Stamp Chatter

Volume 57 – Issue No. 2 w345 April – June, 2026

Sequoia Stamp Club
APS #687-54588

Meeting regularly since September 30, 1947.

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 or
sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com

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President's Message

2026 is off to a great start at the Sequoia Stamp Club! One of the highlights was our first live auction of the Gerry Fields Collection. The auction included high-quality items across a range of prices. The auction was open to members attending the meeting in person, as well as those attending virtually via Zoom, and bidding was lively! There will be two more Fields auctions this year, offering more gems from Gerry's collection. Gerry Fields was an avid collector, and a respected member of SSC. We are grateful to his family for sharing his collection with the club to sell via consignment auction, as well as for the additional material that they have donated to benefit the club.

Q1 has been packed with opportunities for members to acquire stamps for their collections. In addition to the Fields auction, we had a well-attended and lively Members' Live Auction. That was followed by one of the best Swap Meets ever. Members started setting up and selling/trading well before the meeting officially started – and so many members participated that we needed to bring out extra tables! These 3 events were rounded out with a great Kiloware Night, offering members the opportunity to pick through some stamps that were donated to PENPEX with 10% of the proceeds going to SSC. We also had one meeting where we got to learn all about early Egyptian history and stamps thanks to an informative presentation by Alan Smith.

After that great kickoff to the year, we have WESTPEX right around the corner (April 24-26), and a full Q2 schedule of interesting presentations and events. It's another exciting year taking shape for the club! I'm excited to be able to participate in it with all of you.

Kevin Kraemer
kevinstamps@kraemersw.com

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

- **Apr 10-11:** **Sacramento Spring Stamp Show, 3235 Pope Avenue.**
- **Apr 11:** **Western Philatelic Library live auction, 9 AM – 1 PM.**
- **Apr 14:** "EFO's" by Peter Adams, Silent Auction.
- **Apr 24-26:** **WESTPEX, SF Airport Marriott Hotel, Burlingame**
- **Apr 28:** **6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome).** 7 PM Show and Tell "What Did You Find at WESTPEX", Silent Auction.
- **May 12:** "How to Start an Exhibit" by Kristin Patterson, Silent Auction.
- **May 26:** Members' Live Auction, Wally Jolliff, auctioneer
- **Jun 9:** "Quadrant Printing" by John Corwin. Silent Auction.
- **Jun 23:** Sequoia High School Scholarship Winner / Video, Silent Auction

Meetings on the underlined dates above will be hybrid meetings using Zoom. The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

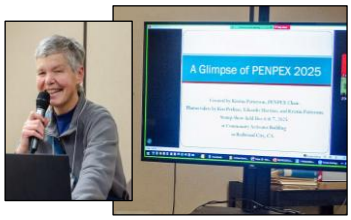
Picture Gallery

January 13, 2026

On January 13th, the 2026 club officers were inaugurated. Above l-r, Robert Brilliant, Director; Bobby Liao, Director; Kevin Kraemer, President; Joe Coleman, Treasurer; John Corwin, Secretary; and Joe Spina, Director. Tom Hayes, Vice President, was not present that evening.

January 13th was also Past Presidents Present night. Four past club presidents talked about a philatelic topic of their choosing. Above left, Craig Butterworth talked about the unlisted stamps of Maluku Selatan. Above right, Patrick Ford talked about a postcard honoring the Rione Monti in Rome and his recent visit there. Left upper, Jim Giacomazzi talked about fancy cancels on US #65. Left lower, Kristin Patterson showed pictures from PENPEX 2025, which was her 20th show as PENPEX chairperson.

On a recent trip to Chile, Eric McCrystal purchased sheets of the classic 1948 Flora and Fauna stamps, Chile #254, #255, and #C124.



All photos courtesy of Ken Perkins.

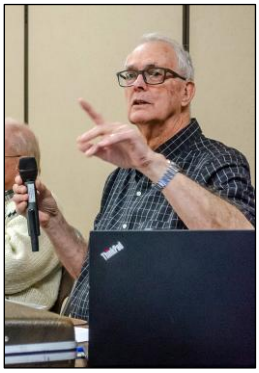
At the February 10th meeting, Alan Smith talked about "The History of Egypt and its stamps until 1922".

