

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30



- R. P. ...

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www.wu30.org

Second Quarter 2018 Issue 200

Hall of Fame Inductees for 2018

Francis Crown, Leonard Hartmann
George Malpass, Van Dyk McBride

Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Francis (Frank) J. Crown, Jr. began collecting stamps at the age of six. By the age of 12, he was introduced to Confederate stamps and thus began a lifelong passion.

He wrote his first article while in college and quickly followed that with a second, both about Confederate stamps.

While in college, he also developed an interest in Georgia postal history that became a second lifelong passion.

He prepared the annual index to the *Confederate Philatelist* from the mid-1960s through the 1970s. In 1971, he began writing a column for the *Confederate Philatelist*, which continued until 1979. At the same time, he continued writing articles about Confederates. He also did original research and wrote a detailed article on "New Orleans Foreign Mails 1861-1862" that was published in the 43rd *American Philatelic Congress Book* (1977).

By the mid-1970s, he began the monumental task of editing and compiling the surveys of Confederate postmasters' provisionals prepared by Charles J. Phillips in the 1930s and Frank E. Hart in the 1950s. To this, he also added his own survey of Georgia postmasters' provisionals. The combined work was published as the *Surveys of the Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals* in 1982. This work is still a valuable tool to those who collect provisionals.

By the mid-1980s, he turned his focus to Georgia



Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Leonard Hartmann

Leonard H. Hartmann was born Nov. 22, 1941 in Chicago and has lived in Louisville, KY since 1955.

By profession, Leonard is a chemical engineer, having spent his entire career (almost 40 years) working with catalysts and with the same company through various ownership changes, retiring in stages in 2000-

2003. But Leonard is best known among philatelists for his lifetime passion for philatelic literature: collecting, dealing, publishing and writing, a business since 1965 and a hobby before and since.

During 1966-1970, he edited, printed and mailed *The Confederate Philatelist*. Since then, he has written articles for the *Chronicle of the US Classic Postal Issues*, *Confederate Philatelist*, and *Philatelic Literature Review*, among others. His first publishing venture was in 1967, when he bought in advance 300 of the 500-copy edition of Lionel Gillam's *A History of Canadian R.P.O.'s 1853-1967*, which allowed it to be published.

Since then, Leonard has published Dave Baker's *Postal History of Indiana*; Charles Starnes' *US Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations*, Lowell Cooper's *Fresno and San Francisco Bicycle Mail of 1894*, Ken Rowe's *The Forwarding Agents*, and Richard Byne's *Confederate States of America Philatelic Subject Index and Bibliography*, among others. Leonard says, "I initially tried to create a collector's appreciation



Leonard Hartmann

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David Crotty From the Editor

Writing and Judging

Bill DiPaolo wrote an article in *The Philatelic Exhibitor* April edition titled "Ramblings of an Apprentice Literature Judge." In this, he discusses the agony and the ecstasy of judging literature. Bill is a long time philatelist and also worked as a dealer at stamp shows across the country. He has also written a few books. As part of that discussion, he mentions the fact that we once had seven literature exhibits each year and now we have two. Expenses and overworked volunteers factored in.

Bill then asked the question "Where is the WU30? If any group ...should be waving the flag for literature competitions."

Bill says he discovered the WU30 just two years ago and joined last year. We wonder if maybe we need a robust publicity campaign if someone as active as he has missed us for so long.

I found Bill's email address as listed in the Judge's listings at stamps.org. On the next page please find our discussion.

Our answer to Bill is that yes, maybe we should be shaking down our membership to submit their works to the judging exhibits. Last year Stampshow 2017 had about 30 exhibits judged, some journals, some books, a few articles and a very notable auction catalogue. The only other literature exhibit was Chicagopex, also with about 30 exhibits submitted. It has been stated that it takes about \$50 to pay the expenses for each entry and Chicagopex charges \$25.

Personally, I edit two philatelic journals and I try to exhibit them once a year, and did that for the StampShow 2017.

The other question is, do we really need more than two exhibits? The APS website lists 188 associate specialty societies and most of them have a journal. There are about 450 clubs that have newsletters. We report the newsletter competition in this issue with about 20 submissions.

The WU30 tries to do its part. We list future literature, newsletter, and website competitions. We publish the results of these events. We have regular articles provided by writers on various subjects and many are on writing and publishing. We try to support authors by providing reviews of their books.

Perhaps some of you can suggest more?

Dave

Judging and Literature, A discussion

Bill DiPaolo

To: Bill DiPaolo

We of the WU30 find your article in the April *The Philatelic Exhibitor* this month to be especially interesting. I must admit that even as a writer and exhibitor I am still quite confused about judging. Your comments are well taken. We just have to figure out how to apply them.

And yes, where is the WU30? Well quite simply we depend on writers like yourself and we have never heard from you (that's my job to ask each person I meet to write an article). How can we direct this herd of cats to exhibit their literature? We try.

I see you are a WU30 member, thankfully, but I don't see if you are an editor for a philatelic unit. I find a William DiPaolo who seems to write for several Florida newspapers. Is that you?

Cheers.

David Crotty

Hello, David.

Thanks for your note. No, I'm not the newspaper guy from Ft. Lauderdale, nor am I a prolific philatelic writer, but I am a prolific user of philatelic writings. The United States Philatelic Possessions Society very recently published my book on Puerto Rican postal history and I was one of the contributors to the new APS book, *The Prexie Era*. Over the past few years, I've found myself moving more and more from collecting to research and writing.

Another thanks for your willingness to explore this issue further. It would probably be helpful if I provided some context to my call to WU30.

This is the first year of my membership, so I freely admit my vision of the society is limited. At the last APS show, the WU30 journal was submitted as a literature entry, and I had the opportunity to judge it. As I could view a full year's work side by side, I had some observations.

1. Because most philatelic authors are collectors not writers, WU30 is an important component of our hobby by virtue of the help and encouragement it can provide not only to active authors, but to those who may be hesitant to take the plunge. As a 40 year collector, who has written some over that period, I became aware of WU30 only 2 years ago. I missed out. How many others have?

2. While most philatelic writers are amateurs who have never received a penny for their efforts, the pub-

lication did not seem directed at this group. My impression is that it was directed to the professional writer. I saw articles about TV and radio, about preparing a prospectus to submit to a publisher, but I saw very little that was useful to the typical philatelic writer. Question: Do you have to be a writer to belong to WU30? (Editor: NO!)

In a years' worth of journals, there was very little coverage of or encouragement for literature competitions. (In the last issue, there was quite a bit of space devoted to this subject.)

It is no challenge for anyone involved in WU30 to list dozens of topics for the journal or society activities. The challenge is to find the people who will write them and do them – the perennial problem of philatelic societies. Having said that, when I asked, "Where is WU30?" my plea is for leadership. So here is my idea. Here is how WU30 can assert its leadership, increase its visibility and provide assistance to the community of philatelic writers that need the most help. Quality one frame philatelic exhibits are often overshadowed by their larger cousins. To overcome this, AAPE sponsors a competition exclusively of one frame exhibits that was in conjunction with the APS winter show. This competition will continue, but a permanent home is yet to be determined. I recommend that WU30 sponsor an "articles only" literature competition to be held eventually with the one frame exhibit competition.

As it stands now, too few articles are submitted for competition. It is difficult to compete with full journal and book submissions. At least that is the perspective. To get this done, the leadership of WU30 has to work with APS and AAPE for approval. If action were taken quickly, it might be feasible to do this in February 2019 here in Sarasota. Most likely this effort would be with little or no cost. There are at least 3 literature judges within three miles of me who might be persuaded to judge this initial effort without an honorarium. This would also eliminate postage costs for the distribution of entries to the judges, which can be substantial.

