

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30

—30—



www.wu30.org

Second Quarter 2012

Saving Books Physically and Digitally? Brewster Kahle and the *Physical Archive of the Internet Archive*

The philatelic press is under pressure as we all know. Some journals and newspapers have recently moved to all digital publishing, some have gone to a mix of physical and digital publication and some have simply been discontinued. Some of our philatelic journals are kept by libraries like the American Philatelic Research Library, some are not. Much of our literature is searchable through the philatelic indexes (see **NPM Notes** page 3), but some is not. The same problems exist for all forms of publications. A lesson might be learned from a recent article in the *New York Times* (1). Mr. Brewster Kahle was named one of the 10 most influential people on the Internet of the “first decade of the ‘00s” by About.com (2). He graduated from MIT (1982) as a computer engineer with an interest in artificial intelligence, and made his fortune by selling two of his companies to AOL and Yahoo in 1995 and 1999 respectively. In 1996 he was one of the founders of the Way Back Machine which collects and archives all publicly active web pages so that old pages may be retrieved in time. (An exchange on the Virtual Stamp Club about USPS.com dropping earlier DMM versions brought

up this site for their access). Still don’t recognize this guy? You are not alone, and what does this have to do with books?

The development of the Way Back Machine prompted Mr. Kahle to think about the archival of books, movies and music. The result was the Internet Archive (4), a project to digitize books and more recently the addition of film and music. Eventually the Way Back Machine site was purchased and incorporated into the Internet Archive (3) website.



Brewster Kahle

Mr. Kahle’s approach to digitizing books and other materials is a bit in conflict with some other digitizing operations where the book bindings are

usually cut from the books to make them easier to digitize. He also has some philosophical differences in the way Google Books deals with copyright issues (we have had discussions here on copyright, should we have more?). As the Internet Archive began to digitize books, Mr. Kahle realized that he just could not bear to throw out the physical books. His point is that “microfilm and microfiche were once a utopian vision of access to all information, but it turned out we were very glad we kept the books.” This writer can sympathize with this view after trying to actually read microfilm. And actually we didn’t keep the newspapers. A cautionary tale might be made of the archives of the *Toronto Star* (5) in which most of the issues before about 1960 were photographed just a little out of focus.

The Internet Archive project was expanded to include the Physical Archive of the Internet Archive. The books that are scanned are then indexed, packed in boxes and stored in climate controlled 40 foot shipping containers in a large wooden warehouse in Richmond, California. Why duplicate the work of the Library of Congress? “We must keep the past even as we’re inventing a new future. If the Library of Alexandria had made of copy of every book and sent it to India or China we’d have the other works of



Brewster Kahle shows off the converted shipping containers used to store books in a warehouse in Richmond, California. *The Guardian*, Photograph: Jeff Chiu/AP

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David Crotty From the Editor

Archives

I was extremely interested in the *New York Times* article about Brewster Kahle's Internet Archive and the Physical Archive auxiliary. I add to that my own experience of scanning and indexing publications for the MSS, the Canadian Meter Study Group and TPC.

Then the upcoming issue of *First Days* tells the story of Todd Ronnei's efforts to scan all that journal's back issues (see AFDSC p7). Todd had to use some programming tricks to get Adobe Pro to split and order the pages. His goal was most notably to return the issues exactly as he had received them, uncut, following right in Brewster's footsteps. Before doing this I suggest you look at the book digitizer at www.gizmag.com/book-saver-scanner-from-ion-unveiled/17532/.

Personally I still have on hand a collection of the newsletter issues of the American Meter Postage Society (AMPS). These were printed double sided on such thin paper that the printing is visible on both sides. How do you digitize something like that? These are so obscure and the editor, Henry O. Meisel, so mercurial, should we care? Brewster Kahle would say "who knows what will be important in the distant future?"

I'm not a doomsday theorist and I don't think there is a big chance of a nuclear electromagnetic pulse, as warned by one of our political figures, nor that rogue sun activity will bring all our electronic equipment down. Most likely, as each of us have experienced, the equipment will just die one day piece by piece.

And then, after the Apocalypse, people will need something to burn to keep warm, much like the Greeks. After the Parthenon was damaged as a weapons cache the residents began to carry off the broken statues and columns to make cement and concrete.

All that fun stuff being set aside, I have recently enjoyed the wonders of researching literature on the web though a community college's database links. It was unbelievable how easy it was and how well it worked, even compared to what was available to us at my job just four years ago. And I recently used Mr. Kahle's Way Back Machine to find lost information.

Letters

The letters keep coming. It is obvious we are passionate about grammar and proofing. Every editor wishes the readers were that passionate about at least some of the articles in his/her journal. Don't stop, even if it is to note my own silly mistakes.

Dave



Kenneth Trettin *President's View*

As an editor or writer, what tools do you use? Beyond the obvious paper, pen/typewriter/computer—what tools do you use? Over the years I have built a small collection of tools I find invaluable. My favorites are books; included are some of the following:

- The most obvious is a dictionary (and its variant the little green book *20,000 Words*). Of course now we have spell checkers, both built into our word processors and stand-alone programs. But they are of limited use; yes, we might have spelled the word correctly but is the word used correctly. Here one should reach for *Fowler's Modern English Usage* available in several editions and bindings. At almost 900 pages, my third edition perfect bound soft cover edition cost less than \$10 on eBay, including postage.

- We all find that there is a need for guidance in philatelic terminology. Most general stamp catalogs also include a section on philatelic terminology. I also find L. N. Williams' *Fundamentals of Philately* and Rod Juell and Steven Rod's *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting* fill a very useful need.


- But which books do I most rely upon? One is *The Chicago Manual of Style*. This is valuable to any writer and absolute-

ly indispensable to any editor. It is my firm belief that unless you are paid enough for your duties as an editor, it is the responsibility of every philatelic organization to provide their editor with a copy. *Chicago* is not really a set of rules, but a set of guidelines, often with multiple alternatives.

- The final tool, my most important tool is of my own making: My own style guide. You should also have one for your publication. Simply write down the way you do it so that you can remain consistent from one occurrence to the next; one article to the next; one chapter to the next. My style guide tells how to write captions, defines numbering conventions, when to use quote marks, how to cite references and even a list of spellings that I use. Mine is twenty, 5.5 x 8.5 inch pages (saddle stapled with a card cover) but yours need be nothing more than hand-written notes on a pad of lined paper. The important thing is: write it down for future reference.

In closing, do you feel it is ever permissible to occasionally split an infinitive? Obviously I do; please let me know your thoughts: revenueer@omnitelcom.com.

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StampShow will be upon us before we realize it. Information about the show, hotels and transportation to Sacramento is available online at the APS website. On Sunday, we will be having a Writers Unit 30 Breakfast along with all the events that take place there. Advance ticket sales are available when pre-registering with the APS either by mail or online. Our next issue of the PC should contain last minute information. 



Alan Warren National Postal Museum Notes

Research Libraries form Union Catalog Gateway

Major philatelic libraries around the world are attempting to form a "union" catalog for philatelic researchers. One of the partners in this major undertaking is the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's Library in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution's library system. Other partners include the American Philatelic Research Library and the Royal Philatelic Society London's library.

