



# The Philatelic Communicator

Newsletter of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30 • Summer 2023 • N° 221

## Recruiting and mentoring philatelic editors

The Winter 2023 and Spring 2023 issues of *The Philatelic Communicator* devoted considerable space to the subject of philatelic editing.

Much of the content focused on the challenges faced by philatelic editors and by the hobby itself. I share those concerns and at the Writers Unit #30 meeting at the Great American Stamp Show (Aug. 10-13), I offered a proposal. I'd like to share that with readers of *TPC* and solicit your thoughts.

**Gary Wayne Loew**

The hobby of philately has never been healthier! There are more collectors today than ever in the history of the hobby. But philately certainly has its challenges and disruptions. To cite three examples:

- Stamp shows are facing a leadership problem and need new volunteers and a new business paradigm;
- The old-guard dealer network is retiring, and philatelic commerce is becoming predominantly web based;
- Exhibiting needs new participants and additional exhibiting models to attract the youth of philately.

### A WU30 Challenge

But there is one challenge facing philately that should be of particular concern to the Writers Unit #30: the current cohort of esteemed philatelic editors is aging out and we are not actively developing the next generation. I also believe that many current editors of society journals and stamp club newsletters and bulletins would benefit from better editing skills.

*Continue reading on page 4*

**T. E. LAWRENCE**

## The writer as stamp art director



**Hejaz, 1916 / Presentation of postage stamp designs**

Christie's

In the midst of the Great War, the Arabs of Hejaz seized the opportunity to revolt and rid themselves of Ottoman hegemony. In this they were abetted by the British, personified by the roguish intelligence officer, Col. T. E. Lawrence, better known today as Lawrence of Arabia, author of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

Following the Arab revolution, Ottoman postage ceased to be valid in the Arabian peninsula. According to Christie's, "The Arab Bureau inquired with the Survey of Egypt, where T.E. Lawrence was assigned, about the possibility of creating new postage stamps. Lawrence and Col. Ronald Storrs did the initial research on design, and Storrs reports in his 1937 memoir, *Orientalism*: 'we decided that the best proof that [the revolution] had taken place would be provided by an issue of Hajaz

[sic] postage stamps... It was quickly apparent that Lawrence already possessed or had immediately assimilated a complete working technique of philatelic and three-color reproduction, so he was able to supervise the issue from start to finish.'"

The image above is the frontispiece of *A Short Note on the Design and Issue of Postage Stamps Prepared by the Survey of Egypt for His Highness Hussein, Emir & Sherif of Mecca & King of the Hejaz*, Cairo, 1918. Just 200 were printed, with the actual stamps mounted on the page.

The stamp art was worked up by two Cairo designers, Agami Ali and Mustafa Gozlan. Lawrence later wrote to his brother, "It's rather amusing because one has long had ideas as to what a stamp should look like, and now one can put them roughly into practice..."



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*The Executive Committee was reconstituted at the last election. Volunteers are sought for the following positions: Historian, Publicist, Special events, AIJP liaison. Please reach out to the President if interested in helping with any of these roles.*

# A who's who of philatelic editing

Elsewhere in this issue of our newsletter, you will read a proposal by Gary Loew—amplified by Lloyd de Vries—on reinvigorating our Writers Unit's support for nurturing the next

**Matthew Healey** generation of philatelic editors. I heartily welcome Gary's proposal, because this is a theme I have been

building on in the last two issues, since I took over editing this newsletter.

While I was at the Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland last month, I chatted with A.P.S. executive director Scott English about how we could do a better job of reaching out to our existing community of philatelic editors in the U.S. and Canada. I suggested that a logical first step would be to go down the list of such editors and let them know what ideas we're discussing and what initiatives we're up to. Unspoken was my assumption that the A.P.S. must keep such a list.

Dear reader, I was being wildly optimistic. Scott shot me a look of pity; the A.P.S. does not maintain such a list.

Happily, however, the Collectors Club in New York does have the beginnings of one. Their ever-capable librarian and executive assistant, Andrea Matura, had a helper compile her own list of philatelic editors so that the club could ensure it would continue getting all the journals it subscribes to, uninterrupted, after it

moves into its new home next year.

With the help of the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa., we are now expanding that list and, once the people on it have opted in and the personal data is properly secured, we will eventually be posting it on our web site at WU30.org, with access reserved for WU30 members.

