

# Stamp



# Chatter

Volume 56 - Issue No. 4 w343

October - December, 2025

## Sequoia Stamp Club

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second** and **fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Building (CAB), 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](http://www.penpex.org/ssc)  
[sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com)



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## President's Message

It's officially Fall, and that means it's time to start getting excited about the PENPEX Stamp Show! The event really has so much to offer that it has always been a highlight of the year for me. There are dealers with lots of new material to search through, and the huge silent auction that I always get an adrenaline rush from – especially when there are five minutes left and my two favorite items have multiple bidders and are on opposite sides of the room! But I equally enjoy the Flea Market room – where I've found some great bargains – as well as the interesting exhibits, the dinner at Harry Hofbrau's, the yummy sandwiches in the food court, and chatting with other collectors.



But in fact, my favorite part of PENPEX is to see everyone come together to make it a reality. An empty room gets transformed into a philatelic playground for two days due to the dedication of our volunteers. So do yourself and the club a favor and help out this year – there are tasks available for any amount of time and ability level. Let's all make PENPEX happen!

As we head into Q4, I realize that we've really had a great year so far – with so many fun and interesting activities. In fact, last quarter we had two live auctions, a cover swap, and two fantastic presentations: a thorough education about coil stamps by Vince Jones, and Harold Tuchfeld's second installment of his "historical story" covers. And of course, there was our annual summer picnic, where we got to socialize while enjoying Armadillo Willy's BBQ entrees and a variety of delicious sides and desserts brought by our generous members.

Finishing out the year, our programs calendar includes more great presentations, more auctions, and more fun, including our annual holiday party! The club is also hosting a 100-item silent auction at the Western Philatelic Library on October 11<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds go to the club, and the public is welcome. See the website calendar for details about the auction and our Q4 programs.

Well, gotta go, my stamps are calling me...

Kevin Kraemer  
kevinstamps@kraemersw.com

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

- ♦ **Oct 11:** **SSC Silent Auction @ Western Philatelic Library, 10 AM - 11:30 AM, 3004 Spring St, Redwood City. Open to the public.**
- ♦ **Oct 14:** "WWII Talc and Talcton, NV" presentation by Dale Eggen. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Oct 28:** **6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome).** 7 PM, Philatelic Halloween. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Nov 1 & 2:** **SACAPEX Stamp Show, Elks Lodge, Sacramento**
- ♦ **Nov 11:** Live Auction, Wally Jolliff auctioneer. Nomination of Officers.
- ♦ **Nov 15&16:** **Filatelic Fiesta Stamp Show, Napredak Hall, San Jose**
- ♦ **Nov 25:** Philatelic Quiz. Election of Officers. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Dec 6 & 7:** **PENPEX Stamp Show, CAB, Redwood City.**
- ♦ **Dec 9:** Holiday Party. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Dec 23:** No meeting. Happy Holidays. See you next year!

The complete schedule can be found online at [www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar](http://www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar).

# Picture Gallery

## Recycling



Eric McCrystal asks members to bring in their used plastic bottles and aluminum cans. He takes them to a recycle center that pays him for the donated items. And then he kindly donates the money to the club. At left: He spreads out the cans on the driveway and then drives his truck over them, flattening them. At right: He's on the way to the recycle center. *Photo courtesy of Eric McCrystal.*



## GASS 2025



Several club members attended the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) in Schaumburg, IL in August. Above l-r: Bobby Liao, Kristin Patterson, Tom Hayes, and Ed Rosen. Greg Cykman and Vivek Chopra were also at the show. Bobby Liao was presented his Luff Award during the show; see the article on page 8. *Photo courtesy of Kristin Patterson.*

## Philatelic Bingo



Left: Patrick Ford selects the stamp and shows it to the members who see if they have it on their card. Below: Philatelic Bingo card.



*All unattributed photos courtesy of Ken Perkins.*

## Pizza Party – September 30



Left: Jim Giacomazzi, Craig Butterworth, Eduardo Martino, and Mike McGee enjoying the Mountain Mike's pizza.

Right: Peter Adams, Preston Chiappa, and Mike McGee divvying up the leftovers. John Vogel looks on in back.



