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David Crotty From the Editor

Websites

Only nine APS philatelic groups participated in the Website Competition for 2018. Of these two were awarded Vermeil and seven awarded Gold. Even the WU30 failed to show up this year (ok my fault).

The APS website lists this competition's results from 2012 through 2018. The table shown on page 7 of this *The Philatelic Communicator* issue is an edited version of that table, cut back to show only the 2018 results.

In today's world the website is the door through which most stamp collectors find your club/society. John Hotchner's commentary found in this issue of our *The Philatelic Communicator*, page 4, discusses this in some detail.

One item that perhaps I disagree with John is his suggestion that few editors have the skills or equipment to provide an online edition of the club/society journal. Certainly today, any editor in any club does his/her work on a computer. That, and a good text editor, is really a necessity these days. That editor may not have the skills, however, to provide the club/society with a website. Today, however, so many groups now have a website, provided usually by another member. That method of distribution is now very common. Some groups have hired an outside service to build and maintain a more sophisticated website. Note that the American Air Mail Society has done just that. A paid consultant has helped the group to build a website that should be operating by the time you read this. Of course we need not forget that the APS is re-vamping its website.

The APS is now offering a service that builds your club/society website and will maintain it for \$75 per year. This is where the club/society can post a simple journal or newsletter. The point person at APS Bellefonte for this service is, Webmaster 814-933-3803 ext. 223.

All that being said, going to web distribution does not guarantee survival. The well known *Stamp Insider* seems to be missing recent issues.

Dave

Our Publications are Migrating to the Internet

How Can We Facilitate the Process?

John M. Hotchner



A trend recently in evidence is the movement of local clubs and specialty societies to posting their newsletters and variously-named periodicals to the Internet. This happens in several forms, from simply posting hard copy as attachments to an email (mostly favored by

local clubs), to putting the periodical on a society website (mostly favored by national societies) and password protecting it so as to prevent the general public from gaining the major benefit of membership without payment of dues.

The immediate benefits are significant:

1. Reducing if not eliminating the constantly spiraling costs of mailing.
2. Faster access to the news by the membership.
3. No practical limit to number of pages.
4. Providing color images at no additional cost.

There is, however, one major cost, in that it eliminates many willing people who might be editors from applying because they don't have the knowledge, skills and/or the equipment to be able to do all the work needed to produce the journal electronically. I don't know of any club or society that has gone out of business for lack of an editor, but it would not surprise me if it were to happen.

As the pressure – primarily financial – to go to Internet publication increases, I think there are a number of questions that need to be discussed in these pages, and I call upon our membership to continue this modest beginning. Here are a dozen issues that I'd like to see addressed. I'm certain there are others:

- a. Do have among members who have done this successfully and would be willing to serve as mentors?
- b. What is (should be) the impact on dues of a club/society going to the Internet?
- c. Should the move be total, or should hard copy still be available for those who prefer it?

- d. How to get membership input and buy-in to such a move.
- e. What are the skills the new-age editor needs? And how to go about getting them?
- f. What hardware and software are needed and where can it be obtained at the least cost?
- g. What has been the reaction of members to the transfer? Universal acceptance? Diehard fighting against it?
- h. In the olden days, contributors could submit material to editors any which way. With Internet publications, there seem to be increasingly detailed rules for how material must be submitted to editors. Is this making it even more difficult to get contributions?
 - i. In putting back issues on a club/society website, what best practices have been adopted? How is it best done? What portion of back issues should be available to the public and what should be for members only? Does the process itself allow for indexing of the totality of back issues in a meaningful way?
 - j. Does the increased level of editorial skill increase the pressure on clubs/societies to pay their editors a stipend? And if so, what should that amount be (keyed to frequency of publication? Number of pages? Track record and professionalism of the editor?)
- k. What to do when an editor retires or quits and there is no internal candidate to fill the job of editor for a society publication?
 - l. How do you market your move to the Internet to non-members who you want to persuade to join and contribute.

Despite the fact that this movement to the Internet is in its infancy, there is already a wealth of experience available among our membership, and I urge you to tell us how you have dealt with the problems, and to provide your thoughts on how we can manage the further expansion of internet service.

Letters to the Editor on this subject are very welcome.

-30-

Attention: Literature Exhibitors and Judges

John M. Hotchner

Part I: Change to the scoring system for judging literature The Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges has approved a change to the rules governing Literature judging to alter the points awarded in the first two categories listed on the Literature Exhibit Evaluation Form, as follows:

Treatment (of contents) or “Authorship and Editorship” changes from 40% to 30%.

Originality, Significance and Research changes from 40% to 50%.

The changes have already been made to the **APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting**, and on the LEEF form; both of which can be found on the APS website.

