Henry O. Meisel was the president of the American Metered Postage Society (AMPS) from the mid 1930s to the late 1960s. His home and headquarters was Clintonville, WI. He was a prolific writer and editor promoting postage meter stamps. His society appears to have ended when he died in 1966 (Figure 3). Meisel was a forceful presence who injected a little excitement into the hobby by regularly preparing interesting meter and permit covers. While one could be very creative in preparing a permit, there are rules about meter design and Meisel often modified the meter design, apparently with some tolerance from the local post office. A few of Henry Meisel’s metered covers will be presented here.

References to Henry go back to the 1920s when he was involved in motorcycle events using an Indian Motorcycle. He created covers to commemorate these events (Figure 1). His newsletter, the American Metered Postage Society Bulletin and can be found at the Spellman Postal History Museum in Weston, MA. He also had another newsletter named Indicia News held at the APRL from 1955 through 1966.

The letter on Figure 4. Page 4 is a 1984 letter from Ernest Roscoe, an MSS member, to the editor of the Canadian Meter Study Group (CMSG) reminiscing about Henry O. Meisel.

More examples of Meisel covers are placed at http://meterstampsociety.com/gallery/meisel.html.

Figure 1. Commemorative Cover for motocycle races conducted by Henry Miesel. Dated 1928.

Figure 2. Early AMPS Cover December 16, 1940

The advertising slug on this early AMPS cover shows September 15, 1935, likely the birth date for AMPS.

Figure 3. Last known Issue of Indicia News

May 1966 before Meisel passed away in July 1966.

Figure 4. Gravestone


AMPS Continued on Page 4
From the Editor

New Editor

I have been editor for TPC for exactly 11 years since Peter Martin recruited me in 2011. My first TPC issue was number 171 for the first quarter of 2011. I must say I have enjoyed preparing these issues for the members of The APS Writer’s Unit. However, as I looked over the materials available I discovered that there was no article index and that collection of past issues was very thin. The previous editors had not collected previous issues even for the issues they had prepared themselves. I proceeded to make electronic copies of TPC and Todd Ronnei mounted our collection on the website. We didn’t manage to go back to the beginning in 1966 and had to settle for back to 1988. Even then there are a few years missing here and there. I tried to keep keep a list of future literature exhibits so that members could enter there works for judging. I published Palmares for most exhibitions that were published in English.

When the Sarasota, FL show began to judge individual articles the Writers Unit was proud to be taken in as a sponsor of that effort.

This little editor has the upcoming 2023 Freedom Flag on his hard hat. He also carries a red pencil for corrections.
As we wind up 2022, we are planning some changes in the APS Writers Unit #30. We have already declared that we want to represent, inform and include not just those who write for the printed page, but also those in the digital media. The lines are blurring anyway. I haven’t held a copy of Linn’s Stamp News in my hands in ages; I read the weekly digital version.

In 2023, we plan to hold quarterly meetings of the Writers Unit, using Zoom or another online conference tool. At first, these will be open sessions with no preset agenda; participants will be able to talk about almost anything involving writing, editing and publishing. Non-members will be allowed, too.

Matt Healey will take over as principal editor of The Philatelic Communicator with the First Quarter issue. David Crotty, who has served us ably for so many years, will become editor emeritus and continue to contribute to TPC. Matt introduces himself in another article in this issue.

Matt, David, Secretary-Treasurer Alan Barasch and I had a Zoom meeting in December, and among our topics was whether to request a different day for the WU30 meeting at Great American Stamp Show 2023 (August 10-13 in Cleveland). We no longer have a breakfast, which had tied us to Sunday. Would more members come to our meeting if it were on, say, Thursday?

Unfortunately, GASS is a combination of the annual conventions and shows of the APS, American Topical Association and American First Day Cover Society. I know that the AFDCS’ Americover usually had three events at any one time, most of which were shoehorned into GASS. I imagine it was much the same with the National Topical Stamp Show. Every day at GASS is jammed with events and meetings, but Sunday is slightly less busy and WU30 has already “staked out” Sunday mornings. Thus, we will be requesting a general membership meeting of Writers Unit #30 at 11 a.m. on Sunday, August 13. The Council meeting will be at 10 a.m.

