



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



President's Message:

Jim Southward

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I am looking forward to serving you and with you in 2019. I have observed that this is one of the most helpful, caring, involved, volunteering and hardworking organization in my world.

My understanding is that the president is the figurehead of an organization and the presiding office at Board and general meetings. To use an automotive metaphor the president:

1. Is the hood ornament which looks good, but has no useful function,
2. The distributor, which directs sparks to their correct destinations and,
3. The exhaust pipe which collects all the trash.

Please use me and your Board, and Committee Chairs. We are here to assist you.

Please respond to requests for help. We currently have many hands doing many jobs. Some of which could use a few more hands to lessen their large jobs.

Thank you for your support and help. Reach out to me anytime at: jsouthward@aol.com



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2019 Sequoia Stamp Club & Stamp Show Schedule

- ♦ Jan. 8—Installation of Officers. Past Presidents Present. - Silent Auction
- ♦ Jan. 19-20—Great American Stamp Expo, Napredak Hall, San Jose
- ♦ Jan. 22—Philatelic Quiz - Jim G.; Silent Auction; 6pm Board Meeting
- ♦ Feb. 12—Live Auction - Larke Consignment (Jim G.)
- ♦ Feb. 26—Presentation: National One Cent Letter Postage Assoc.: An Overview (Peter Adams); Silent Auction
- ♦ March 12—Presentation: Postal History of Redwood City, Woodside, and Searsville; pre-1900 (Ed Rosen); Silent Auction
- ♦ March 26—Live Auction - Members (Auctioneer - Wally)
- ♦ April 9 - TBD

Volunteers are needed for club meeting presentations—talk with Patrick Ford our 2019 Program Chair to sign-up

From the Out-Going President

With this edition of Chatter we again turn the year's corner to winter with a peek forward to spring. 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 in the new year. 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 several.

These are also the final days of my service as club President and I wish to thank all of you for your support in the past two years. I enjoyed the role tremendously but I have been tapped as President of another hobby nonprofit group that has almost 950 members across three states and feel I must take a few years to assist them. My term will be two years so I hope to return to Sequoia in a leadership role after that.



I wish to sincerely thank the club's other officers including Peter Leffler, Jay Strauss, and John Corwin, as well as all on the Governing Board, whose efforts have been indispensable in creating good experiences for all of you in 2018. I can tell you they do a lot behind the scenes that makes our meetings run smoothly and filled with good activities. Thanks everyone!

The club year will continue to impress you, I think, as we return to the Larke consignment at live auction in January (thank you to the Larke family and our buyers!). I am looking forward to our other program presentations in the coming months but wish to remind you that we are fully scheduled only through the end of March. WE NEED YOU to contribute a program. Audiovisual and computer support are available – just ask one of us who has done it. And, the use of a computer or projection are NOT required. You can do a show-and-tell without use of any technology at all. Please give it a try! You will find it rewarding and also educational as you prepare. 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.

Finally, can we serve you better in some way? Please write me: chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com. And please join me in a warm welcome to our incoming President, Jim Southward and our new Vice President, Patrick Ford. They need your support, suggestions and good humor in 2019. Thank you!

Christopher J. Palermo

New APS Site Redesign

Over the last few months the American Philatelic Society launched a redesigned website at: <https://stamps.org/>. They regularly post new articles on a weekly basis. Also follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/american.philatelic.society/>.

Newsletter Staff: Editor: Ed Bierman, President's Message: Jim Southward, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, *PENPEX 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 or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

Cheaper by the Dozen?

by Ken Perkins

Things are 'Cheaper by the dozen', or so goes the old saying. Stores and websites are filled with "BOGO" offers and other enticements to buy more than one of everything.

Accompanying the November 2018 edition of the monthly version of *Linn's Stamp News* was a 36 page advertising flier from Nordfrim, a Denmark-based stamp and coin dealer. Among the many offers in the ad were several large stamp packets, containing from as few as 100 to as many as 3000 stamps from single countries. Looking over the prices, I spotted a good chance to see if the 'cheaper' adage held for stamps too. The table below, comparing the cost per stamp of different sized packets of stamps from the same country, demonstrates that, with a single exception, stamps aren't 'Cheaper by the dozen' at all.