I would also ask that WU30 ask APS to sponsor a research award for literature as they do for philatelic exhibits. It would be good if this were implemented for the summer APS show.

As I said in my article, I'm new at this. Others have more experience, but I will help.

Bill

♦

postal history, particularly the stampless period. He wrote several articles on this subject for the *Georgia Postal History Society Bulletin*.

In 1991, he started *Georgia Post Roads* which became the successor to *Georgia Postal History Society Bulletin*. He continued to edit the journal until 1998, and then again from 2001 to 2006. While editor, he continued to write numerous articles on Georgia postal history, many of which were based on original research.

During the 1990s, he published *First Returns Received from Georgia Postmasters 1879-1918*, *Guide to Georgia Public Officials During the Stampless Period*, and *Georgia Stampless Cover Catalog and Handbook*, which is the definitive work on Georgia stampless covers. He also wrote about the Savannah duplex cancel of 1860-1861 in the *US Cancellation Club News*.

The *American Philatelist* for November 2000 included an article based on a cover he found, "A Cover for the Time," that described some of the low-handed methods used to obtain votes in presidential elections. In February 2002, his research on the Albany, Georgia, flower fancy cancels appeared in *US Cancellation Club News*. About this time, he again turned his focus to Confederates. He published two articles in the *Confederate Philatelist* based on detailed studies of two Confederate Postmasters' provisionals: "Athens 5¢ Red Provisional Recut" (2002) and "The Macon Petrie Fakes" (2004).

In 2007, he undertook another monumental effort to prepare a new Confederate States catalog in collaboration with Patricia A. Kaufmann and Jerry S. Palazolo. This effort culminated in the publication of the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, published in 2012. It won the Grand Award for literature at 2013 StampShow.

In 2016, he published the definitive work *Uniontown, Alabama, Postmaster's Provisionals*. This was followed in 2017 by another definitive work on the Springfield facsimiles in collaboration with Steven M. Roth and Patricia A. Kaufmann: *The Springfield Facsimiles of the Confederate Postage Stamps*.

More recently, he has focused his attention on educating writers about the poor research done on Confederate postal history by writers who accept what was written over 100 years ago without vetting the sources.

George N. Malpass

George N. Malpass (1904-75) was one of those collectors who comes along only once in a generation. A pharmaceutical chemist by trade, Malpass developed an early interest for stamps and postal history of the Civil War era and collected and wrote about them extensively for 60 years, beginning in 1915. His collection of stamps, covers, autographs, manuscripts and other related ephemera was

His first effort, "Trust No One: Pitfalls Await the Philatelic Researcher" (3rd Quarter 2017 *Confederate Philatelist*) used phrases from old publications that have been accepted as fact even though they are not or cannot be proved. The second, "The 3¢ Nashville Provisional Adhesive: A Study in Postal History Research," to be published in the *2018 American Philatelic Congress Book*, will illustrate through actual research the necessity of thoroughly vetting sources.

Crown received the August Dietz Award for distinguished research and writing in the field of Confederate philately in 1970, 1975, 1984, 2013, and 2017. In 2014, he received the Rowland Hill Award from the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs for his lifetime contribution to the study of philately in the Southeast United States. Frank has also served organized philately in numerous other capacities. He is currently (again) Vice President of the Confederate Stamp Alliance (CSA), although he served as President 1982-83. He is Chairman Emeritus of the CSA Authentication Service, serving as Chairman 2009-2016. ♦

Hartmann continued from Page 1

for finely printed books, true deluxe on special paper, a little added text, and corrections, fine binding in editions of 25 but had to discontinue as my cost was close to the retail and they did not sell as hoped."

Starting in 1993 for the Western Cover Society, Leonard published John Leutzinger's book on Wells Fargo; John Williams' book on California, Charles Winter's book on Nebraska, and James Gamett's book on the Nevada Express.

For the 2012 Confederate States of America Catalog, Leonard completed the entire General Issue Section (about 50 pages).

Currently, Leonard chairs the Collectors Club of Chicago's publications committee. He was involved with approving and funding books such as *The Pre-stamp Period of El Salvador*, *Soviet Clandestine Mail*, *U.S. Contract Mail Routes*, and the forthcoming Yamil Kouri book on the Spanish American War. In the future, he also is looking forward to publishing more of his own work.

Hartmann is Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, member of Club Monte Carlo, life member of APS and CSA, and member of various other societies. ♦

one of the most comprehensive ever assembled, at one time including more than 12,000 items. He had more than 100 articles and monographs published about Civil War patriotisms alone, and he also contributed generously to the 1861-69 section of the *Chronicle* (journal of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society), as well as to other publications.

Having been mentored by August Dietz, Malpass was on the editorial board for both the 1945 and 1959 editions

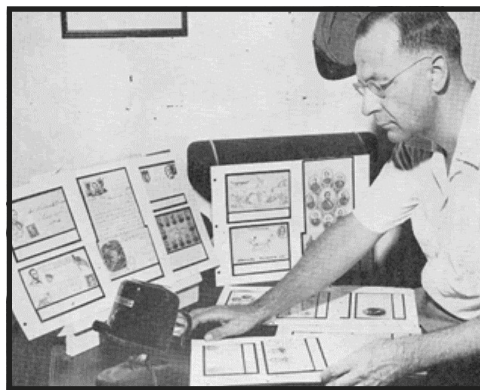
of the *Dietz Confederate Catalogue*. His involvement with the Confederate Stamp Alliance included being president from 1955-57 and serving for a number of years as chair of the Postal History Committee. He was awarded honorary life membership in 1971. He also was an honorary member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization.

Although Malpass was born in New Jersey, he spent many years of his life in Philadelphia, PA, and St. Petersburg, FL, where he had ample opportunity to research and obtain material, which was not limited to the Confederacy. Other special fields of Malpass' study included the Federal occupation of Fort Jefferson, FL; the early and Civil War-era postal history of Pensacola, Fort Pickens and Key West, FA; and patriotics of both the North and the South.

Although he was quite ill for a number of years prior to his death, Malpass maintained a very strong interest in his specialties and in helping others. According to the late postal historian Richard Graham, Malpass submitted a letter to the USPCS 1861 editor days before his final hospitalization that included key information for understanding a particular cover.

As a side note, after his death, no one knew the disposition of his collection. In 2004, a Malpass heir contacted Patricia Kaufmann for advice regarding this material, hav-

ing no idea what it was worth. When questioned about disorganization that ran contrary to Malpass' nature, the great-nephew responded that although his daughter knew the value of his collection, she apparently did



George N. Malpass

not instill this knowledge in the next generation. When she died, the remainder of Malpass' collection (still well into six digits) had been unceremoniously dumped on a curbside trash heap. While he recognized the material had value, he had no idea how much – or how significant it was to the hobby.

This year we celebrate Malpass' research and writing – something that was appreciated in his day and is important to recognize.

Van Dyk McBride

Van Dyk McBride (1891-1961) is not a name that is familiar to many of today's collectors. Yet he was one of the leading experts in Confederate philately during much of the 20th century. At the time of his death, McBride was serving as president of the Confederate Stamp Alliance, an organization in which he was active for many years, having also served as vice president 1946-47, 1950-57 and 1959-61.



Van Dyk McBride

A prolific author, McBride contributed not only to the *Confederate Philatelist*, but to other publications as well. His long-running "More About Confederates" column in *Stamps Magazine* was very popular with specialists and non-specialists alike. He also published a great deal of material in the now-defunct *Philatelic Gazette* of New York City (the publication ran from 1910-18), where he collaborated (for stamps from 1847-80 or so) with Dr. Carroll Chase, William B. Sprague and Arthur Owen, who collectively were known as "The Four Horsemen" (1915-18). Although McBride had solid

knowledge for various segments of early American philately, his own specialty at the time was the 1869 series, of which he wrote extensively. These studies, undertaken by McBride and the other "Horsemen," established a very important basis for other reference works and for later authors. Other contemporaneous contributors included J. Murray Bartels, B.W.H. Poole, Henry Neeham, and Phillip Ward, Jr.