The objective of the change is to give more weight to the substantive content of philatelic literature. With this change, content at 50% equals the 50% allocated to the other three evaluation categories that deal with the ways the content is presented.

The change will be effective with the Literature competition being held at Chicagopex 2018.

Part II: Do exhibitors want critique or praise in the LEEF? Having spoken with a variety of literature exhibitors, the answer is **YES**. Most exhibitors want both. But this engenders a bit of a disconnect with Literature Judges, who tend to believe that exhibitors want to know why they didn’t get a higher award, and what they can do to improve their ‘product’. This translates to judges emphasizing critique.

But Literature Judges need to remember that philatelic authorship tends to be a lonely business; especially in the realm of producing websites, club and society journals, and sole-author articles and books. So Literature Judges should be making an effort to include encouragement in LEEFs; observations on the positive value of literature entries, and the ways in which editors and authors have done a particularly good job of making their content attractive and useful.

Letters to the editor on this subject would be welcome.

-30-

Work underway on Royal’s new home

The Royal Philatelic Society London has formally taken possession of its new home at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, in the heart of the City of London, just a short walk from Bank Underground Station. Work is progressing well to enable the Society to move in the middle of next year, coinciding with its 150th anniversary celebrations.

Apart from the Ground Floor, on which will be found the Reception, members’ lounge and Museum displays, the building comprises four floors and two basement levels.

The first and second floors will each house large meeting/function rooms for up to 120 people – details about hiring rooms in the building will be provided later.

On the third floor will be found the administrative offices, and the offices of the Society’s Expert Committee.

The fourth floor has a ‘listed’ wood panelled meeting room that will accommodate up to 60 people. This will also be used for meetings of the Society’s Council.

The basement floors will house the Society’s extensive Library and Archives plus secure storage facilities.

Commenting on the new building, the President of the Society, Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL, said ‘With the new building, we reach a new milestone. We will be able to fulfill almost all the needs not only of individual philatelists but also of clubs and auction houses that are looking for meeting rooms.

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The exterior of 15 Abchurch Lane, future home of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

New Article Literature Exhibit at Sarasota Show

A new literature competition will be inaugurated February 1-3, 2019 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, FL in cooperation with Writers Unit 30, the society for philatelic authors. The format for this show will be different from the literature events currently held at CHICAGOPEX and StampShow. The Sarasota exhibit will be open only to articles of less than 8,000 words. The "articles only" show is intended to recognize the hundreds of authors of philatelic journal articles who each year contribute to the hobby with new information for collectors, exhibitors and researchers.

According to Liz Hisey, Chairperson of the Sarasota show, "At one point, single frame philatelic exhibits had difficulty gaining the attention they deserved until becoming a separate category in exhibit competitions. The

same can be said for shorter articles, many of which provide outstanding research for us, yet are lost among larger philatelic works. We want to set them apart and recognize the authors."

"This type of competition is needed to focus on shorter pieces that are sometimes overshadowed by longer, more complex works in regular literature exhibits," says David Crotty, Writers Unit 30 Director and editor of its journal. "This is a real opportunity to help develop philatelic authors which is a major focus of our organization."

Journal editors and authors are encouraged to submit entries for the show no later than December 1, 2018. A complete prospectus and entry form are available on the show's web site www.sarasotastampclub.com/show.html. A shortened prospectus is on page 6 of this issue of *TPC*. Press Release

Richard Hemmings Wins 2018 *La Posta* Helbeck Prize

La Posta Publications Publisher Peter Martin has announced that Richard Street Hemmings of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, took top honors in the voting for the 2018 Richard W. Helbeck Prize that is awarded to the best postal history article appearing in the previous year's *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*.

Hemmings, who won the inaugural Helbeck Prize in 2013 for "New York City's Cortlandt Street: One Way to the River," captured the top prize this year for the first two parts of his three-part "Enigma from the Stamp Vault: Stanley Gibbons, New York and Their Educator Packets," which appeared in the Third and Fourth Quarter 2017 *La Posta* issues.

The three-part series traces the complete history of the New York version of the prominent British Stanley Gibbons firm while chronicling one of their best legacies, the Stanley Gibbons educator packets.

In a tight race for runner-up, the duo of Jack Hilbing and Stan Bednarczyk finished second with "The Story of the Brand Hoard: The People, Breweries, Coins and Covers," which appeared in the Second Quarter 2017 *La Posta*. Using postal history examples from the Brand correspondence of approximately 100,000 covers, the authors provide a detailed look at the Brand family and their affiliation with the various Chicago breweries that operated under their leadership.