Things were a bit chaotic at Treasure Island Stamp store in Sunnyvale in the days leading up to its closure on January 20th. The owner Rudy Schroeter is retiring. He and his nice stamp store will be missed.

March 10, 2026

We held the first live auction of the wonderful material from the collection of the late Gerry Fields. There were 55 lots in the auction and almost all of them sold.

Left to right in the photos: Joe Coleman, Richard Griffone, Jim Mosso, and José Lopez look over the lots. José examines an item more closely. Peter Adams, Chris Kallenburg, and Joe Coleman discuss arranging the payments by the winning bidders. And Jim Giacomazzi looks for bids on one of the lots.



Newsletter Staff: Editor: John Corwin; President's Message: Kevin Kraemer; Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer and Jim Giacomazzi; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin. The *Stamp Chatter* is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: https://www.penpex.org/SSC or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

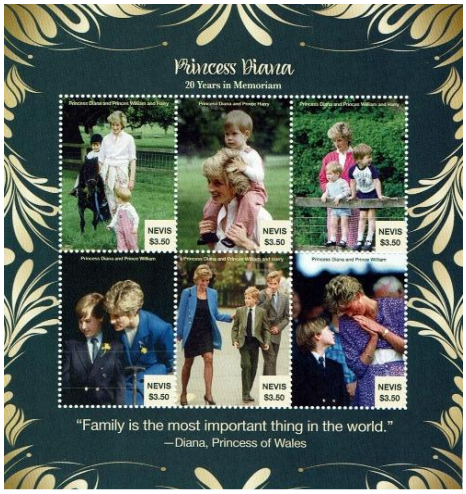
Prince Harry

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Prince Harry is memorialized on international stamps. In his memoir Spare, Prince Harry states he was born as the replacement child and backup in case something were to happen to his older brother, Prince William, who has the responsibility of being next in succession to become heir to the British throne, after their father, Charles III.

Unlisted Niger 1997 Souvenir Sheet

It was in the early morning of August 31, 1997, that Prince Harry was told by his father that his mother Diana, died from a car crash in Paris. He was just twelve years old at the time and his brother Prince William was fifteen. In denial, Prince Harry couldn't accept that his mother had died.



Nevis #1915

Life continued for the boys, going to school, and continuing their education. Prince Harry did act up a bit, missing his mother. By doing this, he was learning what it was like to be in the public eye. He was labeled by the media as "the naughty one" for his mischief ways.

When Prince Harry's final year at Eton College, a prestigious boarding school for boys aged 13–18 drew near, he sat down with his father, who could call him, his "darling boy," to discuss plans for his future. It was determined that the Army would be a good choice for Prince Harry, since he was not the academic type like his older brother. He would spend about ten years in the Army and then return to England working as a full-time royal.

It was through a mutual friend that Prince Harry would meet his future American wife, Meghan Markle. Meghan was in a successful TV show called "Suits" and living in Canada where the television show was filmed. The two would meet in Canada or England to spend time together as their schedules allowed, and things became serious. But, when news about their relationship came out to the world, Prince Harry was not prepared for the racism in the British papers and criticism about Meghan being a divorcée, having been previously married to American film producer Trevor Engelson. Prince Harry and Meghan had a royal wedding on May 19, 2018, at the St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Meghan gave birth to their first child, Archie, on March 6, 2019.