For administrative reasons, we were not able to sponsor a current participant in the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship this year. We hope to do so in the next cycle. The “writers track” is likely to be renamed something like “communications,” for the same reasons I expressed in the first paragraph here.

A number of stamp societies have hung out the “help wanted” sign for journal editors. The job of a stamp society editor is not to be the leading expert on that group’s subject. It is to solicit articles, check the grammar and spelling (with which most of our word processing problems can help), choose and edit illustrations, and lay out the material in some sort of order. Most of our society journals these days are digital so no high-end software is required. Also gone is the requirement for a certain amount of material: The contents don’t have to fit evenly onto two pages or in 16-page signatures.

In fact, one idea kicked around at our Zoom meeting was the use of WordPress and similar blogging software to “publish” philatelic journals, on an irregular or as-needed basis. You have an article or news item, you put it on the blog as soon as you or it are ready. For an example, check out the LloydBlog section of The Virtual Stamp Club, www.virtualstampclub.com/lloydblog. I didn’t think of it this way until I was writing this column, and, no, I didn’t name the “LloydBlog.” That was a joke by the non-

philatelist who set it up for me.

A stamp society could make all its blog pages public, or only some of them, or offer synopses of articles to the public and the full texts to its members.

WordPress is free, but Akismet, its anti-spam component, is not if your blog reaches a certain level of junk. (Ah, the price of fame!) Certain words have no place in a philatelic discussion and some “trolls” run around the Internet (using automation of “bots”) posting inane comments with their website URLs. Looking at mine this morning, “Hairstyles” has posted 129 inane comments in the Charles M. Schulz Stamps page, more than half of them at 6:27 a.m. today. I already “hairstyles” in my “right-to-trash” filter. (Sorry, you won’t be able to comment there on Nancy Reagan’s hair on her stamp.)

Anyway, there is a real need right now for more philatelic newsletter editors, and you don’t need to be an expert on whatever the specialty of the society is. Sol Koved, the long-time and respected editor of First Days, told me once he wasn’t really much of a FDC collector nor an expert on them. What he could and do well is edit the journal and get it out on time.

National philatelic organizations live and die by whether they are publishing their journals. No publication, no society. You can give back to philately by taking on the stewardship of a small group’s newsletter.

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A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Mirriam-Webster’s Thesaurus spilled its cargo leaving Toronto heading down the 401. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, surprised, dumbfounded, flabbergasted, confounded, astonished, and numbed.

Peter Mosiondz, Jr. Hall of Fame

I want to thank everyone who voted me into The Philatelic Writers Hall of Fame. It is indeed an honor to be included among these noteworthy authors. I am humbled by my induction. I must also say that if my late friend Pat Herst had not urged me write my first article back in December 1982, I may never have taken up pen and paper; later to be replaced by a word processor. Pat enjoyed that initial piece and encouraged me to write some more. Now, some 1200 articles later I am still pounding the keyboard. Thank you so very much.
Dear Clay,

The Sept. CMSG newsletter received couple of days ago. Can give you some info on the American Metered Postage Society and its founder.

I did a two-part series on this in my Metered Mail Notes columns in Stamp Collector of Jan. 13 and Feb. 10, 1979. I have most of the AMPS Bulletins (except for some of the early ones), which were issued profusely but irregularly over a period of years. Regrettfully I don't have a way to get you photocopies of my columns and I don't know if SC has back issues for sale that far back. You might try - their address is Box 10, Albany, OR 97321. Could be they could supply photocopies.

On Sept. 15, 1975 Henry O. Meisel, then resident in Rockford, Ill., organized the American Postage Indicia Society. Eventually this emerged as the AMPS by a train of circumstances which Meisel revealed in segments of various issues of the AMPS Bulletin.

