

Stamp



Chatter

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January - March, 2022

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.

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P. O. Box 235
San Carlos, CA 94070

More info at:
www.penpex.org/ssc



President's Message

Greetings Fellow Philatelists,

The new year has arrived! As with 2020, the year of 2021 took its tolls and gave some gifts. Philatelists are fortunate to have the ability to take some refuge with our collections and philatelist friends.

PENPEX was extra special this year since the show had been on hiatus. Kristin Patterson mentioned that this show was especially challenging due to not being able to meet people prior to the show in person. Despite the challenges Kristin was able to lead the teams to new record levels. Congratulations to the PENPEX Team and Kristin.



Our own Sequoia Club, *Stamp Chatter* and Editor, John Corwin received the APS Star Route Medal. As John graciously mentions, it takes everyone in the club to make a great newsletter. He is right, the contributors of articles and events by our members help to make this club run well. One of the comments from the APS judges stated that "The club looks like a lot of fun with very active members and a strong editorial staff."

The Reopening Task Group recommended to the Sequoia Governing Board to delay reopening in-person meetings through January 31, 2022 and to reconsider further delays depending on the status of the ongoing pandemic. The Governing Board also voted upon recommendation from the Reopening Task Group, that an updated vaccination status would need to be provided in order to attend meetings in person.

Stay well,
Patrick Ford
President, Sequoia Stamp Club

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

- ♦ Jan. 8-9: Norcal Winterfest Stamp Show, Doubletree Suites, Rancho Cordova
- ♦ Jan. 11: Inauguration of Officers. Past Presidents Present. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ Jan. 25: Philatelic Christmas Gifts. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ Feb. 8: 6 pm SSC Board Meeting (all welcome). 7 PM STAMPPEX presentation by Peter Adams and Robert Brilliant. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Feb. 22: "A Stamp Collecting Area of Interest" by Patrick Shandonay.
- ♦ Mar. 8: Larke Live Auction, 40 items, Jim Giacomazzi auctioneer.
- ♦ Mar. 22: TBA.

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

Favorite Philatelic Item
Nights, October, 2021



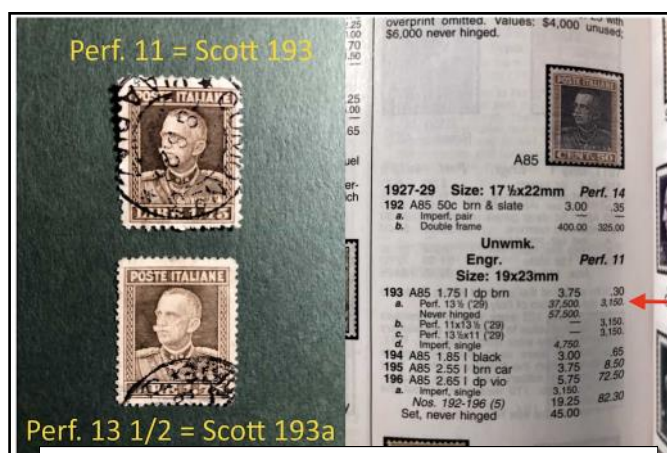
Joe Spina likes transportation stamps especially trains.



Patrick Ford liked this Italian postal delivery vehicle.



Gerrit Verschuur showed this fire-damaged cover that was sent from his grandmother in Italy to him and his family in South Africa



Kevin Kraemer found this high-value variety while sorting through a pile of Italian stamps.



Kristin Patterson showed a Civil War era 4-cent playing card stamp on an 1864 coffin-delivery document.



Laura Peterhans showed a 1930 APS Convention "cinderella" label.

Screenshots courtesy of Ken Perkins.

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.

John Lennon

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

"The Beatles" originally called "The Silver Beatles," were founded by Liverpool lads, Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison. Pete Best was initially their drummer until they signed with Parlophone records. At that point, he was fired and replaced by Richard "Ricky" Starkey aka Ringo Starr, who was a much better drummer. Brian Epstein became their manager. John married his longtime girlfriend Cynthia Powell, who was pregnant with his son, Julian. The band released singles and albums, and toured throughout England.

