

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30



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First Quarter 2021 Issue 211

The Renaming of APRL Digital Scott Tiffney

American Philatelic Research Library



Robert A. Mason Digital Library

For those who have worked in the library over the years from Gini Horn, Ellen Peachey, Roseann Staie, Tara Murray, Betsy Gamble, myself and many others the name of Robert “Bob” A. Mason is a familiar one and one that always brings with it a smile and a cherished story. Bob was a frequent annual visitor to the library, usually in the summer, from his home in Utica, New York. Over the years he became a familiar face and a welcomed friend to all at the American Philatelic Center (APC).



Bob with the APRL staff: (l to r) Roseann Staie, Martha Micuda, and Ellen Peachey

An avid collector of worldwide revenue stamps, Bob was a very organized and focused researcher often sending an extensive list of resources he wished to consult during his visits ahead of him or presenting the list to the library staff upon his arrival. After retiring as an accountant from the New York Department of Taxation and Finance, his trips to the APC were usually a day or two and during these visits he would photocopy all the research materials provided to him and then return to Utica with these research papers.

During his visits he struck up many friendships with staff at the American Philatelic Society (APS), especially

with members of the library staff. His love and appreciation for the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) and the library staff was always apparent during his visits. Bob also frequently gave financial donations to the library earmarking his donations for the library staff specifically.

Bob joined the APS in 1958 and remained so until his passing in 2017.

Upon his passing his entire estate was designated to the APRL in appreciation for the library and its staff during his visits. Given this extraordinary contribution to the APRL and the APS during his lifetime and upon his passing it was decided by a unanimous vote of the APRL



Bob Mason busy with research during one of his frequent visits to the APRL

Board of Trustees that the library’s digital collections database, APRL Digital, will be hereafter renamed the **Robert A. Mason Digital Library**. As we continue to grow the library’s digital collections going forward it is with our deepest gratitude and appreciation that we proudly rename this digital database in Bob’s honor.

Please feel free to contact Scott Tiffney at stiffney@stamps.org with your comments and questions. The APRL maintains a growing library of online materials that are directly available to APS members. Access to these journals and publications is a benefit of membership in the APS. Sign up today at www.stamps.org ◆



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David E. Crotty, Editor
P.O. Box 16115
Ludlow, KY41016-0115
decrotty@yahoo.com
859-360-0676



David Crotty From the Editor

Virtual Life and the GASS

After this year of the Covid my wife and I have almost become hermits. For most of the year going out meant getting carry-out from one of the local restaurants hoping that would be enough to keep them operating until the end of the shutdowns. Then, it comes to big events like the Great American Stamp Show, coming up in August. It is quite a risk to plan for this event and actually to attend.

Of course most of us are a little older now and most states have prioritized Covid vaccination by age. Most visitors at GASS will likely be vaccinated by August. So maybe we can all risk it and make the show a success.

WU30 Breakfast?

Lloyd asks his question about the Breakfast in the facing page here. Actually any of us that have an exhibit (much less a table) cannot get out of town until at least 4PM so maybe we could make it the WU30 Luncheon at noon.

Dave

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APS Writers Unit #30

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Lloyd de Vries, President

P.O.Box 1249, Washington Township, NJ 07676-1249
stamp@pobox.com

David E. Crotty, Vice President

P.O. Box 16115 Ludlow, KY 41016-0115
decrotty@yahoo.com 859-462-6995

Alan Barasch, Secretary Treasurer

P O Box 411571
Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571
wu30@mophil.org

The **Executive Committee** includes the officers, Editor, and Immediate Past President

Gene Fricks..... genefricks@comcast.net
The WU#30 Council includes
Ernest E. Fricks.....genefricks@comcast.net (2017)
David A. Kent.....kentdave@aol.com (2017)
Leonard Robert McMaster.....uspps.possessions@gmail.com (2017)
Dane S. Claussen.....danes.claussen@gmail.com (2015)
Daniel C. Warren, M.D.....dwarrenmd@cox.net (2015)
Ken Trettin, Assistant to Treasurer.....hogman@myomnitel.com

Writers Unit #30 Committee Chairs are:

APS Rep: David Crotty Publications: Peter Martin
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Historian: Vacant USPS Representative: Peter Martin
Nominating: Dane Claussen Webmaster: Todd Ronnei
tronnei@gmail.com
WU #30 Breakfast: Lloyd de Vries



Lloyd de Vries *President's Message*

I've been to dozens of World Series of Philately stamp shows and national conventions, and even three "internationals," yet I think I'm more nervous about this summer's Great American Stamp Show 2021. You probably are, too.

Is it safe? Will it actually happen? Do I even remember what to do at an actual in-person stamp show?

However, the big question is, Am I going? And the answer is, God willing, yes. If they build it, I will come. I will attend GASS 2021 August 12-15 in Rosemont, Illinois, near Chicago — at the end of O'Hare Airport, actually. I hope you will, too. It's time to come out of our shelters, blink in the sunlight, and resume normal philatelic activities. Other normal activities, too, of course. (I'd better start practicing my trombone again.)

As I write this, there is still a chance that Illinois will backslide in its control of the coronavirus, and the show will be canceled.

We also won't see everything we would normally see at Organized Philately's biggest show of the year. Some of our friends will decide not to come or be unable to come. The social events may not be as chummy as we "socially distance." Some events won't be held, for a variety of reasons.

But it's a start. It's also a chance to "reset" some of our past practices.

So I have an important question for *you*: **Does WU#30 still hold a Sunday morning breakfast?** I'm sure the thinking once was that little else was scheduled at that time, and members could then climb in their cars and drive home.

That's no longer true: The APS holds a breakfast for its dealers on Sunday morning, forcing some of us and some of the O.P. leadership to choose which to attend. Many of those attending the show have to catch Sunday morning flights; there aren't as many direct flights anywhere as there were 10 or 20 years ago. More of us fly to shows outside our areas than drive to them now.

Send me an email as soon as possible: Sunday breakfast or another time? And if another time, suggest several possible time slots. Saturday is probably not a good bet; its schedule is already filling up.

