

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 50 - Issue No. 4 w318

October - December 2019

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

Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

More info at:

www.penpex.org/ssc



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President's Message:

My goodness, time flies by when you are having a good time. It amazes me how well everything runs in the Sequoia Stamp Club. I feel like I am riding a tiger. It is a long and bumpy ride. If I don't hold on tight and/or if I relax for just a moment, I will end up on the ground and be the tiger's meal.

Those who help me stay on the tiger are the members who really make our club great. I will mention a few here whose work for our club are most noticeable to me. They include: John Corwin, secretary, who just received the APS Sparkplug award. The day after any meeting, John has the minutes in our email boxes. John has assumed responsibility for our award-winning quarterly publication, which is in your hands as you read this. There will be more Sparkplugs recognized in future. In a club like this, in which there are so many who do so much for we members that it is difficult to recognize each of them without diminishing the aura surrounding the award and its recipients. There are other exceptional volunteers who are deserving of recognition.

In another stream of consciousness thought, I really enjoy the variety of events and presentations at our meetings from silent auctions, informative presentations, live auctions, kiloware events, mini displays, other collections/hobbies, swap meets and whatever vice president Patrick Ford comes up with. Our meetings are fun and enlightening, and more important, well attended.

Your obedient servant,
President, James F. Southward



Yes! That really is Jim!

2019 Sequoia Stamp Club & Stamp Show Schedule

- ♦ Oct. 2: First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB
- ♦ Oct. 4 - 6: **WINEPEX, Marin Civic Center, San Rafael**
- ♦ Oct. 8: Kiloware Night; Silent Auction
- ♦ Oct. 22: Live Auction, Larke Consignment - Jim Giacomazzi auctioneer; Governing Board meeting 6 PM (all club members welcome)
- ♦ Oct. 26 & 27: **East Bay Collectors Club show, Walnut Creek**
- ♦ Oct. 29: Pizza Party
- ♦ Nov. 2 & 3: **SACAPEX, Scottish Rites Temple, Sacramento**
- ♦ Nov. 6: First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB
- ♦ Nov. 9 & 10: **Filatelie Fiesta, Elks Lodge, San Jose**
- ♦ Nov. 12: Genuine and Forged Overprints on Early French Air Post Stamps by Chris Palermo; Nomination of Officers; Silent Auction
- ♦ Nov. 26: Smithsonian National Postal Museum Website Overview by Patrick Ford; Election of Officers; Silent Auction
- ♦ Dec. 4: First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB
- ♦ Dec. 7 & 8: **PENPEX, CAB, Redwood City**
- ♦ Dec. 10: Holiday Party; Silent Auction

The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

Other Hobby Night September 10, 2019



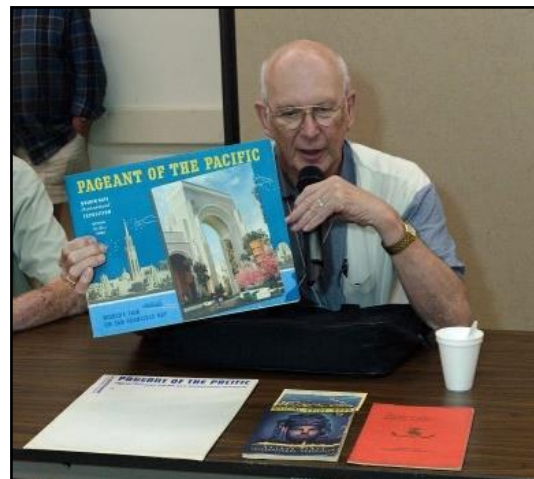
Eduardo Martino - Argentine Coins and Currency



Alain Ridard - Miniature French Soldiers



Ken Perkins - Photography



David Abrahams - Golden Gate Expo Items



Peter Adams - Handmade Eggs and Marbles

Photos: Ken Perkins

Newsletter Staff: Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jim Southward; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin.

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.