After the Beatles performed on the Ed Sullivan show in February 1964, they became quite popular in America. They toured throughout the U.S. and Canada, but fans were out-of-control screaming and tossing objects at them, such as candies, as they performed. After a while, John decided he wanted to change the "squeaky clean" image of the Beatles, by making comments to the press against Christianity and stating that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. For safety and because of rowdy fans, they decided not to tour anymore and returned to England to concentrate on making more albums. After Brian Epstein passed away on August 27, 1967, they decided to manage themselves.



Azerbaijan, Scott #546



Maldivian Islands, Scott #2112

John had an affair with Japanese artist Yoko Ono, which wrecked his already troubled marriage. After John's divorce from Cynthia finalized, he married Yoko on March 20, 1969. John decided to use his fame to promote peace and wrote "Give Peace a Chance," and decided to leave the Beatles. After the 1970 breakup, John wrote the song "Imagine," also about peace. John and Yoko moved to New York City on August 13, 1971, after they were issued short-term visas, and rented an apartment in Greenwich Village. John and Yoko remained in the United States for hearings while their immigration case was handled by attorney Leon Wildes, the President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. President Nixon found John a threat because he was vocally against the Vietnam War and Nixon felt John would influence young voters against him. So, Nixon ordered the FBI to keep a watchful eye on John. This didn't end until Nixon won his second term. In April 1973, John and Yoko moved to the Dakota on 1 West 72nd Street on the Upper West Side. Their son Sean was born October 9, 1975, their immigration battle ended, and they were finally allowed to stay in the United States. The couple remained homebodies after Sean was born.

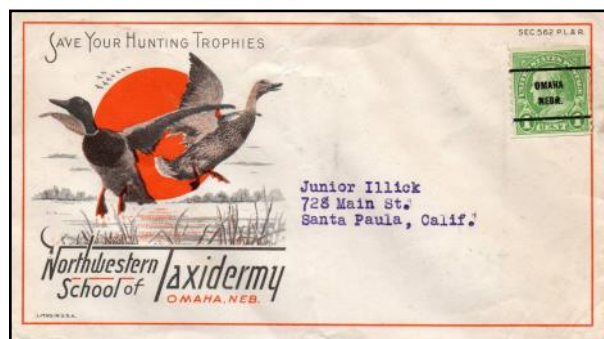
Over 4 years later, John and Yoko recorded new music for their album, "Double Fantasy" which was released in November 1980. A few weeks later, on the evening of December 8, 1980, Mark Chapman, who had asked John for his autograph earlier in the day, shot John several times when he was outside the Dakota. Chapman did not try to escape from the scene and was arrested and later convicted, where to-date he remains in prison. John died on the way to Roosevelt Hospital, while being transported by police. When told of his death, the world grieved. This talented artist is memorialized on U.S. and international stamps. Research was based on John Patterson's biography, The Last Days of John Lennon.



St. Vincent, Scott #2212

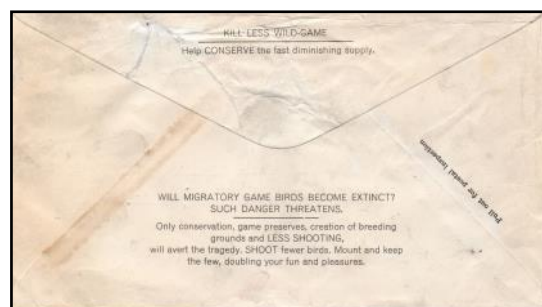
Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi



I found this cover interesting for several reasons. First was the eye catching advertisement on the front for the Northwestern School of Taxidermy of Omaha, Neb. It shows two ducks in flight with the message “Save Your Hunting Trophies”. The back side of the envelope emphasizes the message to conserve migratory game birds by shooting fewer and mounting them.