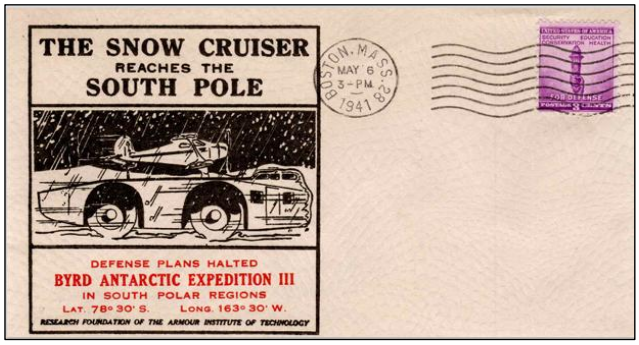
Palau #1387

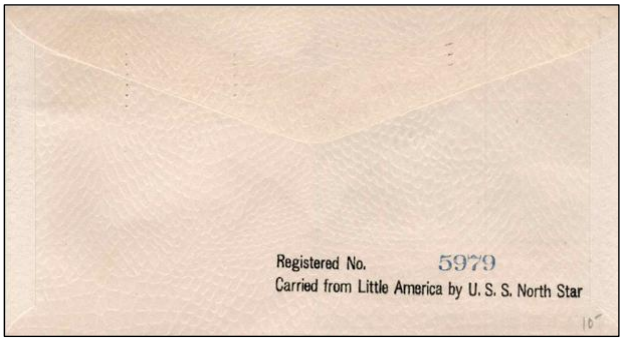
They decided to move out of London to get away from the limelight of the British press and moved to Santa Barbara, California. By doing so, Prince Harry's father had to cut him off financially. Since on his 30th birthday, the prince had received an inheritance of a substantial amount of money left to him by his mother, this would help them financially until they found other means of support. While in California, Meagan would give birth to a healthy baby girl, Lilibet on June 4, 2021. Presently, Prince Harry and his wife still live happily in America with their children.

Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

I have an interesting cover to share in this month's *Chatter*. It is a cover that was designed to celebrate Admiral Richard Byrd's expedition to the South Pole. The backside of this cover shows that it has a registration number 5979 and the words "Carried from Little America by the U. S. S. North Star". The cachet shows an illustration of the Snow Cruiser and the words "The Snow Cruiser Reaches the South Pole". In fact, it never reached the South Pole. The cover was postmarked in Boston on May 6, 1941, the day that the expedition effectively ended. Read the article below written by Google's Gemini 3 (my personal assistant) to get the complete story.





The Unlikely Journey of the Antarctic Snow Cruiser

In the annals of polar exploration, few machines captured the public imagination—or failed as spectacularly—as the **Antarctic Snow Cruiser**. Designed by Dr. Thomas Poulter for Admiral Richard E. Byrd's third expedition (1939–1941), this 37-ton behemoth was envisioned as a mobile research station capable of conquering the frozen wastes.

Measuring 55 feet long and 20 feet wide, the "Penguin" featured innovative retractable wheels and treadless 10-foot-tall tires designed to glide over crevasses. It even carried a biplane on its roof for aerial scouting. However, the machine's grand ambitions were humbled immediately upon its January 1940 arrival at the Bay of Whales.

The primary flaw was a total lack of traction. The massive, smooth tires—tested on sand but unsuited for snow—sank deep into the powder. Ironically, the crew discovered the vehicle could only gain momentum by driving in reverse. Despite these efforts, the Snow Cruiser never reached the South Pole. Its longest trek was a mere 92 miles, performed entirely in reverse, before the expedition settled on using it as a stationary, heated bunkhouse at the **Little America III** base.

By **May 6, 1941**, the Snow Cruiser's active mission had effectively ended. As World War II intensified, the U.S. government shifted its priorities, and the expedition was ordered to return home. The massive vehicle was abandoned in the ice, marked only by bamboo poles. Though it was briefly rediscovered in 1958 buried under 23 feet of snow, it eventually vanished. Most experts believe it now rests at the bottom of the Southern Ocean, having been carried away on a fragment of the Ross Ice Shelf that broke off in the 1960s.

From Taipei to PENPEX: My Hilton Hotels Philatelic Journey

By Bobby Liao

The first Hilton hotel I ever stayed at was in Berlin in 1994, but the first one I ever *saw* was from the window of a bus in the early 1970s. Standing tall across from the Taipei Main Railway Station, the **Taipei Hilton** was a local icon—the first international chain hotel in Taiwan and the city's tallest building when it opened in 1973. Little did I know that decades later, this building would anchor my entry into the world of competitive exhibiting.