2019 Collectors Scholarships Winners

Henry Utecht and Marco Pretell, accompanied by his parents, were guests at the Sequoia Stamp Club meeting in Redwood City on Tuesday, July 9, where they were presented with Collectors Scholarships, a \$500 award given by the club to graduates of Sequoia High School who have achieved academic success and also demonstrated an interest in a hobby or activity that has enriched their lives.

Henry spoke to club members about his Disney memorabilia collection which he began after a family trip to Disneyland when he was five years old. For his 16th birthday, his grandmother gave him a Peter Pan snow globe. After she passed away, Henry continued to collect snow globes in her memory. He brought a few with him to the meeting to show to our members. Henry also was a member of the Sequoia basketball team and plans to pursue an engineering degree from the University of Nevada, Reno.



Marco Pretell and Henry Utecht with their Collectors Scholarship certificates from the Sequoia Stamp Club. (Photo: Ken Perkins)



Marco and Henry looking over the topical stamp mini-collections presented to them on behalf of the club by Jim Giacomazzi. (Photo: Ken Perkins)

Marco spoke to the club about his coin collection. He enjoys collecting coins, especially for the stories and history that are connected to them. He brought some to show that were related to the Civil War, Germany under the Nazi government, and Spanish colonization of South America. He commented that "With his collection, he is the curator of his own museum of history." After a gap year internship to study in Germany, Marco plans to attend Tufts University in Massachusetts where he will study physics.

Sequoia Stamp Club Scholarship Chairman Jim Giacomazzi presented both scholarship recipients with topical stamp mini-collections related to their hobbies. We congratulate both Henry and Marco on their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Mini-Clinics - July 23, 2019



Stamp Identification - Jim Giacomazzi
Louis Lang, Eduardo Martino, Jim, and
Alain Ridard examining a stamp.

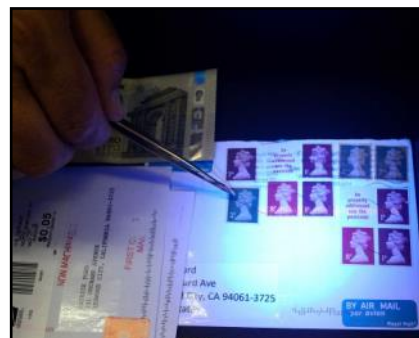


Book Scanner - Peter Adams
Peter demonstrating scanner to Jim
Southward, Steve Sexton, and John
Kofranek.



Stamp Mounting Techniques
Kevin Kraemer
Kevin showing John Corwin one
of his techniques.

Ultra Violet Lighting - Patrick Ford
Patrick demonstrating UV light to
highlight a barcode and tagging.



Photos: Ken Perkins

Young Boy's Creative Postage

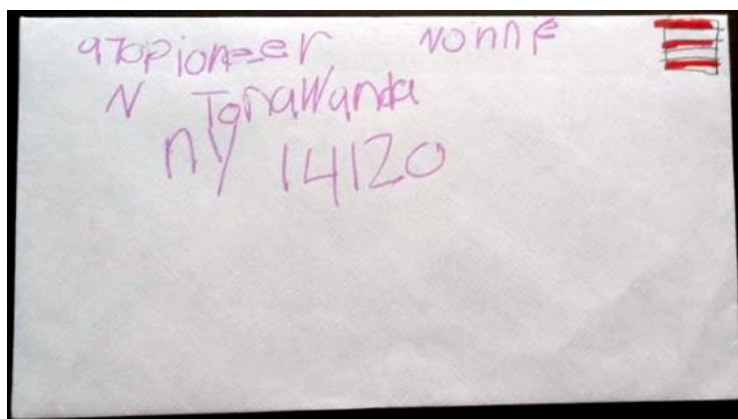
By John Corwin

Last year, I was in Buffalo, New York, for Christmas, and I happened to read about this unusual cover, which the USPS actually delivered in December, 2018 .

A 7-year old boy in Lockport, NY, wanted to send a letter to his grandmother, who he calls "Nonnie". He addressed the envelope to Nonnie, 970 Pioneer, N Tonawanda, NY 14120. And for postage, he drew his own flag stamp using a red crayon. He dropped it in a mailbox, and a few days later, the letter arrived in his grandmother's mailbox!