## Picnic – July 15



Above: Tom Hayes finally arrived with the Armadillo Willy's BBQ much to the relief of the hungry club members around the table. Below: Everyone enjoying the picnic.



**Newsletter Staff:** Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Kevin Kraemer; 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](http://www.penpex.org/SSC) or email us at [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).

# Stan Lee & Jack Kirby and the Creation of Marvel

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

In the 1940s, influenced by the war going on in Europe, illustrator Jack Kirby worked with comic book writer Joe Simon to create Captain America as a wartime superhero for Timely Comics. As a symbol of American ideals, Captain America became a very successful comic book character. Stan Lee was working as an assistant at Timely Comics and would become an editor by late 1941.



US #4159e  
Captain America



US #4159k  
Spiderman

When the U.S. became involved in WWII, Lee, Simon and Kirby had a pause in their careers to partake in the military. After their service, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby returned to Timely Comics, while Simon went to work for Harvey Comics, and continued working with Kirby on some teen romance comics for Timely Comics, to attract teenage female readers.

Stan Lee came out with a new team of characters for Timely Comics, "The Fantastic Four." Stan Lee wrote the stories and Jack Kirby illustrated them. Lee gave each of the characters strong personalities and they would often argue with each other. The humorous bickering between the characters was



US #4159n  
Fantastic Four

very popular with readers and the comics sold well. Other new characters were introduced as well, which drew popularity from readers, including the Hulk, Iron Man, Spider-Man, all with human conflicts that made readers interested in them as people. By the early 1960s, Timely Comics started calling itself Marvel Comics. More superheroes were introduced under the Marvel name, including the X-Men, the Avengers and Daredevil. By humanizing superheroes, readers became captivated in the stories.



US #4159l  
The Incredible Hulk

However, there was conflict between Kirby and Lee, and their working relationship became strained. Kirby wanted credit for the comic scripts he wrote, but Stan Lee refused, essentially because he would often change the plots. By the early 1970s, Kirby left Marvel and signed a three-year contract with DC, but DC also determined that Kirby was a much better artist than a writer, and they only wanted Kirby to illustrate. Kirby was not happy with this arrangement and did not renew his contract with DC when it expired and returned instead to Marvel.



US #4159t  
X-Men

Back at Marvel, changes were made to Kirby's stories and his dialogue without his approval or consent, and he would not even see them until the comics were on sale at the newsstands. When it came time to renew his contract with Marvel, he decided not to renew, as he felt it was time for him to look for other opportunities for his creativity. He worked on an animation TV show called "Thundarr the Barbarian" until its cancellation in fall 1981. Kirby also worked on comic books with Pacific Comics, a comic book distributor and publisher.

In early February 1994, Kirby passed away from a heart attack at his home at the age of 76 years old. Stan Lee went on to live until he was 95 years old, passing away on November 12, 2018.

My research is from the book, Tales to Astonish: Jack Kirby, Stan Lee, and the American Comic Book Revolution by Ronin Ro.

Right: Central African Republic stamp unlisted in the Scott Catalogue. It was part of a souvenir sheet issued in 2016 for World Stamp Expo in New York City.



## Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

The cover in Figure 1 is from the collection of Gerry Fields. Gerry had a huge accumulation of stamps and covers from the Australian States, especially New South Wales. This cover caught my attention because of the red “PAID SHIP LETTER” cancel applied in Sydney on March 19, 1852. The handwritten numbers indicate 3d paid and 8d remaining to be paid on arrival. The cover was sent to Mr. Gibbs, a solicitor in Henley on Arden, a town in the Warwickshire District in England. A circular blue backstamp shows that the envelope arrived in the nearby city of Birmingham on August 8, 1852. That tells us that a letter sent from Sydney, New South Wales, in March of 1852 took about 142 days to get to England!