Planting the Seed

My journey from collector to exhibitor began last April at **WESTPEX**. While browsing the exhibit with Kristin Patterson, she asked if I had ever exhibited. When I told her I hadn't, she planted a seed of encouragement that refused to stop growing. That seed was watered by Tom Hayes at the **Great American Stamp Show** in August and further nurtured by Eduardo Martino at the **Western Philatelic Library**.

With their guidance, I began a one-frame exhibit using material I had gathered over nine years. However, after diving into research and reading everything I could find on Conrad Hilton, the project expanded. This wasn't just about hotels on stamps; it was about Hilton's role as an ambassador of *Pax Americana*.

The Debut: Inform and Inspire

In December, my exhibit—**"Hilton Hotel's International Development and Tourism"**—debuted at **PENPEX**. I found immense joy in providing "color" to the story for visitors. The momentum carried me to the **Southeastern Stamp Expo** in Atlanta this past January.

The venue was poetically appropriate: a Hilton hotel in Peachtree Corners. When I introduced myself at the front desk, the receptionist's face lit up. She told me the General Manager had instructed the entire staff to visit the Hilton stamp exhibit! Later, the exhibit chair contacted me because the hotel wanted permission to share my exhibit on their social media. My goal to "inform and inspire" was being realized in real-time.

A Full-Circle Discovery

On the flight home from Atlanta, I watched the live streaming of Alex Honnold climbing **Taipei 101**. Seeing that modern skyscraper reminded me of my roots and inspired me to add a page to my exhibit dedicated to the Taipei Hilton. I had acquired this 1977 Taipei Hilton airmail cover addressed to Alamo, California, franked with five stamps totaling 10 New Taiwan Dollars (NTD). To verify the postal rates, I turned to a new network. Thanks to an introduction by William Horne of the Pajaro Valley Stamp Club, I had recently joined an online group of Taiwanese philatelists.

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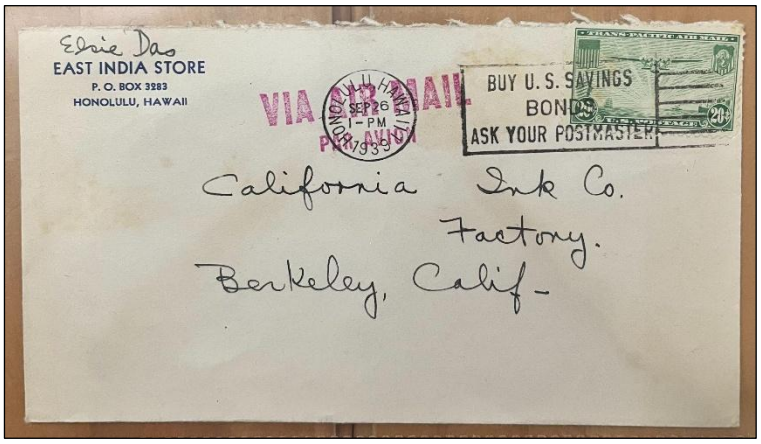
Elsie Das and the East India Store

By Joe Spina



Check your closets, look at the tags of your old Hawaiian shirts, better known as aloha shirts. You may have an original Elsie Das aloha shirt, or ladies … you may have an Elsie Das designed muumuu. I have many California Ink Co. covers dated from the 1930s to the 1950s that I acquired from a close friend whose father was employed by the company. Cal Ink made many types of ink products for various applications and was truly a leader in the ink industry for many years. My eye caught this air mail cover from my collection, and it was postmarked to Cal Ink and included East India Store, P.O. Box 3283, Honolulu, Hawaii in the return address. This cover has a Honolulu, Hawaii cancellation stamped on September 26, 1939 at 1 PM.