Three-time Helbeck Prize winner Charles A. Neyhart Jr. finished third this time with his "Swift & Company and the North Portland Post Office" which appeared in the Fourth Quarter 2017 *La Posta*. His article examines the impact of the expansion of the Swift meat packing business upon the North Portland Post Office and traces the history of both operations while also identifying the variety of postmarks used by the North Portland Post Office.

Neyhart's "Play It Again, San Diego—The 1935 California Pacific International Exposition," won the 2016 Helbeck Prize; "A Knife in the Back' The 1915 San Diego Panama California Exposition" won in 2015; and "The 1905 Portland, Oregon, Lewis & Clark Exposition Postal Stations" took the 2014 prize. Neyhart retired in 2001 as emeritus professor of business from Oregon State University and lives in Portland, Oregon.

Receiving honorable mentions were: "Post Office Handling of Coin Covers Could Result in Postage Due Markings, But Mostly Don't" by John M. Hotchner (Fourth Quarter); "Breaking the Rules: A Civilian Flag of Truce Cover" by Patricia A. Kaufmann (Second Quarter); "Indian Territorial Postal Usages in the Confederacy" by James Milgram (First Quarter); "Crossing the Isthmus of Panama in 1850" by Jesse Spector (Second Quarter); and "'Fake Town' Spanish-American War Postal History" by Steve Swain (First Quarter).

The top three finishers receive cash prizes. The selections were based upon voting by the *La Posta* editorial staff and the subscribers of *La Posta*. Patricia A. Kaufmann won the 2017 Helbeck Prize for "Confederate Postal History: California Overland Mail to a Confederate Prisoner

of War."

The Richard W. Helbeck Prize is named in honor of the founding editor of *La Posta* who died from a heart attack in 2011. Helbeck founded *La Posta* in 1969 and continued to edit the journal for more than 42 years until his death.

La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History is published four times per year. It is the leading journal devoted to American postal history and marks its 50th year of publication in 2018. Subscriptions are \$35 per year. For more information contact: La Posta Publications, POB 6074 Fredericksburg, VA 22403 or e-mail laposta.joan@yahoo.com.



Richard Street Hemmings



SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP EXPO with WRITERS UNIT 30

First Annual Literature Exhibition of Philatelic Articles

February 1-3, 2019

Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
801 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, Florida 34236



PROSPECTUS

About the Exhibition

This is an exhibition of printed and electronically delivered articles related to the collection and study of postage stamps and stationery, postal history, revenue stamps and stamped paper, cinderella stamps and associated specialized fields. This is the first year of a literature exhibition of this type and will be conducted and judged according to the APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting, April 2017. The manual is available free online at <https://stamps.org/userfiles/file/judges/LitJudgingManual2017.pdf>.

Accepted Literature

- Entries for this exhibition are confined to articles only that **do not exceed 8,000 words**.
- Articles from all philatelic media are accepted including those appearing in club newsletters, show programs and on line.
- Multi-part articles are permitted as long as total length does not exceed 8,000 words.
- Literature must be primarily in English. Literature in other languages cannot be fairly judged and so must be declined. Bilingual (English and another language) literature is accepted.
- Date of publication must be no earlier than February 1, 2014.
- Authors are limited to two entries.

The Literature Exhibits Committee of the Sarasota Stamp Expo will decide whether an exhibit is accepted or rejected; no reason need be given for a rejection. Decisions of the Literature Exhibits Committee are final. The Jury may disqualify an exhibit in accordance with the judging manual. All rules apply to all entries.

How to Enter

Entries may be made by individuals, societies, or commercial businesses. This may be authors, editors, publishers, sponsoring organizations, or webmasters. A separate application is required for each title entered. The entry fee is \$20 per competitive entry payable by check in US funds drawn on a US bank, payable to Sarasota National Stamp Expo. Exhibitors outside the U.S. may pay via PayPal (contact the exhibit chairman by email.). The entry fee is waived for non-competitive entries. The exhibitor's signature on the Application constitutes acceptance of the rules stated in this Prospectus.

Entries must be received by December 1, 2018, including the completed and signed application, the entry fee, and three color photocopies of the article (Tear sheets are acceptable). Prospective exhibitors will be notified of acceptance as soon as possible. If an extension is required, please contact the Exhibit Chairman by email.

Entries should be mailed to:

Bill DiPaolo
Literature Exhibit Chairman
7110 Marston Court
University Park, FL 34201
billdip1@gmail.com



Lloyd de Vries *President's Message*

It was great seeing all of you at APS StampShow/ATA National Topical Stamp Show and, the week before, AFDCS' Americover.

You weren't there? Well, it still felt as if I saw every stamp and cover collector I know at these two shows. (Or was it *three* shows?) With the innovation of the Stamp-Show "passports" with stickers from every stamp society booth, I also felt as if I saw every stamp and cover collector I *didn't* know.

