

Stamp



Chatter

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April - June, 2023

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.

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



President's Message

The Sequoia Stamp Club has enjoyed a busy start in 2023. Our club programs have included the inauguration of our new officers, our first Boller collection live auction with Jim Giacomazzi, a presentation of a historic cover collection by Laura Peterhans, our usual silent auctions, a swap meet, a philatelic quiz conducted by Ken Perkins, and a members' live auction with Wally Jolliff as the auctioneer. We have an active club with lots of options for our members to choose from. Thank you, Vice President Kevin Kraemer, for organizing so many cool philatelic activities.



Coming up is the can't-miss WESTPEX show at the SF Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Burlingame from April 28-30. The show is always a stamp collector's dream between the live auction, the dealer booths, the presentations, and the renewing of stamp collector friendships from around the country.

If any of our members have not yet joined the American Philatelic Society (APS, for short), I highly recommend that you join the organization. You will enjoy many benefits including the awesome monthly magazine, the website which is loaded with an incredible amount of philatelic data, a grading service, and you will be supporting a key way to help our hobby thrive.

Jay Strauss
Sequoia Stamp Club President

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

- ♦ **Apr 11:** "Intimate Connections Between San Francisco and Hawaii" by Harold Tuchfeld. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Apr 25:** 6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome). 7 PM Other Hobby Night, Show and Tell. Silent Auction
- ♦ **Apr 28-30:** **WESTPEX, SF Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Burlingame, CA**
- ♦ **May 9:** Live Auction (Boller Consignment), Jim Giacomazzi, auctioneer.
- ♦ **May 20:** **Alameda Stamp Bourse Invitational, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA, 10:00 AM - 3 PM**
- ♦ **May 23:** Kiloware Stamp Night (5¢ per stamp).
- ♦ **Jun 5:** **Annual Summer Picnic**
- ♦ **Jun 13:** "State Revenue Stamps" by Craig Butterworth. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Jun 27:** Sequoia High School Scholarship Winners. Silent Auction.

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

Picture Gallery

Bolleri Consignment Sale

After a long series of successful sales of the Don Larke material, Jim Giacomazzi has started a new task. Ray Bolleri was a club member who passed away in 2021, and his widow asked Jim to help dispose of Ray's collection. Jim was surprised to find many high-value items in the collection. On January 24th, he held the first auction of Ray's material. Included were the desirable items shown at the right: Iceland airmails #C12-C14, U.S. #115, and U.S. #293.

Jim thinks that there will be another two or three future auctions of the Bolleri material



Peter Adams checking for tagging using UV light. Peter will be giving a talk at WESTPEX titled "Tagging Errors on U.S. Stamps" on Sunday, April 30 at 1:30 PM. He will bring his powerful UV light to the presentation. You are invited to bring up to 5 stamps if you would like to check for tagging errors.

Photo courtesy of Ken Perkins

Inauguration of officers on January 10, 2023.

l-r: Joe Coleman, treasurer; Jim Giacomazzi, director; Kevin Kraemer, vice-president; Jay Strauss, president; John Corwin, secretary. Ron Guaraldi and Patrick Ford, directors, were not available for the photograph.

Photo courtesy of Peter Adams



Garage Sale at Western Philatelic Library, March 18, 2023. Lots of amazing bargains!

In February, the library paid off its mortgage thanks to several large donations. The library can now look forward to a mortgage-free future!

Photo by John Corwin

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

The Tragedy of the *Titanic*

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Walter Lord's book, *The Night Lives On: The Untold Stories and Secrets Behind the Sinking of the "Unsinkable" Ship – Titanic*, references that Captain Edward Smith, 59 years old, was assigned to command the new *Titanic* on her first voyage from Southampton, England to New York City, and back again to England.

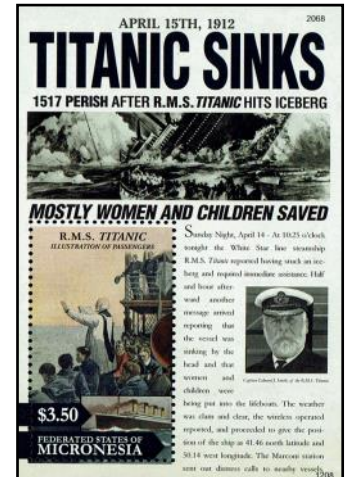
During the journey, Captain Smith received notice by telegram that there were icebergs ahead, but he did not slow the cruise liner as he was sure that on such a bright clear night, an iceberg could be seen and there would be enough time to avoid it. He relied on his lookouts, although they did not have binoculars to see an iceberg at a distance. At 11:40 p.m., on April 14, 1912, one of the ship's lookouts yelled from the crow's nest, "Iceberg right ahead!" Only 37 seconds later the *Titanic* collided with the iceberg on the west coast of Greenland.



