

Stamp



Chatter

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October - December, 2021

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 7:00 pm. Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

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

More info at:
www.penpex.org/ssc



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President's Message

Dear Fellow Philatelists,

Summer has ended and now we have one of the busiest times of year. We opened the fall season with Emmett Whitfield's first presentation on topical stamps representing baseball. It was a great presentation with wonderful information about the history of America's other pastime baseball. The secret first pastime is collecting stamps! Oh yes, there is football, too. There is plenty to do.

Keeping us busy is preparation for PENPEX. If you haven't already, please check in with Kristin Patterson to help her plan for this great show. Plan for fun starting with set up on Friday, December 3rd and then Saturday the 4th and Sunday 5th for the show. There are many things to do but with just a few hours of your support you can make all the difference. You'll also have the opportunity to meet with your friends and find those missing philatelic items you are looking for, or forgot you needed. Contact Joe Coleman for the BIG Auction. Don't forget the exhibits. We are bringing in applications already. There are some great topics that look very interesting. It is still not too late to get something ready to display for the show. I am (Patrick Ford) your Exhibit Chairperson. Go to penpex.org for more information.

Your Sequoia Stamp Club Board voted to keep in-person meetings on pause for now. A task force is meeting by Zoom to plan for the hopeful coming of in-person meetings. Please remember your safety is at the forefront of the Board's thoughts.

Thank you and stay well,

Patrick

Patrick Ford, President, Sequoia Stamp Club



Event Schedule: Club Meetings (in black) and Other Events (in green)

- ♦ Sep. 15-Nov. 30: [WINEPEX](#), Online Virtual Exhibits, no in-person show this year
- ♦ Oct. 12: 6:00 pm SSC Board meeting (all welcome). 7:00 Member Favorite Philatelic Items, Sequoia Members A-L. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ Oct. 23-24: [East Bay Collectors Club Stamp Show](#), Civic Park, Walnut Creek
- ♦ Oct. 26: Members Favorite Philatelic Items, Sequoia members M-Z. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ Nov. 6-7: [SACAPEX](#), Scottish Rite Temple, Sacramento
- ♦ Nov. 9: Nomination of Officers. Larke Live Auction 40 items.
- ♦ Nov. 13-14: [Filatelic Fiesta Stamp Show](#), Napredak Hall, San Jose
- ♦ Nov. 23: Election of Officers. Video: The Stickney Rotary Press and Collecting Joint Line Pairs. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ Dec. 4-5: [PENPEX Stamp Show](#), Community Activities Building, Redwood City
- ♦ Dec. 14: Holiday Party. Online mini-auction.
- ♦ Dec. 28: No meeting. See you next year.

All club meetings start at 7:00 pm Pacific time and are virtual online Zoom meetings until further notice, because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic; there is no date for resuming in-person meetings in the Community Activities Building. The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

Picture Gallery

Summer Picnic, July 6



Joe Coleman organized the picnic in spite of recent injuries.



The Waffle Roost truck provided the food. Eduardo Martino ordering, B Durrer pondering, Ed Rosen, Dan Berger, and Miriam Thurston waiting for their orders.



Goyo Alvarez showing his sister the slinky that he won.



Kristin Patterson welcoming Malcolm Chatchatoorian to the show.

WESTPEX, July 30 - August 1



Kristin giving her talk about Civil War Playing Card Stamps.



Peter Adams gave a presentation about Errors, Freaks, and Oddities

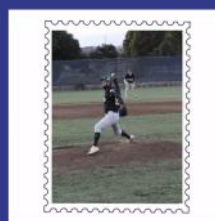


Patrick Ford virtually presenting APS Sparkplug Award to Joe Coleman.



Photographs and screenshots courtesy of Ken Perkins.

Baseball Stamps



By: Emmett Whitfield Date: 9/14/21

Emmett Whitfield talking about his favorite sport, baseball.



Newsletter Staff: Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Patrick Ford; 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.

P.T. Barnum

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

I was captivated by P.T. Barnum's autobiography, "Barnum's Own Story." Born in Connecticut on July 5, 1810, Phineas Taylor Barnum began his career as a "showman" in 1835, when he made arrangements to exhibit Joice Heth, a black woman who was claimed to be 161 years old and a former nurse of President George Washington. An old bill of sale was found in Virginia at the Record Office that was said to authenticate her age. Barnum exhibited her at different venues in various cities. The controversy of some not believing in the longevity of Heth made audiences more curious to want to see her. Some felt that the document pertaining to her longevity was probably forged. Regardless of what the truth was, Barnum learned that capitalizing on an individual's curiosity sells.