I could have spent another day at APS/ATA in Columbus, because I didn't get to do and see everything I wanted, but I'm also kind of glad it was only four days. The show was exhausting. My Fitbit almost had a nervous breakdown at the huge increase in my "steps!"

There was a problem with the Literature Medals awarded at the WU30 Breakfast: Nearly all of them said "Hall of Fame" and many were not the level awarded by the jury. We have asked the APS to remedy this for all who want a correct medal and inscription. (Some of you may not care, or be happy that you got a large-gold medal for

your regular-gold exhibit.)

The Breakfast has evolved over the years. We no longer have the "raffle" of literature donated by our members, as determined by the free numbered tickets handed out as you entered the Breakfast. Do you miss it? Should we reinstate it?

This summer, we did not have a speaker, but, rather, heard from the two living Hall of Fame inductees. Not all the writers/editors/publishers being inducted are available to speak each year. One year, we heard from a family member of a deceased inductee. How do you feel about that? Would you rather have a non-HOF speaker instead of the inductees? Both?

Do you like breakfast as the annual "event" of the APS Writers Unit 30? Or would you rather see a no-food meeting earlier in the show, when you don't have to worry about checking out, catching a flight or getting to the bourse when it opens?

Would you like to see "writers forums" (the Latin scholar in me is shouting "writers *fora*! 'Fora' is the plural of 'forum,' you twit!") — Sorry for the interruption: Would you like to see WU30-sponsored informal writers discussions at other WSP shows during the rest of the year?

Organizations should evolve. Let us know how you'd like to see the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit 30 change.

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APS Chapter and Affiliates Web Site Competition Results 2018

Judy Johnson, Manager
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Chapter, Affiliate or Unit	2018
American Topical Association/National Topical Stamp Show (AF0177) http://americantopicalassn.org/	G
Collectors Club of Chicago (227599) http://www.collectorsclubchicago.org/	G
COMPEX Show Committee (226671) http://www.compexstampshow.org/	V
Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (AF0239) http://www.esperstamps.org/	G
Empire State Postal History Society (UN0028) http://www.esphs.us	G
Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (015492) http://www.lcps-stamps.org	G
Rhodesian Study Circle (AF0107) http://rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk	G
San Jose Stamp Club http://www.sanjosescc.com/	V
US Philatelic Classics Society (AF0011) http://www.uspcs.org/	G

<https://stamps.org/Website-Competition-Results>

WU30 Breakfast at StampShow 2018



President Lloyd de Vries



HOF Inductee Francis Crown, Jr.



HOF Inductee Leonard Hartmann



Igor Grigorian accepts an award
From Scott Tiffney



Don Neal accepts his award.



Larry accepts his award



Jack Congrove accepts his award
from Scott Tiffney



Dawn Hammon gets an award



Diane DeBlois and William Dalton
Harris accept their award.



Len McMaster accepts an award



Robert Rose accepts his award



Dennis Sadowski
accepts an award



The Breakfast Group during Leonard Hartmann's discussion

Our HOF Inductees, Francis Crown, Jr. and Leonard Hartmann addressed the group to tell us about some of their experiences during their careers. This editor has determined that it is just an accident that both well known living philatelists for this year's HOF were exceptional experts in Confederate States. It also happens, just by accident, that the two deceased HOF inductees published quite a bit in the Confederate philately area.

At the WU30 Executive Committee meeting after the breakfast we voted that David Kent would be the HOF chairman for next year. The Committee was headed by Dane Claussen for most of the last 25 years and we thank him for his dedication.

The photographer this year was Igor Gragorian.



Dale Smith talks to the group



Steve Schumann makes a comment

La Posta Postal History Journal Celebrates 50th Year with New Logo, Website

La Posta Publications Publisher Peter Martin has announced that in celebration of its 50th year of publication in 2018 the firm will offer a variety of new postal history initiatives.

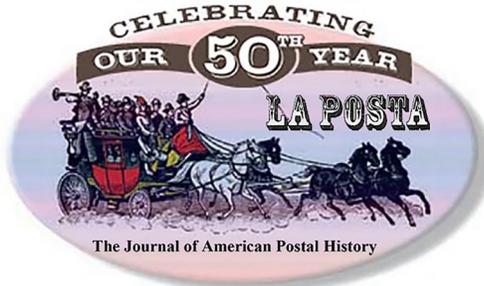
La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History is published four times per year and is the leading journal devoted to American postal history. It was founded in 1969 by Richard Helbock, who edited the publication until his death in 2011.

One major initiative was the creation of a new *La Posta* website. Designed by North Carolina IT professional Don Denman, the site went active on June 30 and can be found at laposta-pub.com. The phase 1 content includes articles, references, a book store, and subscription and advertising details. Additional content will be added periodically with the goal to make the site a world-class postal history resource.