McBride was a lifelong collector, having become interested in stamps after being introduced to the hobby by his father (who was also a collector) and had already become a serious student of philately by the time he was a teenager, as evidenced by his writing in the *Philatelic Gazette*.

McBride's interest soon turned to the Confederate States, where most of his efforts were concentrated. He and Lawrence L. Shenfield served as co-chairs of the 14-person editorial board that undertook the six-year revision that became the 1959 *Dietz Confederate Catalogue and Handbook*. He also served as head of the CSA authentication committee from 1950-61.

An additional specialty of McBride's included vintage postally used Valentines; that is, those mailed prior to 1870. In addition to collecting them, he wrote about and exhibited these Valentines, although never as seriously as his Confederates. As a professional investment securities advisor, McBride headed up McBride, Miller & Co., of Newark, N.J.

It is for his groundbreaking research work – both in the areas of classic United States and the Confederate States – that we honor the work of Van Dyk McBride.

Adventures in Science-Related Stamp Collecting!

Thomas P. Johnston

The story of my adventures in science-related stamp collecting began when I was about 9 years old.

I had a keen interest in all things related to NASA. At least two elements cemented this connection with NASA. Growing up, my family lived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Biloxi on the Intracoastal Waterway. From our front porch, I watched Saturn V rocket engines being shipped down the Intracoastal Waterway via barge, either from California or New Orleans, on their way to Cape Kennedy in Florida. Also, Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise, who nearly died during that mission (portrayed by Bill Paxton in the 1995 movie “Apollo 13”), is my uncle, and that fueled my interest in science-related stamps.



The 1975 French postage stamp celebrating the 1875 Meter Convention, at which France, the U.S. and 15 other countries set up the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures to coordinate the development of the metric system. France, 31 May 1975,



Three stamps of the Australian states. (1) Western Australia, April 1903, Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*), Scott 79. (2) Queensland, 1886, Queen Victoria, Scott 82. (3) Van Diemenland, August 1855, Queen Victoria, Chalons Head, Scott 13.



Romanian stamps commemorating the Apollo 13 crew, including my uncle, Fred Haise. Romania, 29 June 1970, Apollo 13, Michel 2863.

I have always had an interest in science and find delight in research that reveals information about my stamps. For a while, my stamps took a back burner to other pursuits, namely fishing, sailing and motorcycles. Eventually, though, stamps moved to the front burner, and I began asking the people I knew to retrieve stamps from their correspondence for my collection.

My obsession begins

While serving in the Navy I visited Australia and New Zealand, and fell in love with their culture and natural beauty. An interest in collecting stamps from these countries developed. I began to collect the Australian States issues. All the colonies became part of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901. These stamps are over 100 years old today. Although not science stamps, my interest in history was burgeoning.

My career brought me to the National Institutes of Health. There, I met a collector with a fascination for sci-

ence and atomic/nuclear-related stamps. This led me to read the 96-page booklet *Stamps Tell the Story of Nuclear Energy* (pdf), which influenced me to begin my atomic- and nuclear-related stamp collection. I now have nearly all the stamps from that booklet, including this one.

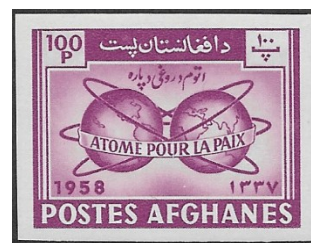


United States, Atoms for Peace, 1955. United States, 28 July 1955, Atoms for Peace, Scott 1070.



Afghanistan, 20 October 1958, Atoms for Peace, 50 pul, Michel 472b, imperforate.

Caption: Afghanistan, 20 October 1958, Atoms for Peace, 100 pul, Michel 473b, imperforate.



I am a member of the Health Physics Society (HPS), the professional organization for radiation safety specialists. At one point I proposed to the editor of *Health Physics News*, the monthly newsletter of the HPS, that I write an article about science-related postage stamps. My proposal was accepted and I became a contributing editor writing a regular column titled “A Philatelic Look at Health Physics History.” This was an opportunity to merge my interests in

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stamps, science, and history. *Health Physics News* published 14 of my articles, which focused on stamps celebrating the metric system, electron microscopes, science centers such as Europe's CERN and Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, personal protective equipment such as hard hats and safety goggles, and other topics.

A discovery Down Under

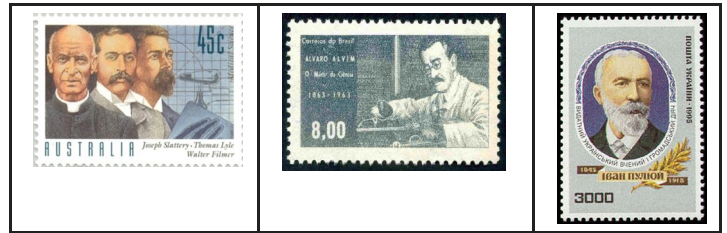
About three years ago, I was working on a stamp article that featured medical professionals, with an emphasis on radiologists. I found a 1995 Australian stamp with portraits of Father Joseph Patrick Slattery (1866-1931), Thomas Ranken Lyle (1860-1944) and Walter Drowley Filmer (1865-1944). A pursuit to learn more about these individuals led me to research the early pioneers of radiology in Australia. The National Library of Medicine in Bethesda loaned me the 1946 booklet *Salute to the X-Ray Pioneers of Australia*. This provided me with the impetus to study these medical forerunners and write biographical articles for Wikipedia.

I learned, for example, of radiologist William John Hancock (1864-1931) of Western Australia. In 1896, a new building was constructed for the Perth Observatory in Australia. Hancock donated X-ray equipment to place in a "leaden box" (a time capsule) that was set under the observatory's foundation stone. In my research to write Hancock's biographical article, I read of the observatory's dedication ceremony in the 30 September 1896 issue of the *West Australian* newspaper. The newspaper article described the dedication ceremony and the contents of the leaden box. Also, in the leaden box were Western Australia (WA) stamps and stamped post cards along with a note signed by Richard Sholl, postmaster general of WA. Needless to say, I would later pursue this aspect of WA history. Eventually, I learned of Alfred James Hillman. (As it turns out I serendipitously came to research an early issue of WA and the individual responsible for printing the now famous inverted frame 4d Swan issue of 1854, Alfred James Hillman. Hillman was assistant surveyor, draftsman and lithographer. Hillman printed the 4d Swan issue of 1854.)

I wrote to the staff of the Perth Observatory with inquiries about this leaden box. The staff told me of their museum exhibit that displayed items from a container uncovered during a building renovation. However, they had no further details regarding the contents of the box. I informed them of the container's contents and specifics about the X-ray apparatus donated by Hancock. In my own way, I helped to uncover details of the first time capsule in Australia, the second oldest time capsule in modern history—and all from my laptop in Frederick, Maryland. (The oldest time capsule was installed in 1888 at Wall Street, New York City, and uncovered in 1957.)

