

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 53 - Issue No. 5 w331

October - December, 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. Visitors are always welcome.

Mailing Address:

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More info at:

www.penpex.org/ssc



In This Issue

President's Message	1
Stamp Calendar	1
Picture Gallery	2
Mission to the Moon	3
Cover of the Month	4
Scholarship Winner	5
U.S. Collection	6-7
75th Anniversary	8-10
Postcards	11-12
Members' Ads	12

President's Message

Hello Sequoia Philatelists,

The Great American Stamp Show, (GASS) which was held during the weekend of August 25th to 28th and cohosted by the American Philatelic Society (APS) in Sacramento, CA was a great success. We were able to visit with many of our fellow collectors from around the nation. The show was a great opportunity to meet many philatelic club organizations we don't normally get to see. The Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society was just one of many groups I met; their Membership Chair came all the way from San Jose, California. I found out that the Israeli Stamp Collectors Group is headed by our own SSC member, Ed Rosen. Then there were the many great displays: Inverted Jenny, George Washington Free Frank, and the Federal Duck Stamp Art display. To top it all off, the USPS unveiled the new Pony Car stamps featuring late-sixties cars. The best car shown was the recreated Ford Model A postal delivery truck.

The September *American Philatelist* magazine is titled "Collecting the British Empire". One of the great stamp collections of the world is the Royal Philatelic Collection. The collection was started in the mid 1800s and continued by Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen recognized many important qualities of life. The Queen shared and supported our interest in philately. Long live the Royal Philatelic Collection. May the Queen rest in peace.



Many thanks to everyone past and present who helped make the Sequoia Stamp Club such a success. The 75th anniversary party was great fun. Such a wonderful event could not have happened without Kristin Patterson's lead efforts and the supporting efforts of all the members helped make the day so memorable. As many people stated and reminisced during the day, it takes a special community like our SSC members supporting one another.

Stay well,

Patrick Ford, President, Sequoia Stamp Club

Calendar: Club Meetings (in black), Stamp Shows (in red), & Other Events (in green)

- ♦ Oct 7 - 9: **WINEPEX, Novato Oaks Inn, Novato, CA.**
- ♦ Oct 11: Virtual Exhibits by Ron Matteri. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Oct 15: **Western Philatelic Library Open House / Silent Auction, 9 AM - 1 PM, Redwood City, CA.**
- ♦ Oct 22 - 23: **East Bay Collectors Club Show, Civic Center, Walnut Creek, CA.**
- ♦ Oct 25: Live Auction, 45 lots from Larke material. Jim Giacomazzi auctioneer.
- ♦ Nov 5 - 6: **SACAPEX, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Sacramento, CA.**
- ♦ Nov 8: 6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome). 7 PM Nomination of Officers. Program TBD. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Nov 19 - 20: **Filatelic Fiesta, Napredak Hall, San Jose, CA.**
- ♦ Nov 22: Election of Officers. Program TBD. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Dec 3 - 4: **PENPEX, Community Activities Building, Redwood City, CA.**
- ♦ Dec 13: Holiday Party. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Dec 27: Happy Holidays. No meeting. See you next year!

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

Mestizo food truck served up tacos



Picture Gallery Summer Picnic July 19, 2022

Malcom Catchatoorian plus Ed Rosen and Robert David waiting for their tacos



Jay Strauss and Miriam Thurston enjoying their drinks

*Picnic photos
courtesy of
Peter Adams*

Mike McGee and Kevin Kraemer relaxing after eating their tacos



Kristin Patterson explaining the Disc Drop game she built for the 75th Anniversary Celebration

Great American Stamp Show Sacramento, August 25 - 28, 2022



Jim Sauer and an antique postal truck JS



Dodge Challenger is pictured on one of the Pony Car stamps issued during this show RB



Yes, that's a genuine Inverted Jenny! RB



Tom Hayes and Joe Coleman enjoying the big stamp show TH



Hundreds of interesting exhibits TH

Photo credits: JS = Jim Sauer, RB = Robert Brilliant, TH = Tom Hayes

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 sequoistampclub@yahoo.com.