After learning about Charles S. Stratton, a two-foot-tall child, weighing only 16 pounds, Barnum went to meet him at his hometown in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Barnum made a financial deal with his parents to tour with him and the child, as Barnum desired to exhibit Stratton as he had with Heth. He introduced Stratton as "General Tom Thumb." They travelled to different towns and cities in the U.S. and Europe, and soon the General's fame was spread. Barnum discovered that he too had become a curiosity to others. Often, he would see others watching him or hear people comment, "There's Barnum." Barnum then contracted with European singer Jenny Lind without even hearing her perform, but based on her impeccable reputation in London. Barnum worked as her manager touring with her through out different parts of the country, until finally she amicably ended her contract with Barnum when she married a German composer and returned to Europe with her new husband.

Barnum bought a building in New York City and named it Barnum's American Museum. He spent money on advertising and came up with different publicity stunts to have people visit his museum. It had a collection of curiosities and unusual novelties to draw interest. He also added a large selection of animals in his museum to captivate attendees. He offered family friendly variety performances for entertainment. His museum became very popular and made Barnum a rich man. It was on the 13th of July 1865, that Barnum learned by telegram that his American Museum was destroyed by fire. He decided he would open a new museum by the fall. He sent agents throughout Europe and America to purchase new curiosities. While reading a newspaper, Barnum found out about the destruction of his latest museum on Tuesday morning, March 3, 1869, which was also by fire.



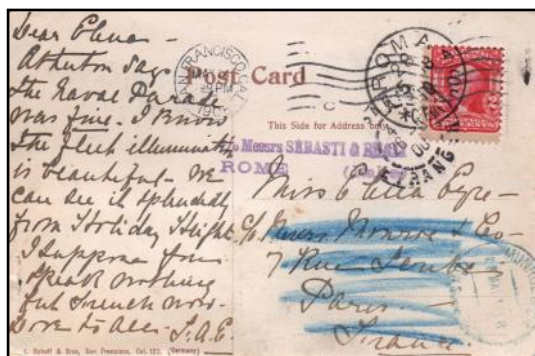
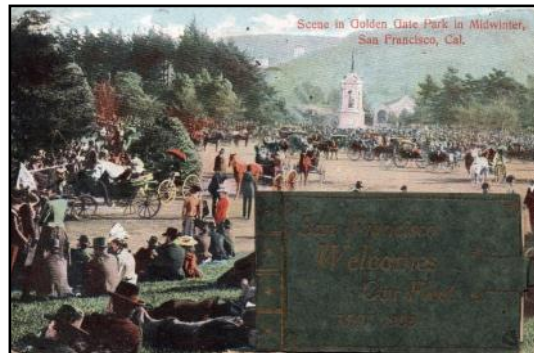
Relinquishing museums, Barnum prepared a massive traveling circus show with performers and animals. He made arrangements with railway companies to help him transport his show. By 1873, Barnum's show was quite extravagant and successful with audiences filling his show tents to capacity. Called "The Greatest Show on Earth," Barnum would partner with James A. Bailey, who was instrumental in helping him obtain the popular Jumbo the Elephant, and named the circus, "The Barnum and Bailey Show." Having lived a fulfilling life, Barnum passed away during the early evening of April 7, 1891.



Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

Much to the satisfaction of Shav La Vigne, the subject of this month's column will be a postcard. It depicts a Scene in Golden Gate Park in Midwinter, San Francisco, Cal. by the publisher I. Scheff & Bros. According to information found on the web page by Steven A. Ness,¹ I. Scheff and Bros. (brothers Isadore and David Scheff) was a postcard publisher in San Francisco for a few years right after the 1906 earthquake. This card has stock number 123, and the earliest written or postmark date for this card is 10/16/1907.



This particular postcard was mailed from San Francisco on May 14, 1908. It was sent to Miss Elena Eyre c/o Messrs. Monroe & Co, 7 rue Scribe, Paris, France. Elena was about 12 years of age at the time and traveling in Europe. Monroe & Co. served as a mail pick up location for foreign travelers. The card arrived at Monroe & Co. on May 26, but apparently Elena had already left Paris as the postcard was then forwarded to Rome, Italy, to Messrs. Sebasti & Reali which offered a similar service in that city. The card arrived in Rome on May 28 where it was received by Elena.