Recognizing the little guys

As I continued researching medical professionals featured on stamps, I located a curious 1963 Brazilian stamp depicting radiologist Álvaro Alvim (1863-1928) with the caption *mártir da ciência* (Portuguese for "martyr of science"). My research led to documents and a brief biography, all written in Portuguese. I translated these docu-



The Australian stamp honoring X-ray pioneers Slattery, Lyle and Filmer. The Brazilian stamp honoring Álvaro Alvim, "martyr of science." The Ukrainian stamp honoring radiologist Ivan Pavlovich Puluj, Ukraine's equivalent of X-ray discoverer Wilhelm Röntgen. (1) Australia, 7 September 1995, Slattery, Lyle, Filmer, Scott 1461a. (2) Brazil, 19 December 1963, Álvaro Alvim, radiologist, Scott 971. (3) Ukraine, 2 February 1995, Ivan Puluj, Scott 202.

ments, uncovered more details of Alvim's life, and published a biographical article about him for Wikipedia. Alvim is known for making the first radiograph in the world of *xiphopagous* (conjoined, or Siamese) twins. In the stamp image Alvim does not have any fingers. At that time in history, medical specialists involved with X-rays were known for losing some or all of their fingers. Radiologists would produce an image of their hand as a quality assurance method. As a result of this practice, the hand would be damaged from repeated X-ray exposure. To remove the *necrosis*, treatment involved amputation of the affected digits, and often hand amputation.

Along the same thread of uncovering medical science pioneers, I came upon a 1995 Ukrainian stamp of radiologist Ivan Pavlovich Puluj (1845-1918), a Ukrainian inventor and physicist. Puluj was known as Ukraine's equivalent of X-ray discoverer Wilhelm Röntgen. My research on Puluj revealed documents written in Russian, which I translated. With additional research I published a biographical article online.

In my research and Wikipedia writing, I am motivated to make sure that the "little guys" of science are not forgotten because their contributions are not little. For instance, where I work we use Marinelli beakers every day to measure radioactivity of a sample without contaminating the sample. No one had written a Wikipedia biography about the inventor, Leonidas Marinelli (1906-1974), an Argentinian of Italian parents, was a scientist who worked in the US, so I wrote one. To give another example, at my place of work, we use Bonner spheres to determine the energy spectrum of a neutron beam, but the inventor, American physicist Tom W. Bonner (1910-1961), previously did not have a Wikipedia biography. So far, I have written about 180 Wikipedia articles.

The following are some stamps that may be of further interest:

- Maurice de Broglie invented an X-ray spectroscope. In 1908, de Broglie started work with X-ray diffraction. This 1970 French stamp with de Broglie portrait shows an early X-ray apparatus with Crookes-type tube, diffraction grating, mounted rotating crystal, and diffraction pattern.

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Comparing Academic Journals and Philatelic Journals

Dr. Dane S. Claussen

John Hotchner, in the January 2018 issue of *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, published a short opinion piece headlined, “Producing Literature—The Value of a Second Look.” In it, Hotchner recounted having judged the 32 entries in the Chicago 2017 literature competition, in which “a quarter of them contained explicit errors of fact—and many others had grammar issues, excessive typos, or problems of logical flow.”

Hotchner concluded, “All of these would have profited from peer review, editorial review, and/or just having a family member read the work to make certain it would be understood.”

Many Writers Unit members have edited philatelic publications, but I am one of the few, if not the only one, who also has edited scholarly/academic journals that are based on the peer review process. So perhaps I might shed some light on these topics.

Editing the now-defunct weekly *Stamp Collector* newspaper was insightful, to say the least, about philately when I was still in my 20s. The first thing I learned in editing a wide variety of columnists and other contributors was that few philatelic writers are both excellent writers and experts on their topics. Two writers I worked with who were both writers and experts, were Jonathon Rose, writing about classic USA, and *Stamp Collector*’s former editor, Ken Wood, who wrote on, well, whatever he wanted to, but often on why stamp collecting is fun and how to keep it that way. I have always been a “writer’s editor,” which means not editing for the sake of editing, and allowing writers their own style and voice within the confines of the overall publication being cohesive. (An “editor’s editor,” among other things, edits every article so that they sound like they were written by the same person—think the articles without bylines in *The Economist* or *Time*—that person usually being that editor because who else’s writing style would be the standard/model for an editor? Even if not, they edit for the sake of editing.)

Not every writer for *Stamp Collector* (or *The Stamp Wholesaler*, which I also edited, or the Philatelic Foundation’s *Heliograph*, which I edited later) was such a joy. Philip Halward, who wrote the newspaper’s United Kingdom column, had to be translated from British English to American English. Bizarrely, one regular columnist always misspelled the most common word, one that had just one accepted spelling, in that writer’s specialty, so I kept correcting it and the writer never said a word about it to me!

Generally, our writers made extremely few errors of fact, or at least very few that were ever brought to my attention, and when that happened, we always “corrected the record” with the correction being part of the columnist’s next column or being published as a letter to the editor. (Publishing multiple corrections, as the new editor of *The American Philatelist* is doing, is awkward but necessary, but the goal is preventing them.)

As for Hotchner’s “grammar issues, excessive typos, or problems of logical flow,” I took care of those as editor. So philatelic publications that have those problems have editors

who are not able (or cannot) do their jobs. (Hotchner also wrote a column for *Stamp Collector* then, and his were flawless.)

But *Stamp Collector* had an ace up its sleeve. From when Ken Wood retired as Editor and became Editor Emeritus in 1980, to when he completely retired in 1990, he proof-read all articles for Editor Mike Green then Editor Kyle Janssen, and then me. So for 10 years, *Stamp Collector* had three sets of eyes on every article—the managing editor’s, the editor’s, and the editor emeritus’s. I’ll bet *Linn’s Stamp News* then also had two or three sets of eyes on every article, with very few errors outside of one columnist in particular who wrote corrections relatively frequently.

But philatelic journals generally don’t have that luxury. We’ll come back to them below.

From March 2006 to September 2012, I edited *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*, a quarterly scholarly journal published by the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC). *J&MCE*, which traces its roots back to a newsletter for journalism professors some 70 years, became a real academic journal about 20 years ago. Since November 2017, I have been editor of *Newspaper Research Journal*, a quarterly scholarly journal published for nearly 40 years by AEJMC’s Newspaper & Online News Division. (I also am a current or former editorial board member of about 10 other scholarly journals, in mass communication [journalism, media, public relations, advertising, etc.], communication studies [speech, rhetoric, debate, etc.] and sociology.) Both journals now have their printing, mailing, marketing, archiving, advertising sales, and a few other functions handled by the huge academic publisher, California-based Sage Publications.

In both cases, the journals have editorial boards of about 75 persons, both in the USA and abroad. In both cases, the journals use a double-blind reviewing process in which three editorial board members are asked by the editor to review a manuscript, the manuscript contains no identifying information about the author(s), and the author(s) does not know which editorial board members are assessing the manuscript. If the editorial board members are sent a manuscript, and it turns out that they do know whose it is, they are expected to immediately contact the editor and recuse themselves. (This also is true if the author finds out who is reviewing his/her manuscript, but I have never seen that happen.) Hence the name “double-blind reviewing.”

In both cases, the journal editors, based on reviews by the three editorial board members (and in my case, by my own assessment, as I have historically read every manuscript that was submitted although I did not write a review—editors are not expected to do that, generally don’t have time for it, and DO know the author’s identity), decide whether to accept a manuscript as submitted, to require major revisions, require minor revisions, or reject the manuscript as either inappropriate or unsalvageable. (Another possibility is to require changes in a manuscript before an accept or reject decision

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can/will be made.) I also have exercised my prerogative as editor to later reject an accepted manuscript if the author was unwilling and/or unable to make required revisions. (Some editors may also place a deadline on revisions and reject a revised manuscript for missing the deadline, but I have never needed to do that.)

What editorial board members might be looking for in their reviews is a list probably as long as the major theories, major methodologies, and fine points of the scientific method combined. Stated and implicit criteria range from whether the manuscript even fits within the journal's parameter (editors can save editorial board members time by doing a "desk reject"—an editor's rejection without the manuscript being sent to any editorial board members) to whether the author understands the theory they are testing, to whether the sample size was big enough, to whether a study with human subjects received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, to whether hypotheses are supported by the scholarly literature review, to a dozen other major points, and dozens of smaller ones. Reviewers typically are rating a manuscript on a scale of 1-3 or 1-5 for each criterion and/or being asked to answer open-ended questions about such criteria.