Our hope is that this list will grow into an invaluable resource. Writers, do you want to pitch an article but don't know the best place to turn? You'll be able to easily refer to this list and identify your most appropriate target. Editors, need an expert consultation on a story? Here are the folks who probably have the specialized knowledge you're looking for... And so on; you get the idea.

Over time, the vision is for every editor on our list be both a member of WU30 (no excuses, people!) and have the ability to self-update their entry, adding notes such as a want-list of topics they're seeking writers to tackle, or their editorial plan for the coming months, to inspire relevant submissions.

This fits in with our longer-term vision of making the A.P.S. Writers Unit #30 an indispensable community, not just for sharing tips and tricks and gripes and insights into the stamp-writing craft, but for truly assisting each other in solving real stamp-writing and -editing needs.

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## Raves and rants... and more raves

Great American Stamp Show really was great for the A.P.S. Writers Unit #30: For the first time in my memory, we had a booth—really half a booth, if you want to quibble—and

**Lloyd A. de Vries**

probably as a result, we picked up five new members. Secretary-Treasurer Alan Barasch did the lion's share of staffing the booth, and editor Matthew Healey made sure we had some recent printed copies of this journal to show and hand out.

At our meeting Sunday morning, we heard from both our living new Hall of Fame members, Ron Leshner and Hal Vogel.

Gary Loew, a former editor of *The American Philatelist*, spoke about his proposal for a mentoring program, which he details elsewhere in this issue. This organization has already taken a step in that direction, telling the A.P.S. that we wish to sponsor a Young Philatelic Leadership Fellowship participant in the writers' track. Alan will spearhead that. A bigger question is how we can get more current philatelic editors, columnists and writers to join WU30. I'm looking forward to reading Gary's ideas—and yours.

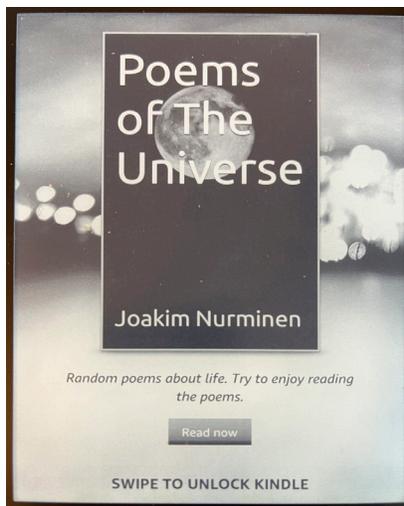
At the WU30 Council meeting which preceded the general membership meeting, we discussed reinstating the breakfast. None of us who attended was in favor of it. It wasn't a deciding factor, but one advantage to having the WU30 general meeting without the breakfast is the ability to have the council meeting right before it. We were able to tell members what the Council had decided while the news was fresh.

### Shining the Light On Lit

Thanks to Matthew for coming up with the idea of putting out a special "mini-newsletter" to remind you about the approaching deadline for Chicago literature competition. Being

able to produce these extra editions is another benefit of switching to electronic publishing.

I must admit that literature competitions are not on my radar: What I write is generally not considered "literature."



*Try to enjoy reading the poems?*

In fact, I entered several of my radio features in competitions some 20 years ago and was told by a chief judge to stop wasting my money: The rules didn't fit audio entries. (They still don't. There is no mention in the 2021 edition of the Manual of Literature Judging & Exhibiting of "radio," "podcast" or "audio"...)

However, when I have finished writing this column, I will look at some of my recent first day cover columns for *Linn's* and perhaps enter one or two. As Matthew said in the mini-newsletter, my entry—in this competition or the next one, at Sarasota in January, which WU30 co-sponsors—will help support literature competitions. Yours will, too.

### Don't Worry about 'Artificial Intelligence'

Suddenly, everyone is talking about AI. I think the phenomenon has been with us for quite a while and worrying about it is overblown, the sort of

"mass delusion" that occurs too often in today's mass communications. I wrote a (non-philatelic) blog on my website expressing my disdain for the hyperbole ([www.virtualstampclub.com/lloydblog/?p=16424](http://www.virtualstampclub.com/lloydblog/?p=16424))

I see more of what one of my favorite science fiction writers, Glynn Stewart, calls "artificial stupids," automatons with limited autonomy, much more often, not to mention natural "stupids."

I think the panic about AI replacing writers is even sillier. How often does the artificial intelligence in your allegedly-smart phone—the spellchecker—change your message into gibberish? Or take a look at the promo image at left, which I hope was written by a machine. Is the poetry so bad that the reader has to "try to enjoy" it? I know that made me want to stop what I was doing and order the book.