APRL has been working also with the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, the Slusser Memorial Library of the Postal History Foundation, the Collectors Club of New York library, the Harry Sutherland Library of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, and the Western Philatelic Library. Once the combined library catalogs have achieved a common access link, the link will be posted by the various library sites.

Some of the key movers and shakers of this wonderful research project include Allen Kane of the National Postal Museum, Alan Holyoake of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and Tara Murray of the American Philatelic Research Library. Collectors will be able to access this com-


bined resource of some of the world's best philatelic libraries. Other noted libraries both here and abroad are expected to join the system.

The project is expected to launch in June of this year.

Seventh Annual Postal History Symposium

The NPM announced a call for papers for two major philatelic events coming in November. The first is the Seventh Annual Postal History Symposium sponsored jointly by NPM, APS, and APRL. The symposium will be held November 2-4, 2012 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pa. The theme of the symposium is "Blue & Gray: Mail and the Civil War." Further details are found at http://postalmuseum.si.edu/symposiums/Call_for_Papers_2012.pdf

The second event is the First International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately. This symposium takes place at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC, November 12-14, 2012. Technical papers are sought that reflect the use of forensic analysis in solving philatelic questions related to color, ink, paper, gum—their physical and chemical structure and composition.

Seminar attendees will have an opportunity to take part in a workshop with some of the forensic instruments owned by NPM. Keynote speaker for the event is David Beech, head of the philatelic collections of the British Library in London. Further details on this symposium are found at www.analyticalphilately.org/symposiumcall.html. 

From **Books** on page 1

Aristotle and other plays of Euripides. One copy in one institution is not enough,” responds Mr. Kahle.

Again the question is, why duplicate the storage as a digital copy and the physical copy? Mr. Kahle suggests that some event may occur that would require that the digitization be repeated. Digital media are more easily damaged than paper. Many of the floppy disks of the 1990s don't work now, even if a drive might be available to read the old formats. Hard drives wear out unpredictably and formats change. Some cosmic event may occur that destroys the databank equipment.

It has been noted that numerous libraries were culling their collections of books that had been digitized by Google Books, or just removing books or bound magazines that were used only a few times a year. Many of these items were simply discarded.

Putting all this together led to the realization that an obvious model for a book repository was the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in which 740,000 seed samples are stored in the Norwegian permafrost. Mr. Kahle started the Physical Archive of the Internet Archive. The *New York Times* noted that Mr. Kahle's "partners and suppliers in the effort for the Physical Archive are very glad someone is saving the books - as long as it is not them."

Mr. Kahle describes the project further (5). "Internet Archive is building a physical archive for the long term preservation of one copy of every book, record, and movie we are able to attract or acquire. Because we expect day-to-day access to these materials to occur through digital means, our physical archive is designed for long-term preservation of materials with only occasional, collection-scale retrieval. Because of this, we can create optimized environments for physical preservation and organizational structures that facilitate appropriate access. A seed bank might be conceptually closest to what we have in mind: storing important objects in safe ways to be used for redundancy, authority, and in case of catastrophe. The goal is to preserve one copy of every published work. The universe of unique titles has been estimated at close to one

hundred million items. Many of these are rare or unique, so we do not expect most of these to come to the Internet Archive; they will instead remain in their current libraries. But the opportunity to preserve over ten million items is possible, so we have designed a system that will expand to this level. Ten million books is approximately the size of a world-class university library or public library, so we see this as a worthwhile goal. If we are successful, then this set of cultural materials will last for centuries and could be beneficial in ways that we cannot predict."

"To start this project, the Internet Archive solicited donations of several hundred thousand books in dozens of languages in subjects such as history, literature, science, and engineering. Working with donors of books has been rewarding because an alternative for many of these books was the used book market or being destroyed. We have found everyone involved has a visceral repulsion to destroying books. The Internet Archive staff helped some donors with packing and transportation, which sped projects and decreased wear and tear on the materials."

Libraries that were removing books and magazines are now sending them to the Archive to be digitized and archived if a copy is not yet in the collection. Individuals are also donating their own book collections as well. On an average week some 20,000 new volumes arrive at the repository.

So what does this tell us for our own literature? This editor thinks it may mean we should keep the works that we digitize and make an effort to keep at least one copy of the physical work, even if it was published only digitally. What do you think?

1. *In a Flood Tide of Digital Data - An Arc Full of Books and Film*, *New York Times*, Sunday March 4, 2012.
2. websearch.about.com/od/peopleontheweb/tp/influential-people-on-the-web.htm
3. <http://archive.org>
4. <http://pagesofthepast.ca/>
5. blog.archive.org/2011/06/2011/why-preserve-books-the-new-physical-archive

David Crotty

***La Posta* Announces Richard W. Helbeck Prize**

Catherine Clark, publisher of *La Posta* Publications, has announced the creation of the Richard W. Helbeck Prize for the best postal history article appearing in an annual issue of *La Posta*, *The Journal of American Postal History*.

The award is named in honor of Bill Helbeck, the founding editor of *La Posta* who died from a heart attack in May 2011. The first Richard W. Helbeck Prize, which will be given for the best article appearing in a 2012 *La Posta*, will consist



Richard W. Helbeck with one of his other hobbies.

of a certificate and cash and prizes valued at more than \$500. Runner-up and third place awards will also be presented. Clark is establishing an endowment fund, the proceeds from which will perpetuate the award. Friends of Helbeck who wish to make a donation in his memory can send it to Clark at *La Posta* Publications.

La Posta is a quarterly journal devoted to U.S. postal history. For subscription information, write: *La Posta* Publications, 315 Este Es Road, Taos, NM 87571 or go online at www.la-posta.com/journal.htm.



Letters: Ship Names, Proofing, How to cite the years that belong to a decade?

Dear David:

I enjoyed the page in the latest *Philatelic Communicator* with letters about how to cite ship names and other matters. You opened the can of worms, so here are a few more thoughts to chew on.

First of all, I agree with Ken Trettin that the category of ships (RMS, HMS, USS, etc.) is not part of the ship's name, and belongs in roman. At the same time, the ship's name should always be in italics in proper citations.

So far, so good.

I have to disagree (quibble) with him on the specific use regarding HMS Pinafore, in that if it is cited as the name of a musical and in a form such as a footnote, where titles would be italicized, a case could be made for putting the HMS in italics, but the Pinafore in roman.

This would be the usual "reversal" of italics found occasionally in other footnote citations.

Why do all the style sheets differ? I can think of a lot of possible reasons. The first might be laziness, with the writer not knowing that there may be a conventional form for such matters and just using whatever comes to mind, such as all roman, possibly expecting the editor to sort it out. This could be carried a step further by the editor, who might look at the citation and assume that it should be all italics, without bothering to check anywhere.