Figure 1 - 1852 Cover

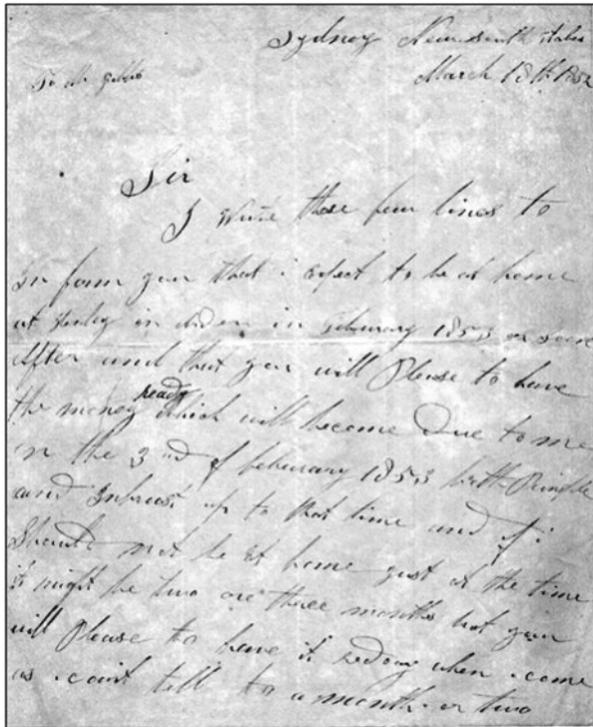


Figure 2 - Enclosure

Another interesting aspect of this cover is that there was a letter inside. (Figure 2) The message was written by John Biddle on March 18. He states that he will be in Henley on Arden in February of 1853 or soon after and that “he wants the money ready, both principal and interest that is due to him on February 3.” He would only be in England for a month or two as he was planning to return to New South Wales “if the country stands the same state as it does at present.”

In 1770, James Cook claimed the east coast of Australia for Britain, naming it New South Wales. A penal colony was established in 1788 at Sydney Cove, making it the first European settlement in Australia. It was a vast territory that included much of Australia and New Zealand, from which other colonies later separated. The colony evolved with free settlers which led to self-government in 1855. Eventually, it became the founding state of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901,

along with South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.<sup>1</sup> (See map in Figure 3)

Mr. Biddle’s letter was written during the period which led to the establishment of a constitution and parliament for New South Wales. I think he was probably happy to return and witness the development of a stable and democratic society.

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_South\\_Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales)



Figure 3 - New South Wales

# 1931 Mineola Airmail Cachet

By Bobby Liao



Figure 1

Looking for the earliest Hilton Dallas postal history on eBay led me to this 1931 Airmail Cachet (Figure 1). This 20th Anniversary of the airmail first flight cover was franked with a 1930 5-Cents Winged Globe. It was postmarked on September 23, 1931, at 6pm in Mineola, N.Y. The lower right corner had a handstamp dated cachet showing a 1911 biplane and a 1931 monoplane.

The pilot of the Post Office Department official airmail first flight was Earle Ovington who flew a bag of mail from Garden City to Mineola, New York on September 23, 1911 (Figure 2). The mail bag contained 640 letters and 1280 postcards. The plane that Ovington flew was a Blériot XI monoplane which looked nothing like the illustration in the cachet.



Figure 2

The cover was neatly addressed and typewritten to Miss Cordelia Vannerson, General Delivery, Mineola, Long Island, N.Y. The return address on the back was also typewritten: Miss Cordelia Vannerson, 104 City Hall, Dallas, Texas and the cover had the backstamp: MINEOLA, N.Y. SEP 25 1931 GEN. DEL. (Figure 3)

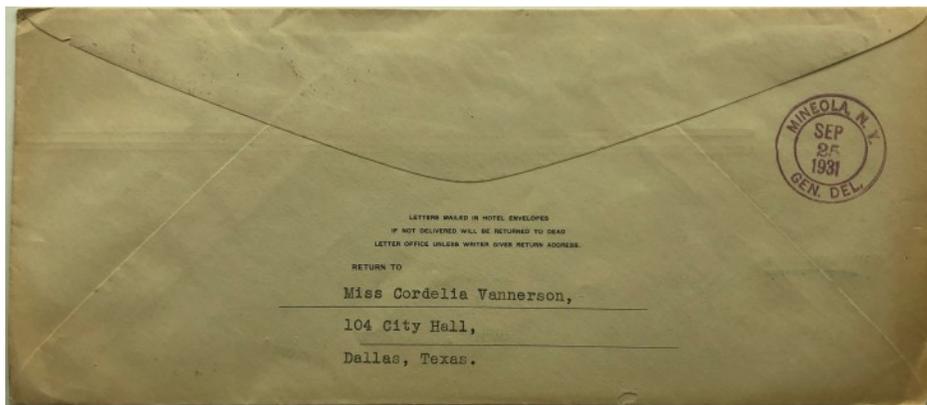


Figure 3

There was a Cordelia Vannerson born on June 16, 1899, in Mangum, Oklahoma. On Vannerson's 32nd birthday in 1931, an aviator by the name of Amelia Earhart landed in Dallas on her return trip of a transcontinental flight. Given the Dallas City Hall return address, Miss Vannerson likely had heard about the exciting news that day as the Dallas Chamber of Commerce had invited Earhart to stay overnight in the city.