A postal service representative said that usually letters without postage are returned to sender, and she could not explain why this one got delivered. In the December 23rd article in *The Buffalo News*, she called it "a miracle for the season".

The Buffalo News does not permit the reprinting of the full article, but it can be read online at <https://buffalonews.com/2018/12/23/usps-delivers-for-lockport-boy-with-creative-postage/>



Laurel and Hardy

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Laurel and Hardy are famous for the humorous characters they portrayed in slapstick comedies. Their humor was mostly physical and their characters were not very bright, getting into all sorts of situations that caused them great trouble. Stanley Laurel was born in England on June 16, 1890, to parents who were both active in the theater. He followed suit by performing comic routines in the British music hall. After moving to the United States for other opportunities, he started making short comedic films.

Unlike Laurel, Oliver Norvell Hardy was not from a theater background. He was born in Georgia on January 18, 1892. However, when his father passed away when Hardy was just ten years old, his mother ran the Baldwin Hotel in Georgia to support her family. Many theatrical people stayed at the hotel and told fascinating stories that made Hardy curious about the “glamour” of the theater. Hardy helped his mother in the hotel, but especially liked to spend time with the performers. In 1913, he moved to Jacksonville, Florida, and hung around the Lubin Motion Pictures lot to watch the actors. Then one day, a heavy-set man was needed for a comedy sequence, and Hardy was offered the part, as Hardy was a big man, standing 6-foot 1-inch and weighing up to 300 pounds. He was soon put in other movies, and often he played the part of the villain, called “heavies” in the early 1900s.

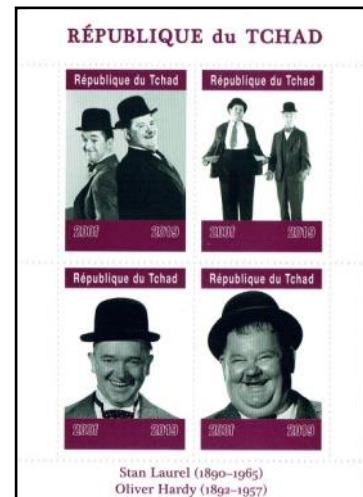
Hardy was gaining recognition playing heavies, so Hal Roach, who had his own studio in Southern California, invited Hardy to act in a two-reeler film. He also invited Laurel to his studio as a writer and director after seeing some of the one-reeler film shorts that he had made. While casting for the film, “Get ‘Em Young,” Hardy was cast for the part of the timid butler. However, Hardy got badly scalded



while cooking a lamb and had to bail out of making the film. Laurel was then asked to play the part. He did such a good job, that Roach then encouraged Laurel to write and act in his next movie, “Slipping Wives.” Hardy was also in this film, and in their first Roach film together, Laurel and Hardy were quite extraordinary. Roach saw that they each had talents superior to most of the other actors of the day, and so he put them together in other films. Laurel also would supervise the editing of many

of the films and remove irrelevant footage to make sequences even better. Soon the Laurel and Hardy films became very popular in America and Europe.