Mission to the Moon

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy spoke to the nation at a joint session with Congress advising his objective was for America to send man to land on the Moon before the end of the decade, and to accomplish this before the Russians. President Kennedy did not particularly care about space advancements and travel, but he was concerned about the Russians' technology advancements, as they far exceeded the United States. Russians had put the first satellite into space and were first to send a Russian cosmonaut safely into orbit and then safely back to Earth. It became essential to national policy during the Cold War with Russia, that Americans land on the Moon to reach a position of leadership.



Scott #C76



Scott #2841a

The costs to try and accomplish this challenging technological feat would be astronomical, billions of dollars, and even with that amount of money spent on such a project, the chances of success were not guaranteed. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was contracted by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) (founded on July 29, 1958, by President Eisenhower) to design the flight computers and write the software. Other companies would build the hardware for the Apollo 11 command module spacecraft and the lunar module (Apollo Lunar Module Eagle or "Eagle"), which would land on the Moon.

As the command module would be too heavy to rocket off the Moon surface after landing, the Eagle was to be created to carry two astronauts from the command module to the Moon's surface, while the command module would remain in orbit above the Moon. The Eagle would have two small engines, one to land it on the Moon and one to launch it back to the command module. The bottom half of the Eagle would remain on the Moon to lessen the weight for the astronauts' rendezvous back to the command module, before their travel back to Earth.

The software for the Eagle and the command module in the 1960s was by way of stacks of punch cards. MIT knew the importance of accuracy in their calculations, so it took years to develop satisfactory programs. Once completed, large reels of magnetic tapes and the punch cards would be stitched into each of the computer's memory units by using carefully designed looms. This demanding and detailed task had the benefit in that it was also essentially indestructible. The programs could not be accidentally erased by a mistaken computer command or damaged by an electrical surge.



Scott #2419

To celebrate man's landing on the Moon, a plaque in the form of a curved piece of metal would be mounted around one of the legs of the lunar module with the inscription: "We came in peace for all mankind." Also, a freestanding American flag would mark the accomplishment and symbolize the achievement of the United States. On July 20, 1969, a historic phone call from the Oval Office was made by President Nixon who congratulated the astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin on the Moon after the flag was positioned. Astronaut Michael Collins had remained in the command module.

Man's landing on the Moon is memorialized on United States and international postage stamps. My research is from the book, "One Giant Leap: The Impossible Mission that Flew Us to the Moon" by Charles Fishman.

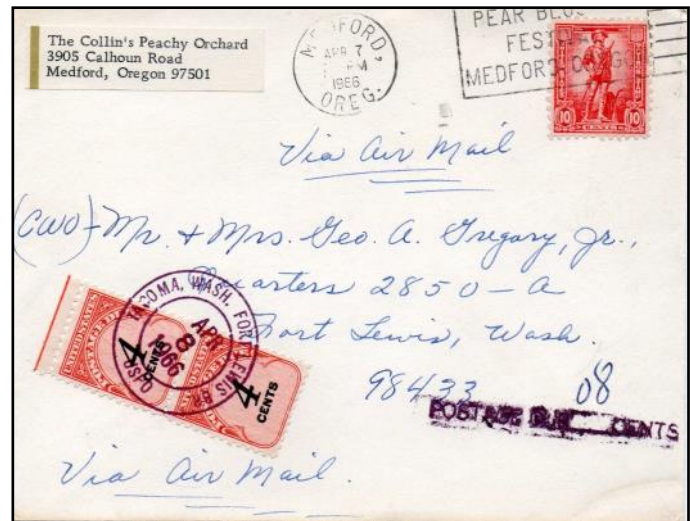


Scott #5399 & #5400

Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

On April 7, 1966, a Hallmark card was sent by someone at The Collin's Peachy Orchard in Medford, Oregon to Mr. & Mrs. George A. Gregory, Jr. in Fort Lewis, Washington. It received a Medford, OR circular date cancel with a very appropriate slogan cancel: "Pear Blossom Festival – Medford, Oregon". The postal rate during this period was five cents for regular mail and eight cents for air mail, which was requested for this missive as indicated by the "Via Air Mail" inscription. However, the letter was posted with a 1954 Savings Stamp (S1) which was not acceptable for postal use. An alert postal clerk spotted this, and applied a notice that 8 cents in postage due was required. Two four-cent stamps (J92) were added and canceled at the Fort Lewis Branch of the Tacoma Post Office on April 8 when the recipient picked up the letter.