The organization gained rapidly in membership, Meisel reporting as of Aug. 12, 1952, some seven months after organization of the AMPS that it had reached a total of 125. At the time of its dissolution, after Meisel's death in the late 1960s, its membership was claimed to be about 1200.

Meisel is a colorful character, as can readily be pieced together from his writing on a multitude of subjects having nothing to do with philately in his Bulletins (he was sole editor and rarely included anything under anyone else's by-line. Except for his wife he was the sole officer of the AMPS. Although at one time a member of the Meter Stamp Society (MSS) he developed quite a hostility toward it.

The most valuable contributions of the AMPS Bulletins lie in the numerous illustrations of US and foreign meter stamps. For the most part these were run devoid of any explanatory text.

As to the illustrations you ran in the newsletter the following general background may be useful.

These were usually prepared with corner cards from a prominent stamp show. He would lease a meter in the town where the show was held for use over the period of the show's run. AMPS members received such covers through the mail and extra copies were offered for sale at nominal amounts.

In the US he was given to using obsolete indicia, some times with altered townmarks that never saw service in regular commercial usage. Collectors have come to term these "philatelic fabrications" and they are listed in the Simon-Walsh US meter stamp catalog in the appropriate places.

Hope that the above will prove useful.

Best regards,

Ernest J. Roscoe
110 So. Eki St.
Salmon, ID 83467
USA

Oct. 21, 1984

Figure 5. This letter from Ernest J. Roscoe, of the Meter Stamp Society, to the editor of the Canadian Meter Study Group (CMSG) in 1984 reminiscing about Henry O. Meisel.
AMPS Continued from page 4

Figure 6. Roman Numeral in Date, May 5, 1953
The US never authorized the use of Roman numerals for dates.

Figure 7. First Convention November 25, 1952
Modified Town Mark.

Figure 8. Modified Town Mark
The date is blotted out in this example, and unneeded permit number is included with the town name and a postal code section slug that probably did not apply are evident in this cover.

Figure 9. International Postal Supply Meter
December 11, 1954
Meisel's permit number was often used in creative ways.

Figure 10. NCR Meter with AMPS Slug, May 25, 1958
NCR meters often contained a slug identifying the sending company but few were this verbose.
Hello, my fellow philatelic writers!

Although I’m a relatively new member of the A.P.S. Writer’s Unit #30, I’ve been writing regularly about philately for over a dozen years—and have been a collector for nearly half a century. Readers of Linn’s Stamp News may recognize my byline from the magazine’s monthly Great Britain Philately column, or from the stamp-auction reports I penned for several years before that. This year, I’ve been doing some writing for the Collectors Club Philatelist (with a regular auctions roundup) and the American Philatelist (on various subjects). Some of you also know that I have written occasionally about stamps for The New York Times.

Why did I join WU30? Well, probably for the same reasons most of you did: to make new connections and friendships, deepen my involvement in philatelic writing, learn some new tips and tricks, and ultimately seek out further ways to give something back to the hobby I love.

When Lloyd DeVries asked me earlier this year to consider picking up the baton of editing this newsletter from Dave Crotty, I was hesitant at first: shifting gears from writing to editing (and publishing) sounds like an altogether higher level of commitment than just turning out a couple thousand words a month on an area I love to collect.

I told Lloyd yes, although I might try and shake things up a little (see below)—I’ve always enjoyed being disruptive. Y’all can help, of course. Let me explain how.

For starters, I asked Lloyd and Dave what exactly a TPC editor does. I had a hunch it was more than just editing—that is, the fairly mechanical process of checking the facts, grammar, spelling and punctuation of writers’ submissions. Those things are a large part of the job, of course, but there’s more: the editor must also design, lay out, format and prepare for printing all the pages of a given issue, which typically number anywhere from 12 to 16.

There’s a further, even more critical role, and I have to admit that’s the one that made me hesitate a bit: finding stuff to put in the newsletter.