In my experience, if a manuscript received two or three "reject" recommendations from three reviewers, I always have rejected the manuscript. If a manuscript receives two "accept" recommendations and one "reject" recommendation, I have not always accepted the manuscript. (After all, I am THE editor and not merely a clerk for the editorial board.) If the sole editorial board member suggesting "reject" is especially persuasive on the merits, I usually reject, especially if the other two reviewers say "accept with major revisions" and/or seem luke warm on the manuscript.

As you might guess, such as a system results in more manuscripts being rejected than accepted. It's not easy to make four people (three reviewers and the editor) happy. But, overall, the system works quite well. In my social scientific field of mass communication, I know of only one article retracted during my academic career (in *Journal of Media Economics*, of all places), and corrections and letters to the editor functioning as retractions are exceedingly rare.

(The system is far from perfect. Retraction Watch is an organization that tracks and publicizes, and sometimes demands, retractions of scientific and social scientific articles for reasons ranging from undisclosed conflicts of interest, to fabricated data, to plagiarism.)

Three editorial board reviews do not let the journal editor off the hook. First, an editorial board member's review might be way off base in the eyes of the editor and compared with the two other reviews—not too favorable or too unfavorable, but like the editorial board member did not know what he was talking about this time. Second, the editor must play "referee" for the author, telling the author which points in which reviews to pay more or less attention to (and, sometimes, which to ignore entirely).

Third, of course, the editor still needs to edit the manuscript of an accepted article, word by word, table by table, reference by reference. (Fortunately, in my case, SAGE Publications nitpicks about University of Chicago Press or American Psychological Association [APA] style so that I can worry about all the more important matters—which means everything else.)

So how much of this is applicable to philatelic journals?

Well, first, in both cases, editors need to do their jobs of preventing, as Hotchner put it, "grammar issues, excessive typos, or problems of logical flow." The best way ever to spot grammar issues is to read every word aloud; your ear will hear grammatical problems that your eye might not see. The best way ever to spot typographical errors is to read every word (after the publication is laid out in InDesign, Quark Xpress, etc., but before printing) BACKWARDS, so that your eyes focus on the words and not on their meanings. The best way ever to spot problems with logical flow is to have a non-philatelist read every piece. This will also help you include background and contextual details that your writer (and probably you) don't think you need but are critical for newcomers and nonspecialists. (If you think background and context aren't important, ask someone who knows nothing about sports to read and explain a typical newspaper story about a football or baseball game.)

Philatelic journals, at least most of them, are not going to nitpick about style, whether it's Associated Press (AP) or University of Chicago Press style, nor—in my humble opinion—should they. (They have bigger fish to fry.) Philatelic journals are not going to have huge editorial boards. In fact, the idea of having even two people besides the editor review every philatelic article is impossible in most cases. Double-blind reviewing processes are impractical in narrow specialties where everyone knows each other, what they collect and what they write about. Philatelic journals won't have a dozen reviewing criteria and collect a rating and ranking on each one. And philatelic journals are not going to reject the majority of manuscripts, solicited or not, that they receive. For the record, I will state what we all know: the major issue for philatelic journals is that most of them are not in a position to turn down anything, no matter how poor it is. So philatelic editors need to be skilled and prepared to not only carefully edit, but sometimes complete rewrites, that the author is unable and/or unwilling to do. (If they were decent writers, they would not have sent you a lousy manuscript in the first place.)

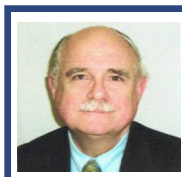
Here's what philatelic editors can do: First, instead of editorial board members being required to rate and rank a manuscript on various criteria (or answer questions about same), each philatelic publication's editor should use a modified list of such criteria when editing an article. (Email me and I'll send you my suggested version.)

Second, (addressing Hotchner's complaint about factual errors) in every area in which the editor himself is not an expert or specialist, the editor should compile a list of collectors that he can call on for assistance and advice. When an article about Tanzanian revenues comes in from person C on the editor's list of specialists about Tanzania and/or African revenues, the editor can quickly call or email persons A, B, D, and E from the list. "Hey, Bill. I just received an article from John Bull about Tanzanian revenues. Could you look it over for me?"

Ken Wood pointed out to me nearly 40 years ago, when I still knew very little about writing journalism or other non-fiction, that one of the biggest problems in philatelic literature is writers simply taking what previous writers have said as fact, without checking for themselves. (I recently found out that this concern goes back at least as far as the ancient Greek historian, Herodotus.) Philatelic writers and editors need to break this habit. So, third, philatelic editors, for their

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When readers disagree



John Hotchner

An occupational hazard of philatelic writing is making a statement that one or more of the readers decide to question. The statement may be an objective fact or a matter of opinion, but it is there in black and white; and as we rapidly learn after setting up shop as a writer, there is a certain class of reader who delights in taking issue with everything in print, down to how you use semi-colons. There are also kind people who catch a mistake and who wish to be helpful. And then there are the ideologues who, if you express an opinion they don't like, will write a screed twice the length of your original article telling you why you're wrong.

In my early years as a writer, I took every challenge as a personal affront. And while they weren't numerous, I responded to everyone trying to prove the writer wrong. Of course that presumed that I could not have made a mistake, which was a foolish premise!

So, when I had done my due diligence on a questioned fact, and found that I was indeed wrong, I learned to apologize gracefully, and run a correction.

Matters of grammar and punctuation were a bit trickier. I believe that such rules exist not as straight jackets but as guidelines. Breaking rules in other areas of life can have catastrophic consequences: step off the curb into the path of an oncoming truck and you may pay for breaking that one with your life. The consequences of writing a run-on sentence (parts of which have their own zip code; as one recent correspondent termed it) are somewhat less severe.

My conclusion after many years is that breaking grammar and punctuation rules is a matter of style. If it does not, in the writer's opinion, impede comprehension of the writer's points, the complainant may be objectively right, but the writer simply doesn't care. And that's ok.

I've made it a practice - rarely violated - to answer every reader letter and email. First, it is in my opinion just the right thing to do. But there is a practical reason too. Some of my critics have turned out to be long-term friends. We may have

to agree to disagree, but they have appreciated that someone in the high-and-mighty published-author class took them seriously enough to respond. The tone of response is important. The 'ex-cathedra' approach is to be avoided. As a practical matter, it annoys the complainant. "Because I said so" may work well with your 6-year old, but it falls flat with adults. So, respect is an important component of responses -- reflecting the respect you have been given, or wish you had been given, in the incoming letter or note.

The logic of the response is also a key. It is often-enough missing in the attacks on your opinions, but be careful not to respond in kind. Some of the most satisfying responses I have done to such complaints have been responses in which I have lined up my facts in support of my opinion; knowing that they were unassailable, and then proceeding to justify my interpretation of what they mean.

Yes, this sometimes takes more time than the issue is worth; even more time than you think you have. But it is worth it in the end if it forces the author to reexamine his premises and rethink his conclusions. While it is not the usual result of this process, I have had to concede once in a while that the letter writer was correct.

There also have been a few times that the incoming was so over-the-top in language or argumentation that the proper response was "Thank you for your letter regarding _____". I have given it considerable thought, and feel that we will have to agree to disagree."

Hopefully, your editor(s) will never publish such letters in the Letters to the Editor column. But if they do publish a critical letter, they should give you the opportunity to respond in print. I try to respond to every complaint as if it will be published. I recommend asking yourself, "How will this look in the Letters to the Editor" column?". Or more recently, "How will this look on an Internet chat board?" A little bit of care in crafting a response can avoid a lot of embarrassment!