Figure that whenever the Unit's meeting is, only those in Rosemont will be able to attend. I had thought the next big summer stamp show would combine "virtual" events with most of the in-person ones, but it does not appear that will happen this year: Convention centers make big bucks by charging outrageous prices for Internet access. They're not going to give it up easily; it will have to be negotiated for future shows, but there is not time this year.

It has been years since I was an assignment editor, but I have more for you: Make your reservations for hotels now. The APS has come up with some great prices for the two show hotels, but experience shows that the blocks of rooms will sell out. Don't procrastinate!

That last line is pretty funny coming from me: My editors past and present know I always observe deadlines ... as they slide past. Not this time, though: Go to stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show/travel to get the special rates and bookings.

My editors also know I can't resist a pun, so I hope to see you at the show and that you won't pass GASS.

—30—

Treasurer's Report

Alan Barasch

- In 2020, we added 6 new members
- In 2021, so far (02/23/2021) we have added 4 new members
- Today I am sending out 24 second dues notices -- considerably less than previous years
- Using PayPal, we had over 20 members pay by this method.

There was a miscalculation in the fee structure so it will be higher in 2022

As I began the collection procedure, there was \$5,142 in the checking account.

Some purchases of postage and supplies

Other minor expenses

Maintenance fees for **WU30.org** of \$194

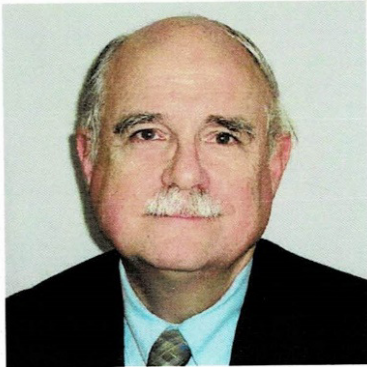
- Balance is now **\$6,186** with some outstanding dues payments coming in
- We have had several resignations and a few who have asked to convert to paper copies. Found a very old list of members and hopefully fixed garbled member numbers (or made it worse)

I would like to see these funds put to good use. Perhaps sponsoring a Young Philatelic Scholar on the philatelic writing track.

Alan Barasch, Secretary-Treasurer
APS Writers Unit #30
WU30@MOPHIL.ORG
314-608-6088

When Deadlines Come Calling

John M. Hotchner



Being a philatelic writer with deadlines is a bit like being a priest with next Sunday staring him in the face. The subjects for a homily are endless, but what feels right? What might connect with where the flock is at the moment, or concerns they may have

about their individual day-to-day lives?

There are times when a subject is so obvious it must be addressed; but other times, inspiration fails. If this happens to you too, perhaps a little cheat sheet I've developed may help you get off square one as it has helped me. Here it is:

The hobby is changing – how? And what deserves encouragement?

How does the hobby fit into daily life?

Who to thank? For what?

Nearby holidays or special events?

What are my present philatelic experiences and what can I learn from them?

What can we look forward to?

What's in the news?

Is there a historical event that relates?

Is there a favorite quotation that applies to a current situation?

Are there collecting opportunities I've missed?

What is happening in the philatelic market place?

What is the USPS doing and why?

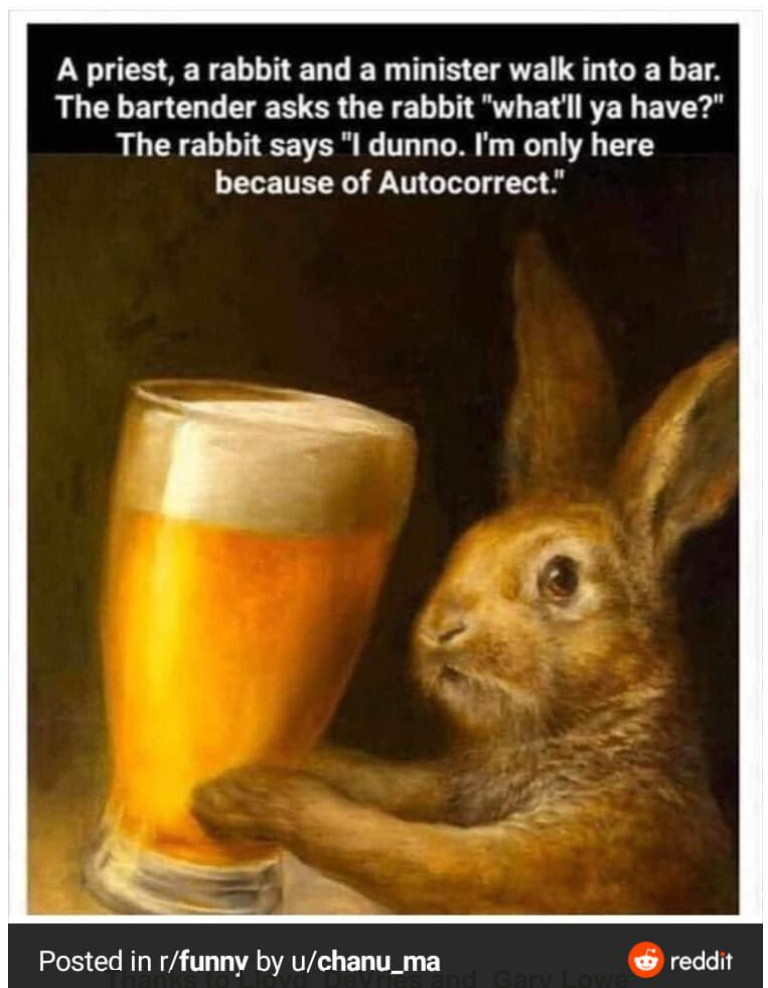
What annoys me and what can be done about it?

Some of these might work for you, Others you can replace with your own triggers. While I'm at it, let me mention two other methods that I've found work for me. The key is that they are applied before sitting down at your keyboard in front of the dreaded blank screen.

Knowing I have a deadline approaching, I'll sometimes start my daily walks with the task of coming up with a topic. The brain is a wonderful instrument that too often stops working when you most need it. But during my walks, I might notice the yellow lines down the middle of the street, and free-associate myself to an article about the "laws" of philately and how we all accept those mostly unstated limitations.

Another method is to take note of the coming deadline as I am falling asleep. That seldom fails to put me to sleep, and by wake-up time, I often have the germ of an idea if I am leisurely about waking up and getting out of bed. The biggest challenge is remembering I had an idea, but not what it was!