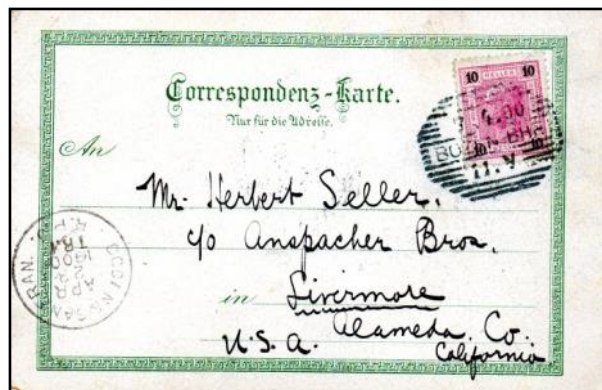
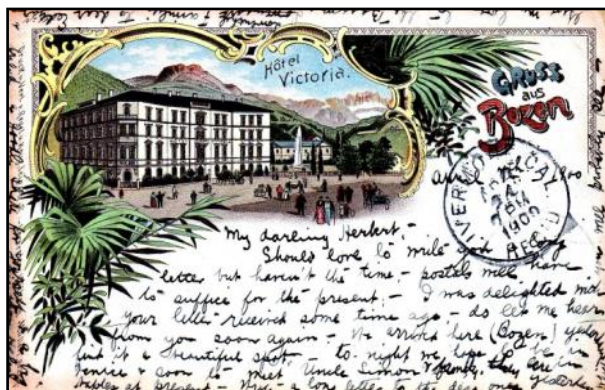
When their contracts ended with Roach, they then made full-length films for MGM and 20th Century Fox in the early 1940s, but they lost control. These studios wanted them to do the films only their way and would not consider any suggestions. After the movies were made for these studios, Laurel and Hardy decided to perform live theater, making personal appearances all over the world. It was only until their health slowed them down in the 1950s, that Laurel and Hardy could no longer tour. Hardy passed away in 1957 and Laurel passed away in 1965, and they are immortalized internationally on postage stamps. My research is from these books: “The Laurel and Hardy Book” edited by Leonard Maltin and “Mr. Laurel and Mr. Hardy” by John McCabe.



Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

This beautiful early post card was sent from Bozen, Austria on April 7, 1900, to Livermore, CA where it arrived on April 24. The message side shows a color illustration of the Hotel Victoria and an inscription in German which translates to: "Greetings from Bozen". The address side of the card shows an R.P.O. cancel from the Ogden and San Francisco Railroad which handled the final journey of this card. The recipient of the card was Herbert Seller who was employed at Anspacher Bros, a hay and grain company with a store in Livermore. The sender of the card was Helen, his mother, who was on a European trip. She informs him that Bozen is a beautiful spot and soon they will be heading off to Venice where she hopes to meet up with some family members. According to Wikipedia, Bozen is now known as Bolzano and is the capital city of the province of South Tyrol in northern Italy. I want to thank Shav La Vigne of the San Jose Postcard Club for his help in providing information regarding this card.



Marsha Brandsdorfer Approved for Life Membership

After recommendation by the Governing Board, the members of the Sequoia Stamp Club unanimously approved Marsha Brandsdorfer for Life Membership in the Sequoia Stamp Club. Marsha attended her first meeting in November of 2006, joined the club in 2007 and has membership number 632. She was bitten by the stamp bug when she was very young. Originally from Queens, New York, her father retired from the Post Office in New York City. Among her collecting interests are United States, United Nations, and foreign stamps of various topics. When living in Redwood City, Marsha worked as a Legal Secretary. An accomplished writer, she wrote her first book about that experience titled "The Accidental Secretary".



Marsha began writing for our *Stamp Chatter* newsletter soon after joining the club. Her first article was on collecting Maps on Stamps, one of her favorite stamp topics. She says that she decided to collect maps on stamps because “like knowledge itself, the availability of maps on stamps is endless.” Even after having to relocate to Texas, Marsha continues to provide feature articles for the Chatter. In total, she has written over 40 stories, and undoubtedly they have contributed to the Chatter’s APS awards over the years. See her latest article on page 5.

Marsha is one of the friendliest, most dedicated, and most generous members of the Sequoia Stamp Club. In addition to writing feature articles for the Chatter, Marsha has contributed many books to our club library, including two that she authored. Other books that she contributed were books that she purchased as reference material for her writing, including A History of Britain in Thirty-Six Stamps by Chris West and The Inverted Jenny: Money, Mystery, Mania by George Amick. Congratulations to Marsha on her Lifetime Membership award.

Napoleonic Prisoner of War Mail

By Dave Moore

The Postal Conventions France/Great Britain of 1793 to 1814 allowed free transport of prisoner of war mail to the French border. This E/L is an example. (Note: In Britain, "E/L" is short for "Entire with Letter". In the postal era before postage stamps, the term "Entire" is used for the folded part of the letter with the address but without any contents. "E/L" is used when the letter is still attached as with this item.)