The table shows, for example, that while 1000 U.S. stamps cost 3.6 cents per stamp, larger packets of 2000 U.S. stamps cost 8.9 cents per stamp and 3000 will cost you 9.5 cents per stamp. The right-hand column of the table compares the per-stamp cost of the smaller packet to the next larger one for each country: the 1000 stamp U.S. packet costs 2.46 times as much per stamp as the 2000 packet, and the 2000 packet is 1.07 times more per stamp than the 3000.

Nordfrim Nov. 2018				
Country	# of Stamps	Cost	Cost per Stamp	Large/ Small
USA	1000	\$36.00	\$0.036	
USA	2000	\$177.00	\$0.089	2.46
USA	3000	\$284.00	\$0.095	1.07
NORWAY	390	\$17.75	\$0.046	
NORWAY	1200	\$117.00	\$0.098	2.14
CUBA	300	\$16.25	\$0.054	
CUBA	3000	\$117.00	\$0.039	0.72
PARAGUAY	500	\$30.00	\$0.060	
PARAGUAY	1100	\$69.00	\$0.063	1.05
ITALY	200	\$7.20	\$0.036	
ITALY	1500	\$173.00	\$0.115	3.20
GB	660	\$26.50	\$0.040	
GB	1000	\$69.50	\$0.070	1.73
				1.77



The reason stamps don't follow the 'Cheaper by the dozen' rule is really pretty simple. Many things of which we might buy multiples are fungible: any one unit is the same as the next. One can of Campbell's soup is, as Andy Warhol memorably showed us, just like any other. Even when the items aren't exactly alike, they're similar enough in value to be grouped together on sale. But the stamps of any one country are, as anyone who's looked at catalog listings can attest, not all alike. Some are far more valuable than others: the early issues of most countries are more valuable than the latest ones. Most stamps of most countries are cheap, but the closer you get to buying every stamp a country has ever issued, the more likely you are to be getting some of the more valuable ones. Thus a packet of 3000 will cost more per stamp than one of 300.

With the strange exception, in this ad, of Cuba - I guess we can blame Fidel, since he's dead.

Postcard Corner



A tuberculosis sanatorium was built by the City of San Francisco in 1927 on Edgewood Road, near where Highway 280 is now located. Originally called San Francisco Health Farm, the hospital was renamed Hassler Health Farm in 1931. Several buildings were added to the campus in the early 1940's as part of a WPA project. The sanatorium was closed in 1964 and converted to a hospital for the indigent. The hospital closed in 1972, and the vacant buildings were finally torn down in 1983. You can still see some of the foundations and walls in the Pulgas Ridge Hiking and Dog Park in Redwood City.

Photos



Chris Palermo did a great presentation on Pacific Coast Companies in Nov.



Holiday Party fun in last meeting of the year.



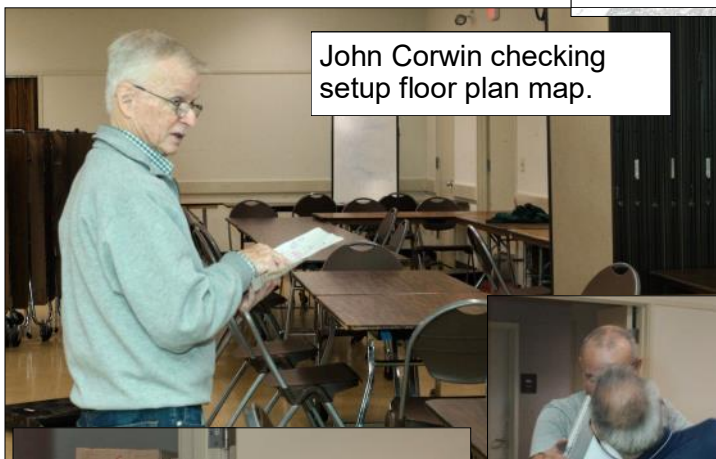
Pizza party in October.