The card was sent by Elena's aunt Florence Atherton Eyre as indicated by the initials F.A.E. She writes about the Naval Parade that she witnessed. "Atherton says the Naval Parade was fine. I know the fleet illumination is beautiful - we can see it splendidly from Holiday Heights." She is referring to the Great White Fleet which President Roosevelt had sent on an around-the-world voyage to demonstrate American power. It had arrived in San Francisco on May 8, and perhaps a million people had watched it steam in the Golden Gate.² The Atherton that is mentioned in the message was Atherton MacCondray. He was a cousin of Elena's whose family was in the shipping business in San Francisco.

The most amazing thing about this postcard is the attachment that is affixed to the front of the card. It has the title "San Francisco Welcomes Our Fleet May, 1908". The attachment opens up to depict illustrations of the 16 battleships that made up the fleet. The ships were



painted white with gilt trim to show this was a goodwill voyage. Part of the fleet left for Seattle during the early summer, and all the ships sailed from San Francisco on July 7. The fleet was well received everywhere it went, and it returned to Hampton Roads on Washington's Birthday, 1909. The fourteen-month long voyage was a grand pageant of American sea power³.

1. http://www.nesssoftware.com/www/sf/sf_postcards.php?id=Scheff

2. <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Great-White-Fleet-visited-S-F-100-years-ago-3216437.php>

3. <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/the-great-white-fleet.html>

PENPEX CABOOSE

PENPEX is just 2 months away; December 4 & 5, 2021. After cancelling PENPEX 2020 due to Covid Pandemic restrictions, there have been many successful stamp shows in 2021. WESTPEX which was held only 7 miles from Redwood City, held a great 3-day show July 30 to August 1, 2021. Two weeks later, the 4-day Great American Stamp Show went off without any glitches in Chicago. I anticipate the same for PENPEX.

We now have a dozen dealers confirmed and are waiting on three more. The Flea Market already has many mini-collections, duplicate stamps, and other philatelic material priced to sell. Also, the much anticipated PENPEX Silent Auction has great items already inventoried. You can download the [seller form and lot form](#) from the PENPEX website. Contact Joe Coleman, 650-575-3000, if you have questions about the auction.

Exhibits is a big part of PENPEX. This year, PENPEX was selected as the show to host the [Holmsten Award](#) which is given to the best exhibit by a [CNCPS](#) club member. Sequoia Stamp Club, as well as many other Northern California Clubs, is a member of the CNCPS. If you are interested in exhibiting, contact Patrick Ford, 650-814-3444, or download an [exhibit entry form](#) from the PENPEX website and fill it out.

Miriam Thurston is working on two show cachets. Saturday's cachet will highlight the bright and beautiful area of Redwood City, California and will be franked with the new Sun Science stamps which shine brightly on each cover due to the foil treatment. The Sunday show cachet will highlight the much anticipated arrival of Santa Claus. These covers will be franked with the soon to be issued "A Visit from St. Nick" stamps. Both cachets will have a unique cancel that will tie the stamp theme with the show.

This year, PENPEX will hold a Banquet Party on Saturday night at Harry's Hofbrau. Everyone is welcome to join us. We will reveal the Grand and Reserve Grand exhibit winners but will not announce each exhibit and their award level. This will leave more time for people to socialize with other stamp collectors in a fun and relaxing environment. PENPEX will provide the dessert and attendees pay for what they order at Harry's. We hope all PENPEX attendees,



PENPEX 2019
auction room

exhibitors, and Sequoia Stamp Club members will attend as the food is tasty and reasonably priced. Their Prime Rib is the talk of the town. Seating is limited in the Banquet Room, so reserve a seat with Raul Menjivar, 650-898-5233 (call or text), or p40shark@hotmail.com.

The Welcome Table run by David Abrahams will have some great raffle lots; 3 of the raffle lots will include a \$100 bottle of wine from a local vineyard. For the safety of our young, future philatelists, there will not be a Youth Area this year. Instead, the Flea Market will be in the end room.

PENPEX happens because of many, great volunteers. But we are always looking for people to join the PENPEX team. Please talk with Kristin Patterson 408-267-6643 about where you can help before, during, or after the show.

Closed Album - In Memory of Ray Bolleri

Ray Bolleri passed away on Friday, August 13, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 84 years old. A mass in his memory was held on September 11 at St. Charles Catholic Church in San Carlos. He is survived by Maria, his wife for fifty two years, his son Danny, and a granddaughter.