In conjunction with the journal's 50th year of publica-

tion, a revised logo was prepared by La Posta Office Manager Joan Martin. The logo uses the firm's familiar

stagecoach with an added banner and wording for "Celebrating Our 50th Year."



In addition, Martin announced the publication of the next *La Posta* book: *The History of Bill's Place, PA and the Smallest Post Office in the United States*.

Other planned initiatives include: the reintroduction of *La Posta* monographs; a *La Posta* online archive that will make older issues of *La Posta* available worldwide; compilation of a 50-year *La Posta* index; a series of 50th souvenir bookmarks; a 50th souvenir FDC designed by Dave Bennett, and a new *La Posta* auction.

La Posta subscriptions are \$35 per year. For more information contact: La Posta Publications, POB 6074 Fredericksburg, VA 22403 or e-mail laposta.joan@yahoo.com. -30-

Doolin Receives 2018 *La Posta* Charles A. Fricke Award

La Posta Publications Publisher Peter Martin has announced that James Doolin, from Dallas, Texas, has been selected as the winner of the 2018 *La Posta* Charles A. Fricke Award for the best "Small Bites" article appearing in the 2017 issues of *La Posta*. Doolin's "A Rare Cover Related to Pancho Villa, Columbus, N.M., and the Pershing Expedition" appeared in the First Quarter 2017 *La Posta*. "Small Bites" are articles of two or fewer journal pages.

"The Steel Blue Variety of the 24-Cent 1861 Issue" by Wayne Anmuth of Chevy Chase, Maryland, (Second Quarter 2017 *La Posta*) was the runner up and "A Confounding 1848 Cleveland SFL to Wurttemberg" by William Schultz of West Chester, Pennsylvania, (Fourth Quarter 2017 *La Posta*) was third.

The selections were based upon voting by the *La Posta* editorial staff and *La Posta* subscribers.

The *La Posta* "Small Bites" feature was initiated in 2016 to encourage fence sitters to put pen to paper and to share their favorite items with *La Posta* readers. The column is called "Small Bites of Great American Postal History," and a \$100 cash award is presented for the best Small Bite submitted to *La Posta* during the year. Roland Austin won the inaugural award in

2017 for his "A Not-So-Special Looking Special Rate."

Upon his death in 2017 at age 94, the award was named in honor of *La Posta* columnist Charles A. Fricke, a prolific author who penned many articles that fit the Small Bites category.

Article submissions are open to everyone. The Small Bites article criteria are simple. Articles must be 1,000 words or fewer and must be about an individual American postal history item, or a small group of items with a very close tie.

Scan items at 300dpi or higher as a .jpg or .tiff file (or make a high quality color photocopy) and e-mail it to pmartin2525@yahoo.com with "La Posta Small Bite" in the subject line. Submissions by mail may be sent to: *La Posta* Small Bites, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403.

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James Doolin

Reviews

Print & Electronic

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

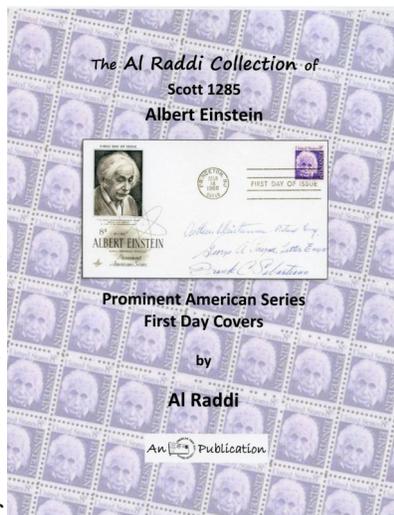


Albert Einstein Prominent American Series

The Al Raddi Collection of Scott 1285 Albert Einstein Prominent American Series First Day Covers by Al Raddi. 64 pages, American First Day Cover Society, Tucson, AZ, 2018. ISBN 978-1-5323-8022-8, \$6 for PDF download or \$13 for unbound printed pages to AFDCS members (\$8 or \$15 respectively for non-members) from www.afdcs.org.

Author Al Raddi shows 163 first day covers of this 8-cent value from the Prominent American series, depicting Albert Einstein, issued in 1966. Unofficial cancels and second day cancels are excluded.

The booklet begins with a brief biography of Einstein followed by a discussion of the stamp's production, its designer, and the engravers of the lettering and the vignette. The design is based on an image made by the noted photographer Philippe



Halsman. Several stamps of other countries that also depict the scientist are illustrated.

Raddi then describes the first day ceremony and shows copies of the ceremony program and the USPS souvenir page for this issue. The first day machine and hand cancels are described. Two months after the initial issue date the tagged version came out and several first day covers of that variety are shown.