I think I'll end here. Knowing when to stop is one of the tricks of the trade. One should always question the impulse to say, "And furthermore.....".

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part, must be more aggressive in inquiring to philatelic writers about particular facts, "what is your source for this?" and "how do you *know* that?"

At the Portland *Oregonian* newspaper, they refer to these exchanges as "prosecutorial editing"! The term's a little harsh, but the concept and practice is excellent. Think of the process of opposing attorneys each questioning the same witness to bring out facts and how the witness knows them, or simply the way that we all hope that scientists, detectives, historians, and other nonfiction book writers or, yes, journalists do (or would do) their jobs on a daily basis. For academics, it's the epistemological question: how do we know what we think we know?

Fourth, in addition to these other suggestions, philatelic editors can be giving themselves crash courses by reading up on what they are editing the way that philatelic exhibit judges are expected to do on areas in which they are not specialists. Yes, editors being exposed to previous writers'

errors and sometimes have not detected them. But, overall, an editor having more background on what he is editing is better than less, and editors can focus on differences in the new manuscript and published works: what did the new manuscript get right that the old one got wrong, and what did the new manuscript get wrong that previously published works got right?

And, in fact, we are all familiar with philatelic articles that have been published only because a new discovery or new analysis showed that previous articles and books (usually *all of them*), were wrong. I myself published several such articles on US material by the late Calvet M. Hahn, an APSWU Hall of Fame inductee, when I edited *Stamp Collector*.

All of my recommendations require more work by philatelic journal editors, who often feel overworked already. But they are highly advisable, even necessary. Editors must take their jobs seriously, in all ways, as editor. We are not simply clerks.

Reviews

Print & Electronic

Reviews in *TPC* are indexed at
www.wu30.org Journal page.



Do I Make Myself Clear? by Harold Evans. 416 pages, 6 by 8 ½ inches, case bound, dust jacket, Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2017. ISBN 978-0-316-27717-4, \$27.

No, this is not a philatelic book. It is a resource that any author, editor, columnist, reporter, or publisher should review, to use the English language in the best possible light. The author has spawned numerous books including histories, and on the subject of journalism. He has been labeled “The greatest British newspaper editor” and currently is editor-at-large of the Reuters News Agency.

Evans point is that there is fog everywhere, both in print and online, because people do not write clearly. He cites insurance policies, mortgages, written instructions, government policies, political campaigns, and countless other documents whose true meaning is woefully obscured by the improper use of our language.

The problem is that writers often feel that more words are needed to describe something, when in fact they are increasing the fog or readability index. Evans quotes from a government publication, taking a 165-word description and reducing it to 29 words that simplify and greatly clarify the message.

Sometimes it is not the number of words that is the problem, but how the words are used to construct sentences and convey thoughts. In one case he takes an economist’s 52-word obfuscation and transforms it into a 55-word clearly understood message. Evans

gives other examples in his chapter, “The Sentence Clinic.”

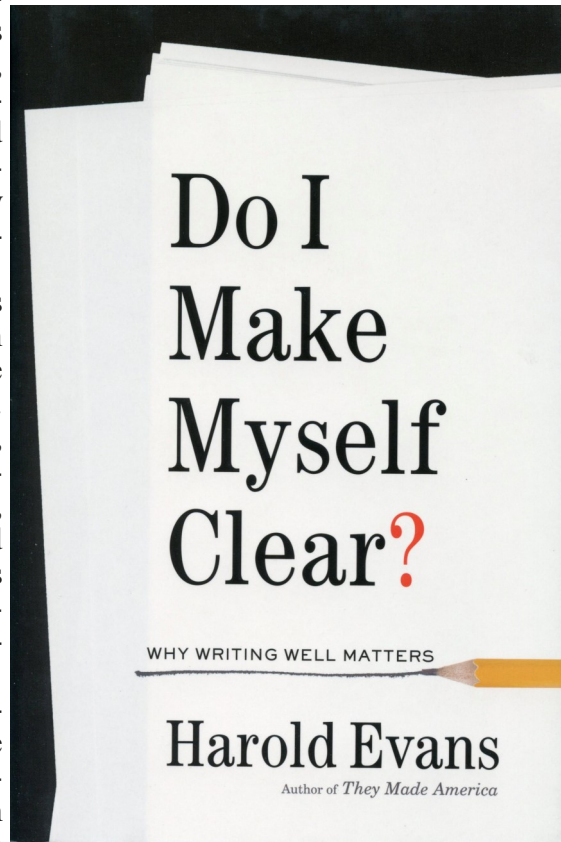
In another chapter he offers “Ten Shortcuts to Making Yourself Clear.” Examples include active rather than passive voice, be specific, judicious use of adjectives and adverbs, cut the fat (i.e., write concisely), organize for clarity, be positive, don’t bore, and use prepositions properly. Elsewhere he decries zombies or overblown words that have grown weighty with suffixes over time. Example: *globe* (1551), *global* (1676), *globalize* (1953), and *globalization* (1961). Many thoughts can be restated more simply: “The survivors were in a desperate situation” vs. “The survivors were desperate.”

Evans points out that “flesh-eaters” can easily be simplified. Examples: “a sufficient number of” vs. “enough,” “give consideration to” vs. “consider,” “on account of the fact that” vs. “because.” Another category of waste is the pleonasm, which Evans describes as “redundant unnecessary superfluity.” In each of the following, eliminate one word: absolute perfection, attach together, circular shape, old veterans, follow after, more essential, sink down, vitally necessary.

A list of words that are wrongly used, but sometimes confusing, cautions writers to be clear about their choice: affect/effect, apprise/appraise, compose/comprise, disinterested/uninterested, stationary/stationery and many others. Some examples show how to eliminate unneeded wording to render a story much more “alive.” Other quotes from government publications, company warranties, and insurance documents that use the wrong word or convey an unintended meaning, can lead to litigation.

Evans concludes his thoughts by comparing a White House report on the underwear bomber incident (2009) that runs 2,567 words with the author’s version that tells the story clearly in 1,030 words. A 14-page bibliography will lead readers to many resources on how to write clearly and concisely.

Alan Warren



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Adventures continued from Page 7

- Max von Laue predicted in 1912 that X-rays could be diffracted by a crystal acting as a natural diffraction grating. This 1979 DDR (German) stamp with Laue's portrait shows a Laue diffraction pattern from a zinc sulfide crystal.
 - William Lawrence Bragg (son) and William Henry Bragg (father), Australian born British physicists and X-ray crystallographers, in 1912 discovered the Bragg law of X-ray diffraction by crystals. This 1983 Isle of Man stamp shows Bragg senior, an X-ray spectrometer and the crystal structure of sodium chloride.
 - In 1962, the team of Crick, Watson, and Wilkins, with an assist from Rosalind Franklin, received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. X-ray crystallography was utilized to determine the structure of DNA. This 1989 Swedish stamp includes the DNA double helix and Rosalind Franklin's "Photograph 51," an X-ray diffraction photograph that revealed that DNA was a double helix. Sadly, Franklin is not mentioned on the stamp.
 - In 2011, Dan Shechtman received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for his discovery of quasicrystals while he was working as an associate at NIST in the early 1990s. The flower-like image on this 2013 Israeli stamp is an electron microscope photo of icosahedral quasicrystal aggregates of an aluminum magnesium alloy. The background image depicts an icosahedral quasicrystal electron diffraction pattern. Shechtman analyzed X-ray diffraction patterns to explain the structure of quasicrystals.
- In conclusion, it has been a pleasure to share my interest in stamps, history, and science writing with my colleagues. The research and discovery of events connected to individuals shows that much remains to be uncovered and chronicled for future generations. My pursuit of knowledge has uncovered many additional questions about the pioneers in medicine and the sciences. The answers to those questions remain to be recorded.