I was curious about the East India Store, and I wanted to look it up as I desired to understand what the store was selling in 1939. As I did the research for the East India Store, I learned that it was selling a lot of traditional goods from many Asian and Southeast Asian countries, such as home goods, women and men's apparel, and textiles. The proprietor was named Gobindram Watamull, a retailer from Hyderabad, India and the store was named Watamull's East India Store, located in Honolulu, Hawaii. Interestingly, at the moment I began reading this story, I glanced back at the cover and I noticed the penned autograph of Elsie Das above the return address. I thought, this person must be associated in some way with the store, but how? Immediately, I learned that the name Elsie Das was synonymous with the aloha shirt design, and that she was originally from Oregon and then moved to Hawaii. Actually, if one has an Elsie Das aloha shirt, the signature on the shirt tag is the same as her signature on the cover above. Elsie initially travelled to Hawaii to visit her sister Ellen, who was married to Gobindram Watamull, and this began her move to Hawaii, her use of her artistic and design skills, and employment with the East India Store as a fabric designer. See, Elsie was an artist, a creative person, who had a unique ability to use, create, and adapt island designs and motifs. According to an article entitled Follow the Thread,

> "How this whole thing started was people, the locals, were excited and willing to express their ethnicity through wearing prints that were Asian, prints that they related to," says Hope. "But the Watumulls actually had Elsie Das create Hawaiian motifs and designs. Instead of Mount Fuji she'd have Diamond Head, instead of koi [she'd] have tropical fish, instead of cherry blossoms [she'd] have gardenias and hibiscus and all the things we know here" (Wallace).

This was an amazing moment for Elsie as she was able to use her painting skills, textile designs, and printing creativity to design pieces for Watamull's East India Store. Elsie studied art as early

Continued on page 7 . . .

Elsie Das and the East India Store – Continued from page 6

as the late 20s, first in Portland, Oregon, then at U.C. Berkeley. This was her moment, and she would go on to design some of the first aloha shirts and all types of other textiles and fabrics incorporating traditional Hawaiian designs and motifs from Hawaiian culture. Her aloha shirts were extremely popular and according to the article Origins of the Hawaiian Shirt by Dale Hope,

> "In 1936, Watumull's East India Store commissioned Elsie Das to create 15 original Hawaiian prints. They were printed on raw silk for the home furnishings market and later Aloha shirts. Artists and designers began to interpret their island surroundings. Elsie and others started to create their own designs substituting what had traditionally been Japanese styled motifs and prints on the imported fabrics. Diamond Head was substituted for Mt. Fuji, Japanese pine trees changed to coconut trees, and thatched huts with ocean scenes and surfers, canoes on waves, canoes sailing, fish and flowers replaced bamboo, cranes, tigers and shrines that characterized the first prints from the Orient."

Therefore, the aloha shirts' designs and unique island images created a big draw for customers. Elsie was one of the few artistically creative designers who began the aloha shirt style. The story of Elsie Das, the East India Store, and the aloha shirt has a lot more details and history, and I only present within this article a shortened version of these narratives. I challenge you to do some research on these topics and you will be amazed by all the information you discover.

So much of this story is about creativity, Hawaiian traditional motifs and images from the islands, and a mix of multiple cultures. This is truly a remarkable story about a man from India who had a wonderful store (check out pictures of the East India Store online), an extremely creative woman originally from Oregon, and an old air mail cover that I came upon. It was all because of Elsie's penned autograph above the return address.

I feel so connected to this story as well because she actually held the cover, signed it, and I also have always loved Hawaiian aloha shirts. Elsie was most likely sending correspondence to the Cal Ink Co. because of her need for ink. Interestingly, I have always worn aloha shirts to formal events and celebrations, such as weddings, graduations, and for work from time to time. I am always amazed when I am at a wedding or a celebration wearing an aloha shirt and a person approaches me and says, "That is great - I am going to wear a Hawaiian shirt to the next big thing I go to!" Also, I am always reminded of a photograph of my grandfather who was a submariner during World War II, and he was on a Hawaiian beach with some sailor friends for a rest and relaxation day, and he was wearing an aloha shirt. Was it an Elsie Das designed aloha shirt? I will never know. I found a great amount of information about this subject from the citations I have provided. I especially appreciate all the scholarship and interesting details that Dale Hope provides, so check out the sources, and thank you Dale, Don, and Ann. Go check your closets, and your Hawaiian air mail covers closely.

