. As self-preservation, The Comic Magazine

Association of America created the Comics Code to voluntarily tone down some of the violence in comics. EC stopped publishing its horror comics, and eventually all of its comics ceased, except for Mad, which survived by changing its format from a comic book to a magazine format to avoid the Code's restrictions.

When the Silver Age of Comics began in 1956, attitudes towards comics became more positive, with the development of new superheroes. Stan Lee ([pseudonym](#) for Stanley Martin Lieber) who initially started working for Timely Comics (which would evolve by the 1960s to become [Marvel Comics](#)), created a team of superheroes, and as a new concept, decided to make each superhero more humane, wherein they would have their own faults and worries. They became the Fantastic Four. Plots and subplots continued in each issue, which was another new concept. The soon to be popular Spider-Man was also created by Stan Lee. Spider-Man's alter ego Peter Parker was a high school student, who had concerns and problems like other teenagers, but gained super powers after getting bitten by a radioactive spider at a science exhibit.



The Bronze Age of Comics was next, which went from the early 1970s through the mid-1980s. During this period, some of the rules of the Comics Code were revised and relaxed, allowing for more liberties. Comic book characters became more psychologically complex by the Modern Age which began in in the mid-1980s and continues to the present. With the 1986 issuance of The Dark Knight Returns, writer/artist Frank Miller exhibited Batman as a gloomy character. The story's success encouraged publishers to give their comics a darker and grimmer tone, reflecting also some of the attitudes of present society. Comic books continue to be a significance to American culture and it is no surprise that comic



books continue to be a significance to American culture and it is no surprise that comic

**PHIL A. TELLICK  
AND SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'**  
By Miriam S. Thurston- All Rights Reserved C

LOOK AT ALL THOSE  
KIDS HAVING FUN  
COLLECTING STAMPS.

DON'T WALK OR CRAWL,  
RUN TO THE  
PENPEX SHOW !



YOUTH GROUP ROOM



**FYI:** The youth group of the Sequoia Stamp Club, "Stamps R Us", will be present at the PENPEX Stamp Show the weekend of Dec. 2 & 3, 2017. Phil and Snail want all you kids to come and bring a parent or friend to learn about collecting postage stamps. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the history, geography, and culture of the US and countries throughout the world.

## "Stamps R Us"

The Sequoia Stamp Club has a youth program called "Stamps R Us". Most youth are signed-up at PENPEX. The members are mailed stamps each month. Twice each year the members receive a mini-Album from the American Philatelic Society collection, plus stamps, information sheets and games.

At PENPEX 2016 the Sequoia Stamp Club Youth Group "Stamps R Us" signed up **10** new members for 2017 and 2 members renewed for 2017 memberships. This is the largest number signed up for years. Thanks to all the volunteers (including my wife and daughter-in-law) that made the Youth Group activity at PENPEX successful. Setup on Friday took 5 hours and takedown on Sunday lasted past 6 pm.

The donations of stamp albums, stamps and hinges from The American Philatelic Society, thanks to Scott English, played a large part in recruiting new members. This was the first time we could offer youth members large stamp albums. Parents of the new members were surprised that we offered these stamp albums along with tongs, stamps, hinges and more. Most of the donated albums were distributed to youth and beginning collectors.

Two young girls that signed up as new members on Saturday spent hours collecting stamps from the 1000's available from us. They and their parents returned Sunday and again spent hours sorting stamps and putting them into the albums we gave them. They even soaked stamps off paper, a skill which they learned on Saturday from Cindy Amelon. Their father is an avid stamp collector and helped them. He was greatly surprised when we offered each of his daughters a World Wide and US Album (and he readily accepted the 4 albums for them).

Thanks to Richard Coleman and Kjell Enander for their continued support and to the members of the Sequoia Stamp Club for their donations to the Youth Group.

Preston Chiappa, Chairman for the Youth Program