PENPEX CABOOSE

This year's PENPEX Stamp Show ran extremely smoothly due to all the volunteers that helped out. This year, PENPEX had several new volunteers who chipped in. As many hands make light work. All volunteers are invited to the Wrap-up meeting and Appreciation Brunch on January 19, 2018 at 10 am at Sizzler, 1011 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City.



At left: Kjell Enander after 2 hours of food shopping is pushing in sodas for the snack bar. Above: (l-r) Franz Kemper and Eduardo Martino happy to have tables, frames, and signs all up and ready for the Stamp Show!



John Corwin checking setup floor plan map.

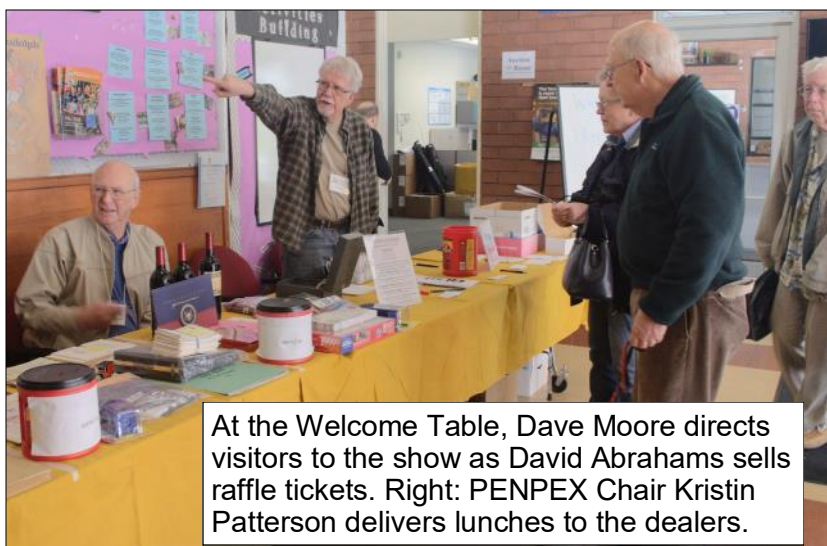


Above: (r-l) Michael O'Brien and Jim Giacomazzi laying out the SSC Flea Market Room. Far left: Preston Chiappa and wife, Angie, moving Youth material out of the closet and into the Youth Area. Left: Alain Ridard with yellow work gloves helps set up frames.

Photos by Ken Perkins.

During the PENPEX Show

The show attendance was great once again. Attendees enjoyed visiting the dealers, looking at the exhibits, bidding in the auction, searching for something at the SSC Flea Market room and eating at the snack bar. PENPEX got great feedback from the dealers who were happy with the show, commenting on many new attendees. Here are more photos taken during the show.



At the Welcome Table, Dave Moore directs visitors to the show as David Abrahams sells raffle tickets. Right: PENPEX Chair Kristin Patterson delivers lunches to the dealers.



Miriam Thurston canceling show cachets.



Above: (l-r) Ken Lewetzow and Cathy Phalen serving snacks. Left: Herb Huber reviewing auction lots. Below: Youth having fun searching for stamps.



Photos by Ken Perkins.

Franz Kafka

by Marsha Brandsdorfer

Franz Kafka stamps contribute to such topical collecting as Famous Jewish People and Famous Authors on Stamps. German author Reiner Stach's book, Is that Kafka? 99 Finds (translated by Kurt Beals), gives interesting details about the writer.