Tuvalu #1196

Life jackets were given out to passengers on the *Titanic* and instructions were given for women and children to come up to the boat deck to board the lifeboats. The idea that the large and luxurious ship might sink was considered unbelievable, even ludicrous. Therefore, many passengers had doubts that the damage was serious, which caused a few of the first lifeboats to be less than full as passengers were not around to load them. Many stayed in their cabins. By the time the urgency became more realistic to those with initial doubts, there was no shortage of people wanting to leave the *Titanic*. But even fewer boats were available by that time. By 2:05 a.m., the last lifeboat left the ship leaving everyone else stranded. Ultimately only 705 people occupied the lifeboats.

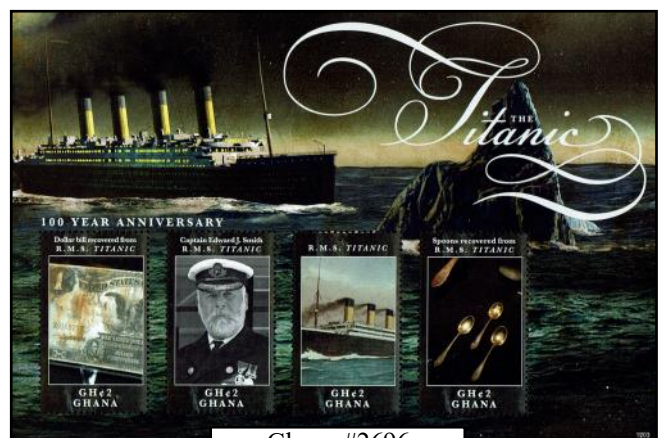
After the *Titanic* sank at 2:20 a.m. on April 15, 1912, those on lifeboats protested returning to add more passengers, afraid that those desperately struggling for their lives in the freezing water would swamp their small boats drowning them all. At 4 a.m., the *Capathia* had reached the *Titanic's* position. All in the water were dead by now. The *Capathia* was the only ship that came to the *Titanic's* rescue, despite the fact that the Leyland Line *Californian* was a lot closer, only about two hours away and could have made it sooner and saved more lives.



Micronesia #970

The damage to the *Titanic* caused water to enter onto the ship from below rapidly, and it soon appeared that the fate of the *Titanic* was doomed. Distress calls were made, and rockets shot off indicating the *Titanic* was in trouble. Captain Arthur H. Rostron of the Cunard Liner *Capathia* turned his voyage towards the *Titanic* when he learned that the ship was in trouble from his wireless operator, who had heard the distress signal from the *Titanic*.

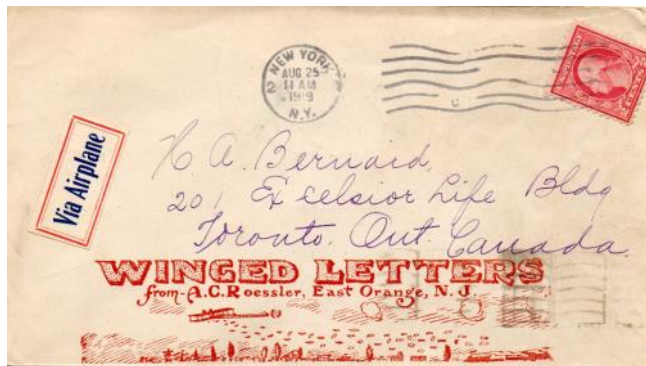
The Board of Trade set the safety standards for British ships and had required ships to carry lifeboats for 962 persons, but the safety rules had not been updated since they were issued in 1894. The *Titanic* was much larger than previous ships. The *Titanic* had added a few extra lifeboats on their ship. But still not nearly enough, as there were 2,240 passengers and crew on board.



Ghana #2696

Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi



This month's cover is an airmail flight cover that was posted by A. C. Roessler in New York City and sent to H. A. Bernard in Toronto, Canada. On August 25-27, 1919, the Aero Club of Canada, the CNE, and the American Flying Club sponsored a round trip air race between Toronto and New York. This cover, postmarked New York, Aug. 25, 1919, was carried on the return trip to Toronto from New York. It is franked with a 2-cent Washington with a "Winged Letter" cachet on the front plus a "Via Airplane" label attached. On the back is an advertising sticker that has the words "Read the Airplane Stamp News".