The Northwest School of Taxidermy was founded by James William Elwood in 1903. He was an avid sportsman and began learning taxidermy as a boy. Elwood felt that taxidermy should not be kept a secret and went about creating lessons to share by mail correspondence. The Northwestern School of Taxidermy was located at 1202 Howard Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Although it started out slowly the first year, it grew fast. Advertisements were placed in magazines such as Outdoor Life, Field & Stream, and Boy’s Life, about how to learn taxidermy. The mail order correspondence courses taught lessons in removing and treating all kinds of hides and mounting of animal specimens. The school closed down in the early 1980s.¹



Another reason that I like this cover is that it has a precancel stamp for Omaha, Neb, which matches the location of the school. A precancel is a postage stamp that has been legitimately canceled before being affixed to mail, usually in the form of an overprint on definitive series stamps. Precanceled stamps are typically used by mass mailers, who can save the postal system time and effort by delivering the stamped mail ready for sorting. The postal administration will typically offer an incentive in the form of a reduced price for precanceled stamps in volume.²

At the top right hand corner of the envelope the imprint “SEC.562 P.L.&R.” can be found. From October 1, 1932 (until it was superseded in 1949) anything sent third class bulk rate had to have the phrase Sec.562 P.L.&R. printed on the envelope, indicating the article was in compliance with Section 562 of the Postal Laws and Regulations.³ I would estimate that this letter was sent in the mid-1930’s.

The letter was sent to Junior Illick, at 728 Main St. in Santa Paula, Calif. Charles Raymond Illick, Jr., the son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles R. Illick, was born in Santa Paula in 1924. His father was a well established doctor whose practice was located on Main Street. Charles junior grew up in Santa Paula and later served with the 20th Air Force in World War II as a radar man. In 1949 he graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in music.⁴ I do wonder if he ever took those lessons in taxidermy?

1. <http://taxidermyhalloffame.org/j-w-elwood/>

2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precancel>

3. <http://wesewretro.com/2011/11/how-to-date-vintage-mail-order-sewing-patterns/>

4. <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/KFY4-9JD/dr-charles-raymond-illick-1886-1966>

New Members

By John Corwin

Since the pandemic began in March 2020, our club has continued to be active by using the Zoom video conferencing application for our twice monthly meetings. And during that time, we have welcomed many new members to the club - from all over the country. They are listed below along with their collecting interests.

Raul Menjivar, Daly City, CA	El Salvador, U.S., Latin America, Topicals
Ron Matteri, San Anselmo, CA	Airmails, Vietnam
Jim Ferone, Bridgewater, NJ	U.S., Malta, Stampless Covers
Jim Stratton, Mountain View, CA	Train and bird stamps
Carolyn Stratton, Mountain View, CA	Animals, Plants
P.J. Odegard, Little River, CA	Costa Rica, Latin America
Joe Spina, Walnut Creek, CA	Postcards
Emmett Whitfield, Foster City, CA	South Africa, Baseball, Black History stamps
Dirk Price, Palo Alto, CA	U.S., Germany, Olympics, U.N., Asia, Canada
Denis Norrington, San Francisco, CA	Western Europe, Asia, British Commonwealth
Jim Carlisle, Portland, OR	U.S., Russia
Goyo Alvarez, Redwood City, CA	U.S., some worldwide
Paul Van Ravenswaay, Tiburon, CA	Great Britain, Scandinavia, France, Germany, Canada, U.S., British Colonies before 1940
Terry Blanchard, San Mateo, CA	Find home for late wife's collection
Joe Driscoll, San Carlos, CA	U.S., Canada
Patrick Shandonay, San Ramon, CA	Novice, just learning about collecting
Hal Ottaway, Eastborough, KS	Postcards
Dan Coleman, San Francisco, CA	Western Europe, U.S., Canada
Jeff Whisenant, Sunnyvale, CA	Worldwide used
David McIntyre, Los Altos, CA	Postal History, U.S. postage dues, birds
Iliya Shekhter, Mountain View, CA	USSR, sports stamps
Vivek Chopra, South San Francisco, CA	British India, Cape of Good Hope, Hyderabad
Heng Tang, Santa Clara, CA	China, U.S. stamps

PENPEX CABOOSE

This year's PENPEX Stamp Show was great success after holding no show in 2020. We had many volunteers who chipped in to make PENPEX 2021 run smoothly. Shown on this page the next one are a few photos taken by Kristin Patterson and Ken Perkins.