The recipient of the letter, George A. Gregory, Jr. was a chief warrant officer (indicated by CWO in the address) who was at the time stationed at the Army base at Fort Lewis, Washington. Perhaps he was a good customer of the Peachy Orchard. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and achieved the rank of chief warrant officer 3. While serving in the Army and working for the National Security Agency, he became an expert in cryptography. He retired from the Army in 1969 after 21 years. He received a Bronze Star and numerous other medals. He died in Prospect, Oregon, on April 13, 2001 at the age of 69.¹



1961 25c Savings Stamp

Savings Stamps like the one used on this letter were issued by the U. S. Post Office Department from 1954 to 1961 as a means for ordinary citizens to save and/or invest incrementally and served as loans to the federal government. They were issued in denominations of 10c to \$5.00. Older collectors (like myself) may remember buying these stamps at school and placing them in booklets. When full, the booklets were redeemable in the form of United States savings bonds. Sale of Savings Stamps was discontinued June 30, 1970.²

I am very curious as to why a Savings Stamp was used on this letter. Perhaps it was an innocent mistake out of ignorance. Or maybe the sender was trying to pull a fast on the Post Office Department, even though the Savings Stamp had more value than an airmail stamp of that time. Regardless, it makes for a very interesting oddity in my postal history collection.

¹ https://www.nasaa-home.org/1Site_Map/ASA-TAPS/taps2001.html#gag

² Scott 2016 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, p. 790.

Scholarship Winner

By Jim Giacomazzi

Each year, the Sequoia Stamp Club of Redwood City gives a \$500 scholarship to a Sequoia High School senior who is continuing their education at a 2-year or 4-year college and has a hobby or activity that has enriched their life. This year the award went to Alisha Gupta of San Carlos.



Scholarship winner
Alisha Gupta

Alisha is an avid skier and was a member of the soccer team at Sequoia High School, but her favorite activity is playing the piano. She has been playing since she was six years old, and is currently taking lessons from Laura Peterhans, who is a member of the Sequoia Stamp Club. Alisha says that playing the piano is relaxing and fun. She loves playing music by various composers, each of whom has a different style. Her interest has been cultivated by Mrs. Peterhans who shares with her the history of the music and the composer and encourages her to dive deeper into the meaning of each piece. Alisha collects sheet music, and is continually going to music stores to look for new pieces.

At the July 12th club meeting when she received the award, Alisha spoke about herself and her love of music. Then to the delight of the members, she proceeded to perform two wonderful pieces on her keyboard. All those present were greatly impressed with her skillful and enthusiastic performance. She was then presented with her award by scholarship chairperson Jim Giacomazzi, along with a topical mini-collection of stamps featuring music, skiing, and soccer. Her name is engraved on the Collectors' Scholarship Plaque which is on permanent display at Sequoia High School.



Presentation of
topical collection

Alisha was accompanied to the meeting by her mother, who we learned was a stamp collector. She shared stories with Alisha about how she collected various stamps, including First Day Covers and stamps that she soaked off letters. The family has just returned from a month long visit to India where they visited friends and relatives.



Alisha performing

Alisha will continue her education at UCLA with a major in Microbiology, Immunology, and Genetics.

Members of the stamp club wish Alisha the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

(All photos courtesy of Peter Adams.)



Collectors' Scholarship Plaque
on permanent display at Sequoia High School

Starting a US stamp collection on a \$100 budget. A few ideas . .

By Robert Brilliant

Let's say that you or someone you know wants to start a collection of "older" (pre-1950) US stamps but has only about \$100 to spend? Is it possible to assemble an interesting and attractive collection on that budget; something that you could take pride in owning and sharing with friends and fellow collectors?

While the expensive issues and rare stamps get most of the attention from collectors, there are several US issues from the 1920-1950 years that check the boxes of being visually attractive, historically important, and eminently affordable. Here are some suggestions for starting a pre-1950 collection of American stamps on a \$100 or less budget.

The Washington Bicentennial Issue (Scott 704-715) - The Washington Bicentennial issue of 1932 is a great set to start with. This beautiful issue portrays the father of our country, from youth to old age, in a series of colorful and beautifully engraved stamps. The 12 stamps make for an impressive page in anyone's album. MNH sets can be found on eBay for around \$20.