Continued on page 6 . . .

## Greenland Mythology Issues

By Tom Hayes

In 2006 Greenland issued a pair of stamps that picture mythological figures, Sassuma Arnaa, Mother of the sea, and Asiaq, Mistress of the weather. The Scott catalog identifies these figures as Norse gods, but other sources refer to them as Inuit in origin.

**Sassuma Arnaa** (on the 7.50 kroner stamp below) is the Inuit sea-goddess who controls the animals of the ocean. When sources of food from the sea became scarce, the Inuit people said that Sassuma Arnaa was angry and would trap the animals in her hair, depriving them of their food source.

**Asiaq** (on the 13.50 kroner stamp below) is the Inuit weather goddess (sometimes portrayed as a male), who decides how much snow will fall, and for how long.



Greenland #472



Greenland #473

## 1931 Mineola Airmail Cachet – Continued

Incidentally, both aviators Ovington and Earhart were stamp collectors. Was Miss Vannerson one too? Perhaps the June 16, 1931, visit by Earhart got her interested in aviation milestones and led her to send for an aviation anniversary cachet that same year.

Why the Dallas Hilton Hotel airmail envelope? If Miss Vannerson was employed at the City Hall in 1931, the new Hilton Dallas was just kitty-corner across the street from the City Hall.

Coming back to the reason that I have this cover in my collection, Hilton Dallas was the first hotel that bears the hotelier Conrad Hilton's name. He had purchased and operated several hotels earlier but none with the Hilton name. The 14-story hotel at 1933 Main Street in Dallas, opened in August 1925, was the first Hilton Hotel.

In 1931, Earhart or Vannerson could have stayed at the Dallas Hilton for \$3 a night. That was the maximum rate for the Hilton Hotels in the early 1930s. The 325-room hotel operated as the Dallas Hilton until 1938 when the property was sold.

This Hilton Dallas airmail cachet is the earliest cover I have found of the first Hilton Hotel. My search continues for another one closer to the hotel's opening date in 1925.

Figure 2 on page 5. Bain News Service, P. (1911) *P.M. Morgan, P.M.G. Hitchcock, & Ovington.*, 1911. Sept. 26 date created or published later by Bain. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2014689708/>.

## The U.S. Parcel Post Issue of 1912: New Stamps for a New Mail Service

By Robert Brilliant



In August 1912, an act of Congress created new postage rates on 4<sup>th</sup> class mail weighing less than and more than 4 ounces. These new rates were to be paid by a distinctive series of new postage stamps boldly labeled “U.S. Parcel Post.” Thus were born the 12 stamps comprising the Parcel Post series of 1912, listed in the Scott catalog as Q1-Q12.

For a brief time, Post Office regulations required that parcels had to be franked with these special stamps; regular postage wasn’t permitted on parcels initially. That rule was short-lived (changed in mid-1913), but it gave birth to one of the most distinctive and popular U.S. issues of the early 20th century.

The Parcel Post stamps were large, horizontally oriented stamps, all printed in a bright carmine rose color. They were designed by BEP (Bureau of Engraving and Printing) veteran Clair Aubrey Huston, who gained fame as the principal designer of the Washington-Franklin stamps and later the 4<sup>th</sup> Bureau issue definitives. Several master BEP engravers worked on this issue, and their efforts created one of the most beautifully engraved of all US stamp series. The stamps, perforated 12, were printed on wove paper with a single line USPS watermark.