At left: Joe Coleman carrying in one of the exhibit frames.



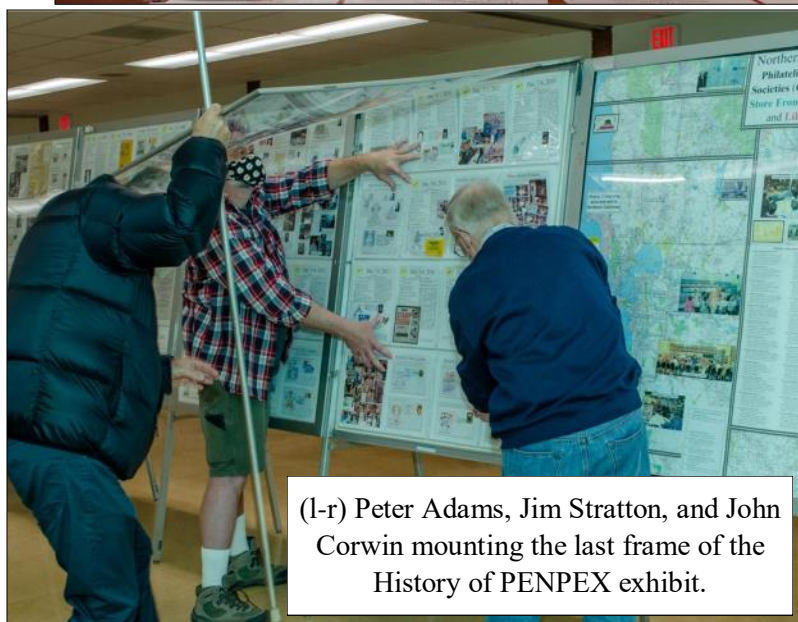
At right: Miriam Thurston showing off her PENPEX display case at the Redwood City Library.



Laura Peterhans assembling the programs on Friday.



Gerrit Verschuur mounting the History of PENPEX exhibit.



(l-r) Peter Adams, Jim Stratton, and John Corwin mounting the last frame of the History of PENPEX exhibit.

DURING THE PENPEX SHOW

The show attendance was great even with Covid restrictions; wearing of a face mask and eating outside. For the third time, there was a Flea Market with material that had been donated. Here are more photos taken on Saturday.



SSC Pres. and Exhibits Chair, Patrick Ford (left) giving Tom Hayes his APS Best Member Exhibit certificate while PENPEX Chair Kristin Patterson smiles.



Goyo Alvarez standing in front of his first exhibit of early U.S. stamps.

At right: The flea market room filled buzzing with activity as people look at philatelic material for sale.

Below: PENPEX show cachet artist Miriam Thurston selling her wares.



Raul Menjivar (left) and Dan Aguiar working the PENPEX snack bar.

Pleasures and Challenges Found in Collecting U.S. Graf Zeppelin Flight Covers

By Robert Brilliant

Several years ago, almost on a whim, I bought a C18 "Baby Zepp" flight cover featuring the cachet of the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress exposition. Looking at the cover in my homemade album transported me back to that brief, romantic era in the 1930s when the great airships, the Graf Zeppelin, and later, the Hindenburg, ruled the skies. That cover became an exciting bit of history for me to own and, as a collector, it launched my interest in acquiring more Graf Zeppelin flight covers franked with the C18 50-cent stamp, and later, its C13-15 big brothers.

Collecting Zeppelin flight covers is a big field, with Zeppelin-related stamps issued by 30 countries besides the US. When one factors in cachets, cancellations, destinations, and other criteria, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by how much there is to study and collect. For the sake of my sanity, and budget, I decided to limit my collecting to US Graf Zeppelin flight covers featuring the aforementioned C13-15 and C18 stamps.