The Army-Navy Issues (Scott 785-794) - Five attractive stamps honoring the Army and five honoring the Navy, in color matching groups, comprise this popular issue. Study the beautifully engraved designs to learn about famous military leaders from each service branch. A MNH set on eBay will set you back a mere \$3.



Scott #704 - #715

The National Parks Issues, Perf 11 and Imperforate, (Scott 740-749, 756-765) - Issued during those philatelically wild years in the 1930s known as the "Farley Follies," this set nonetheless sets a high standard for tasteful design and enduring imagery. Scenes from Yosemite, Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, and several lesser-known National Parks provide a scenic geography lesson for stamp users and stamp collectors alike. Being from the Farley era, the entire set was reissued in an imperforate, ungummed format aimed squarely at collectors. The perforated set can be had for as low as \$6 in MNH condition on eBay while its imperf counterpart is selling for around \$7.

The Famous Americans (Scott 859-893) - This iconic set is cherished by stamp collectors and history buffs alike. It consists of 35 stamps issued in color matching sets of 5, honoring, respectively, famous American authors, poets, educators, scientists, composers, artists, and inventors. Some of the honorees are of world renown, others are relatively obscure. The stamps display as two attractive albums pages. Buy a MNH complete set for as low as \$12 on eBay.

The Presidential Issue, Short Set (Scott 803-831) - The "Prexies" have long been a favorite of both generalized and specialized US collectors. Every deceased president to date is depicted in the series, with stamp denominations matching the president's sequential order in office (for example, the 12 cent stamp features Zachary Taylor, the 12th president, and so forth). Ben Franklin, Martha Washington, and the White House are also included on the values ending in ½ cents. Excluding the pricier \$1, \$2, and \$5 stamps, the Prexies short set (29 stamps) can be acquired for around \$25 in MNH condition, and that price often includes some of the lower value coil singles too.



Scott #859 - #893

Continued on page 7 . . .

Starting a US stamp collection on a \$100 budget -- Continued

The Overrun Countries (Scott 909-921) — Issued during the dark days of the Second World War, the Overrun Countries series honors the 13 nations overrun and occupied by the forces of Germany and Japan. Unable to print these complex, multi-colored stamps internally, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing turned the job over to the American Banknote Company, the first such outsourcing in over 40 years. The results are spectacular, with full color vignettes of the occupied nations' flags positively glowing within a tastefully designed lavender-gray frame. Printed in vast quantities, the stamps today are as affordable as they are beautiful. Pick up a MNH set for as little as \$2.50 on eBay.

The Roosevelt Memorial Issue (Scott 930-933) — Issued 9 months after FDR's death, this attractive four-stamp memorial issue is fitting tribute to the longest-serving US president. You can't get much of anything for \$1 these days, but you can buy a MNH set of these stamps for around that price.

And a few Souvenir Sheets too

Round out your budding collection by adding these attractive, yet very affordable, souvenir sheets:

The TIPEX souvenir sheet (Scott 778) — The first se-tenant issue of the US Post Office Department, and a great looking one at that. Add it to your collection for a measly \$1.50 in MNH condition.



Scott #778

Society of Philatelic Americans souvenir sheet (Scott 797) — The 10-cent design from the National Parks issue is featured on this attractive souvenir sheet. Printed in large quantities, it costs a miniscule 50 cents today in MNH condition.

Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Exposition souvenir sheet (Scott 751) — Splurge a little bit to acquire this eye-catching souvenir sheet featuring 6 of the 1-cent national parks stamp (El Capitan, no less). Around \$8 on eBay.



Scott #751

National Stamp Exhibition souvenir sheet (Scott 735) — The attractive blue 3-cent Little America/Globe design is featured on this sheet in a 3x2 grouping. For just \$7 on eBay, you can't pass this one up.

Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition souvenir sheet (Scott 948) — About 10 million of these handsome souvenir sheets were issued in 1947 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first two US stamps. It's a great way to add imagery of America's first two stamps to your new collection for the tiny price of \$1.

Add it all up and we're at \$94. Of course, you may pay a bit more or a bit less depending on the circumstances and condition of individual items.