Kafka lived from July 3, 1883 to June 3, 1924, was a German speaking Jew, and resided in Prague most of his life, except for a few months in 1923, where he lived in Berlin with his girlfriend Dora Diamant. Kafka had several relationships with women, but he never married. After obtaining a legal education, he went to work for The Workers' Accident Insurance Institute, in 1908, an insurance company, and would write on his spare time. He wrote fiction, and communicated by letters to friends and family, including his father, with whom he did not have a good relationship. Kafka's father was a businessman (a fashion retailer) and he wanted Kafka to take over his business and follow in his footsteps. Kafka's father did not approve of his son's writing, which he considered a waste of time. In Kafka's 1919 Letter to His Father, he accuses his father of being emotionally abusive towards him. Accordingly, he gave the letter to his mother to give to his father, but instead she returned it back to Kafka. The letter was later translated into English and first published in 1966.



Kafka liked to read some of his unfinished stories and novels to his friends and possibly his favorite sister Ottla, but he rarely discussed stories that he hadn't begun or those that were in their early stages. Most of his writings were published after his death by his good friend Max Brod, despite Kafka's request in his Will asking Brod to have his writings destroyed and burned. The novella, The Metamorphosis was one of the few works that was published while Kafka was alive and came out in book form in 1915. Also, his book, A Country Doctor: Short Stories was published during his lifetime.

While most of the cities and towns in Kafka's stories were often ambiguous, Kafka defines locations in his novel, Amerika, edited and published posthumously by Max Brod, in 1927. Since Kafka never traveled to the United States, he relied on his research, but apparently did not keep the best notes or refer back to them, as he got several facts wrong in his novel, including, relocating San Francisco to the wrong continent, as when his protagonist Karl Rossman is urged to move there, he was told that it is because "there are many more ways to earn a living in the east." And the Statue of Liberty rises into the sky, not with torch, but with a sword.



Kafka died at the age of 40 from tuberculosis in 1924, which spared him the fate of the Holocaust. His three sisters, Ottla, Valli and Elli, were killed during the persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazis. Manuscripts by Kafka left in the hands of Dora Diamant were taken and possibly destroyed by the Gestapo in 1933.

Bohemian Rhapsody

Freddie Mercury, Childhood Philatelist



One of the top movies of 2018 has been the biopic movie, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, about the rock group Queen and their enigmatic lead singer Fred Mercury. It is set to win a number of awards in the coming months.

The British Postal Museum had an interesting article in 2012 about how Freddy was a childhood stamp collector and that his stamp album is part of their collection.

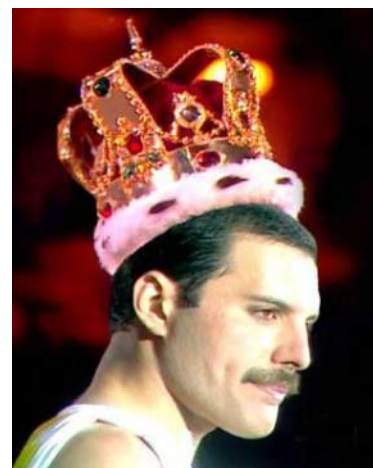
Freddie was born Farrokh Bulsara, into a Zoroastrian family in Zanzibar. After his death in 1991, most of his belongings were burnt as were Zoroastrian religious custom. His father Bomi decided though not destroy Freddie's childhood stamp album. Bomi, who was also interested in stamps, originally inspired Freddie's stamp collecting, and it's believed that Freddie built up his collection between the ages of nine and twelve.

Freddie Mercury's collection includes stamps from a wide range of countries across the world. Many are from the British Empire and those of particular philatelic interest are from Zanzibar. The album also incorporates a wide selection of stamps from Eastern Europe.

Looking at the album pages the stamps are ordered by color, size or type. On other pages balanced patterns are created, or letters from the alphabet formed. Perhaps for the future Freddie Mercury the appeal of stamps was as much about their designs and the ways in which they could be displayed as the stamps themselves?

Bomi Bulsara eventually decided to auction his and Freddie Mercury's stamp collections and the BPMA, then the National Postal Museum, purchased the album on 17th December 1993. The amount paid was donated to the Mercury Phoenix Trust, an AIDS charity set up in remember Freddie.

Reference: <https://postalheritage.wordpress.com/2012/09/05/freddie-mercury-stamp-collector/>



Stamp Collectors can grow up to be Rock Stars!