A. C. Roessler in a photo published in the *Air Plane Stamp News* Volume 114, Mar. 1929.¹

Albert Charles Roessler, Jr. was born April 7, 1883, in Newark, N.J., and spent a portion of his early years in Colorado. He was a founding member of the Denver Stamp Club, established December 13, 1905. After a period of Nassau Street (New York) activity, he established himself as a stamp dealer in East Orange, N.J. With the coming of air mail in the U.S. in 1918, Roessler began the creation of cacheted covers. His first cover was for the first air mail flight between Washington, New York, and Philadelphia. He published *Air Plane Stamp News* from 1918 to 1938. Roessler is reported to have gone out of the stamp business in 1940, and he died on January 26, 1952. Roessler is known for his unique border graphics, original artwork, and rubber-stamped cachets used for both FDC and first flight covers.

There were also some bad things that Roessler did. On Jan 1, 1933, Roessler was indicted and arrested on two federal charges of crimes committed five-six years earlier. Roessler pled guilty to both charges in Federal Court in Newark. He was sentenced to two years in the Atlanta penitentiary, but the sentence was suspended, and he was placed on probation for three years. While these are the two charges on which he was indicted and convicted, many thought that he may have been guilty of more improprieties. The suspicion was that he was not shy about re-creating first flight covers when he ran out of real ones to sell to his clients, and so he made more after the fact to sell.

Because of his proven and suspected illegal activity in making first flight covers, it is hard to authenticate his covers as being actually flown. As such, there are many first flight cover collectors who will not buy a Roessler cover because they do not know if it is real. On the other hand, there are a few collectors who do seek out his covers since he is notorious and a convicted forger. The reason why he did this may have been simply to make money, though another reason may have been his well known and very vocal hate of the Federal government and the Post Office. Or it might be a bit of both.

¹ The above photo and information about A.C. Roessler appeared in an article by John Lupia entitled "A.C. Roessler, A Jersey Legend" in *The Journal of NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY*, Vol. 46, No. 3 (August 2018), p. 123-136. To see more details and covers, go to: <https://njpostalhistory.org/media/featuredcoverspdf/2018AugustFeaturedCover.pdf>

Scott #39: A Rare and Elusive Beauty from the Classic Era of American Stamps

By Robert Brilliant

The 90-cent stamp of 1857 series (Scott #39) must surely rank among the most striking and beautiful of all U.S. stamps from the “classic era” of American philately (loosely defined as 1847 to the 1870s). Featuring a youthful portrait of George Washington printed in a rich blue, the stamp seems well suited to its role as the first stamp to bear the lofty 90¢ denomination, which was about a day’s wage for the average laborer at the time.

Although officially part of the 1857 series (the first US stamps to be perforated), this stamp was not placed on sale until August 1860. The 90-cent value was intended to pay the postage for large parcels shipped overseas. About 25,000 copies were issued before the stamp was demonetized just one year after issue to prevent its use by the Confederacy.



Owing to its limited usage and very short life span, genuinely used examples of Scott #39 are much rarer than unused examples. You’ll notice that I say “genuinely used” as this stamp has been a favorite target of fakers and forgers for over 100 years. It’s been estimated that there are 10 stamps with forged cancellations for every genuine one on the market. Although there are a number of genuine pen cancellations of this stamp, they’re generally considered less desirable than unused copies.

Compounding the fake cancellation problem is the fact that #39 is one of the most altered 19th century US stamps. They are frequently found regummed, reperfed, rebacked, and repaired. Due to the majority of #39 having faults or having being altered, it’s essential not to pay serious money for any example of #39 unless it comes with a certificate from a recognized expertizing authority.

The crown jewels of this issue are the examples on cover. Just 6 authenticated covers are known, with the most famous being the Cape of Good Hope cover that traveled from the US to London via clipper ship and then on to Persia (Iran) and South Africa. On this famous cover, described by Lester Brookman as “one of the outstanding gems of American philately,” the 90¢ is used in conjunction with the 30¢, 10¢ and a pair of 1¢ stamps from the 1857 series to pay the \$1.32 postage for mailing the cover half way around the world. When last sold at auction by Siegel in 2021, the cover fetched \$114,500 plus buyer’s premium.

Several blocks of #39 also exist, the largest being an unused block of 9, of which 3 are known.

Needless to say, genuine and sound examples of Scott #39 don’t come cheaply. Sound unused copies with original gum catalog at \$3,000 in Scott (ungummed at \$1,400) and genuine non-pen canceled examples are valued at a whopping \$11,000.