Next would come the arbiters of style for media with a constrained format, such as the *New York Times*. With narrow columns and quick deadlines, many entries that might normally be italicized are institutionally kept in roman, perhaps to avoid the need for a close check, and possibly because the newer staff members might not be completely aware of such nuances. The latter is sad, but true. It is not only usage but other matters such as geography where many are clueless. It's bad enough to have people who think that they can look up anything on line, so don't have to know it directly, but that has the added drawback that they may not know that such a question might exist in the first place.

But I digress.

Then we have those who say "it's always been done this way." No matter that the first person to make the decision, if any, may not have researched it very much, let alone had a style book that could have given guidance. It could have been as simple a matter as looking at someone else's citation (whether correct or not) and assuming that such was the way to treat it.

With the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, I use a number of style books, the best of which is old but quite detailed. Those help me to avoid problems, but my main blessing is to have had the pleasure of working with a copy reader who is not a philatelist but is a usage maven's dream. She catches the tiniest of problems, and if something such as an incorrectly cited ship's name should elude my scrutiny, her red penciled remarks would scream "how could you possibly miss that," even though she would never say it in those terms. We do get quite a few manuscripts from British and other overseas authors, where dates have to be changed to U.S. style, even though my personal preference is for the military/European format. And then, there's the cross-Atlantic difference in use of punctuation with quotes, which many U.S. writers don't seem to understand, either. Add to this the difference between the use of "which" vs. "that" and you have most of the normal editing problems that come up even with the writers who deliver the cleanest copy.

The good news is that those who really care take the time to ask, such as is evinced by the page that started all this. We may decry the slow descent to mediocrity in some modern areas, but it is heartening to see that

there are those who are willing to fight to keep it from going too quickly.

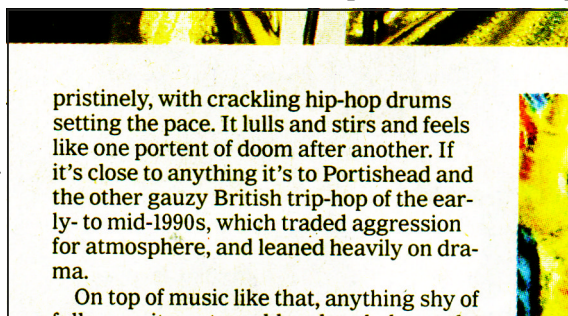
I should add that my copy reader would have descended on me with both boots if I had used an apostrophe in 1960s. It's not possessive.

All the best,
Bob Odenweller

Editor's Notes. Actually I haven't had this much fun with language since the day in high school English when we were reading segments of that great epic poem *The Cremation of Sam McGee*. When I finished my segment the class started clapping. THAT never happened again.

Anyway the question could be framed as: how do you express the years that belong to a decade? Possessive? And my guess is that is how it was viewed at some point in distant history. I wonder where I could find a style-book from the years belonging to the decade of 1920?

So since I discovered that the *New York Times* style-book showed this with the apostrophe I have been reading that paper intently in search of a usage. It does not get used much. I found one in the Sunday Entertainment section, See Inset, in a most bizarre review of a singer, but it used, right there in front of my eyes "1990s" without. They gave up the fight. Woo!



New York Times article about singer Lana Del Ray, Sunday January 29, 2012 Page E22.

See Letters page 6

From **Letters** page 5

Dear Mr. Crotty,

I was delighted to get my copy of the current issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* the other day. I was especially delighted to see articles on The Grolier Club exhibit of the Imprimerie Nationale material and attention to the Ephemera Society, since I am both a book and ephemera collector. I was also amused to see discussions about grammar and style, all of which seemed appropriate enough until I saw a couple of glaring style problems that must have passed by a proofreader who was more concerned about the italicization of HMS than basic spelling.

On the back cover, the index of articles lists the front page story under the name of “The Golier Society”. Omission of the 'r' in Grolier is bad enough, but to designate it as the Grolier Society is unforgivable (at least to those who are members of the Club). The Grolier Society is the publisher of an encyclopedia. For pure proofreading gaffs, I would have to single out the caption to Figure 2 on page 4 where TrueType is rather incredibly hyphenated Tru- | eType...twice!

Bill Barlow

Editor's Notes: Actually the struggles of an Editor who has no staff are mighty, as all readers of TPC know well. In this case we have an excellent proof reader in Alan Warren. He did miss a few things that few would notice. Then I had to do a few things after his work. All of the errors that appear date to that. The TrueType hyphenation was the word processor's attempts to fit text and I struggled with it without success and apparently gave up.

Sometimes you go through the edition three times, finding something new each time. Then just as you know the ink is flowing at the printer you open it up and an error the size of a bowling ball rolls right off the page. I'll learn some day.

Dear Editor:

Interesting article on the Garamond type - it had me looking for a font download, somewhere. Next best, I guess, is Georgia, if what you write is going to be viewed on a computer monitor.

It doesn't quite seem possible that Jean Jannon's type faces could have been confused with Garamond's for three centuries if they were made in 1861, even though time flies. And I don't think that the type punches made by punch cutters later than Garamond would be confused with Garamond, since he had a beard and they didn't. Maybe confused with Garamond's *type styles*?

Was Lloyd de Vries' report printed in white ink? Or was the report just the chart and image?

I'd go your way with *HMS Pinafore* as the title of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, and I agree that the style-books aren't always helpful, at least if you are hoping for unanimity. But with the USS Cole, why not ask the owners of that ship? The Navy neither italicizes or uses

periods - they call it the USS Cole.

I don't think you can left an issue rest, since left's not right. Ambrose Bierce didn't have an entry for this one in *Write it Right: A Little Blacklist of Literary Faults*, though the expression might not have been so common then. “Let it rest,” he would have said.

The *Perrin Writer's Guide* lets you do dates either way, at least in the ancient edition on my desk, though I'd be inclined to add the apostrophe only when leaving it out might cause confusion. Offhand, I can't think of an instance where it would. The tendency, with punctuation, seems to be to simplify. I had a copy of Perrin long before I had a copy of Chicago, and it's still my favorite. You might consider just one more reference book on your shelf! There was some comment about this in *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, but I can't find my copy.

It surprises me that the Cincinnati Enquirer would edit out subsequent salutations when reprinting a NY Times article. It isn't really a reprint if you change it. Ain't editing fun?

PS: Found more on that apostrophe in *Perrin*, under, no surprise, *Apostrophe*.

3. **In plurals.** *An apostrophe is used in plurals of figures, letters of the alphabet, and words being discussed as words:*

“three e's”

“the 1920's”

“The first of the two that's”

There is a growing tendency to omit this apostrophe:

“The legendary Miss Millay, the feminine Byron of the 1920s...”

I'd bet that the more recent edition of *Perrin*, still buried in a box somewhere, has finally switched preferences on the apostrophe in dates, since there has been plenty of time for that tendency to grow, but I won't be sure until I build more bookcases and reduce the pile of book boxes to zero later this year.

I wonder about that high brow New Yorker. Apparently it has a receding hairline. If you're referring to its level of snootiness, then it's only one word.