### Thank You

When A.P.S. executive director Scott English called me this spring and asked if I was sitting down, I thought there was a problem. When he said I would be getting this year's Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately, I was speechless—and if you've met me in person, you know that is quite unusual. It still stuns me. I didn't think it actually would happen.

Thank you—not just to the members of the Luff Committee or whoever nominated me, but to all of you, in Organized Philately and disorganized philately, who allowed me to participate, to lead, to write (and to those who read what I wrote, at least sometimes). Thank you to those who allowed me to make mistakes and recover from them and to those who prevented me from making other errors, and to those who have done the work or helped do the work for which I was credited.

As the British would say, I am seriously chuffed.

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# Mentoring editors

Continued from page 1

## How WU30 can help

The members of Writers Unit #30 are in an ideal position to address and alleviate this problem. I proposed to WU30 that we create and implement a model for Recruiting and Mentoring Philatelic Editors. Our president, Lloyd de Vries, has confirmed that the WU30 council has agreed to sponsor this undertaking. I have volunteered to spearhead this as a WU30 initiative.

## Roles of the philatelic editor

The philatelic editor is frequently the publisher as well. Each journal, magazine, newsletter, and bulletin presents its own requirements for the editor. Our mentoring program must incorporate all aspects of the editor's role even if not all are required in an individual instance. Here is a high-level list of the many roles that may be demanded of the editor.

1. **Defining the editorial policy for the publication.** This is often done in collaboration with the board of the society or club.

2. **Preparing the editorial calendar** to implement the editorial policy and facilitate advertising sales.

3. **Soliciting authors and articles.** My view has always been that the officers and board members have the primary responsibility for obtaining articles and columns for their publications. But the reality is that editors are too frequently called upon to acquire content to fill issues.

4. **Editing articles.** There are several different aspects of editing. Some of these steps may be combined, depending on the editor's style of working with authors. Philatelic editors may be responsible for any combination or subset of these:

- *Developmental or Concept editing.* The editor assists authors to move from an idea to a vision of the eventual article. This is also the point where



Gary Wayne Loew

editors ensure that the resulting article will fit with the publication's editorial policy. This is the "big picture" stage of the overall editing process.

- *Evaluation editing.* The editor assesses the draft manuscript's structure, flow, completeness, and overall quality.

- *Content editing.* This is the editor's first dive into the paragraphs and sentences on the page.

- *Line editing.* Here, the editor's focus is on word selection and how the sentences flow.

- *Copy editing.* In this stage, the editor is concerned with correcting spelling, punctuation, and grammar. A further consideration is that the overall article conforms to the publication's style manual.

- *Proofreading.* Takes place after the article has been formatted and is the final opportunity to find typos and layout errors such as headings, figures, tables, and page numbering. Unlike the previous editing steps, proofreading does not involve the author.

### 5. Formatting the publication.

- *Artistic and creative considerations.* The editor (or perhaps their graphics person if such exists) ensures that the overall layout of articles, columns, ads and other content is consistent with the style and design standards established for the publication. In addition, placement and formatting of text,

subtitles, tables, maps, and figures must yield individual articles that are pleasing to the eye and attract readers.

- *Technical use of software.* The selection of the appropriate desktop publishing software may vary for different publications. InDesign is powerful but challenging to master. The mentorship program must assist editors in software selection. The editor/graphics person must have sufficient mastery of the desktop publishing software to readily prepare a print-ready final document. The program must include a curriculum of key software features and functions typically required for creating philatelic publications, as well as templates that can simplify the editor's job.

### 6. Fulfillment.

- *Printing and production.* Since most philatelic publications are still distributed, at least in part, as hard copy, the print-ready document must be sent to the printer. The editor is responsible for verifying that the prepress proof is acceptable prior to the final press run.

- *Distribution.* Whether physical copies are mailed or digital copies are emailed, the editor may be responsible for ensuring that distribution (i.e., membership) lists are current and accurate. Stuffing envelopes, adding postage, and transport to the post office may also fall under the editor's purview, if not done by the printer.

## 7. Advertising.

• *Advertising sales* may be the editor's responsibility, although I assert that this is an officer's responsibility.

• *Advertising content* (in final form) must be obtained from advertisers in a timely manner if publishing deadlines are to be fulfilled. This may be one of the most challenging aspects of editing! It is critically important to ensure that all submitted ads are included in the proper issue.