As my estimable colleague, John Hotchner, has said in this space on more than one occasion, there are both more and less effective means of obtaining material to run in any philatelic publication.

For starters, one can simply approach the readership, hat in hand. Send us articles! This occasionally produces results, although if one does it too often it risks telegraphing that the publication might have reached the limits of its relevance and is facing a crisis of mission. I would hate to think that’s the case for this newsletter, though, because I firmly believe the Writers Unit can and should continue to promote communication about our hobby, energetically and effectively.

A better method, as John pointed out, is for an editor to proactively approach fellow philatelists one-on-one, be it through reaching out to old friends and contacts or hunting down exhibitors at shows and sweet-talking them into submitting, if not full-blown research pieces, at least a summary of their exhibit’s narrative and how they approached it, or perhaps the story of how they serendipitously chased down their best material. This is, however, a labor-intensive strategy that can be difficult for those who are somewhat introverted (like myself) or can’t travel to that many shows.

John proposed a halfway solution, which—I concur—sounds very appealing: to survey the readership, asking them to be frank about what they may find wanting in the publication, and then nudging a few of them into helping address those wants themselves by submitting something.

To that end, I’d like to pose the following questions to our readership. As I hinted above, these questions imply that I’d like to begin shifting the course of our unit’s focus and conversations, to encompass a broader swath of media types, especially digital, and a fuzzier definition of who’s a “writer.” Feel free to add your own ideas to the mix.
Matt Continued from page 6

To make things easy, this will be a low-tech survey: just email your free-form responses to wu30editor@gmail.com

1. Among the staples of our content are awards coverage, book reviews and (sadly) obituaries. Are any of the following subjects things you’d like to see covered more often in The Philatelic Communicator?

A. News about opportunities for philatelic writing and editing, especially paid
B. Inspiration and suggestions for finding and developing article ideas
C. Community-building content such as profiles of other writers, editors and other communicators—particularly newcomers
D. Features on novel kinds of philatelic communication, particularly digital, and innovative platforms such as social media
E. Reviews of digital media (web sites, e.g.)
F. Fill in the blank: ___________________.

2. What kind of regular rubrics would make TPC a more valuable resource for you?

A. Calendar of upcoming literature exhibits, awards and competitions
B. How-to’s on digital publishing
C. How-to’s/refresher on philatelic researching
D. Primer on some of the more obscure or confusing philatelic terminology
E. Q&A with a legal expert on copyright issues as they relate to philatelic publishing
F. Tips on working with translations and translators
G. Members’ classifieds (free of charge)
H. Fill in the blank: ___________________.

3. Do you think the format of a quarterly, 8½x11” newsletter is optimal for our needs, or would you prefer a different format, such as a web- and email-based newsletter, perhaps on a more frequent schedule?

4. What are the best (and worst) aspects of our current newsletter? What could we do to cure the worst or make the best even better?

I thank you in advance for taking a few moments to share your feedback, whatever it may consist of. It will provide me with a much needed and much appreciated tailwind as I take on this new role as your editor. And you never know—I may be reaching out to you for some submissions to this newsletter!

Lastly, before I sign off, I think we should all give our thanks to Dave for his stewardship of The Philatelic Communicator over the past few years, as well as to Lloyd for his leadership of our organization. This is an appropriate season for expressing gratitude, so if you’re in the writing mood (admit it, you’re always in the writing mood!), feel free to drop Dave and/or Lloyd a note of appreciation.

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The Royal Philatelic Society London
Press Release

Something of Great Britain for all

With no fewer than 62 one-frame displays to view, the members of the Royal Philatelic Society London were given a rare treat when they were entertained by the Great Britain Philatelic Society on 1 December. Understandably, it proved to be an extremely popular event, with over 150 attending.

The person who brought it all together was David Griffin, who ensured that every Great Britain interest was catered for, with stamps of all reigns from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II, including postal stationery, rolls, booklets and postage dues, plus various aspects of postal history, and even parcel labels, rocket post, meter marks and perfins.