Sweden, 24 November 1989, Nobel Physiology, Watson Crick-DNA, Scott 1773. (2) Israel, 3 December 2013, International Year of Crystallography 2014, Shechtman crystals, Michel 2381.



France, 11 April 1970, Maurice de Broglie, Scott B439. (2) Germany DDR, 20 March 1979, Max von Laue, Scott 1995. (3) Isle of Man, 18 May 1983, King William's College and Sir William Bragg, Michel 244.

Please visit and FOLLOW [my blog](http://myblog) for more adventures in science-related stamp collecting: thomaspjohnston.wordpress.com

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Dansk pakkepost til udlandet – en håndbog (Danish Parcel Post Abroad: A Handbook) by Ib Krarup Rasmussen. 160 pages, hard covers, 8 ½ by 12 inches, in Danish, Danmarks Filatelist Forbund, Brøndby, Denmark, 2017. ISBN 978-87-88688-28-3, 200 DKK plus postage from Danmarks Filatelist Forbund, Priorparken 860, 2605 Brøndby, Denmark, or www.danfil.dk.

Over a period of ten years author Rasmussen published a series of articles in the Danish Philatelic Federation's journal *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* on the subject of parcel rates from Denmark to foreign destinations. The articles have been expanded and combined in this handbook to provide collectors with rate tables that are convenient to use.

The period covered is from around 1880 until the early 1990s. Some exceptions include Faroes (begins 1967) and Greenland (begins 1938). Parcel shipments are often accompanied by a parcel card that shows the sender, recipient, the contents and value of the parcel, and other details. These cards bear postage stamps tied with postmarks and are an interesting aspect of Danish postal history to collect. Many such cards are illustrated in this book with explanatory text (in Danish only) to help collectors decipher the rates.



Rate handbooks of Denmark usually list parcel rates for domestic use, but the interest in packages sent outside of Denmark requires this important new handbook. The first two chapters explain the parcel post system in Denmark and the types of parcel cards that evolved. The remaining chapters describe specific countries and their rates.

The tables are chronological and cover the first 5 or 6 weight steps. Norway and Sweden are together in one chapter. For Finland, there are several tables depending on whether the package went there direct or via Sweden or Russia. Parcels to France went via Esbjerg or England or Germany, and the tables for Germany and Italy are a bit more complex.

A few tables contain air mail supplemental fees. One chapter covers the more recent years 1991 to 1996. Chapter 14 lists other fees for additional services like receipt requested, express, COD, and declared value. A separate chapter covers parcel rates to the Danish West Indies from 1883 to 1917. There are no tables for many European countries, Asia, or the western hemisphere. However, the author does illustrate some parcel cards to such destinations.

The brief text in each section is nicely done in 3-column format and the card images are large and very clear. The handbook will serve well for those who collect this niche area of parcel cards.

Alan Warren

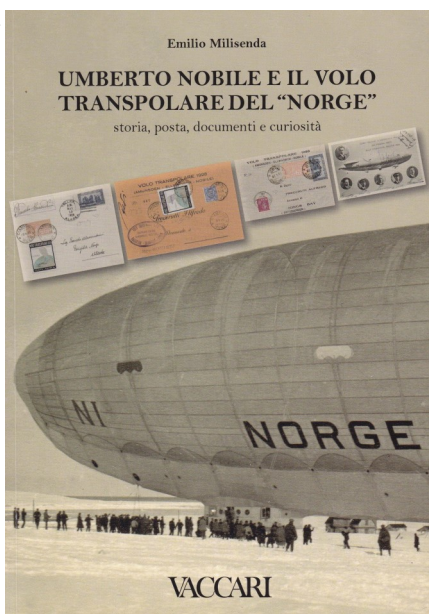
Reviews continued on page 13

Umberto Nobile e il Volo Transpolare del "Norge" by Emilio Milisenda. 174 pages, 8 ¼ by 11 ¾ inches, card covers, perfect bound, in Italian, Vaccari, Vignola, Italy, 2016. ISBN 978-88-96381-13-7, €35 plus postage from Vaccari, via M. Buonarroti 46, Vignola, Italy or www.vaccari.it.

Here is a nicely illustrated story of Umberto Nobile's 1926 transpolar flight of the dirigible *Norge*, told with photographs, extensive postal history, and other documents and curiosities. Unfortunately, it is in the Italian language but can be useful with a dictionary or online translation services.

Author Milisenda is passionate about his subject and has put a lot of background and related information together with many philatelic associations. He begins with a brief profile of the Italian aviator and Arctic explorer and then launches into a detailed description of the planning and events that led up to the flight of the *Norge*. Some covers are shown bearing the Amundsen/Nobile/Ellsworth labels that were issued to promote the venture.

Some of the many items shown include maps, postcards, a telegram, a pricelist of covers carried to Teller (Alaska), images of the front covers of Italian newspapers following the flight and its achievements,



invitations and menus from celebrations marking the event, and other memorabilia.

The second part of the handbook focuses on the philatelic and other commemorative objects spawned by this important polar flight. These include postage stamps of many countries, varieties of the Volo

Transpolare-1926 label mentioned above (inverted center, perforation varieties, etc.), rare picture postcards, cinderellas of many countries, souvenir sheets, postal markings and cachets of the period as well as commemorative ones used years later, commemorative medals, and many other items.

There are photographs of his birthplace and also the Nobile Museum, along with commemorative cards issued when the museum opened. The covers or front pages of a number of polar and aerophilatelic journals that featured Nobile and/or *Norge* are depicted. Exhibition catalogs that commemorated the flight and the aviator are illustrated.

An extensive list of literature sources and a detailed table of contents complete this handbook, which in itself, is a memorial to the man and the famous flight. Anyone considering a thematic or open class exhibit of these subjects will need this book as a starting point.

Alan Warren

Puerto Rico during the Spanish American War 1898-1900: A Postal History Study

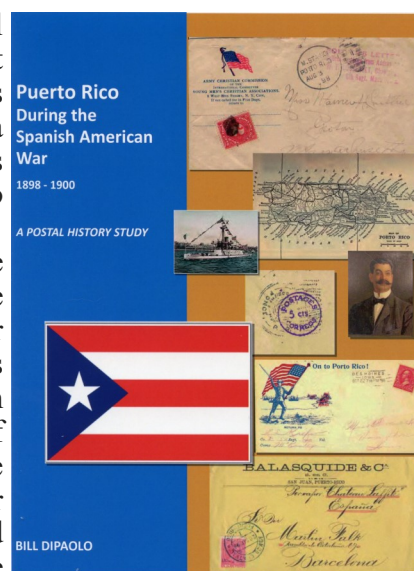
by Bill DiPaolo. 156 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, card covers, spiral bound, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, Capon Bridge, WV, 2018. ISBN 978-1-948638-93-7, \$45 postpaid in USA, (discount available to USPPS members), USPPS, 27 Fairfield Lane, Capon Bridge, WV 26711.

Much has been written over the years about this brief but important period of Puerto Rico postal history, but is scattered in various articles and other sources. Bill DiPaolo brings this disparate knowledge together in one volume with an extensive bibliography for postal historians to pursue for further details.

The first part of the book focuses on the history rather than the postal history of Puerto Rico's involvement in the Spanish American War, beginning with a naval engagement between the U.S. and Spanish fleets in San Juan Harbor, May 8, 1898. Important

lists include the naval vessels and transport ships, the Army units that took part, and a chronology of events from May 8, 1898 to May 1, 1900.

Part II details the development of the postal system under the United States military. Spanish mail bore stamps of Puerto Rico in the occupied area under Spanish control, and U.S. stamps were used in the American occupied section of the island. Topics include the war tax, the Habilitados (validated



demonetized stamps due to shortage), and rare use of Spanish revenues as postage.