These are my methods. **Let me invite you to do a piece for Editor Dave** on what works for you that might inspire others to try your method. Ask yourself, what are my present philatelic experiences and what can I learn from them? ♦



Think Before You Write

Ken Lawrence

Think before you write. And after. And again.

Submit your composition to an experienced editor before publishing it. If possible, to a second editor for final approval, as *Linn's Stamp News* does.

Never write, "I have no idea." Even if you are comatose, you have ideas. Claiming you have none when you mean "I don't know" might be idiomatic in speech; in writing it is idiotmatic. Only the dead have no ideas or the ability to share them.

Extra syllables and empty words are not signs of intelligence. They are evidence of laziness and proof of barren imagination.

Medicine is the substance you inject, ingest, or inhale to cure illness or to relieve pain — metaphorically, it is what you accept as punishment or as the fare for atonement. To medicate is to treat illness. Medication is the application of treatment, not the treatment itself.

Permissive abuse of words ought not be an acceptable excuse even if the dictionary acknowledges it. Citing the dictionary in support of misuse is pedantry, not command of language.

Not every center of devastation, commotion, or uncertainty is an epicenter. Most are not, except in shal-

low writing that poses as profound. Shifts are seldom seismic, except in op-ed hyperbole.

Few records are track records, except in the prose of writers who are paid by the word. Nearly all of them get it wrong. A track record reports the performance of a thoroughbred or standardbred racehorse at just one location, not a history of the horse's achievements.

Similarly, few tests are acid tests or litmus tests, except in the either-or jargon of reporters too busy or too preoccupied to convey nuance. A labored style manual might label such unfortunate usage "insensitive intensifiers"; really they are space-fillers.

Don't be a square peg in a sinkhole. Teachers warn against mixed metaphors, but thoughtless metaphors are just as common. They serve readers just as poorly.

In a future sermon I might tackle sports metaphors or I might attack martial metaphors. Until then, prune them, and plant better ones in more fertile soil.

Meanwhile, might we reserve exclamation points to praise surprisingly brilliant (!!!) chess moves? Probably not, but that would be a good rule to violate sparingly. Thanks to Ellen Peachey and Michael Schreiber for editorial assistance. ♦



Pennsylvania Philatelist Ken Lawrence Wins AFDCS Literature Award

Canada Stamp News

For the third time, prolific philatelic writer Ken Lawrence, of Pennsylvania, has won the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) Philip H. Ward Award for excellence in writing about first-day covers (FDCs).

AFDCS judges unanimously chose Lawrence's August 2019 *American Philatelist* article — "Which Items Franked with 1913 Parcel Post Stamps Are Authentic U.S. First Day Covers?" — as the latest Ward Award winner. This article also won the United States Stamp Society (USSS) 2019 Barbara Mueller Award for the best article published that year in the *American Philatelist*, published by the American Philatelic Society.

In 1989, Lawrence was one of five authors contributing to a symposium on FDCs in the *United States Specialist*, published by the USSS since 1930. He also won for his 1996 three-part series, "First Day Covers in Earliest Usages," which also was published in the *American Philatelist*.

The first runner-up for the latest Ward Award was Ralph Nafziger, whose article "Wisconsin Tercentenary Issue" was published in the May-June issue of *First Days*, the official AFDCS journal. Anthony Dewey was second runner-up for his article "On the Trail of Grant and Lyon" in the March-April issue of *First Days*. ♦

Dr. Herbert A. Trenchard Literature Finds Its Home at the APRL APRL 2/25/2021

One of the truly unique experiences here at the American Philatelic Research Library occurs when the library is afforded the unique opportunity to significantly grow the scope of its collection as the result of a truly important donation of material. This has proven to be the case when the considerable and significant collection of Dr. Herbert A. Trenchard was recently given to the APRL as the result of a long-held promise by Dr. Trenchard to donate his vast collection to the APRL. The donation arrived by truck on 24 pallets and with over 600 boxes of material.

Dr. Trenchard, a Life member of the APS and past APS Historian, is widely acknowledged as the “dean



**Donation Awaiting Inventorying by the APRL and
Dr. Herbert A. Trenchard**

of U.S. philatelic history.” He became a stamp collector in 1944, as a high school student where he was encouraged by the school librarian in reading copies of *Stamps* magazine that were received by the library. Following college in 1955 Dr. Trenchard began collecting auction catalogs by either buying them or requesting them from many of the more notable and obscure philatelic auction houses. Harry Lindquist, the great philatelic editor and publisher, was one of the donors who offered Dr. Trenchard many of the rare and important auction catalogs he had acquired in his own collection.

Over time Dr. Trenchard’s collecting interests expanded rather quickly and he began acquiring British



Trenchard Items

and European auction catalogs. His professional work as a theoretical physicist took him to Europe frequently, where he visited the auction houses and stamp dealers there and added many important older catalogs to his collection.

In 1961 following a term in the Army, Dr. Trenchard and his family moved to University Park, Maryland. That led to one of the most significant moments in Dr. Trenchard’s philatelic life, a close relationship with George Turner, one of the greatest U.S. philatelic bibliophiles. Through George Turner, Dr. Trenchard became involved in organized philately and at Mr. Turner’s urging began documenting the philatelic history of the United States through his collection and his writings,

By 1975, Dr. Trenchard’s collection grew to over 75,000 items. Today the collection is estimated at over 125,000 items. The materials donated to the APRL include every aspect of Dr. Trenchard’s collecting interests including auction catalogs, philatelic exhibitions, famous collectors and their collections, early philatelic history in America, U.S. locals, forgers and forgeries, early philatelists who impacted U.S. philately, first day ceremonies, the Famous Americans issue of 1940, the St. Louis Bears, Ionian islands and the history of the American Philatelic Society.

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Editors' and Publishers' Responsibilities

Ken Lawrence

In recent reviews of philatelic books I have called attention to problems for which authors are less responsible than editors and publishers. I have the impression — I would like to be proven wrong about this — that although a substantial number of prominent collectors have earned terminal degrees and have served in prominent academic positions, the importance of good editing in hobby publications has lost its luster.