Ray joined the Sequoia Stamp Club in 2005 and was member number 614. He was also active in the Little House Stamp Club, and along with Miriam Thurston helped to establish the Wednesday morning Little Club at the Community Activities Building in Redwood City. Ray collected United States and foreign stamps, especially Scandinavia, and enjoyed buying at club and PENPEX auctions to add to his extensive collection.



Ray was born on March 19, 1937 in San Mateo to Raymond and Mimi Bolleri, who were both Italian immigrants. He was raised in Redwood City and graduated from Carlmont High School in 1955. He then attended San Francisco State where he obtained a BA in History. He worked for over 20 years as a Senior Buyer for Ampex Corporation in Redwood City. Ray was active in sports, both as a participant and as a coach. He played baseball in high school, and later worked for the San Carlos Recreation Department and coached Babe Ruth baseball teams. In later years, he played adult softball, and was a dedicated player on the Red Morton tennis courts. He was a popular member of the Red Morton Regulars, an informal Redwood City tennis group. He will be greatly missed by all, especially his stamp and tennis buddies.

Book Review: Lawrence Block's *Generally Speaking*

By John Corwin

Lawrence Block is a prolific author. *Generally Speaking* is a non-fiction book, which is much different than Block's usual fiction novels. Among his many novels are six about John Keller, who is usually just known as Keller in the books. Keller is an assassin-for-hire, but like Block (the author), Keller is also a stamp collector, and a few of Keller's philatelic experiences are included in *Generally Speaking*.

However, most of the book is a compilation of 33 monthly articles that he submitted to *Linn's Stamp News* starting in 2009. These articles are written in a light-hearted manner, and they include subjects that we stamp collectors can easily relate to.

For example, what should we collect? Topicals? A single country? A region? Worldwide? An era? Block decided that he would collect worldwide (excluding U.S.) up to 1940. A period nicely covered by the *Scott Classic Catalogue*.

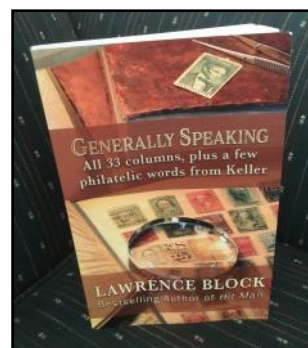
Other examples: Mint or used? Hinged or never hinged? Mounts or hinges? Ungummed mint stamps? Keeping an inventory? Block decided he would try to find mint stamps and that missing gum was okay. He uses vinyl mounts in his albums, and he circles the stamps that he owns in his *Scott Classic Catalogue*.

The last eleven articles are written in an especially entertaining fashion. He presents himself as a teacher of philatelic topics to a class of children. The inquisitive children ask many questions, some of which challenge Block's collecting decisions.

I listened to the audiobook version of *Generally Speaking* before buying the paperback version. The narrator, Robert Fass, does a very good job of capturing Block's carefree style, especially in the sections with school children. I purchased the paperback version, because I thought that there might be pictures of some of the stamps mentioned, and that was indeed the case.

However, I have a few quibbles with the book. First, is the title. The phrase "Generally Speaking" conveys nothing about the extensive philatelic topics inside. Second, the cover of the paperback version shows an album page of mostly U.S. stamps even though Block does not collect U.S. Third, the images of the stamps in the paperback are in grayscale rather than color as I had hoped. Fourth, the school children sections are not as effective in print as they are in the audiobook.

But overall, it was an enjoyable read (and listen). Recommended reading for all stamp collectors.



An Irishman in Bulgaria

By Ken Perkins



A flat gravestone surrounded by a small fence overlooks the Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila, Bulgaria's largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox Monastery. The Monastery is shown nestled in a forested valley on several Bulgarian Stamps (Scott Bulgaria #176-9). Monasteries aren't unusual subjects for Bulgarian stamps, but these particular examples from a Cyrillic-alphabet-using country stand out due to their carrying an inscription in English: "Bourchier's resting place".



Who was Bourchier and what was he doing in Bulgaria?