Cheers,

Rudy de Mordaigle

Editor's Note: Obviously Mr. Mordaigle enjoys playing with words. I think we used the word typeface correctly, and Jannon's work did apparently get confused with Garamond's, perhaps on purpose. The font is a standard Truetype that comes with windows but I really like Times New Roman better.

The reports from the vice president and the president were in fact printed in white ink for this edition as Mordaigle surmises.

I definitely enjoyed the “left” issue. We could probably debate this for the next year. We do often beg to be “left alone.”



AFDCS Digitizes Back Issues of its Journal

AFDCS Offers 57 Years of FDC Articles on Disk or Flash Drive

A press release from AFDCS reads as follows:

A digital archive of the American First Day Cover Society's award-winning journal *First Days* from the first issue in 1955 through 2011 is now available from the AFDCS, in a searchable PDF format. A copy on DVD is \$79 postpaid, while the same material on a USB flash drive is \$89.

Included in the files are 34,736 pages of material from 395 issues, invaluable for researchers, authors, exhibitors, philatelic judges and just about anyone who enjoys collecting FDCs. Each page appears as it did when it was issued, yet the entire archive is searchable.

For example, want to find all the articles in *First Days* on Dorothy Knapp? Just type "Dorothy Knapp" in the search box and you'll receive a list of every article on Knapp. Then just click on the link to read the article.

So, even if articles on a subject are scattered throughout the nearly 60 years the magazine has been published, they all can be found within a matter of seconds. There's no longer any need to dig through musty boxes and binders.

With back issues provided by Foster Miller and Alan Warren, as well as his own library, project manager Todd

Ronnei was able to scan all 57 years in about six months.

"The best part was finding information on cachet makers whose name I knew but about whom I knew almost nothing," Ronnei said. "Dick Monty's lengthy profiles of cachet makers and others in the FDC hobby are pure gold."

The archive is also a time capsule of stamp collecting history, and Ronnei found this gem from 1959 particularly funny:

"SOMETHING FOR THE GIRLS: During the convention, there will be shopping tours of Detroit's leading stores, that is, unless the husbands object."

"We're indebted to Todd Ronnei for making this valuable resource available," said AFDCS President Lloyd de Vries. "We've already used this digital archive to settle a dispute."

The First Days Digital Archive is available from the AFDCS at P.O. Box 16277, Tucson, Ariz. 85732-6277 or online at the AFDCS website, www.afdcs.org.

Editor's Note: The article in *First Days* describes Ronnei's methods that involve programming and Adobe Pro. There are some rather inexpensive cameras available to digitize books. Has anyone tried them? Let us know!



**Plan to Attend
Writer's Unit #30 Breakfast
Speaker To Be Determined**

Involving Your Readers



John Hotchner

“Mere mortals work from 9 to 5
A writer works while he’s alive.”

I’ve forgotten where this came from, but there is truth to it. Perhaps deadlines help to focus us, but there is a certain compulsion underlying our writing. We write to inform, to entertain, to solicit information, to propose theories, to explain ourselves, and there may be other reasons. But most of us actually want the audience to read the material. How to encourage that? I’d suggest two major ways:

Invite the reader to want to read your text by a catchy beginning, short declarative sentences, paragraphs that are not long, imposing blocks of text, and judicious use of illustrations where possible. A bit of humor is not amiss – even in philatelic articles, though the sledgehammer approach is best avoided.

Equally important – especially with regard to columns and articles which, unlike books, lend themselves to follow-ups -- is to invite your readers to participate in the substance of what you are discussing.

People often ask me how I can keep up a weekly column in *Linn’s*? A good share of the answer is reader involvement. I regularly make it clear, sometimes by throwing a question to *Linn’s* readers (probably the most impressive knowledge base in the

hobby) that I want to hear from them. Especially welcome are corrections, ideas for new areas to examine, questions, opinions, new facts, and additional examples of philatelic items I’ve discussed.

It is the odd week when I don’t hear from at least a few readers, often more, by mail to *Linn’s*, and now increasingly by email. Follow-ups probably count for a third of “U.S. Notes” content. But it is not just filling space. I believe that reader input makes the final product much more useful, much more accurate, and much more interesting.

Should you have to ask? A percentage of your readers will respond whether you do or not; especially when you make a mistake. But I’m reminded of the political candidate who lost by one vote. In talking with a supporter after the fact, it developed that he had not bothered to go to the polls. The candidate was rather put out, and asked why? The voter replied, “You never asked me to.”

We’re all busy. To do something out of the ordinary takes effort. It is generally easier not to do something than to do it. So reaching out to the reader with a request may just tip the scale. It is worth doing.

Your experience in this realm is wanted by our editor. What tricks have you developed for inviting readers into your writing?

Editors Note: I agree with John. I want to hear about your experiences. What worked for you? 

Writing Articles for Philatelic Publications as a Hobby or for Profit.

What Difference Does it Make?



Steve Swain

For the weekly and monthly philatelic publications that include a brief author’s biography with the issue’s articles, it’s

reasonable to conclude that many authors are neither on the publication’s staff nor are professional writers. Many articles are written by fellow stamp collectors simply expanding the scope of their philatelic activities to include writing. They write not for the monetary gain (although the modest payment for the article

is graciously accepted), but rather their writing is just another pleasurable, fun part of their beloved hobby. As for the other publications that do not tag their articles with anything more than a simple byline, it’s fair to assume that many of those articles are also written by stamp hobbyists.

But, is this a correct assumption? Are the articles in the weekly and monthly stamp publications really being written by stamp collectors with no desire for monetary gain from selling their articles? Or, are the articles being written by stamp hobbyists with a definite desire for profit? And, what about non-stamp col-

lectors whose sole focus is to publish articles at a profit as part of their main livelihood? Are those the people whose articles we read? Unfortunately, without biographies or other insights, we may never know.

So, you may ask, "What difference does it make?" Beyond satisfying simple idle curiosity, at least one difference is related to the income tax consequences of the sales of the articles.

The income realized from the sales of the articles – however modest or significant – surely falls within the taxable classification. But are the expenses associated with writing and selling the articles deductible on the author's tax return: pens, paper, computers, software, printer cartridges, dues for professional writer affiliations, books about writing, packing materials and postage for sending articles to publications and a myriad other writing-related expenses?

The entire issue turns on whether the article writing activities are simply associated with a hobby or, instead, are activities engaged in for profit. So, if a writer hopes to reap the benefits of some special advantages on their tax return from selling philatelic related articles - and having the IRS approve such advantages - it is critical to understand the difference between engaged in or not engaged in for profit.

According to provisions of Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 165, taxpayers may deduct ordinary and necessary expenses for conducting a trade or a business for the production of income, that is, activities engaged in for profit. But, when an activity is not engaged in for profit, IRC Section 183 Activities Not Engaged in for Profit limits deductions that can be claimed on an individual's tax return. This Code section is commonly referred to as the "hobby loss rule."