This item was sent from Portchester Castle in Hampshire on May 26, 1812 to the Burgomaster of Strasbourg in France; it was endorsed with **Not Paid** in red to indicate the free transport.

However, also on the front, there is manuscript 11 décimes for the later charge in France.

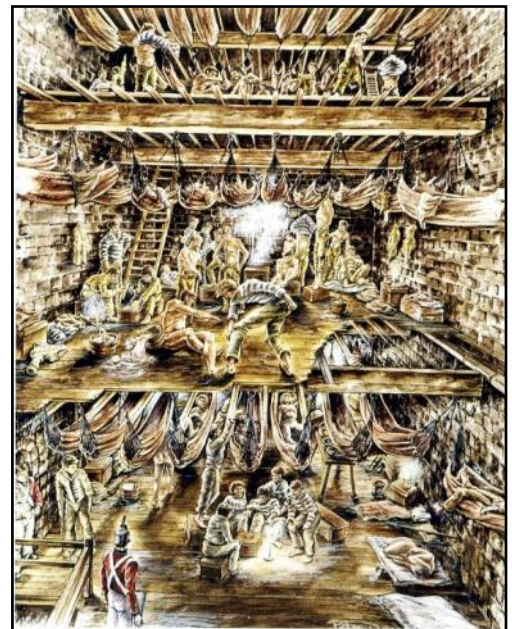


The mail was carried from Portchester Castle 225 miles to Falmouth on the Cornwall coast, even though Portsmouth was only a stone's throw away. From Falmouth it sailed to Morlaix in Brittany, France, where it was charged 11 décimes and forwarded to Strasbourg via Paris. The 11 décimes charge was calculated as 10 décimes for the 1000 to 1100 kilometers from Morlaix to Strasbourg via Paris plus one décime for a letter weighing between 6 and 8 grams. (The letter is illustrated in Renollaud's "Courrier des Prisonniers Français en Angleterre" p. 147.)

The letter was sent by J. Hacker who was a French prisoner of war captured when on route from Brest to Guadeloupe. He was a conscript of the 66th Lancer Regiment which was probably sent to attempt to recapture Guadeloupe island which had fallen to the British in 1810. The E/L contains two sheets with the second sheet still attached with the original(?) pin. The first sheet is a plea by J. Hacker to the Burgomaster of Strasbourg to request from a Mr. River, a tobacco manufacturer, the payment of interest on the 500 Francs that he had loaned him, and then to forward the money to Mr. Pergors, who on behalf of the French government regularly sent money to prisoners of war. The second enclosure gives power to the Burgomaster to withdraw the interest and send it to Hacker at Portchester Castle.

Portchester Castle has been a fortified building since Roman times (c AD 280) and part of the original wall remains. Since then it was upgraded into a stone castle over the next 1000 years and was used as both a Royal residence and the embarkation point for troops to fight in France. It was later used as a POW camp especially during the Napoleonic wars from 1810 to 1814 as in this instance. Up to 7000 prisoners were housed here in very unpleasant conditions. See the reconstruction drawing of the jail interior to the right.

Continued on page 8 . . .



How War Changes People

By Shav La Vigne

When I noticed this postcard for sale online, I decided two things: I had to try to buy it, and I had to write about it. Fortunately, I was successful in buying the card and here is my take on one of the many things that wars, in general, do to people.

I am a true dog lover and have had several of these wonderful animals during my lifetime including one, not too bright, but very loving Dachshund. Gretchen would be appalled if she was here to see this card!

War does crazy things to regularly decent, kind and caring people. Imagine hating our enemy, as bad as they may be, to the point where people actually took out their feelings on an animal who happened to be associated with the enemy country.

This World War I card is only one example of how people change when confronted with war. Each war that we have been a part of, before and since, have examples of various scapegoats that offer, I guess, some relief from the bad feelings and hatred that is brought on by war.

I thought that this postcard was the best example I could show of how crazy people can become.