As Richard Berry FRPSL remarked when giving the Vote of Thanks, there had been a ‘judicious selection of material so as to provide something for everyone’. In reply, Peter Lister FRPSL, President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, thanked all those who had come along to the meeting.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to all who had displayed by Peter Cockburn FRPSL, President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, who in addition presented a plaquette to David Griffin in recognition of his fine achievement in bringing the magnificent displays together. December 2022.

David Griffin (right) receives the plaquette of the Royal Philatelic Society London from Peter Cockburn FRPSL, the Society’s President.

Author John Hotchner has been a collector of Errors, Freaks and Oddities (EFOs) for many years. He was a founding member and first president of the Errors, Freaks & Oddities Collectors’ Club in 1978. His column in this field ran for a long time in Linn’s Stamp News. More recently he has been writing a column in the journal Kelleher’s Collectors Connection, beginning in March 2016.

This book is a chronological compilation of the series through the first half of 2020. Topics include perforation errors, tape splices, the BEP problems with the 1976 Bicentennial souvenir sheet, the 30¢ Prexie shades, folds and creases, and color and misregistrations on the 1936 16¢ airmail-special delivery issue among others. An additional entry is an article about the 2¢ Jefferson Liberty “Silkote paper” experiment.

An unsourced article focuses on modern disaster mail, with discussion of two events and illustrations of surviving damaged covers. The first is the 1979 fire caused by an explosive device of the Unabomber Ted Kaczynski on a flight from Chicago to Washington D.C. The other event was the 1988 crash of the Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

A final article, reproduced from a 2019 issue of Postal Stationery, published by the United Postal Stationery Society, concludes the text portion of this book. The subject is the special consular bicentennial envelopes of 1990-1994 used by the U.S. Department of State’s Passport Office. Normally passports were mailed in the familiar penalty envelopes.

On March 17, 1990, two “official mail” imprinted envelopes with State Department corner cards were issued in denominations of 45¢ and 65¢, the 2-ounce and 3-ounce rates for mailing passports. A short time later the State Department decided it would like a stamp to mark the 200th anniversary of establishing the U.S. Consular Service in 1792. A decision was made to issue an envelope instead of a stamp.

The approved design was released in two denominations on July 10, 1992. Interest in official mail envelopes was much lower than in commemorative stamps so first day covers of the envelopes are rather scarce. Even the non-first day uses were of little interest to collectors so that normally used examples of the Agency envelopes also remain scarce.

Problems with the new envelopes surfaced when machine-cancellation caused them to split due to the thickness of the passports. A thicker paper was used and the cornercard imprints were altered, creating new varieties (in keeping with the theme of this book).

A handy index by Scott catalogue numbers to items discussed in the book will interest U.S. stamp-specific collectors. The articles are laid out in 2-column format and the illustrations are exceptionally large and clear. Having these collected articles in book form is a nice resource.

It is perhaps ironic that despite the long time writing, editing, and publishing experience of both the author and the publisher, they have committed three typographical errors in one paragraph of the blurb on the outside back cover of the book!

2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the famous 1972 chess match between Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union (USSR) and Robert “Bobby” Fischer of the United States, held in Reykjavík, Iceland. The co-authors and compilers of this book are collectors and exhibitors of the myriad stamps, covers, and ephemera related to the event.

The match attracted worldwide attention. Russians had dominated the chess championships for many years. Bobby Fischer, with his insistent demands, added to the excitement expected of this showdown event. The cost of staging this spectacle was ameliorated by fund-raising efforts of the Icelandic Postal Administration and the Icelandic Chess Federation. The souvenir items including stamps, first day and event covers, special cancellations, postcards and other ephemera helped offset costs of the match.

Iceland issued a 15 kr stamp on July 2, 1972. The sheet format, plate numbers, a perforation error, and the post office bulletin announcing the stamp are shown. Short biographical profiles of the two contestants are presented. First day cancels were officially applied at the Laugardalshöll post office (the stadium where the match took place), and at the Reykjavik post office, and unofficial postmarks at 19 towns all over the country. Over two dozen different cachets used on the first day are itemized.