Scott #948

The above list is just my recommendations. Perhaps I omitted something, or you have alternate suggestions. I would certainly welcome your feedback. But, as I think you can see, it is possible to get a satisfying start in collecting US stamps on even on the most modest of budgets. And that's one of the beautiful things about our hobby.

75th Anniversary Celebration

By John Corwin

The afternoon of Saturday, September 17th, was a busy one at the Community Activities Building as Sequoia Stamp Club celebrated our 75th anniversary. From setting up, to celebrating, to taking down, it was a fun time. With emphasis on the middle part – celebrating!

70 people attended the event including Redwood City Vice Mayor Diana Reddy, who along with many others came dressed in 1947 attire that might have been seen around here on the day that the club was founded – September 30, 1947. Also on display were two 1947 Ford Super Deluxe Convertibles that might have been roaming the streets of Redwood City back then.



1947 Ford Super Deluxe Convertible lovingly restored by Bill Campbell in 1986.

There was a wide range of games to play with a goal for each person to win as many raffle tickets as possible. Bingo, cornhole, curling, ring toss, disc drop, prize wheel, hook 'em, plus a couple of guessing games – guess the number of stamps in the jar, and guess the end date of the restoration of the blue 1947 Ford Super Deluxe convertible.

Other activities included a free photo booth, a stamp cutout for photos, free refreshments, a silent auction, plus exhibits of stamps and club history. And of course, making new friends and socializing with old friends!

There were several raffle prizes with Goyo Alvarez doing the random drawing for each. Here are the winners:

1. Patrick Ford – US #158 stamp w/secret mark
2. Bob Gordon – Newfoundland #57 stamp
3. Kevin Kraemer – Russia #698 - #705 complete set of eight stamps
4. John Corwin – Scott Digital Catalogue
5. Eduardo Martino – Il Barone Cabernet Sauvignon Wine
6. Virginia Warden – La Castellana Super Tuscan Red Wine
7. Jolene Abrahams – Eight (8) Metal Vintage Showgard Model Trucks
8. Mike McGee – \$40 Harry's Hofbrau certificate
9. Mike Forster – \$40 Harry's Hofbrau certificate
10. Dora Alvarez – Youth backpack



Eduardo Martino and his winning bottle of wine

Other small items raffled off: Jim Mosso – *Stamping Our History* book, Wally Jolliff – Magic 8 Ball and Princess Diana 5-stamp set, Jim Giacomazzi – Slinky, and Goyo Alvarez – Express Mail paperweight.

Vice Mayor Reddy presented a Proclamation to the club from Redwood City. She also presented a nicely framed California Legislature Joint Resolution on behalf of state Senator Josh Becker and Assemblymember Kevin Mullin.

Some of our long-time members gave brief talks about their experiences at the club – Ed Rosen, Jim Giacomazzi, and Kristin Patterson. Scott English, Executive Director of American Philatelic Society, congratulated the club in a video that can be seen online at <https://youtu.be/17kgAgemMv4>. And two of our musically inclined members, Laura Peterhans and Tom Hayes sang a clever song, “There’s No Business Like Stamp Business”.

We welcome 7 of the attendees who joined the club at the celebration: Linda Harrison, Donald Hill, Bill Bauriedel, Dale and Edie Eggen, Xander Haislip, and Bob Gordon. We hope to see you at our regular club meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Kristin Patterson deserves special thanks for organizing this great event!

75th Anniversary Celebration Photos



Kevin Kraemer trying his luck at the Prize Wheel with Chip Harrison rooting for him



Jim Giacomazzi and Eduardo Martino hosting Philatelic Bingo

Patrick Ford showing the time capsule that will be opened in 2047



The red 1947 Ford Super Deluxe Convertible



Kristin Patterson and Bill Campbell talking about the blue 1947 Ford Super Deluxe Convertible that Bill restored in only a few months in 1986



Betsy Vallejo almost winning at Shoot-the-Moon



Tom Hayes, Peter Adams, and Joe Spina setting up the exhibits

Cathy Phalen and Annie Wong getting ready to cut the cakes

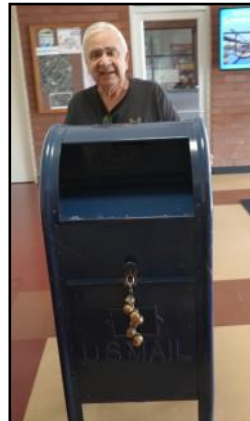


75th Anniversary Celebration Photos



John Corwin, Liz Moses, and Patrick Ford enjoying the celebration

PF



Roy Teixeira wheeling in the mail box generously loaned by the Western Philatelic Library for the event