For years I’ve longed to add this rare and elusive beauty to my collection, but that empty album space still stares up at me whenever I turn to the 1857 page. If you own this stamp, consider yourself among the privileged few collectors. Someday, given the right convergence of price, condition, and circumstance, I hope to join that club too.

90¢ Stamp of the 1857 Series

Scott #: 39

Color: Blue, deep blue

Printing Method: Engraved

Plate: 1

Printer: Toppan, Carpenter & Co.

Subject: George Washington

Number issued: 25,000 estimated

Perforation: 15

Earliest known date of use: August 13, 1860

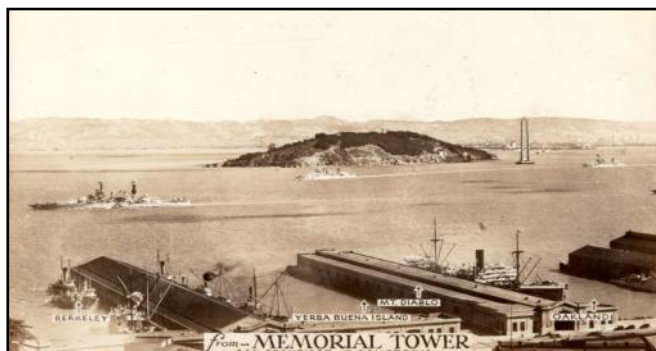


Postcard Corner:

A Snapshot of Bay Area History

By Shav La Vigne

Here is an interesting postcard that captures the beauty and history of the San Francisco Bay Area at a time when everything was changing.



This “real photo” postcard was sent from San Rafael, California on June 17, 1935 to Frau (Mrs.) Thomas Kaufhold in the newly Nazi controlled town of Reese, Germany. Reese is a town on the Rhine River and currently has a population of 21,000 people.

The postcard is written in German using pencil. Although very difficult to read, the card, addressed to “Bertha”, seems to be dealing with the current weather.

The photo was taken from Memorial Tower (Coit Tower) in San Francisco. The photo shows the direction of many landmarks including Yerba Buena Island where the west portal of the island tunnel can be seen along with the west tower of the Bay Bridge. This was at the time when none of the main or support cables for the bridge’s roadbed had been placed. Ferry boats, as they had been for years, were still the main link to the east bay. The future development of Treasure Island, home of the 1939 World’s Fair, was still a not-too-distant dream.

Both the Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge were well under construction and the transportation history of the bay area was about to change forever.

Although they cannot be specifically identified, it is interesting to see three of our war ships on their way out towards the Golden Gate. Although our country was not currently at war, the world was in the beginning stages of what would become World War II. Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy were changing Europe while Imperial Japan began its domination of much of the Pacific.

The United States, while hoping to avoid war, saw trouble on the horizon. We began to deploy our ships and other equipment to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and other military locations throughout the Pacific.

King Charles III Stamps

By John Corwin



The first British stamps with the silhouette of King Charles III were issued on March 23, 2023. The little silhouette appears in the upper left corner of each of the ten Flower stamps; the sunflower stamp from the set is shown at left. And the first definitive stamps showing King Charles will be issued on April 4th; they are shown at right. Note



that unlike the Queen Elizabeth II silhouettes and definitive stamps (i.e. the Machins), King Charles is not shown wearing a crown on the new stamps.

King Charles’ coronation will be on May 6th. British Royal Mail has not yet announced a commemorative stamp, but we should certainly expect one or more stamps as well as some stamps from the British Commonwealth countries.

Driving on the Right

By John Corwin

On a two-lane road, which side do you drive on? Here in the United States, the obvious answer is the right-hand side. But if the same question were asked in Great Britain or Japan, the answer would be the left-hand side.

In fact, there are many countries that have left-hand traffic (LHT). Many of them are former British Colonies such as Australia, New Zealand, India, Malta, and South Africa. The reason for a country to adopt one side or the other is usually historical going back to days before motor vehicles.

Around the world, there has been a slow trend to switching over to right-hand traffic (RHT). For example, between 1899 and 1967, six European nations switched from LHT to RHT - Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Sweden. Several countries in or near Africa also switched to RHT in "recent" years (1961 - 1977). And many Central and South American countries made the switch in the 20th century.