Virtually all the mail flown on the Graf Zeppelin was philatelic in nature, and as a result, the covers were almost always carefully preserved by their recipients. Today, there are plenty of Zepp covers on the market, but their popularity and relative scarcity has kept prices strong, especially for the higher quality and more unusual material. As a new collector venturing into this complex field, I had to determine what was worth buying and at what fair price.

Here are few of the areas within the world of Zeppelin covers that I've found useful for building a varied and interesting collection:

First Day Covers: For the 1930 C13-15 issue, April 19th 1930 was the first day of issue. Owing to the high Depression era cost of the stamps, very few covers were submitted for First Day cancellation. As a result, these FDCs are highly sought after and quite expensive, but they can still be found in sales at all the major philatelic auctions houses (Siegel, Kelleher, Cherrystone, Rumsey, etc.). For the C18 issue, there were 5 official first day issues as follows: October 2, 1933 New York, NY; October 4, 1933 Akron, OH; October 6, 1933 Washington, DC; October 6, 1933, Miami, FL; and October 7, 1933, Chicago, IL. A first day cancellation was afforded at every stop made by the Graf Zeppelin on its Century of Progress flight across the eastern US. Of these the Akron FDC is the scarcest with the highest catalog value.

Combinations on Cover: Combinations of the 1930 issue with mixed usage of the 65-cent, \$1.30, and \$2.60 stamps on a single cover make for colorful and highly desirable items. The most desirable of all combination covers are "trio" covers featuring all three of the 1930 Zeppelin stamps with the special "This article made the complete roundtrip" purple cachet. The combined \$4.55 postage overpaid the roundtrip letter rate by 65 cents, making this a less popular mailing option. Also, of the thousands of letters mailed, less than 500 actually flew all 18,000+ miles of Graf Zeppelin's complete round trip. With these two factors in mind, it's easy to see why a trio cover is a rare and key acquisition for any Zeppelin collection. I was fortunate enough to acquire such a cover at a recent Siegel auction and it's the crown jewel of my collection to date.

Continued on page 9 . . .



Collecting U.S. Graf Zeppelin Flight Covers ~ continued from page 8

Multiples: Pairs, blocks, and plate blocks of any of the Zeppelin stamps on flight covers are visually appealing and in demand by collectors. The 50-cent C18 is more commonly found in multiples on cover, often showing up in pairs, groups of 3, and blocks of four. Plate blocks of 4 or 6 on cover are very desirable, especially for the C13-15 set where such usages represent an exorbitant (for the time) amount of money.

Cachets: All covers flown on the Graf Zeppelin's 1930 Europe Pan-America flight received the official magenta diamond shaped cachet showing the extent of the route flown by each individual cover, plus a special bright red circular cachet applied in Friedrichshafen, Germany, the Graf Zeppelin's home port. For the 1933 Century of Progress flight, a distinctive purple Graf Zeppelin flight cachet was applied. Lack of these cachets indicates that the cover in question was not actually flown on the Graf Zeppelin.

Private cachets applied by artists and stamp dealers make for a fascinating sub-category within the world of Zeppelin collecting. Among the most beautiful and famous of the private cachets are those created by stamp dealer and artist AC Roessler, who was most active in the 1930s and 40s. Roessler cachets are known for their superb design and artistic quality, and their presence on a cover can drastically drive up the market value.

Hand-painted artwork is yet another feature of some Zepp covers, usually found on the 1933 covers. In my collection, there's a beautiful miniature oil painting of the Graf Zeppelin painted directly onto the front of a flown C18 cover. The artist, Tom Mueller, was well known for his hand-painted cachets on covers of the 1930s, 40s, and later.



Unusual Destinations: Most of the letter and cards dispatched on the Graf Zeppelin flew the Friedrichshafen-Lakehurst route, making US final destinations by far the most common for these Zeppelin flight covers. But other, less-common destinations are known. These include addresses in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Spain, South America, and throughout Germany. Such unusual destinations add depth and interest to a collection.