In essence, the rule holds that losses from hobby activities, e.g., writing and selling stamp collecting related articles, may not be used to offset other income included on the individual's tax return. (An activity produces a loss when expenses related to the activity exceed the income recognized from the activity.) However, some benefit is provided the writer / taxpayer by the rule in that tax deductions are allowed for expenses associated with the article writing and selling activities



Avoid Tax Court litigation by satisfying the "for profit" requirements when selling articles to philatelic publica-

up to the dollar amount of the article sales, but no more.

Deductions for hobby activities are claimed as itemized deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040).

"Hobby Expenses" are only deductible if you itemize deductions on your tax return. They are considered "miscellaneous itemized deductions" and you may only deduct the portion of them that, along with any other miscellaneous deductions, exceeds 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. Depending on your particular tax circumstances, this can result in all income from the hobby being taxable income with no offsetting deduction for hobby expenses.

The hobby loss rule was first issued in 1946. It gained a heightened sense of importance for the IRS given findings issued in a 2007 report by the Treasury Inspector General entitled "Significant Challenges Exist in Determining Whether Taxpayers With Schedule C Losses are Engaged in Tax Abuse." The report's most significant finding was that about 1.5 million taxpayers (in a certain income level) filed Form 1040 Schedule C - Profit or Loss from Business showing no profits, only losses, over consecutive Tax Years 2002 – 2005. By claiming those losses to reduce their taxable incomes, about 1.2 million of the 1.5 million potentially avoided paying \$2.8 billion in taxes in Tax Year 2005. The IRS concluded that changes were needed to prevent taxpayers from continually deducting losses in potentially not-for-profit activities to reduce their tax liabilities. Thus, the hobby loss rule under IRC Section 183 was expanded and deductions began to be scrutinized more closely and challenged more often by the IRS.

If you take the position that your article writing and selling activities are "for profit", and that IRC Section 183 hobby loss rules do not apply, then the burden of proof is on you. Neither the Internal Revenue Code nor the tax Regulations provide an absolute definition of "engaged in for profit" and, historically, IRC Sections 165 and 183 have been difficult issues. Given that, are there factors that can support a writer's / taxpayer's "for profit" position?

A very significant item in this regard is a presumption by the IRS when analyzing business losses, the so-called Hobby Loss Rule of Thumb. If a business reports a net profit in at least 3 out of 5 years, the IRS

See *Profit* on page 10

From **Profit** on page 9

presumes the business to be for profit. If a business reports a net loss in more than 2 out of 5 years, it is presumed to be a not-for-profit hobby.

But, if a writer cannot meet the 3-out-of-5 year rule (3 years of profits in a 5-year period), proving a profit motive could be substantially supported by the following nine factors (as listed in *IRS Publication 535 - Business Expenses*):

1. You carry on the activity in a businesslike manner.
2. The time and effort you put into the activity indicate you intend to make it profitable.
3. You depend on income from the activity for your livelihood.
4. Your losses are due to circumstances beyond your control (or are normal in the start-up phase of your type of business).
5. You change your methods of operation in an attempt to improve profitability.
6. You, or your advisors, have the knowledge needed to carry on the activity as a successful business.
7. You were successful in making a profit in similar activities in the past.
8. The activity makes a profit in some years, and how much profit it makes.
9. You can expect to make a future profit from the appreciation of the assets used in the activity.

Certainly, none of these factors, alone or in any combination, guarantees that an individual's stamp collecting article writing and selling activities will be deemed either for or not for profit. Each taxpayer's situation stands on its own facts and circumstances. But, fully understanding the "requirements" and exercising the appropriate amount of due diligence with writing activities as a profit-motivated endeavor will surely bode well with the IRS when article writing and selling advantages are claimed on a tax return.

I eagerly await the next round of weekly and monthly stamp publications in my mailbox (or via the Internet) so I can again muse about all those wonderful authors and "What difference does it make?"

The Author

Steve Swain has enjoyed all aspects of philately for 55 years. His articles have appeared in *The American Philatelist*, *The Philatelic Communicator*, *Stamps* and other stamp publications on topics ranging from the income tax consequences of selling stamp collections to collecting first day covers.



Reviews

Print & Electronic



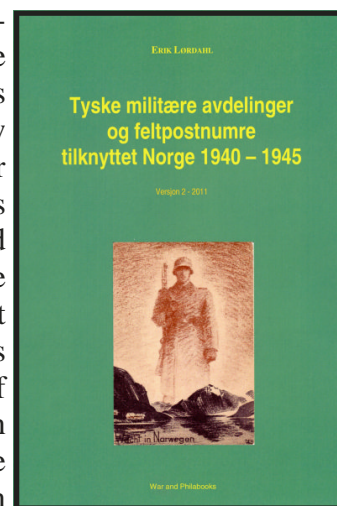
German Military Units in Norway

Tyske militære avdelinger og feltpostnumre tilknyttet Norge 1940-1945 (German Military Units and Fieldpost Numbers Connected with Norway 1940-1945), 2nd edition by Erik Lørdahl. 128 pages, 8 ¼ by 11 ¾ inches, perfect bound, in Norwegian, plus CD; War and Philabooks, Tårnåsen, Norway, 2011. ISBN 978-82-995588-4-1, \$70 plus postage from War and Philabooks, Gydas v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway.

So much new information has surfaced since the first edition of this work in 2001 that the new book now requires over three times as many pages and a greatly expanded fieldpost database on the accompanying compact disc. The book begins with a military history of Norway from the German invasion in 1940 to the end of World War II in 1945. Descriptions of six army, navy, and air force fronts are described at Narvik, Trondheim, Bergen, Kristiansand, Oslo, and Egersund.

Details of the German forces are shown in tables to give an idea of the extent and complexity of the occupation including military units and lists of the Luftwaffe's aircraft throughout the country, and the fieldpost numbers assigned to the air force units. Both the air force and navy sections are filled with wonderful picture postcards of the sea and air craft. From these six locations the scheme of German fieldposts evolved and the mail of these posts is the focus of the book.

The author then turns to the postal history associated with these military units, yielding a richly illustrated description of SS inspection stations, the Organization Todt labor forces, and a listing of the NSKK (National Socialist Motor Corps) fieldposts. Discussion of the various classes of mail include letters and postcards, air mail, registered, courier, parcel, money transactions, and a variety of fieldpost



printed forms.

Many handstamped censor and transit markings are shown together with an important warning about counterfeit handstamps that have come on the market in recent years. A list of abbreviations and literature sources used conclude this book. Most of the illustrations are in color.

The compact disc contains thousands of records in Excel™ files that are sorted three ways. The columns of data in each sort consist of fieldpost number, service (army, navy, air force), Kenn number (fieldpost office 3-digit code), dates of use (from-to), unit designation, county, town, literature source, and any supplementary notes. The three different sorts help collectors to search by German fieldpost number, or county/town, or unit type. There is an enormous amount of data in these three files to which the author is adding new data as it is acquired.

Erik Lørdahl is not only an author of books and articles but also the editor of the *Norwegian War and Field Post Journal*. He acknowledges the help of fellow collectors in Norway and Germany in compiling the text and database. In November 2011, Lørdahl was honored with Norway's most prestigious philatelic award, the Anderssen-Dethloff Medal. He is now one of only 26 distinguished individuals to hold this honor since its inception in 1942.