Hope, Dale. "Origins of the Aloha Shirt." *Hi Luxury Magazine*, www.thealohashirt.com/history

Wallace, Don; Charisma, James; Dingeman, Robbie; Gill, Lorin Eleni. The Power of 'Ohana: Meet 11 Local Families That Make Hawai'i Great, Honolulu Magazine, August 2017.

Wilson, Ann. "Designer Profile: Elsie Das - Honolulu." *Follow the Thread*, Thomas Jefferson University, 13 Oct. 2021, followthethreadblog.com/elsie-das-the-spirit-of-aloha/

Just Found Covers

By David Abrahams

A few weeks ago, a friend of ours gave me her late husband's stamp collection. Upon examining the material I discovered that the collection had been started and ended in the 1950's. He collected just U.S. stamps and covers. I went through the stamps, but most of them had been damaged by humidity. The covers, however were in good shape.

Figure 1

Most of the covers were first day cacheted envelopes. But I discovered that there were a few outliers. As I was going through the box of covers one by one, I discovered an envelope address to "Master J. Martin Victor, St. Augustine, Florida." (Figure 1) I nearly jumped out of my chair! Martin Victor is the late son of my great-uncle, Louis Victor! I have done a lot of genealogy and family history and know quite a lot about this family.

But it gets better! A few more envelopes later I came across an envelope addressed to "Hon Louis Victor" (Figure 2). I was absolutely astonished. And there were two more envelopes addressed to "Judge Louis Victor". (Figure 3 & Figure 4)

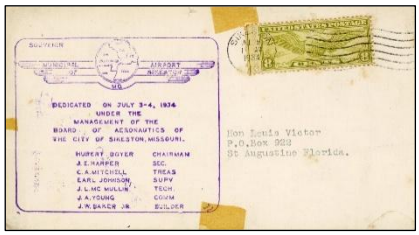


Figure 2

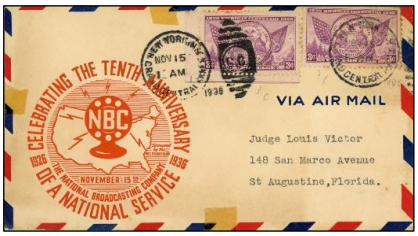


Figure 3

Figure 4

My great-uncle was born in England and came to the United States early in the 20th century. He settled in St. Augustine, became an American citizen, married, had a son, and served three terms in the Florida State Legislature. Having read the legislative records I discovered that he proposed the legislation to change the title of a person living in Florida from "Floridan" to "Floridian". It sounded much better! And the proposal passed! So far, that is my great-uncle's only claim to fame. After his stints in the legislature, he served in several offices in St. Augustine, including a judgeship and several other important offices. There is nothing in his biography about him being a stamp collector.

Figure 5

Now it gets really weird. Deep in the same box of covers I found an envelope addressed to ME! We were living in Boise at that time and the letter arrived shortly after my birthday. (Figure 5). And, there is another envelope addressed to me at our Burlingame address in 1954. That was mailed from London just before my birthday! (Figure 6)

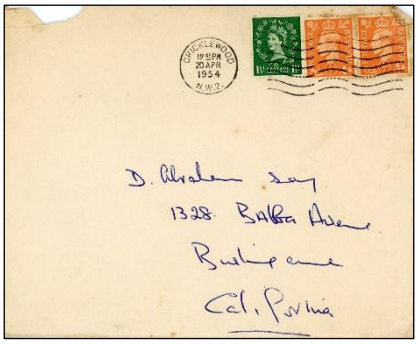


Figure 6

In the 1950's we didn't tear envelopes up. We just threw them in the garbage can, the contents of which went to the city dump. There must have been scavengers and pickers at the dumps who went through the trash and salvaged such things. I thank them very much!

I'd love to know where my friend got these covers. Wish I had seen this material when he was alive.