Mixed Frankings: One particularly interesting sub-specialty of Zeppelin covers are covers with mixed frankings of U.S. Zeppelin stamps and stamps from other countries. These are among the most exotic and rare of all Zeppelin covers, and are a challenging area for the collector. Alas, I don't own any such covers, but in the meantime, this link will suffice for viewing an extraordinary collection of Zeppelin mixed franking covers.

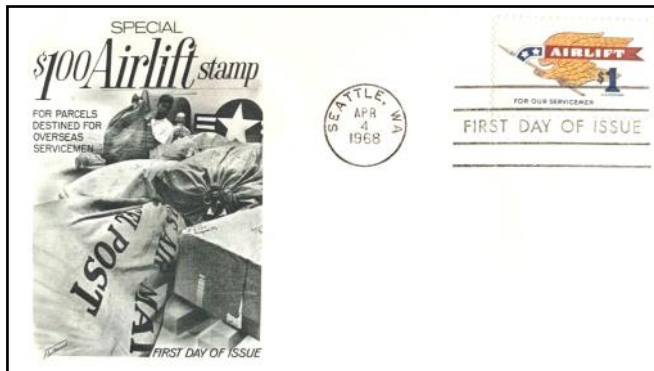
https://kelleherstampassets.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/ExhibitionCollections/exhibit_panam_flight.pdf

Autographs and Recipients: Some Zeppelin covers are found autographed by Dr. Hugo Eckener, manager of the Zeppelin Airship company and commander of the Graf Zeppelin. Other covers bear autographs of celebrity passengers or well-known explorers (the Graf Zeppelin was a very expensive and exclusive mode of travel). I've researched the addressees of several covers in my collection to learn a little bit about their lives and their experiences. (I discovered that one of my covers was addressed to a gentleman who designed commemorative coinage for the U.S. Mint.) The Internet makes it possible to track down some of these people, and what I've learned adds another layer of history and personality to their souvenir covers that, decades later, have come into my possession.

Zeppelin flight covers are special artifacts from a brief, unique period in aviation and postal history; one that ended abruptly, and tragically, on May 6, 1937 with the destruction of the Hindenburg. For me, it's been a satisfying collecting experience (and one that's ongoing, like all collecting) to acquire some of these colorful and fascinating covers bearing the special American Graf Zeppelin stamps.

Airlift

By Ken Perkins



This isn't really a story about the 1968 \$1.00 Airlift stamp. It's a story about what a stamp can do. About communication. And maybe about grace and love, too.

When I was a young man, I spent some time working at the Postal Service's Air Mail Facility (AMF) at San Francisco International Airport. I worked swing shift on the loading dock, loading and unloading mail trucks. This was during the Vietnam War, so we saw lots of parcels going overseas, and coming back

Stateside too. Every so often we'd get something unusual, such as the small motorcycle some GI was sending back home, piece by piece. First we got a wheel. Then another. Then the frame. Never saw the motor - maybe the next shift got it.

We also got to watch one of the airfreight companies preparing loads of new coffins for shipment.

Every job has its own jargon. For us, a 'Fragile' label on a package was generally read as a challenge to see if we could throw it all the way to the front of the truck. One evening while we were loading parcels, we noticed one of the clerks who worked inside the facility approaching us, carefully carrying some package. She handed it to the foreman of our crew, a retired U. S. Army Sergeant-Major. Curious, we all walked over to him to see what was so special about this particular package.

In his hands, he had a small box with a transparent top. Looking inside, we saw a carefully packed birthday cake, addressed to a GI in Vietnam. The loading dock got very quiet. That package, I can assure you, got the gentlest handling possible.

I think about that package often, hoping it got to its destination. It's a long way from SFO to steamy Vietnam, but even if the cake was inedible by the time it got to its owner, the message would have been received.

And I hope the addressee made it home.

Members' Advertisements



Wanted: Printed cancels on U.S. Playing Cards Revenue stamps (RFs). Single stamp or entire collections. Kristin Patterson at kristin_email@yahoo.com or 408-267-6643.



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>