Alan Warren

Connected with Norway up to UPU, Norwegian Letters to Foreign Destinations until 1855, and Carrying Norwegian Mail Abroad up to UPU. Snarvold also spoke on this subject at the invitation of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

In 1999 the Oslo Filatelistklubb published Snarvold's *Norske Brevportotakster til Utlandet 1743-1855* in Norwegian ("Norwegian Letter Rates Abroad"). This 60-page book lists postal rates for mail sent via Sweden to various destinations and then for mail sent via Denmark. The listings are chronological and by destination, with reference to postal regulations and conventions, and with illustrations of a few covers (mostly black and white but some in color).

Harry Snarvold's latest book, again self-published in 2010, is of somewhat broader scope with respect to time, but once again focuses on transatlantic mail. *Transatlantic Mail Sailings Connected with Norway in the 19th Century* began as a single frame exhibit where it won gold awards in national and FEPA shows, and was then expanded in scope. This time the author approaches his material with four main objectives: maritime ship-letter mail during the Napoleonic Wars and the British blockade, the treaty period 1847 to 1875, the period of general post office notices and postal guides, and the decades following 1875.

The treaty period is subdivided into eleven areas by specific conventions between the United States and European countries. In each category the author shows examples of mail to and from Norway and identifies the ship, sailing line, route, and applicable rates. The many manuscript and handstamped markings on the covers are identified and described in detail. Markings on the reverse are also shown. Occasionally an illustration of a sailing vessel or steamship is included to add interest.

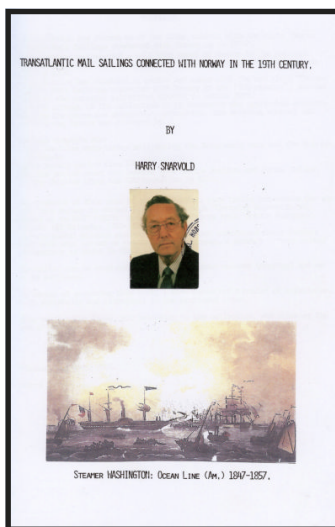
A wide variety of origins to Norway and destinations from Norway are shown. Among the former are Guatemala, Hawaii, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Uruguay, Newfoundland and remote areas of the United States. Destinations from Norway include Cuba, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Martinique, Panama, and to the U.S. in a closed bag via the Danish Post. The author provides brief descriptions of some of the transatlantic shipping lines and illustrates a few spectacular letters held by others.

Most of the author's books are hardbound and printed on one side of the page only. The exhibit pages are neatly hand-lettered and in English, and the

19th Century Norwegian Transatlantic Sailings

Transatlantic Mail Sailings Connected with Norway in the 19th Century by Harry Snarvold. 102 pages, 8 ¼ by 12 inches, hardbound, self-published, Göteborg, Sweden, 2010. Pricing information from Harry Snarvold, Eneliden 11, 433 64 Sävedalen, Sweden.

For over 20 years the author has exhibited early mail to and from Norway, at first up until the Universal Postal Union and then to the end of the 19th century. He publishes these exhibits from time to time to share his material and studies of rates and routes with other collectors. Some of these books, mostly hardbound and self-published, include *North Atlantic Mail Sailings*



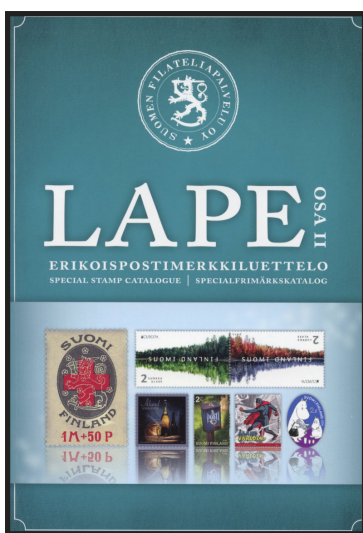
cover illustrations are in full color in this latest book. Snarvold's works contain an enormous wealth of postal history information and he acknowledges the assistance he has obtained from the literature and other specialists.

Alan Warren

LAPE 2012 Finland Special Catalog

LAPE 2012 Special Stamp Catalogue of Finland 1856-2011 in two volumes. Each volume 6 ¾ by 9 ¾ inches, perfect bound, card covers, 400 pages (volume 1) and 560 pages (volume 2), Philatelic Service of Finland, Turku, 2011. ISSN 1797-0644, €39.9 (approx. \$50) plus shipping from Philatelic Service of Finland, Satakunnantie 31, PL5, 20251 Turku, Finland.

Following the recent trend of *Facit* in Sweden and *Norgeskatologen* in Norway, the *LAPE 2012* catalog of Finland is now issued in two volumes. The unwieldy 864-page *LAPE 2010* is replaced with two volumes containing a total of 960 pages. However, there is a significant difference between the Swedish and Norwegian catalogs



compared with the new Finnish catalog. The first two issue the annual stamp catalog along with a postal history volume that is to be reissued every five years or so.

The Finnish catalog is separated simply by time and to some extent type of issue. Volume 1 covers Finland stamp issues up to 1930 and volume 2 focuses on commemorative and charity issues as well as the modern definitives. Åland and other Finnish related areas fall in the appropriate volume.

The new volume 1 reproduces some interesting 18th century postal route maps. A brief discussion (in Finnish, Swedish and English) defines the prestamp courier mail, general post, crown/provincial mail, church mail, and mail during the cholera epidemic. This is followed with an illustrated description of cancellations: straight line, high and low box, single ring, double ring, and the Finland cancels introduced in 1888. Then the stamp listing begins with the famous oval issues of 1856.

New to this edition of *LAPE*, following the listing of the serpentine rouletted issues, is a value listing of those stamps used on domestic and foreign covers, by period of use and by destination. The 1875 issue listing is expanded to illustrate some of the paper and color varieties that help identify the printings. The text describing the Saarinen issues of 1917-1929 has been expanded in the new edition, in both Finnish and English, and some new illustrations added.

A major change is seen in the 1920s listings when comparing the 2010 and 2012 catalogs. The 1922 Red Cross and 1927 Independence anniversary issues are removed chronologically and placed in volume 2 of the 2012 catalog. Volume 1 continues with the M1930 definitives followed by bus parcel issues, fieldpost stamps, East Karelia, North Ingermanland, Karelia, Aunus, Christmas seals, shipping company stamps, Helsinki and Tampere locals, revenues, perfins, and postal stationery. The later definitives appear in volume 2.

Rate tables and a list of Finnish philatelic experts with their contact information conclude volume 1. New to *LAPE* and found in volume 1 is a presentation, in Finnish and English and with wonderful color illustrations, of the great Finland collector Luis Alemany of Spain. Each year the publisher will introduce a famous collector of Finnish philately. A short biography of Alemany and some pages of his grand prix exhibit are presented.

Volume 2 focuses on semipostal and commemorative stamps from 1922 to 2011. The 1930 Zeppelin overprint listing has been expanded to show overprint varieties. The stamp listings include values for first day covers.