My review of *Under Three Flags: The Postal History of the Spanish-Cuban/American War (1895-1898)* by Yamil H. Kouri Jr., in the November 2019 *Chronicle of the Classic U.S. Postal Issues*, included a glancing swat:

José Maria Sempere's preface (which would be called a foreword in most editorial conventions) asserts that Kouri's tome "has gone beyond the realm of philately to become an essential work to other scholars due to the rigor and professionalism in its focus and development. It is simultaneously a work of enrichment to those interested in Hispanic-Cuban themes due to its global vision, the meticulous analyses, and the ease in which conclusions are summarized." (page ix)

Mislabeling a foreword might seem trivial, but Kouri's important book, published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, deserved to be edited professionally, with each element appropriately designated.

I did not labor the point; I am aware that most philatelic publishing, including the CCC's books, relies on volunteers. But if publishers cannot afford to employ professional editors, they ought to arrange for volunteers to perform editorial services in concert with authors.

One year later (in the November 2020 issue) the *Chronicle* published my review of *The Lipman Postal Card: Forerunner from Philadelphia* by Robert L. Toal, published by the United Postal Stationery Soci-

ety (UPSS), another important book. On that occasion I was sharper in my criticism. The UPSS has ample funds dedicated to publishing but faltered:

By failing to engage a competent editor, the UPSS served Toal poorly. His book begins with a preliminary chapter titled "Forward," whatever that might suggest, by the author himself. An experienced editor would have called it the book's introduction. (Sometimes an author will insert a "Foreword"—a word by another writer about his book's significance—before his own text begins.)

The book has no index. It is poorly organized and annoyingly repetitive, which needlessly burdens the reader who wants to use it as an easily consulted collecting reference. By most editorial conventions, Toal's Appendix C near the end of his book, "How I became involved with the Lipman Postal Card topic," would have been its preface or first chapter. Those are samples of problems that ought to be fixed.

Blame for editorial lapses belongs to the publisher, not to the author. UPSS should help Toal compile a revised and corrected edition, and should hire an experienced professional editor to assemble a book worthy of the author's contribution to philatelic scholarship and to his subject's significance.

In January of this year (dated January 18, 2021, in the weekly sequence) *Linn's Stamp News* published my review of James Peter "Jamie" Gough's book, *The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union: The Postal Card Worldwide 1869-1974*, published by the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL). In this instance, I criticized much of the book's content, for which the author is responsible, but I also included this:

Gough is not a stylist, nor was he guided by a firm editorial pencil. Page after page includes text that begins in his main narrative but plac-

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es his expansive observations (not reference notes) separately, as distractions, in numbered footnotes below. That arrangement compels the reader to skip back and forth between his subjects and his digressions.

As a survey of worldwide stamped correspondence cards, edited professionally, the book probably would have made a significant contribution to English-language philatelic literature. As it stands, particularly regarding the subjects of greatest interest to collectors of United States philatelic classics, Gough's mistakes and discursions detract from and debilitate his positive elements, leaving this reader in doubt as to which parts merit trust.

The RPSL is among the wealthiest and most prominent stamp hobby organizations in the world, publisher of *The London Philatelist* and a host of books that are seminal references for their respective subjects. Yet the problems I identified in my review were not simply matters of authorship (clarity, style) and philatelic content; they were also failures of editorial and publishing responsibilities.

As one who used to work as a free-lance fact-checker for *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbooks*, and for the U.S. Postal Service contractor PhotoAssist to verify the content of new stamp issues, I had taken for granted that the RPSL must have employed someone in that capacity to vet book manuscripts before they were subject to final editing, layout, and publication.

Either my assumption was wrong or the RPSL hired an incompetent one. Gough provided relatively few specific citations to sources, so the ones he did include ought to have been easy to check if the checker had a copy of or access to his references. I checked only those of interest to my studies, but I found errors. Here is an example I did not include in my *Linn's* review:

On page 823, in a chapter about the 1906 UPU Congress of Rome, Gough wrote:

Previously Used Postal Cards

This article was an acknowledgment that

previously used postal cards could legitimately be part of a commercial correspondence (commercial records and archives) and were to be permitted under those rules and regulations.

Article 15.

Opened letters and postal cards of an ancient date, which have already filled their first objective may be sent as commercial papers.

That was an excerpt without ellipses from section XVII — 17, not 15 — paragraph 1, *Commercial Papers*, in the detailed regulations for implementing Article 20 of the convention, which a professional editor would have quoted [I use the U.S. government translation from the official French text] as:

XVII. *Commercial Papers.*

All papers and all documents, whether writings or drawings, produced wholly or partly by hand, not having the character of an actual and personal correspondence, such as open letters and post cards of an ancient date which have already fulfilled their original purpose . . . are considered as commercial papers, and allowed to pass as such . . .

Gough's incomplete quote implied that any previously used postal or post cards could be remailed internationally as commercial papers; adding the context showed that only certain cards qualified for that privilege. Also on page 823 Gough wrote:

Term "*Carte postale*" No Longer Exclusive — Can Be Used on Printed Matter

Article 17.

Cards bearing the title "*Carte Postale*" or a corresponding title in another language may be sent at the rate of postage for printed matter when they fill the conditions fixed for printed matter. When this is not the case, they are considered as postal cards and treated accordingly in so far as in accordance with the regula-

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tions governing postal cards they have not to be treated as letters.

That was excerpted from section XIX — 19, not 17 — paragraph 6, *Printed Papers of Every Kind*, in the detailed regulations. The mistranscribed article or section number was a trivial error, but combined with the earlier one it served as additional evidence of careless editing. Most mistakes I found in Gough’s book should have been caught by an experienced checker of facts with access to a good philatelic library.

I hope my commentary here will encourage philatelic publishers not to skimp on editorial, fact-checking, and reference-confirming duties. No writer is infallible; certainly I am not. My *Linn’s* editors often send me questions or requests for documentation regarding assertions and quotations in my articles. That is their job. I am grateful for the mistakes they catch, which forestall embarrassing *Linn’s* and me in print. Naturally, no editorial system is perfect. Vigilant readers sometimes catch blunders that my editors missed, necessitating published apologies and corrections. I am grateful to them too. ♦

Reviews

Print & Electronic

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



Catalog of U.S. Elvis Presley Stamp First Day Covers by Gary Dickinson. 152

pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, American First Day Cover Society, Annapolis Junction, MD, 2020. Available as a download for \$15 to AFDCS members (\$17 to non-members), or unbound on 3-hole punched pages for \$23 to AFDCS members (\$25 to non-members) to USA addresses, from www.afdcs.org/fdccatalogs.html or AFDCS Sales, PO Box 44, Annapolis Junction MD 20701-0044.