The Railway Mail Service was brought in to coordinate mail handling at the beginning. Eight military stations were established and details of dates and locations are tabulated. Many of the station markings are illustrated with covers. One table also lists the 13 unnumbered stations. On March 15, 1899, the Independent Department of Posts was established with 76 post offices.

Other topics during this period include the handling of official mail, use of Spanish markings from military and civil offices, the use of United States stamps and postal stationery, and a listing of 16 postal routes as of October 18, 1898. This part concludes with a chronology of the post in Puerto Rico during the Spanish American War, from March 11, 1898, to May 1, 1900.

Part III is devoted to the municipal and local posts. A separate chapter details use of the Coamo and the controversial Ponce provisionals. Covers bearing these stamps and associated markings are analyzed. Lesser known municipal posts sprang up in the American occupied territory including Guánica, Mayagüez, Yauco, and Utuado among others.

Part IV is an important resource for the postal markings of the military period. The tables begin with the markings of the numbered and unnumbered military stations. The marks include registration handstamps, held for postage, postage due, and advertised among others. These are followed by municipal post markings and Spanish killers and other Spanish markings.

Another table lists earliest known uses of RMS and Spanish cancels from military stations. A final list of interest to collectors and dealers is a valuation of military station postmarks. A series of appendices tabulate U.S. and Spanish postal rates, occupation dates of towns by U.S. forces, a who's who list of over 30 U.S. and Puerto Rican personnel, and a list of post office and war department orders pertaining to Puerto Rico at this time.

Five pages of reference sources reveal the depth of the author's study of this field, and a detailed index concludes this important handbook. The pages are nicely laid out and have a distinctive feature throughout the book. A very wide right-hand margin contains side notes and figure captions, as well as sufficient white space to permit readers to make notations of their own. The coil binding allows the book to lie flat in use.

Alan Warren

We Get Letters (Sometimes)

Oxford Comma and Printed Journals

From: RP Odenweller <rpodenwel@verizon.net>

To: David Crotty, Editor

March 13, 2018

David:

No Oxford commas, but keep it available for the exceptional use that would make the list clearer, as sometimes happens.

Leaving for Europe tomorrow. I would normally take the print copy to read on the flight (particularly as I do not use any of the electronic entertainment that they have available for those who cannot get away from it), but will have to wait until I get home. On return, I expect to be overwhelmed, as usual, with "current" brushfires to attend to, so I may miss it altogether. With printed copy, it might reside in a stack of such material that I will eventually find time to peruse.

All the best,
Bob

From: David Crotty, Editor

To: RP Odenweller

May 25, 2018

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the note. I think the Oxford comma is here to stay. I tutor grade school kids, usually math and science. But we went through some English Grammar stuff the other day and, yes, the book was using the Oxford Comma. I got to point out that for 60 years they taught me to NOT put that comma next to the last "and". Then they changed it on me. The kid was not exactly willing to accept that they could change something like that. I have much more about this for next time. I found a number of old Grammar books that might be helpful.

As for the journals on paper, I hope that next year we can offer paper as an option. We will see how the finances proceed. But it seems that most of my fellow passengers on long flights are reading their journals right there on the plane with electronic devices.

Cheers. Dave

American Philatelic Society Announces Chapter Newsletter Winners

The American Philatelic Society has announced the winners in its 2017 Newsletter Competition.

The purpose of the annual newsletter competition is to spotlight stamp club and federation newsletter editors, to acknowledge their hard work on behalf of philately, and to publicize it within the philatelic community. In addition to the awards themselves, each submission receives a judges' critique on the newsletter's content and format, with suggestions for possible improvements.

This year, Judy Johnson, Competition Manager, was joined by judges Donald J. Chenevert Jr., Springfield, Missouri; Gary W. Loew, Atlanta, Georgia; Jessica Catherine Rodrigueux, San Jose, California.

"We are fortunate to have this level of expertise assisting us in the judging and it speaks to the value of the competition," said Johnson.

Twenty entries were submitted in Class II — Multi-Page Publications category. Winners are:

Gold

Calgary Philatelist (Calgary Philatelic Society), edited by Dale C. Speirs, Calgary, AB, Canada

Hollywood Philatelist (Hollywood Stamp Club), edited by Enrique Setaro, Miami, FL

Knoxville Philatelic Society News (Knoxville Philatelic Society), edited by Tom Broadhead, Knoxville, TN

Stamping Around (Mid-Cities Stamp Club), edited by Peter Elias, Plano, TX

The Postmaster (New Haven Philatelic Society), edited by Campbell Buchanan, Branford, CT

Newsletter of the PSLC (Philatelic Society of Lancaster Co.), edited by Paul Petersen, Lancaster, PA

Rockford Stamp Notes (Rockford Stamp Club), edited by Timothy G. Wait, Rockford, IL

Scribblings (Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library), edited by Jeff Modesitt and John Bloor, Littleton, CO

San Jose Stamp Club (San Jose Stamp Club), edited by Jim Steinwinder, San Jose, CA

Stamp Chatter (Sequoia Stamp Club), edited by Ed Bierman, Redwood City, CA

The Stamp Forum Newsletter (Forum/APS Chapter 1591), edited by Nelson Laviolette, Woodbridge, VA

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter (Wichita Stamp Club), edited by Jeff Lough, Lawrence, KS

Wilksburg Stamp Club News (Wilksburg Stamp Club), edited by Deborah Foltyn, Pittsburgh, PA

Vermeil

The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle (Chattanooga Stamp Club), edited by Gene Bricker, Ringgold, GA

The Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club Newsletter (Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club), edited by Ed Weisenberg, Willow Grove, PA

Huntsville Philatelic Club Newsletter (Huntsville Philatelic Club), edited by Arthur J. Cole, Huntsville, AL

Palo Duro Philatelist (Palo Duro Philatelic Society), edited by John Abrams, Albuquerque, NM

The Magnifying Glass (Wyoming Valley Stamp Club), edited by Ron Breznay, Hanover, PA

Silver

Brattleboro Stamp Club Newsletter (Brattleboro Stamp Club), edited by Joseph Antosiewicz and Marshall Brooks, Swanzey, NH

The Atomic Mariner (N.S. Savannah Chapt. #109 of the USCS), edited by Arthur J. Cole, Huntsville, AL

The deadline for entries in the 2018 APS Newsletter Competition for newsletters produced in the year 2018 is January 15, 2019. Entry forms are available in pdf format on the website stamps.org/Club-Benefits or may be requested from Judy Johnson, APS Newsletter Competition Manager, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823-1367 or judy@stamps.org. There are currently more than 450 stamp clubs that are chapters of the American Philatelic Society.

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary Report 2018 Q1 About Writers Unit #30

The 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.

Membership Dues

Please note that starting year 2018 TPC will be distributed by email. Those who have paid for 2018 and beyond by the old rates will be given a credit for the future. The membership dues for each calendar year are:

Web Delivery email full color..... \$15.00

USPS delivery B/W photocopy..... \$20.00

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. We will soon have PayPal available but not yet.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of USPS and email address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

Alan Barasch, Secretary Treasurer
P O Box 411571
Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571
WU30@MOPHIL.ORG

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.

Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danes.claussen@gmail.com.

2018 Literature and Web Exhibits

CHICAGOPEX November 16, 2018, Itasca, IL,
www.chicagopex.com/

APS CAC Newsletter Competition, January 15,
2019 entrance deadline. www.stamps.org/cac/

APS CAC Website Competition, Summer 2018
<https://stamps.org/Club-Benefits> (under Chapter Contests)

APS StampShow August 1-4, 2019, Omaha, NE
www.stamps.org