What’s most striking about the Parcel Post series is the vivid portrait of early 20<sup>th</sup> century America depicted on its 12 stamps. We see rural and agricultural life on the 4¢, 50¢, 75¢ and \$1 denominations, transportation on the 5¢, 10¢, 15¢ and 20¢ values. (the 20¢ was the first government issued stamp in the world to depict an airplane, here labeled “aeroplane”), and business and industry on the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 25¢ values. Collectively these stamps reveal a nation transitioning from its agricultural and rural roots into an urbanized and industrialized society characterized by fast mail delivery over the land, sea, and air.

The Parcel Posts are among the most popular of the Back of the Book issues, and their wide usage during their brief lifetime makes most of the values relatively accessible to collectors today. Parcel Post covers, especially those also franked with definitive or commemorative stamps, are highly desirable, as are plate blocks and larger multiples. One distinctive feature of this issue is the selvage imprint stating the stamp’s denomination, spelled out in large block letters.

The Parcel Posts had a short lifetime. In July 1913, the Postmaster General ruled that regular stamps could be used for mailing parcels. Regional postmasters had also complained that the uniform color of the Parcel Post stamps made it more difficult to quickly determine if adequate postage had been paid. These two factors spelled the end of the series. Parcel post stamps were ruled unusable on US mail and existing stocks of the stamps were eventually destroyed.

The 1912 Parcel Post series captures a moment when the federal mail system was reinventing how Americans bought and shipped goods. Their bold designs, short mandatory-use window, and rich postal-history make them rewarding acquisitions for both generalist U.S. collectors and postal history specialists.

## Bobby Liao Wins Luff Award

By John Corwin

The American Philatelic Society (APS) recently announced that Bobby Liao won the prestigious Luff Award, which is presented for Meritorious Contributions to Philately. The Luff Award was established in 1940 in memory of John N. Luff, APS president from 1907 to 1909. The Luff Awards are available annually for Distinguished Philatelic Research, Exceptional Contributions to Philately, and Outstanding Service to the APS.



Bobby received the Outstanding Service to the APS award for 15 years of service as the Chairman of the APS Translations Committee. APS members can submit philatelic requests for translation to the committee. Bobby handled Asian languages translations and assigned other language translations to other committee members. The photo shows Bobby after he signed the Luff Roll at GASS in August.

Bobby has been a club member since 2013, and he has become more active in the club since his retirement earlier this year. His philatelic interests include covers related to Coca Cola and Hilton Hotels. Please read his interesting article on page 5 about a Hilton Hotel cover.

For more info about Bobby and the Luff award, [read this article on the APS website](#).

## New Members

**Daniel Grobani** joined the club in July. He collects WW II, Yugoslavia, Epirus, Somalia, and Jethou stamps.

**Sonja Marwood** also joined the club in July. She is new to the hobby of stamp collecting; she learned about our club at PENPEX. On her application card, she wrote “still deciding” on what she collects.

**Kirk Gillis** is the new Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, and his honorary membership in our club started in August. He is new to stamp collecting, but he indicates that he will collect stamps related to two of his interests – East Africa and recreational fishing.

Welcome, Daniel, Sonja, and Kirk! We also recently received applications from Larry Jiang and Chris Kallenburg; we will vote to approve their applications at an upcoming meeting.

## PENPEX 2025

**Save the Date:** PENPEX this year is December 6 and 7, 2025 !!!

It's time for Sequoia Stamp Club members to start thinking about our wonderful annual stamp show in December. There are many ways to participate: Enter an exhibit! Submit items for the silent auction!

Help at the snack bar! Donate items to the Flea Market or Raffle (including bottles of wine!)

Volunteer to greet attendees at the welcome table! Help with setup and teardown!

To help, contact Kristin Patterson at [PENPEXRedwoodCity@yahoo.com](mailto:PENPEXRedwoodCity@yahoo.com).

## Some Things I Just Learned

By John Corwin

As I mentioned in a recent Stamp Chatter, you're never too old to learn new things. Here are a couple more examples of things that I just learned.

Most of us club members know that “philatelist” is the official name for “stamp collector”. But in a recent email, Craig Butterworth said that he's now also a “vecturist”, because at a garage sale, he bought a collection of transportation tokens – subway, bus, trolley, etc.

Higher on this page, Daniel Grobani's collecting interests include “Jethou”. After some googling, I learned that Jethou is a small island that is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey in the English Channel. Jethou issued its own local stamps from 1960 until 1969.

Thanks Craig and Daniel for teaching me something new!