The 1993 and 2015 stamps issued by the United States to honor the popular singer Elvis Presley generated enthusiastic interest among first day cover collectors and cachet makers. Gary Dickinson, a Canadian author who has written many articles and books about that country’s FDCs, is also an unabashed collector of Elvis covers.

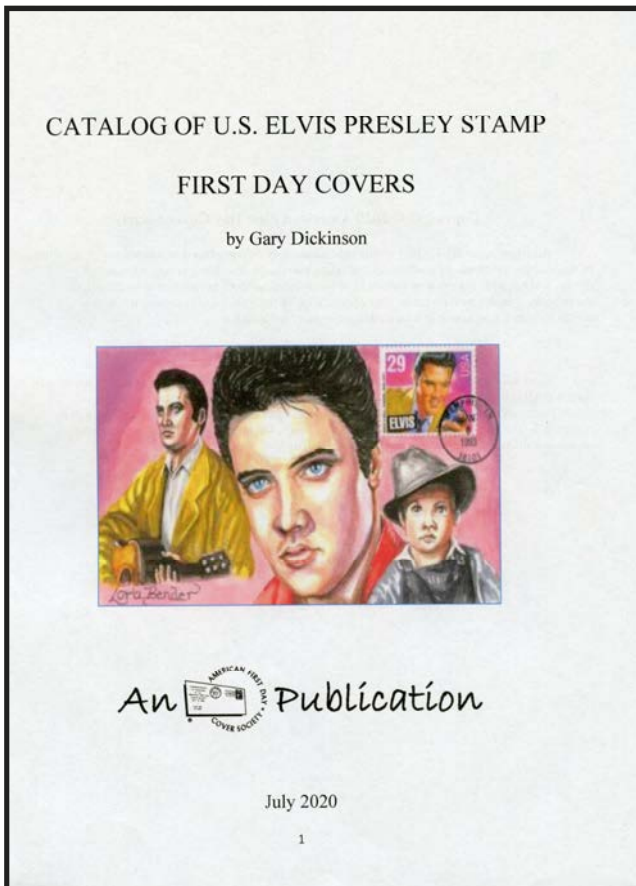
The 1993 stamps were is-

sued in three formats, all valued at 29¢: a sheet stamp printed in panes of 40 and perforated 11 (Sc 2721), in panes of 35 perforated 10 along with six other Legends of rock & roll and rhythm & blues designs (Sc 2724), and in booklet pane format (Sc 2731).

A major publicity campaign stimulated the popularity of the first 1993 issue. The United States Postal Service provided a ballot postcard to the public early in 1992 with a choice of two designs—one of a younger-looking Elvis and one of him in later years. With the return of over one million ballots the overwhelming choice was for the younger image that was used for the three 1993 issues. In view of the wide interest shown by the contest, the USPS ordered 500 million stamps for the initial printing.

Some 22 years later the fourth Elvis stamp appeared as part of the Music Icons commemorative series. The 2015 issue is a “forever stamp” in black and white (Sc 5009). Over 800 different cachets are identified by Dickinson for the 1993 stamps, and 178 for the 2015 issue. Thus the catalog has nearly one thousand cachets illustrated.

The catalog is arranged by Scott number followed by an



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alphabetical listing by cachet maker. The images are in color and generally appear as eight designs per page. The entire cover is shown, not just the cachet, since the issues used large pictorial postmarks. When the cachet maker produced more than one design, it is assigned a separate number, and varieties are identified with small letters. For example the Pugh designs for Sc 2721 are identified as Pugh Cachets 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b.

Maxicards and picture postcards are included as well as the USPS souvenir page and commemorative panel. Over 100 “unknown” designs are shown for Sc 2721 together with a long series identified only with the penciled initials PAW on the backs of the covers. Cachets are shown for the other two 1993 stamps in the mixed pane and booklet pane formats, followed by various combination FDCs using two or all three stamps.

The 2015 stamp, Sc 5009, receives similar treatment with known designs, unknowns, and combination FDCs. There is no discussion of the cachet makers or unofficial cancels. However, some special cancels such as Elvis Station, Rock and Roll Station, Birthplace Station and some double-circle purple handstamps can be seen throughout.

Dickinson’s extensive study of these issues on first day covers is a major undertaking and will serve collectors as *the* source for identifying this material. He encourages readers to bring any missing cachets to his attention for future revisions of the catalog.

Alan Warren

Norske Postoblater og Postoblatstempler (Norwegian envelope seals and markings) by Øivind Rojahn Karlsen. 320 pages, 6 ½ by 9 ½ inches, in Norwegian with some English, perfect bound, card covers, Oslo, Norway, 2020. ISBN 978-82-93453-04-8, 300 NOK (approximately \$36 plus postage) from Norwegian War and Fieldpost Society, www.warandfieldpost.com.

For many years wax was used to seal important letters. In Norway wax or lacquer was used specifically to seal money letters. With the advent of World War II these materials were in short supply. Therefore the Norwegian postal service ordered gummed paper seals in two colors—red to be used by the post offices, and blue for businesses and the public.