James Bourchier, a teacher at Eton, born in county Limerick in 1850, and educated at Trinity College Dublin and King's College, Cambridge, abandoned teaching to become a journalist. In 1888 Bourchier was assigned to the Balkans by the London Times. By all accounts, he quickly fell in love with the beauty of Bulgaria and soon made his second home in Sofia's Grand Hotel Bulgaria. He became active in Bulgarian politics, got to know princes and politicians and became a semi-official diplomat of sorts, arguing

Bulgarian causes at several international conferences. Both Greek and Bulgarian leaders acknowledged his influence in the formation of the Greco-Bulgarian Alliance of 1911-12. The Macedonians even gave him a horse, 'Yaver', which he proudly rode every day along Sofia's Constantinople Road.

At the outbreak of World War I, he tried to convince the Allies to promise Bulgaria would regain several lost provinces in return for joining the Allies. When Bulgaria instead sided with Germany, he was forced, as a British subject, to leave the country. The Bulgarian government, in an act of goodwill towards Bourchier, released his servant and friend Ivan from having to serve in the army in order to look after Bourchier's horse and affairs. He settled for a time in Bucharest, Romania, writing to Bulgaria "Though you have chosen the wrong side in the war, I do not forget your cause is just and, when peace comes, I shall defend the legitimate rights of the Bulgarian nation."

Bulgaria, as a belligerent, had no representation at the 1919 Versailles Conference, but Bourchier was indeed there as an unofficial representative of its interests. His role at Versailles has been likened to that of T.E. Lawrence ('Lawrence of Arabia'), who also unofficially attended. In the words of Michael Foley of The Irish Times, Bourchier and Lawrence "were lone voices arguing for something no one was interested in anymore". (A young Ho Chi Minh also attended the Conference, but that's another story.)



Bourchier died in Sofia at the end of 1920. A day of mourning was declared, and his wish to be buried at the Rila Monastery was granted by Tsar Boris III himself. The laurel wreath surrounding his portrait on the stamps is similar to one used on a stamp honoring Tsar Boris issued in the same year, 1921. He probably would have enjoyed the association with the Tsar, but I think Bourchier would want to be remembered as he's portrayed in Czech artist Ivan Murkvichka's painting "Rachenitsa", showing him dancing in Bulgarian dress, surrounded by his Bulgarian friends.

Members' Advertisements

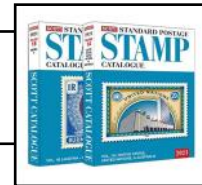
Paul van Ravenswaay Home: 415-900-5022
125 Solano St. Cell: 415-936-9296 Text
Tiburon, CA 94920



I have an extensive selection of items to trade or sell, including high catalogue stamps and covers. I started collecting after inheriting my grandfather's collection and have attended several auctions. Concentration in Great Britain, France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Canada, British and French colonies

I wish to trade for pre-1940 stamps in Western Europe and Sweden, Canada, US, and British Colonies. I buy or sell when trades are not available. I thoroughly enjoy looking through stamps and the hunt for interesting items.

WANTED: 2021 Scott Catalogues, Complete Set - Vols: 1-6 Dan Aguiar,
aguiar.dj@gmail.com or (650) 245-9158. Will consider 2020 set.



Greetings to all my fellow Sequoia Stamp Club members. It's Denis Norrington, your full-time professional philatelist. Now that you've bought all that material at club auctions, you may need my services to help additionally with your stamp collecting needs.

My stamp prices are far lower than those of most other dealers, especially because I no longer have a retail shop and am not burdened with extra rent and utilities payments. Plus no motor fuel costs (going up . . . up . . . up . . .) and no time spent driving to and from a retail location. And Sequoia Club members get an extra 10% off.

I am just a phone call, text message, or email away, and I don't act like I'm doing you a favor to sell to you, to buy from you, or even talk to you. Just ask your great member and my long-time client, Dan Berger. He'll tell you. I've been buying, selling, appraising, and consigning stamps for 65 years. Give me a call or drop me a line. Let's talk; I am at your service.

Denis Norrington, 415-425-6683, Denis@arrowstamp.com, freedomman1@comcast.net

Stamp Sale at the Covid Stamp Store



Early US, Canadian, British, French, and German stamps for sale at reasonable prices. Collections at less than 20% Scott. Mint postage 20¢+ at 25% off face value. Blocks, booklets, covers, accumulations priced to sell. Send email to jgiacoma2@comcast.net or call Jim at 650-365-2956 for info or to make an appointment to view items.



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Sequoia Stamp Club members may submit advertisements for no charge. Full details are available at <https://www.penpex.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rules-for-Classified-Ads.pdf>