The various cachets are listed and identified by maker, in alphabetical order. A separate box provides additional comments about each cover including the Mellone/Planty catalog numbers. The cacheted covers are compiled in several tables. The first is for 37 contemporary cachets, i.e. those that were available at the time of issue. A second table lists 120 add-on cachets produced later. Both tables contain cachets whose makers are not known.

A third table is devoted to non-envelope first day materials like oversized items on card stock and postcards. A few literature references appear at the end of each section of the handbook.

This book is not a priced catalog and there is no indication of values for the cachets. The covers are nicely illustrated in color with four covers to a page.

Alan Warren

Postal Inspector Frank Oldfield

Inspector Oldfield and the Black Hand Society by William Oldfield and Victoria Bruce. 336 pages, 6 1/2 by 9 1/4 inches, hardbound, Touchstone, New York, NY, ISBN 978-1-5011-7120-8, \$26.

Co-author William Oldfield's great-grandfather, Frank Oldfield, served as a U.S. Post Office Inspector in the early 1900s. William, an archivist by trade, joined with noted story-telling author Victoria Bruce to recount the exciting story of the early years of the postal service's fighting organized crime.

The authors set the stage by telling how the Philadelphia and Baltimore printer William Goddard established the Constitutional Post in the 18th century to deliver newspapers. This delivery service was in opposition to the British Post that operated under the management of Benjamin Franklin who worked for the Crown in the colonies. The British Post charged twice as much. Franklin eventually fell out of favor with England and turned his sympathy toward the Patriots.

In 1775, the Continental Congress agreed to adopt

Goddard's concept. However, Congress infuriated him by appointing Franklin the first Postmaster General. In need of a job, Goddard agreed to work for Franklin by surveying the countryside and establishing post offices to serve the public. He also took on the important responsibility of incarcerating criminals who stole from the mail carriers and post offices. This effort led to the Post Office Inspection Service.

The authors then jump ahead a century to the appointment in 1888 of Hamilton Oldfield as postmaster of Ellicott City, Maryland. Hamilton's son Frank was named Secure Clerk in the office where he met prominent businessmen and political figures. Later, Frank Oldfield was named sheriff of Howard County. Through his father's political connections Frank was appointed in 1899 to the position of U.S. Post Office Inspector.

During the early part of Oldfield's career, some Italian immigrants developed notoriety as Mafia elements operating in the United States, with ties back

Reviews continued on page 10

to organized crime in Sicily. Italian shop owners were forced to pay tribute to ringleaders who became known as the Black Hand Society (*La Mano Nera*), based on their signature cartoons left on threatening letters. Within the organization was the subsidiary Society of the Banana that operated in the greater Ohio area.

Oldfield entered into this underworld when an Italian fruit seller was murdered in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and two Black Hand letters were found in the victim's pockets. The local police were forced to turn the matter over to the postal service, who were responsible for crimes relating to the mails.

Oldfield called on friends of his in business and government and put together an amazing array of undercover agents, Pinkerton guards, translators, and interpreters as well as many mail carriers to gather information. One of the suspected leaders who sent large amounts of money back to Italy using postal money orders was believed to be the sender of the threatening letters to Italian businessmen. He bought large quantities of stamps at one post office in Marion, Ohio.

Oldfield told the clerks at the office to sell the suspect only 2¢ Washington definitives that had a secret mark, so they could be traced on envelopes. Postal agents also monitored the movements of suspected Society of the Banana members, and watched who attended clandestine meetings. After gathering suffi-

cient evidence, Oldfield organized a series of raids on the homes of the suspects, beginning June 8, 1909.

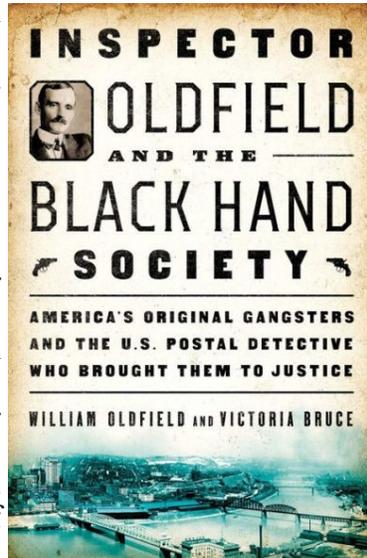
Additional evidence obtained during the raids led to the capture and eventual conviction of eleven "fruit vendors" who claimed that the letters (written in code) were simply business communications. Oldfield was worried about getting convictions despite the overwhelming evidence. The defendants had sufficient tribute money to hire many high-powered lawyers. However, the jury convicted them and they served terms in federal prisons.