LC



Laura Peterhans and Tom Hayes singing "There's No Business Like Stamp Business"

PF



Redwood City Vice Mayor Diana Reddy presenting the California Legislature Joint Resolution to Patrick Ford. She presented this on behalf of Senator Josh Becker and Assemblymember Kevin Mullin.

TH

Kristin Patterson trying her hand at the Disc Drop game

TH



Craig Butterworth and Mike McGee in the Photo Booth. Kristin Patterson built the post office counter backdrop.

MPH



Liz Moses and Kristin Patterson substituting for George Washington and Ben Franklin in the 1947 stamp

TH

Jim Mosso (left), John Corwin (right), and others getting in their bids on the silent auction

KP



An Added Dose of Christmas Cheer for Stamp and Postcard Collectors

By Shav La Vigne

All of us look forward to receiving Christmas cards from friends and relatives who we do not see on a regular basis. Most of these cards are beautiful reminders of holiday scenes from the past or are of current photos reminding us of how people have changed and have grown with the passage of another year.

As collectors, many of us have our eyes open for other items that may make a very nice card cover or postcard even nicer! Christmas Seals and other types of specialty seals added to the envelope or postcard make it like another present to those of us who collect.

Here are a few examples of Christmas Sealed postcards from years gone by. Having the seal tied to the stamp cancellation is the most sought after, but any addition to the cover or card is considered a bonus. Another good reason to check out the holiday postcard or cover boxes!

Example #1. This is one of my favorite and most valuable postcards. It is a very plain but sincere postcard, but the back, cancelled Dec. 22, 1915, from Philadelphia, PA, has a hard to find 1915 American Red Cross Seal tied to the cancellation!



Example #2. This is an earlier example of a rather plain postcard cancelled at Berkeley, CA on Dec. 18, 1909 with a beautiful American Red Cross Seal. The seal is not tied to the cancellation, but its rarity makes it a very special card.



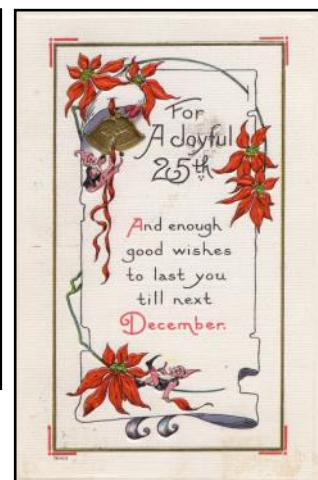
Example #3. Here is another very nice postcard sent from Scottsdale, PA. on Dec. 22, 1920 which features the new National Tuberculosis Association symbol. This postcard has the 1920 seal tied to its cancellation.



Continued on page 12 . . .

Christmas Postcards - Continued

Example #4. A very nice Christmas postcard from Santa Cruz, CA. dated December 23, 1914. This card has a nice 1-cent Scott #397 stamp with a perfect corner position and a 1914 America Red Cross Seal, unfortunately not tied to the cancellation, but still a rare and hard to find example.



Members' Advertisements



Stamps For Sale at the Covid Stamp Store

US and Worldwide stamps for sale at reasonable prices. Collections at less than 20% Scott. Mint postage 29c+ at 30% off face value. Large selection of 19th century US covers. Miscellaneous items & three mystery boxes. 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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90 Lot Silent Auction at Western Philatelic Library

3004 Spring Street Redwood City, CA 94063. Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Must be present at end of auction to pay for and pick up winning lots. Also, two large tables of "Buy It Now" items on a first-come basis. Cash, Check and Credit Card accepted. For more info call 650-306-9150 or visit their website www.fwpl.org.

WANTED: Articles for the *Stamp Chatter* newsletter. Suggested length is about 500 words with two or three pictures. Any topic related to stamp collecting or would be enjoyed by stamp collectors. Submit your articles to sequoisastampclub@yahoo.com.

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>