Napoleonic Prisoner of War Mail ~ continued from page 7

Despite the poor conditions, the prisoners were allowed some freedom to manufacture items for sale to local residents. One type of item is shown at the right; it is a model of HMS Victory made from the bones of their meat rations. They had also obtained the machinery to make linen fabric. However, they were banned from manufacturing linen, because it was of so much better quality than that made in England; the linen was banned and the machinery destroyed.

In 1810 the prisoners were allowed to build a stage and performed many of the latest Paris productions as well as one written by the prisoners. For a time, locals were allowed into see the plays until the local theatre owners protested.



PENPEX CABOOSE

PENPEX Stamp Show will be held December 7 & 8, 2019 at the Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave. **New** this year, a **FREE photo booth** that takes pictures and prints them on postcards for you to mail to family and friends. The booth will be open Saturday from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Stop by with a smile.

Show doors open at 10 am both days but will close Saturday at 5 pm to give people a better opportunity to attend the Awards Banquet that will start at 5 pm with a social hour followed by dinner and the awards ceremony. On Sunday, the show closes at 4 pm. The complete show schedule is available online at www.penpex.org/show/schedule.



PENPEX Volunteers Needed

The PENPEX show 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. You can 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. Or help take-down on Sunday. Contact Eduardo Martino, 650-888-7598 or gualicho@yahoo.com.
- Be the first to greet people as they enter the show at the Welcome Table on Saturday and Sunday. Contact Chris Thompson, 650-592-1535.
- 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.
- 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.
- If you are youthful at heart, consider helping in the Youth Area. Take the time to show future collectors how much fun stamp collecting is. Pass on your enthusiasm to the next generations. Many games will be set out for visitors to partake in.
- Want to deal with happy stamp dealers, then help prepare homemade sandwiches or be the person to deliver their lunches. Takes only 2 hours each day.
- There is something for everyone. What makes it fun is that you can help while socializing with fellow collectors. Contact Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643 or kristin_email@yahoo.com.

An Opportunity to Exhibit

PENPEX reserves 66 frames for exhibits that are in the main hall. 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 right side of the PENPEX website <https://www.penpex.org>. The deadline is November 1, 2019 or until frames fill. So get your exhibits in soon. Contact Nestor Nuñez, 415-290-3044 or nnunezcpa@yahoo.com.

For Sequoia Stamp Club members, there is also the option to enter 1 to 4 pages. Yes, just a normal 8½" x 11" piece of paper with your material and some information about it. A great way to start exhibiting with big rewards. Contact Kristin at 408-267-6643 or kristin_email@yahoo.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 November 12. 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.

United States Stamp Company Becomes Sam's Tavern

By Ken Perkins

All it takes is a good imagination. If you've always wanted to have a beer in a stamp shop, now's your chance. According to an article in the Dec. 12, 2018 San Francisco Chronicle, Sam's Tavern, an “offshoot of the venerable Sam's Grill fills a narrow storefront that last held a stamp dealer.”

That “narrow storefront” was the longtime home of the United States Stamp Company. Founded by Earl Hamilton in 1928, the company was owned and operated by Frank Sankey, and later by his son Warren, from 1934-2014. The company's 368 Bush Street location was closed with the 2014 sale of United States Stamp Company to Ron Umile, who relocated the business to Emeryville.

In this photo, Sam's Grill, which claims to be the 5th oldest restaurant in the U.S., dating to 1867, is on the left on the ground floor, their location since 1947. 368 Bush Street, occupied by a temporary tenant, is the store enclosed by the white dotted lines; the space now contains Sam's Tavern.



This interior photo from the company website brings back fond memories to lunch hours spent chatting with U.S. Stamp Company's very knowledgeable Raymond Quan, who gave me an education in the finer points of philately.

If you do visit Sam's Tavern to hoist a beer in memory of one of San Francisco's last stamp dealers, take a look at the wall behind the bar. While remodeling the stamp shop, the new owners were surprised to find a wall of charred brick behind some plaster. The brick was blackened by the fire which followed the great quake of 1906.