Shortly after the trial, Oldfield was besieged by offers of many wealthy businessmen to provide security and to investigate fraud. He left the postal service and earned much more money in the private sector. Unfortunately, Frank Oldfield died in 1916 of stomach cancer at age 49.

For many years the Oldfield family stored trunks filled with Frank's belongings, although some were lost in a flood. Still, one trunk survived that contained some of the weapons retrieved during the raids on members of the Society of the Banana. The family papers together with government archives yielded this fascinating story. The book is well written and is exciting to read.

After finishing this book, author William Oldfield donated much of his great-grandfather's material to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

Alan Warren



“John Lennon: The Green Album” Opens at National Postal Museum

Special Showing Coincides With U.S. Postal Service Issue of Music Icons Stamp

“John Lennon: The Green Album” opened Sept. 7 at the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum and coincides with the U.S. Postal Service’s issuance of the John Lennon Forever Stamp honoring the legendary singer and songwriter. The stamp is the latest in the Music Icons stamp series. The exhibition will be open through February 3, 2019.

Lennon (1940 - 1980), along with Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr achieved super-

stardom as the rock and roll band, The Beatles. However, before Lennon travelled the globe playing music with The Beatles, this boy from Liverpool, England, saw the world in a completely different way--through stamps.

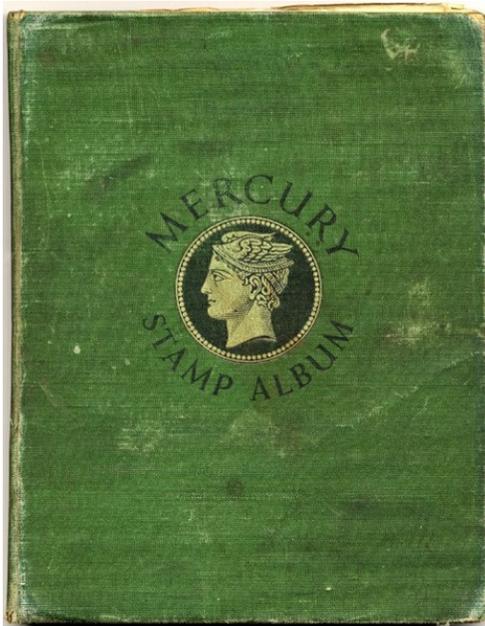
Lennon’s childhood stamp album, which includes 565 stamps on more than 150 pages, will be on display, along with a tribute to previously issued U.S. Postal Service Music Icons stamps, including

Album continued on page 11

those honoring Lydia Mendoza, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Sarah Vaughn, and Elvis Presley

Years before his rise to fame as a musician and member of The Beatles, Lennon was a schoolboy in Liverpool, England. His older cousin, Stanley Parkes, inspired Lennon's interest in stamp collecting and gave him his stamp album. Lennon rubbed out Parkes' name and address on the album's flyleaf, replacing it with his own signature and the address at Mendips, the home he shared with his aunt Mary ("Mimi") Smith and her husband George.

Already a budding artist, Lennon sketched beards and mustaches in blue ink of the likenesses of Queen Victoria and King George VI on the album's title page. According to Parkes, Lennon began collecting at about age 9 and actively pursued the hobby for several years. There is evidence throughout the album that Lennon added and removed stamps. Lennon's handwritten notes on the flyleaf indicate the album may have contained as many as 800 stamps at some point.



U.S. Postal Service First Day of Issue Ceremony:

News of the stamp is being shared on social media using the hashtags #MusicIcons and #JohnLennonStamp. Followers of the *Postal Service's Facebook page* can view the ceremony live at facebook.com/USPS. (A video of the ceremony will be available on Facebook.com/usps.)

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop, by calling 800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724), by mail through USA Philatelic, or at Post Office locations nationwide. Information on ordering first-day-of-issue postmarks and covers is at usps.com/shop under "Collectors."

National Postal Museum John Lennon-Related Resources:

Links to be found at the NPM:

1. [The Untold Story of How the National Postal Museum Acquired John Lennon's Childhood Stamp Album](#)
2. [John Lennon Stamp Album: Digitized](#)
3. [U.S. Postage and The Beatles: The 1999 Stamp, the 2003 Proofs and Future Expectations](#)

NPM Press Release



John Lennon Stamp Album: New Zealand Pages

Literature Palmares StampShow 2018

APS StampShow/ National Topical Stamp Show

August 9-12, 2018 Columbus, Ohio

Philatelic Literature Jury

Ken Trettin, Chief Judge
Stephen Schumann
Pat Walters

Literature Grand and Large Gold

U.S. Contract Mail Routes by Railroad (1832-1875)