The Prexies: Among the Most Popular of 20th Century U.S. Series

By Robert Brilliant

In 1938 the U.S. Post Office Department (POD) issued a new series of definitive stamps designed to cover a wide range of postage rates while honoring the late presidents of the United States. The expansive 32 stamp set, now universally known to collectors as the "Prexies," combined classical design, historical reverence, and practical postal utility into what became one of the longest-running definitive issues in U.S. history (1938-54).

In the mid-1930s, the POD planned a new definitive stamp series to replace the 4th Bureau issue, which had been in use since the early 1920s. This proposed series was designed to commemorate all deceased presidents, with the denomination of each stamp reflecting the president's term in office.

In 1937 a national competition was held to design the stamps. The winner was Elaine Rawlinson, a student at the National Academy of Design, who would become the first woman to design a US stamp. Her simple yet elegant design featured each president seen in profile with the lettering "United States Postage" placed in the upper right and the name of the president and denomination placed next to and below the portrait. The overall look was neoclassical in style, with clean lines, balanced typography and minimal ornamentation. Each value would be printed in a distinct color.

Continued on page 10 . . .

From Taipei to PENPEX: Hilton Hotels – Continued from page 5

Within hours, the group confirmed the 10 NTD airmail rate and provided supporting examples. But the most surprising discovery was the postmark: March 8, 1977. That was the exact month I left Taipei for America nearly half a century ago.

The Adventure Continues

Whether my journey truly began at that bus window in 1973 or at the exhibit at PENPEX in 2025, I am profoundly grateful for the mentors and friends who have supported me. This Hilton adventure is far from over — I look forward to seeing you all at the exhibit this April at WESTPEX!

The Prexies – Continued from page 9

George Washington, the first president, appears on the 1¢ value, with the second president, John Adams, on the 2¢, the third president, Thomas Jefferson, on the 3¢ and so forth; the correlation preserved up to the 25¢ value. There were a few exceptions: Benjamin Franklin appears on the ½¢ value, Martha Washington appears on the 1½¢ value, and the White House appears on the 4½¢ value used for book and printed material mailings.

The three high value stamps, the $1, $2, and $5, were flat plate printed. They break somewhat from the established design, being bi-color with the addition of stars and decorative borders to the left and right of the portrait.

The Prexies were produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing using rotary presses (for the most part) on unwatermarked paper. Over time, the series saw multiple printings, plate changes, perforation varieties, and subtle shade differences. One of the most significant technical changes occurred in 1942, when the Post Office began using offset printing for certain denominations to conserve steel during World War II. These offset-printed stamps, particularly in the 1¢ through 5¢ values, are easily distinguishable by their flatter appearance and different ink characteristics.

Although they were common stamps issued in large quantities, the Prexies present collectors with a rich collecting experience, especially in terms of usage and postal history. Many of the less commonly used values (the 19¢ and 22¢ for example) are scarce as solo usages on cover, and collecting the entire series on postally used covers (as opposed to the common first day covers) is challenging. The $2 and $5 values on such covers are especially scarce. Other exceptional items, such as very large frankings, wartime foreign mail, or unusual rate combinations, remain scarce and desirable.

There are two major errors found in the Prexies. The first involves the $1 Woodrow Wilson stamp where a small quantity was erroneously printed on paper watermarked USIR (United States Internal Revenue.) This stamp, Scott #832b currently catalogs at $200 in MNH condition. The second, far scarcer error, occurs with the $5 Calvin Coolidge stamp, where a very small quantity was mistakenly printed with a distinctly reddish-brown ink instead of the intended bright carmine shade. This stamp, Scott #834a, catalogs at $3000 in MNH condition. Because a normal stamp can be chemically altered to resemble this rare color variety, this stamp must be bought with a recognized expertizing certificate.

The Prexies exemplify so much of what collectors like in a stamp series: availability, beauty, a rich postal history, and historical significance. Collecting them, and their multitude of uses, is both fun and challenging, and that's no doubt why the Prexies remain so popular with collectors today.