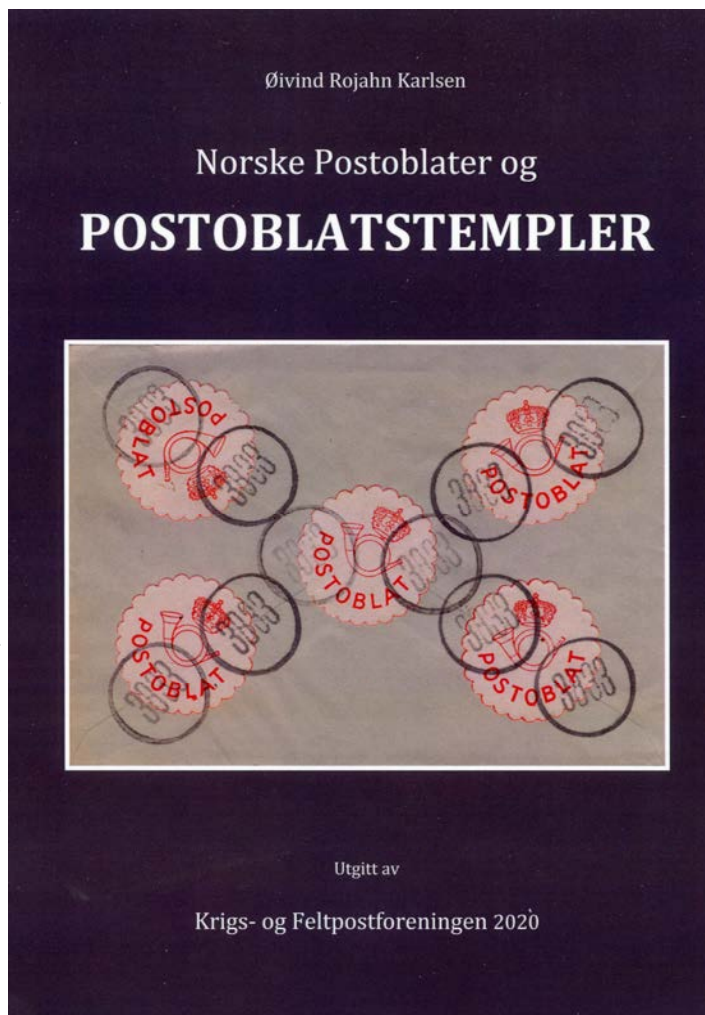
The seals were round with a scalloped edge and carried a crown and post horn design. The first seals were 30 mm (about 1 ¼ inches) in diameter, later increased to 38 mm (1 ½ inches). The larger seal also contained the word POSTOBLAT. After the paper seal was applied to the back of an envelope, it was marked with a rubber canceler on opposite edges of the seal.

The canceller was a circle containing a number associated with the post office where it was used. Beginning in 1942, some senders were permitted to sign the seal rather than

use the canceller. After the war and effective January 1, 1947, the postal service reverted to using lacquer, and recalled the paper seals from senders and post offices.

This catalog of the cancel devices begins with a brief introduction and a table that lists the types of post offices, the 2-letter abbreviations of the counties in Norway, and the ink colors and abbreviations in both Norwegian and English. One page identifies the sources used to compile the catalog including literature references and organizations and collectors.

The first part of the catalog reproduces the original postal order authorizing the use of the paper seals and



Review Continued on Page 11

cancelers. A number of envelopes using them are shown. Before the catalog entries begin, about 90 postal districts in Norway are listed alphabetically with the page number where each listing starts. The tables of the canceler numbers proceed over the next 200 or so pages.

For each postal district, the entries show the canceler number in numerical order, the post office, the county, the delivery or registration date, the color, the source of the information, and a column for any special notes. Almost every page illustrates one or more of the cancelers used on seals or an entire cover. These images help break up what would otherwise be boring lists.

Following the post office tables are lists of the railway and ship post office cancelers. Two more listings complete the catalog. One is a table of all the cancelers in numeric order and the post office where they were used, and the second is an alphabetical list of all the post offices with the cancel number assigned to them.

This is not a priced catalog. Smaller post offices likely have fewer examples known. The catalog simply ties the post offices and their numbers together for easy identification during the 5-year period when they were used. There is sufficient use of the English language to make the catalog useful to a wide audience. Collectors can thank the many contributors who compiled this data, adding another useful reference tool to their libraries.

Alan Warren

U. S. Precanceled Postal Cards 1874-1961 ed. by **Josh Furman**. 38 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, stiff covers, saddle-stitched, United Postal Stationery Society, Chester, Va., 2020. ISBN 978-1-7351629-1-1, \$20 postpaid (\$17.60 for UPSS members) from UPSS Publications, PO Box 3982, Chester VA 23831, or www.upss.org.

The United Postal Stationery Society assiduously revises, updates, and republishes its catalogs as new

material or varieties are discovered. Therefore it is nice to see the first edition of a *new* catalog such as this one of United States postal cards that were precanceled prior to 1961. They were printed by the sender or the firm's postmaster. All were commercially used. In 1961 the USPOD (later USPS) took over issuing precanceled postal cards.

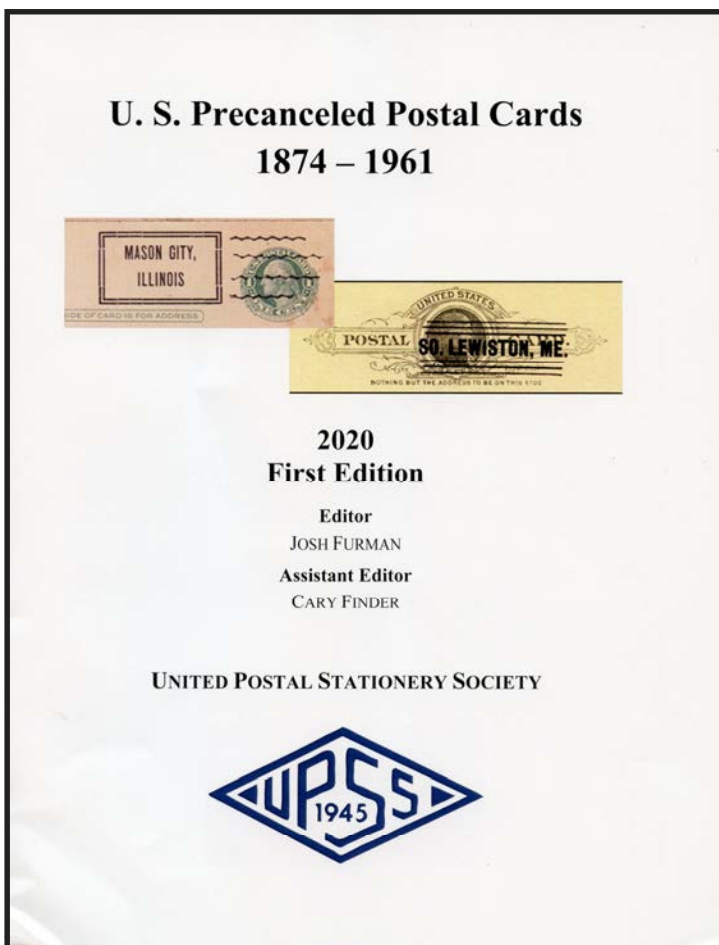
Excluded are philatelically created cards made by collectors, and those bearing the word "permit." The latter are cataloged by the Mailer's Postmark Permit Club. Many of the precancels are similar to those used on stamps, showing the city and state, with or without horizontal bars. A few contain PL&R references to the Postal Laws and Regulations regarding such cards.