Hugh V. Feldman

Reserve Grand and Large Gold

Bermuda: Crossroads of the Atlantic, A Postal History

Arthur Groten, M.D. and David R. Pitts

also American Philatelic Society Research Medal

Reserve Grand and Large Gold

The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately

Nikolai Sorokin

Catalogs

Large Vermeil

The Overrun Countries Series, Book 6, The Belgium Stamp and Its Varieties

Keith Lichtman

Silver

Catalog of 1932 Washington Bicentennial Event Covers

R. Howard Courtney and Martin Edelstein

Columns

Vermeil

Stamp Collecting Column

Dennis Sadowski

Electronic

Large Gold

NJPH, Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society

Robert Rose

Large Vermeil

EFOCC website www.efocc.org

Cemil Betanov

Silver Bronze

The North American Maximaphily Quarterly Journal of the Maximum Card Study Unit of America

Terry Watson

Handbooks

Large Gold

Puerto Rico During the Spanish American War, 1898-1900

Bill DiPaolo

also Postal History Literature Award

Prexie Era: Stamp Production and Postal History, 1938-1962

Louis Fiset

Gold

Aspects of American Postal History

Peter Martin

Buffalo Cinderellas

Rick Barrett

Large Vermeil

Stamp of the Century

Kellen Diamanti and Deborah Fisher

Vermeil

Space Weather - A Philatelic Journey

Garry Toth & Don Hillger

Compendium of the History of the Posts in Italy

Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca

Large Silver

Amphibians on Postage Stamps - A Thematic Coverage and Checklist

Victor Eichler

Tips, Techniques, and Tools

Larry Patterson

Philatelic Society Journals & Periodicals

Large Gold

Postal History Society

Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris

La Posta: The Journal of the American Postal History

Peter Martin

Topical Time

Wayne Youngblood

Gold

Mexicana

Michael D. Roberts

FIL-ITALIA

Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca

First Days

Albert W. Starkweather

The Israel Philatelist

Donald A. Chafetz

The Posthorn

Seija-Riitta Laakso

Large Vermeil

Menelik's Journal

Ulf J. Lindahl

The News of Hungarian Philately

Society for Hungarian Philately

Vermeil

The Alaskan Philatelist

Angela Watson

The Federated Philatelist: Journal of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs

Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs

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Peterson Award – Ken Lawrence

The criteria for the Peterson Award include writing, editing, and publishing achievements and/or philatelic literature judging. Our honoree has performed in all these categories. He is a former national philatelic and literature judge as well as a former international literature judge.

His research and writing skills were honed by experience in investigative reporting. His articles have appeared in over two dozen philatelic journals. He is author, co-author or editor of nearly a dozen books. For six years he edited the Writers Unit quarterly journal, *The Philatelic Communicator*. His knowledge is exceedingly broad as well as deep.

He has written hundreds of articles and columns. The number of topics about which he has written is

mind-boggling. Some of these are U.S. official stamps, the Giori press, booklet panes, holocaust philately, plate number coils, earliest known or documented covers, Kansas-Nebraska counterfeits, Japanese Echo cards, luminescent tagging, the Orangeburg coil, the Independent Trucial States, V-mail, the Rosback perforation experiment, the black Honduras airmail stamp, the naked Maja stamp of Spain, and Walt Disney. And I have only scratched the surface.

He even enters areas that might be termed controversial—like the murky waters of the Grinnell Hawaii missionaries, Foreign Air Mail route 22, the ethics of philatelic restoration, the one-cent Z grill, and swindlers and crooks in the hobby. He often appears in such places as the Stamp Collecting Forum and the Frajola Board. There he does not shoot from the hip but rather provides well thought-out and reasoned information that is always enlightening.

One indication of his depth of knowledge is reflected by his many years of service on the APS Expertizing Committee where he introduced forensic science as a major tool. He was named Distinguished Philatelist by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and has received many awards for writings in various publications as enumerated in the August *American Philatelist*.

Sharing of his vast knowledge extends beyond writing with his many seminars, on the road courses, and lectures.

The tremendous legacy of print materials that he has given to this hobby will benefit future philatelic researchers for years to come.

It is indeed an honor to present the 2018 Charles J. Peterson Philatelic Literature Life Achievement Award to Ken Lawrence.

Alan Warren



Alan Warren presents the Peterson Award to Ken Lawrence during the StampShow, Columbus, Ohio, August 2018

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The New CartoPhilatelist Journal

Martin Oakes

Large Silver

ARPA Journal

Jack Kifedjian

Reflections

Don Neal

Silver

Watercraft Philately

Lane Rodlie and Dan Rodlie

Silver Bronze

Postal Himal

Frank Vignola

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary Report 2018 Q3 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