The U.S. Offset Printed Issues of 1917-20: Economy Over Aesthetics

By Robert Brilliant

In the summer of 1917, Americans buying stamps at their local post offices noticed something different about the definitive 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ stamps used for everyday correspondence. The stamps were more muted in color, with less distinct lines that imparted a simpler and somewhat "blurry" appearance. The stamps undeniably looked different from previous issues, and the reason was the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's (BEP) switch from intaglio to offset lithography printing.

Prior to 1917, all U.S. stamps were produced using the intaglio process of fine line engraving onto steel dies. This exacting work, performed by master engravers, produced stamps of the highest quality with sharp lines and extraordinary detail. The artistry of these engravers continues to delight and amaze collectors today.

However, that standard changed in 1917 with the entry of the United States into World War I. Suddenly there was a surge in demand for postage, both for domestic communication and for correspondence with American soldiers overseas. The BEP found itself overwhelmed. Speed became of the essence for fulfilling the enormous demand for stamps. The time needed for creating, preparing, and restoring steel engraved plates was simply no longer available.

Offset printing, which used a photographic process to transfer images onto plates, offered a solution. It was faster to set up, required less skilled labor, and didn't wear down plates as quickly as intaglio. Though it lacked the fine detail and aesthetic appeal of engraved stamps, it proved adequate for the high-volume demands of the time.

Thus, the short-lived era of offset printed stamps was born; it lasted until 1920 when the BEP Department issued the finely engraved Pilgrim Tercentenary set. In 1922, the BEP rolled out its 4th issue of definitive stamps, a fully engraved series that marked a return to pre-war production values.

Here's a succinct listing of the offset issues, all incorporating subtle variations of the era's familiar Washington profile design (numbers are Scott catalog numbers):

Perf 11

525: 1¢ green, a very common stamp.
526: 2¢ carmine type IV
527: 2¢ carmine type V
528: 2¢ carmine type Va, most common offset
528A: 2¢ carmine type VI
528B: 2¢ carmine type VII
529: 3¢ violet type III
530: 3¢ violet type IV

Imperforate

531: 1¢ green
532: 2¢ carmine rose type IV
533: 2¢ carmine type V
534: 2¢ carmine type Va
534A: 2¢ carmine type VI
534B: 2¢ carmine type VII, rarest offset
535: 3¢ violet type IV

Perf 12.5

536: 1¢ gray green. The only US stamp issued in perf 12.5.

Continued on page 12 . . .

The U.S. Offset Printed Issues of 1917-20 – Continued from page 11

Scott #534B is the rarest offset, cataloging $2,000 in mint condition. Because it can be faked by trimming wider-margined copies of 528B, it should only be acquired with a certificate from a reputable authenticating service.

Today, the offset printed stamps of the 1917–20 period occupy a special place in U.S. philately. While common examples are readily affordable, numerous varieties, printing flaws, and postal history usage make them a rich field for research and collecting. They represent a brief era in U.S. stamp history that generalists can collect with relative ease while specialists can dig deep to uncover new and intriguing varieties.

Examples of Offset Stamps

New Members

At PENPEX in December 2025, the following people each submitted an application to join the club. We voted them in unanimously at the January 13th meeting.

- **Richard Greenspun** collects US, Japan, and Israel including first day covers.
- **Guangzhen Zhou** goes by the nickname "Po"; he collects stamps related to ceramics.
- **Valerie Concello** collects birds and rocks topicals along with Italy and Japan.
- **Ernest Beckman** collects US and Scandinavian stamps.
- **Margaret Cummings** is rejoining the club. In addition to stamps, she likes postcards and paper craft.

At the February 24th meeting, **Adrian Otten** was unanimously voted in as a new member. He collects worldwide stamps with an emphasis on Europe.

Welcome Richard, Po, Valerie, Ernest, and Adrian. And welcome back, Margaret.

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WANTED

Articles for the *Stamp Chatter* newsletter!

Did you enjoy reading the articles on the previous pages? They were written by your friends who are all members of Sequoia Stamp Club. Are you a budding author? Please write an article of your own and see it published here in the newsletter.

Suggested length is about 500 words with two or three pictures. Any topic related to stamp collecting or a topic that would be enjoyed by stamp collectors. Submit your articles to sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

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