79 cities were used for precanceled cards. They are listed alphabetically from Allegheny, Pennsylvania to Zearing, Iowa. This is not a priced catalog, but three different value groups are used to indicate up to \$75 (R), from \$75 to \$300 (RR), and above \$300 (RRR). The main listing is alphabetical by state and then by city within each state.

If a city had more than one variety of precancel, for example, Dodge, MA, then they are differentiated as MA-Dod1, MA-Dod2, etc. Each city entry is identified by the UPSS catalog number of the base card itself as depicted in the *2020 U.S. Postal Card Catalog*, edited by Lewis Bussey. For illustration, the top horizontal portion of the card is shown in color with the indicium, the precancel, and often the return address of the sender.

A note indicates what type of notice or advertisement appears on the back of the card, and in a few cases the entire back is shown. An appendix describes a few proofs and shows an example of printer's waste. The catalog has an easy-to-read two-column layout with clear illustrations. At the time of writing this review, H.R. Harmer was offering "The Josh Furman Collection of Precanceled Postal Cards" in their April 14, 2021 Sale No. 3042.

Alan Warren





United States Statehood Dates



The Thirteen Original States

| State | Joined Union |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Delaware..... | December 7, 1787 |
| 2. Pennsylvania | December 12, 1787 |
| 3. New Jersey | December 18, 1787 |
| 4. Georgia..... | January 2, 1788 |
| 5. Connecticut..... | January 9, 1788 |
| 6. Massachusetts | February 6, 1788 |
| 7. Maryland..... | April 28, 1788 |
| 8. South Carolina | May 23, 1788 |
| 9. New Hampshire | June 21, 1788 |
| 10. Virginia | June 26, 1788 |
| 11. New York..... | July 26, 1788 |
| 12. North Carolina | November 21, 1789 |
| 13. Rhode Island..... | May 29, 1790 |

Unofficial Territories and States

State of Deseret: March 5, 1849-April 4, 1851

A provisional western state proposed by Brigham Young and the Mormon church on March 5, 1849. After Utah Territory was formed Sept. 9, 1850, with Brigham Young as its first governor, the General Assembly of Deseret, on April 4, 1851, passed a resolution dissolving the state, although a shadow government existed until 1872.

State of Franklin or Frankland: August 1784-December 1788

An unrecognized autonomous territory formed in August 1784 in the northeast corner of present-day Tennessee with plans to become the 14th state. When Congress did not admit it to the union, North Carolina reassumed control in December 1788.

Indian Territory: June 30, 1834-November 16, 1907

The region first called "Indian County" was established June 30, 1834. It never had a territorial government. With Oklahoma Territory, it became part of the state of Oklahoma on Nov. 16, 1907.

Jefferson Territory: October 24, 1859-February 28, 1861

An unrecognized territory created Oct. 24, 1859, from parts of five different western territories. When Colorado Territory was formed on Feb. 28, 1861, it ceased to exist.

Confederate States of America

Chronological List of Dates of Secession and Admission to the Confederacy and Dates of Readmission to the United States

| State or Territory | Date of Secession | Date of CSA Admission | Date Readmitted to U.S. |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| South Carolina | December 20, 1860..... | February 4, 1861 | July 9, 1868 |
| Mississippi | January 9, 1861 | February 4, 1861 | February 23, 1870 |
| Florida | January 11, 1861 | February 4, 1861 | June 25, 1868 |
| Alabama..... | January 11, 1861 | February 4, 1861 | July 13, 1868 |
| Georgia | January 19, 1861 | February 4, 1861 | July 15, 1870 (second date) |
| Louisiana | January 26, 1861 | February 4, 1861 | July 9, 1868 |
| Texas | March 2, 1861..... | March 5, 1861 | March 30, 1870 |
| Arizona Territory | March 16, 1861..... | February 14, 1862..... | Not Applicable |
| Virginia..... | April 17, 1861..... | May 7, 1861 | January 26, 1870 |
| Arkansas | May 6, 1861 | May 18, 1861 | June 22, 1868 |
| North Carolina | May 20, 1861 | May 27, 1861 | July 4, 1868 |
| Missouri* | October 31, 1861 | November 28, 1861 | Not Applicable |
| Tennessee | June 8, 1861 | July 2, 1861 | July 24, 1866 |
| Kentucky* | November 20, 1861 | December 10, 1861 | Not Applicable |
| Indian Nations..... | Not Applicable | March 15, 1861 | Not Applicable |
| New Mexico Territory..... | Never Seceded | Never Joined the CSA..... | Not Applicable |

*The Missouri secession vote and admission were symbolic because the Confederacy did not control any part of the state. Kentucky and Missouri, although represented on the 13-star Confederate flag, officially remained in the Union.
 CSA secession and admission dates compiled by Patricia A. Kaufmann.

Washington, District of Columbia (DC), the U.S. capital district, was formed from 100 square miles of land donated by Maryland and Virginia. It was created by the Residence Act of 1790, signed into law July 16, 1790. It was officially organized by the Organic Act of February 27, 1801. The Virginia land was retroceded on July 9, 1846.