The more modern definitives are listed in this volume as well, including the 1954, 1963, and 1973 series. The brief description of the 1954 series is trilingual. However, for the 1963 series, even though paper varieties and fluorescent tagging are described, only Finnish is used. The 1973 definitives are discussed in Finnish and Swedish. Volume 2 ends with listings of stamp booklets, slot machine stamps and booklets, and then a listing of the issues of Åland from 1984 to 2011. This section includes year sets and post office issued maximum cards.

The new 2-volume *LAPE* has added some nice features. However, unless the publisher offers each volume for sale by itself, Finland collectors will have to invest in both volumes.

Alan Warren

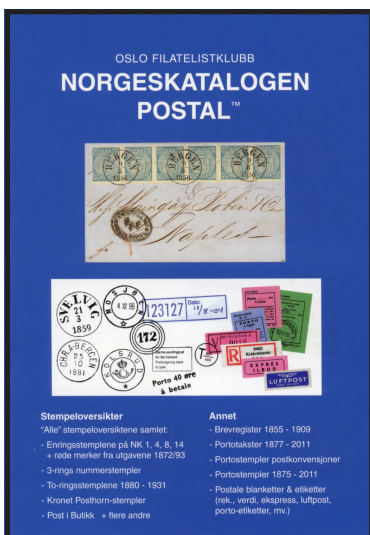
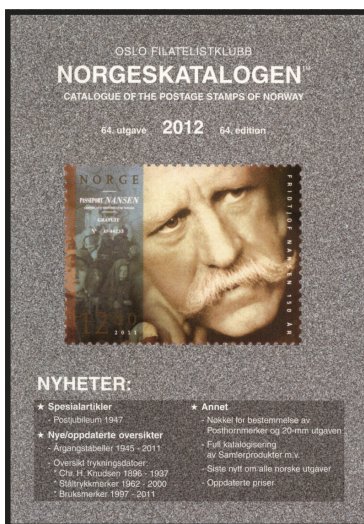
Norgeskatalogen 2012 and Postal

Norgeskatalogen 2012 and *Norgeskatalogen Postal* in two volumes. 6 ¾ by 9 ½ inches, card covers, perfect bound, 480 pages (catalog 2012) and 288 pages (postal catalog), Oslo Filatelistklubb, Oslo, Norway, 2011. ISBN 978-82-997618-4-0 (catalog) and 978-82-997618-5-7 (postal), 375 NOK for the catalog and 325 for the postal volume (approx. \$65 and \$55 respectively) plus shipping from Skanfil A/S, Box 2030, 5504 Haugesund, Norway.

Norgeskatalogen has set a high standard for many years as a model for a single country catalog. This year the publisher takes a significant step by dividing the work into two volumes. The 2012 catalog is the 64th edition of the specialized work on the country's stamps, and the separate Postal volume carries postal history information. The format is somewhat similar to Sweden's annual *Facit Special* plus its *Facit Postal* that appears about every five years.

The greater depth of the new 2-volume work is reflected in the total number of pages: 768 for this edition compared with 476 pages for the one-volume 2008 edition. This year's annual *Norgeskatalogen* is similar to the previous ones that record postage stamps, officials, postage dues, year sets, booklets, franking labels, souvenir sheets, and exhibition cards. Values from 1940 on are for mint, used, and on cover. Earlier issues also have value columns for unused and unused without gum. First day cover values are listed after each stamp issue.

The catalog also includes a detailed discussion of the varieties of the Posthorn issues, the world's long-



est running definitive stamp design. Other sections deal with marginal imprints, watermarks, forged cancellations, prestamp cancels 1845-55, and rate tables for the period 1877 to 2011. As with earlier editions of *Norgeskatalogen*, this one contains a special article unique to this volume. It is a study of the design and production of the 1947 jubilee issue marking the 300th anniversary of Norway postal services.

Postal historians will welcome this year's new volume, *Norgeskatalogen Postal*, which the publisher expects to reissue every three to five years depending on demand. This volume reprints the list of cancellations for the 1845-55 period that appears in the stamp catalog. Next is a listing of circle date stamps for the latter part of the 19th century, alphabetical by town, and with values used on various stamp issues. A list of towns spelled backwards helps identify partial cancellations.

Other sections are devoted to 3-ring numeral cancels, double ring marks from 1880 to 1931, 3-ring numeral cancels used after 1883, and the crown and posthorn cancels. Each subject has an extensive discussion in Norwegian followed by the value listings. One chapter lists covers for the period 1855-1909, by stamp issue, class of service (express, registered, parcel, etc.) for both domestic as well as foreign destinations. The latter are listed by country.

Rate tables are included just as they also appear in the stamp catalog. Another chapter focuses on postage due handling and markings from 1875 to 2011. Additional sections describe, illustrate, and value the labels (etiquettes) for services such as registered, express, insured, COD, and airmail. Many of the introductory discussions throughout the catalogs are in both English and Norwegian languages. Collectors of Norway now have both stamp and postal history resources to help them in their pursuit of Norwegian philately.

Alan Warren

2012 Literature Exhibits

NAPEX, June 1-3, 2012, McLean Tysons Corner, VA,
www.napex.org/

APS StampShow August 16-19, 2012, Sacramento, CA.
www.stamps.org/StampShow.

IPHLA 2012 Mainz, November 2-4, 2012 Mainz, Germany. www.philaindia.info/Iphila2012.html.

CHICAGOPEX November 16-18, 2012, Itasca, Illinois,
www.chicagopex.com/chicagopex2012.html.

Fred MacDonald

Writers Hall of Fame member Frederick Duncan MacDonald died March 6, 2012 in Winter Park, Fla. at age 70. He was born in South Amboy, N.J. March 15, 1941. He managed several family businesses in excavating, heavy equipment, and real estate.

Fred was a past treasurer and past president of the Mobile Post Office Society. He received the United States Philatelic Classics Society's Stanley B. Ashbrook cup in 1998 and was elected to the Writers Unit Hall of Fame in 2003. For some 20 years Charles B. Towle undertook the classification of all U.S. railway postmarks but he died in 1990 before he could complete the task. Fred took over

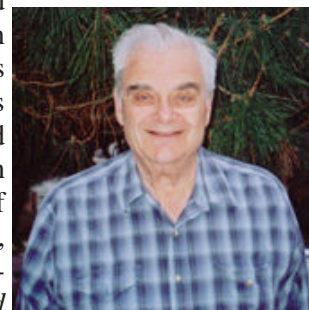


the project which eventually appeared as *The United States Railway Post Office Postmark Catalog 1864-1977* in three volumes.