But there have been a few "recent" switches from RHT to LHT. In 1976, East Timor switched from RHT to LHT when it was annexed by Indonesia. In 1978, Okinawa (part of the Ryukyu Islands) switched from RHT to LHT, because the United States returned the Ryukyus to Japanese control in 1972. And then in 2009, Samoa (not to be confused with American Samoa) switched from RHT to LHT because it was cheaper to import vehicles from Japan, Australia, and New Zealand where LHT is used. Rwanda and Burundi in Africa are considering switching to LHT to be consistent with their neighboring countries.

My motivation for writing this article was the four 1967 Sweden stamps (Scott #733 - 736) and the two 1968 Iceland stamps (Scott #397 - 398) in my collection. I remember hearing about the Swedish switchover at the time and discussing it with friends. We wondered how a developed country with lots of vehicles could possibly make such a switch safely. Well, it actually went very well in spite of some famous photographs showing some rare chaos; see photo at right.



Stockholm, Sept 3, 1967



Sweden #733 & #734

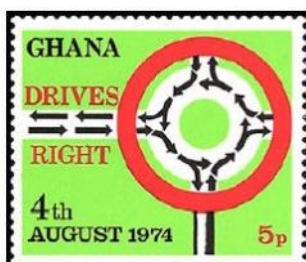
Note that the Sweden stamps are inscribed "Högertrafik" which means "right-hand traffic". The Swedes referred to September 3, 1967, as "Dagen H" which means "H Day" in English.

In addition to Sweden and Iceland, several other countries issued postage stamps to honor the switch from LHT to RHT. Sierra Leone in 1971, Nigeria in 1972, Ghana in 1974, and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in 1977. See pictures below.



Iceland #397 & #398

For more information about this topic, see the Wikipedia web page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left- and_right-hand_traffic



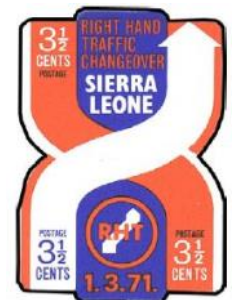
Ghana #530



Nigeria #280



People's Democratic Republic of Yemen #174



Sierra Leone #415

New Members

In the last few months, we have voted in several new members to our club. All of the votes have been unanimous!

January 10th:

- **Ed Jarvis** is president of the Western Philatelic Library; he collects Luxembourg.
- **Cory Clifford** collects first day covers.
- **Farshaad Aflartuni** collects Persia.
- **Tim Côté** collects German area stamps.
- **Jim Zesch** collects worldwide (excluding U.S.)
- **John Wytman** collects U.S.
- **Bill Maltz** mainly collects Canada, but also Germany and a few other miscellaneous things.

January 24th:

- **Dimitri Cooper** and **Anthony Hsiao** are friends and students of Joe Spina. Dimitri has a worldwide collection which includes flag stamps. Anthony collects older U.S. stamps.
- **Harold Tuchfeld** collects Hawaii and U.S.

February 14th:

- **Gerard Menicucci** is a friend of Eduardo Martino, and he collects the classic era stamps from 1840 through 1940.

March 28th:

- **Rod Hsiao** is Anthony's father, and he collects U.S., China, and Japan.

Welcome Ed, Cory, Farshaad, Tim, Jim, John, Bill, Dimitri, Anthony, Harold, Gerard, and Rod!

Members' Advertisements

AN INVITATION to all Sequoia Stamp Club Members

Come visit me. Let me know your stamp collection needs and wants. You can bring a wantlist or albums you are trying to fill up, browse through my collections, even taking some of them out on approval, or buying a whole collection outright. My prices are competitive with other dealers, and I give special discounts and consideration to all Sequoia Stamp Club members. Besides I love to talk stamps, and my 65 years of experience as a dealer/collector is "at your service". Come visit my "stamp pad".

Current Sale Bargains

All Germany (including D.D.R.) 50% off Scott mint, 2/3 off Scott used
Great Britain 60%-80% off mint and used

All visits by appt. – text me for yours now at 415-425-6683 or email me at denis@arrowstamp.com
106 Crespi Drive, San Francisco, in Parkmerced near the SFSU campus.

SAVE THIS DATE!! May 20th 2023 ALAMEDA STAMP BOURSE INVITATIONAL from 10 am to 3 pm. Located at 1910 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, CA 94501. Stamps, Supplies, Post Cards, to trade or buy/sell. Give-away raffles and MORE. Snacks and Lunches - Coffee, Water, and Sodas. Info contact John Kofranek @ (510) 523-6617 or jakmjos@comcast.net. Also see <https://www.alamedastampclub.com/meeting-information/alameda-stamp-bourse-2023>.

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>