Factoids Thanks to La Posta

Sarasota National Stamp Expo & Writers Unit 30

LITERATURE PALMARES

January 22-24, 2021

| | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| Grand Award | Vernon R. Morris | The Birth of New Jersey's Post |
| Reserve Grand Award | Francis J. Crown | The 10¢ Red "Southern Confederacy" Danville, Va., Provisional Envelope |
| Postal History Society Award | Marc E. Gonzales | The Cuautla Provisional of Mexico |
| APS Research Award | Benedict Termini | Porte de Mar Stamps Prepaid Sea Mail from Mexico |
| American Topical Association Award | Norman F. Jacobs | Sally Ride - Tennis Champion, Physicist, Astronaut, SPI Member |
| Collectors Club of Sarasota Award for Treatment | Steven Altman | "Expertising" a Unique Fluegel First Day Cover |

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| LARGE GOLD | Marc E. Gonzales | The Cuautla Provisional of Mexico | <i>Collectors Club Philatelist</i> | 90 |
| | Benedict Termini | Porte de Mar Stamps Prepaid Sea Mail from Mexico | <i>American Philatelist</i> | 90 |
| | Steven Altman | "Expertising" a Unique Fluegel First Day Cover | <i>The United States Specialist</i> | 90 |
| | Vernon R. Morris | The Birth of New Jersey's Post | <i>Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society</i> | 91 |
| | Francis J. Crown | The 10¢ Red "Southern Confederacy" Danville, Va., Provisional Envelope | <i>Confererate Philatelist</i> | 91 |
| GOLD | Bill DiPaolo | Rethinking the Ponce Provisional Adhesive | <i>Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers</i> | 87 |
| | Norman F. Jacobs | Kohima and Imphal - The Battle of the Tennis Court | <i>Journal of Sports Philately</i> | 85 |

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| Thomas Lera | Federal Postage Currency & Confederate Banknotes During the Civil War | <i>The Confederate Philatelist</i> | 85 |
| Julian H. Jones | A New Sailing Date for the Black X Line of Sailing Packets | <i>The Chronicle</i> | 86 |
| Bill DiPaolo | Production Characteristics of the Prexie Coils | <i>Prexie Era Postal History and Stamp Production</i> | 88 |
| Julian H. Jones | Transatlantic Sea Post 1921 - 1939 - Some Additions to the Record | <i>TPO</i> | 86 |
| Harold Krische | Silent Night: A Powerful Christmas Post Card | <i>The American Philatelist</i> | 85 |
| Francis J. Crown | Athens, Georgia, Provisional Gutter Pairs | <i>Confederate Philatelist</i> | 86 |

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| Norman F. Jacobs | Sally Ride - Tennis Champion, Physicist, Astronaut, SPI Member | <i>Journal of Sports Philately</i> | 82 |
| James Wardell | A Hand-Delivered Piece of History | <i>Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society</i> | 83 |
| Ralph Nafziger | Civil Censorship of U.S. First Day Covers During the Prexie Era | <i>Prexie Era Postal History and Stamp Production</i> | 81 |
| Kevin Lowther | Early Government Coils Have Attracted a Surge in Value on Cover | <i>Kelleher's Stamp Collector's Quarterly</i> | 84 |
| Steven Altman | Al Fluegel and the Missing '68s | <i>The United States Specialist</i> | 84 |
| Daniel Mandri | The Unknown Walker | <i>The Cuban Philatelist</i> | 80 |
| Raymond Murphy | Why Foynes | <i>The Revealer</i> | 80 |

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| Juan L. Riera | E.G. Barnhill: Florida Photographer, Artist and Promoter | <i>Florida Postal History Journal</i> | 75 |
| Benedict Termini | Joe & Maurine - A Lost American Dream | <i>Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History</i> | 76 |
| Ira Cotton | View From the Blind | <i>Duck Tracks</i> | 78 |

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| | Ken Gilbert | My Favorite Covers: Funklotterie Card | <i>German Postal Specialist</i> | 78 |
| LARGE SILVER | Juan L. Riera | Giant Magnolia on a Blue Velvet Cloth | <i>Florida Postal History Journal</i> | 72 |
| | Thomas Richards & Regis Hoffman | Movie Prop - Manhattan Project Mail "via PO Box 1663 Santa Fe" | <i>Military Postal History Society Bulletin</i> | 73 |
| | Thomas Richards & Regis Hoffman | Movie Proposal to Madame Chiang Kai-shek - Real or Scam | <i>Military Postal History Society Bulletin</i> | 74 |
| | Ken Gilbert | Rundfunkgenehmigung: Radio License | <i>German Postal Specialist</i> | 73 |



Canada to Host 2022 International Single-Frame and Literature Exhibition:

CAPEX 22, a four-day exhibition is being planned for mid-June 2022 in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The specific location and dates are not settled, pending final selection of a venue. CAPEX 22 will be a two-class exhibition: Four hundred single-frame exhibits and philatelic literature, including periodicals, books, and catalogues in both print and electronic forms. CAPEX 22 has the approval of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) which is the Canadian member of the worldwide *Federation Internationale de Philatili e (FIP)* and the *Federation Inter-Americana de Filatelia (FIAF)*, the continental organization for the Americas. CAPEX 22 has received the patronage of FIAF and will apply for recognition status with FIP.

A sixty-five booth bourse is planned, with both Canadian and international dealers participating. Canadian and international societies will likewise be invited to participate, hold society meetings, and offer seminars and presentations. CAPEX 22 connections are being established within geographic regions and with Canadian and international societies. Past-President Eldon Godfrey has been appointed as the BNAPS liaison.

CAPEX 22 would not be possible without the support of many exhibitors, members of the philatelic trade, and Canadian/North American philatelic clubs, societies, and associations. I would like to thank BNAPS for its support of the CAPEX 22 Guarantee Fund which, as in previous CAPEX exhibitions, provides the seed money needed to organize the exhibition.

BNA Topics, Volume 76, Number 4, October—December 2019



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Secretary Report 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

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

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

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

Those members without access to email can pay for a B/W Xerox copy by US Mail. 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.

Chapter and Website Feedback Service

Beginning in January 2019 critiques of club newsletters or websites will be available to any chapter at no cost. On request an experienced collector will review and provide written feedback on strengths and weaknesses to help your chapter better serve its members. The feedback service will replace the previous Chapter Newsletter and Website competitions. For more details check the APS website.

2020-2022 Literature Exhibits

APS Great American Stamp Show August 11, 2021, Rosemont, IL www.stamps.org.

CHICAGOPEX 2020 cancelled, Literature exhibit continued. www.chicagopex.com. Check their website.

SESCAL Article Only, October 2-4, 2020. Southern California. Sescal.org.

Sarasota Article Only Literature Exhibit

Check Advert. On Page 15

CAPEX 2022. Toronto Canada June 2022.