As a co-author, Fred MacDonald worked with Towle, John Kay, and others to publish the *Mail Travel Guide Updated Agent and RPO Routes Listed by State and Railroad with Route Numbers*, the *Postal Markings of U.S. Waterway Routes 1839-1997*, and *The United States Transit Markings Catalog*.
Alan Warren

Jeremy A. Lifsey

Philatelic collector and author Jerry Lifsey died March 9, 2012 in Glenside, Pa. His major collecting focus was stamp booklets of the world and his interest resulted in publication of a number of articles in *Linn's Stamp News*, *U.S. Stamp News*, the *American Philatelist*, the *United*





Secretary-Treasurer's Report

April 07, 2012

New Members

- 1991 Reginald Hofmaier, 4005 Driftwood, Yukon, OK 73009.
<regbar91@aol.com>. Editor: *The Oklahoma Philatelist*.
1992 Steve L. Swain, 5 Meeting Street, Roswell, GA 30075.
<swain.steve9@gmail.com> Freelance Writer: *American Philatelist* (1984-1986); *Stamp Collector* (1984-1985); *Stamps Magazine* (1986).

Reinstated

- 1933 James E. Kloetzel, P.O. Box 785, Sidney, OH 45365-0785
<jkloetzel@scottonline.com> Editor: *Scott Postage Stamp Catalogues* (May 1994-August 2012); Editor: *Scott United States and Canada Listings* (August 2012-Present); Co-editor: *Linn's Stamp News*; Freelance Writer: *Collectors Club Philatelist* (New York) and *Philatelic Exporter* (United Kingdom).

Change of Address

- 1952 Edwin J. Andrews, 278 Security Hill Circle, Chapel Hill, NC 27516-0389.

Moved and Cannot Locate

- 1978 Northwest Philatelic Library, Portland, Oregon

Resignations

- 1487 Thomas F. Clarke, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania
1695 Dr. Gerald C. Goeringer, Bethesda, Maryland
1830 James E. McDevitt, Mobile, Alabama
1883 Rev. Robert T. Voss, McFarland, Wisconsin
1976 Paul E. Banzanker, Lake Toxaway, North Carolina
1951 Elmer W. A. Cleary, Saint-Bruno, Quebec, Canada
1954 Donald J. Chenevert, Jr., Edwards, Illinois

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues

- 1398 Mark Swetland, Bluffton, South Carolina
1764 Ada Prill, Rochester, New York
1873 Thomas Lera, Falls Church, Virginia
1881 C. David Eeles, Columbus, Ohio
1915 Daniel A. Piazza, Bowie, Maryland
1920 Jeffrey Hayward, Staten Island, New York
1938 Paul Ashley Helman, Sacramento, California
1939 Kenneth Wakasch, San Marcos, Texas
1940 Allison Gallaway, Washington, D.C.
1953 James R. Pullin, Winter Park, Florida
1982 Jerald A. Floyd, Fort Worth, Texas
1984 Mark Kellner, Fulton, Maryland

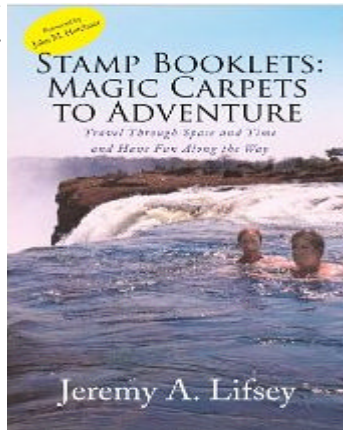
Frank H. Blumenthal

Aerophilatelist and Writers Hall of Fame member Frank Blumenthal died December 28, 2011 at age 98. Frank lived in Chevy Chase, MD, was retired from the National Labor Relations Board and was an avid Redskins fan. With David Eyman he compiled the *Index to the Airpost Journal Vol. 1-50* (1982). He served as editor of the journal from 1971 to 1989 and wrote the Foreign Air Mail (FAM) section of several editions of the *American Air Mail Catalogue* and was former editor-in-chief of the catalog.

The American Air Mail Society honored Frank with the Walter J. Conrath memorial award for outstanding service to the society (1975) and he was inducted into the Aerophilatelic hall of fame in 1992, and was granted honorary life membership. In 1991 he was elected to the Writers Hall of Fame.

Alan Warren

States Specialist, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, *Stamp Lover* and elsewhere. He also wrote two books about his hobby-- *Stamp Booklets: Magic Carpets to Adventure* and *Happiness Surrounds You*.



Jerry was past president of the Greater Philadelphia Stamp and Collectors Club. He held a master's degree in mathematics and conducted research on radar, computers, communications, and solar energy. He was predeceased by his wife Carol in 2011 and is survived by four children and nine grandchildren.

Alan Warren

Contributions

We thank the following members who made a generous contribution beyond their regular membership dues

- 0078 Barbara Mueller, Madison, Wisconsin (\$5.00)
- 0993 Kenneth Trettin, Rockford, Iowa (\$20.00)
- 1369 Roger S. Cichors, Boulder, Colorado (\$5.00)
- 1389 Steven J. Rod, South Orange, New Jersey (\$10.00)
- 1511 Robert D. Rawlins, Healdsburg, California (\$5.00)
- 1576 John A. Cali, Fulton, New York (\$10.00)
- 1644 Ted Bahry, Arcadia, Michigan (\$30.00)
- 1683 Kevin O'Reilly, Yellowknife, NT, Canada (\$2.50)
- 1778 Rex M. Stever, Corpus Christi, Texas (\$30.00)
- 1868 Gerald James Gallagher, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania (\$30.00)
- 1894 Yukihiro Shode, Yokohama, Japan (\$5.00)
- 1929 Roger S. Brody, Watchung, New Jersey (\$10.00)
- 1944 Edward Fisher, Birmingham, Michigan (\$10.00)
- 1945 L. Steve Edmunson, Shelton, Washington (\$5.00)
- 1958 Scott A. Shaulis, Murryville, Pennsylvania (\$20.00)
- 1968 Godwin Paul Billion, Warren, Michigan (\$5.00)
- 1970 Hugh V. Feldmann, Waldren, Essex, England (\$25.00)
- 1977 Wade E. Saadi, Brooklyn, New York (\$30.00)
- 1980 Thomas Richards, Columbus, Ohio (\$5.00)
- 1983 Myron S. Kavalgian, Old Lyme, Connecticut (\$5.00)

Total Contributions \$267.50

About Writers Unit #30

Purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

Join Us Today

Membership includes a subscription to the *Philatelic Communicator*. Membership applications received by October 1 will be recorded as members for that calendar year and will receive all four quarterly issues of the *Philatelic Communicator* for that year. Applications received after October 1 will be recorded as members for the following calendar year.

A membership application may be downloaded from the Writers Unit #30 website at <www.wu30.org>. Existing members are encouraged to download this form and give it to potential members so they can join.

Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses.....	\$20.00
Canada and Mexico.....	\$22.50
All Other Addresses.....	\$25.00

Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. This will also save WU#30 several dollars because the USPS charges us when they have to send us an address correction, and we still have to pay the postage for re-shipping the issue to the member.

George Griffenhagen
WU#30 Secretary-Treasurer
12226 Cathedral Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192-2232
<ggriffenhagen@gmail.com>
Telephone: 703-966-1739

APS Writers Unit #30
 George B. Griffenhagen
 12226 Cathedral Drive
 Woodbridge, VA 22192-2232

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Articles

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Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.