Rarity values of 1 to 5 are assigned but it is not clear how many are known in each category. RR is used for examples where only 1 to 3 are known. Over 60 additional cachets were introduced after the first day, used as event covers on various days during the match. Even admission tickets were stamped and cancelled. All the cachets and their printing varieties are nicely illustrated. Shown also are foreign event covers issued by Israel, Yugoslavia, the United States, and Mali.

An analysis of registered event day covers is presented, and examples of event covers sent to foreign destinations. Over 50 picture postcards created specifically for the match are illustrated along with details on the artist, publisher, and dimensions. Even some tourist picture postcards mailed during the event are shown. Autographed covers have a section of their own, with identification of the signers.

Ephemera like print media, souvenirs, press photos and similar non-philatelic items round out the handbook listings along with an epilogue that has souvenir items related to the 1992 Spassky-Fischer “revenge” re-match. That was held in Yugoslavia which was not sanctioned by the United Nations. Hence the U.S. revoked Fischer’s passport and a grand jury indicted him. He became a recluse and returned to Iceland where he was given citizenship and asylum. He died in Reykjavik of kidney failure in 2008 at age 64.

A list of literature sources concludes the book. The entries do not follow good bibliographic practice with book and journal titles in italics. This handbook memorializes the philatelic documentation of a major event not only in the field of chess, but also watched worldwide.

Alan Warren
CHICAGOPEX 2022 Literature Palmares

November 19, 2022

John Kevin Doyle Grand Award
Jay Stotts  The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922–1938

Reserve Grand

Postal History Society Medal
Cheryl Ganz  U.S. Zeppelin and Airship Mail Flights, Second Edition

Large Gold
Jay Stotts  The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922–1938 (94 pts)
Richard T. Daffner  The Foreign Mail Issue of Mexico 1879–1883 (91 pts)
Cheryl Ganz  U.S. Zeppelin and Airship Mail Flights, Second Edition (92 pts)
Peter Schwartz  The Civil War Cigar Stamps: A Philatelic Detective Story, A Treasure Trove of New Discoveries (91 pts)
Vickie Canfield Peters, Editor  Airpost Journal (90 pts)
Michael T. Mahler, Editor  The American Revenuer (91 pts)
Martin Kent Miller, Editor  The Philatelic Exhibitor (90 pts)

Gold
John Hotchner  Philatelic Royalty of the 20th Century (87 pts)
Tomas Lera  Hubbard L. Hart's Influence on Stage Coach and Steamboat Travel and Commerce in Central Florida (86 pts)
Jerry H. Miller  From Duplex to Mechanical: The evolution of experimental and early machine postmarks worldwide in the 19th and 20th centuries — a primer (87 pts)
Peter Schwartz, Calvin Mitchell  Tobacco Stamps of 1868–1869 and African American Portraiture (88 pts)
Peter Martin  La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History (88 pts)
Michael D. Roberts, Editor  Mexicana (87 pts)
MSS Member Ivan Leš reports:
“I got an award of Large Silver Medal at the recent European Stamp Exhibition LIBEREC 2022 (www.liberec2022.ez) for my book A Hundred-Year-History of the Meter Stamps in Czechoslovakia. The title page is enclosed. This is the third part of my trilogy devoted to meter stamps on the territory of Czechoslovakia.”
Note this Exhibition has 6 pages of literature and over 50 pages of philatelic exhibits.
BTW, If your literature exhibit gains an award, let us know about it.
Articles

Henry O. Meisel Meter Stamp Writer and Publisher ...........
.................................................................David Crotty

Hey it’s me. Your Next Editor.......................Matthew Healey

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The Connecticut Tercentenary Issue of 1935 (Sc. 772) Peter J. LaPlaca and Anthony F. Dewe ..... 9


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.

2022 Literature Exhibits


SESCAL Article Only, Southern California. Sescal.org.

Sarasota Article Only www.sarasotastampclub.com/