This is just an outline of the many roles, tasks, and responsibilities of philatelic editors.

## Recruiting philatelic editors

For a mentoring program to be useful, philatelists who participate in organized philately must be willing to serve as both authors and editors. I suggest that if WU30 supports and promotes this mentorship program, philatelists will be more inclined to undertake the adventure of becoming an editor.

## Next steps

If this project is to succeed, we need active participation from many WU30 members. Here is how you can help:

- Add to and modify the functions and steps I've described here. What is missing; what needs to be corrected or enhanced; what doesn't belong?
- Provide details on exactly how a mentor should work with the mentee-editor to ensure an effective and successful mentorship program.

I have no pride of authorship here. My objective is for WU30 to build a program to ensure the future of philatelic editing. Let me know your thoughts.

If you would like a Word version of this article for your input, please let me know. Contact me directly at Gary@PhilatelicResearch.org. Or feel free to send a letter to our editor, Matthew Healey, at wu30editor@gmail.com and engage in a public dialog.

## OBITUARY

# Tony Wawrukiewicz, modern mail maven, 79

**A**nthony S. Wawrukiewicz, whose lifelong deep dive into some of the more obscure areas of modern postal history led him to produce landmark reference works, died July 11, aged 79.

Among his major contributions to the hobby was co-authoring, with Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011* and *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996*, two essential references that have been updated in several editions. Wawrukiewicz was also one of the first to popularize collecting the U.S. 1954-68 "Liberty" definitives, co-writing a book on the series in 2007 with Ken Lawrence and David Eeles. He was the founding editor, two decades ago, of *Auxiliary Markings*, the journal of the Auxiliary Markings Club.

He also wrote books on forwarded mail, redirected mail, New York auxiliary markings, and postage dues. His articles appeared in the *United States Specialist*, *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin*, *Australasian Informer*, and he had a regular column on modern postal history for nearly 20 years in *Linn's Stamp News*.

Among his most important legacies was placing online, under A.P.S. auspices, the archives of the *U.S. Postal Bulletin* and *Postal Laws and Regulations*.

An accredited judge, Wawrukiewicz also served on the show committee for Pipex, the annual philatelic gathering in Portland, Ore.

For these and other achievements, Wawrukiewicz was recognized with numerous important awards, including the A.P.S. Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research in 2002, the A.P.S. Charles J. Petersen philatelic literature lifetime achievement award in 2020, and the WU30 Hall of Fame in 2013, among numerous others.

But perhaps more impressive than any awards were some of the personal tributes that flowed in the pages of *Auxiliary Markings* after his passing, including



a moving encomium from Gregg Redner, now president of the Royal Philatelic Society, Canada: "The year was

1990 and I had just purchased what I considered a 'spectacular' 1861 Canadian business cover, mailed from Montreal to Essex, Conn. The cover was paid to the border but also had U.S. postage on it. All of this was complicated by a postage due mark. I could not for the life of me figure out what was going on... [Someone] referred to Tony W. Off went the letter... Three weeks later I would receive a reply that would change my philatelic life. Four typed pages in length... he explained every marking on that cover. He explained the routing and delays. He explained how and where the postage due was collected and what would have happened had it not been picked up... In essence he showed me a world I had no idea existed... The gift of that letter led me down a path from which I have never looked back."

Tony Wawrukiewicz was born in California in 1943. His father served in the Air Force, and Tony grew up in Libya, Germany, West Virginia and California. He earned a PhD in astronomy and taught the subject for several years before going to medical school and switching careers to become a radiologist in Oregon, retiring in 2003. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary, two daughters and two grandchildren. He was also an avid gardener, photographer, musician, and San Francisco Giants fan. He coached his daughters' softball teams and was a longtime volunteer for local organizations. —MH

## Use a citation manager to easily keep track of sources

I recently completed writing a draft of an article on the Port Hood Provisionals. A search for references over 25 years had revealed over 70 articles about the Port Hood Provisionals and other closely related information. I also found over 90 auctions or articles showing illustrations of Port Hood Provisional items. Over the years, as the number of references increased, keeping track of the articles and auctions of which I had copies, and the information they contained, quickly became a challenge.

**Gordon Smith**

In response to my lamenting this difficulty, one of my children suggested that I use a citation manager, a software tool that that they used to help them keep track of and cite sources as they went through the research process for their university courses.

A citation manager is a great support for researchers and writers. Among its benefits, it:

- is an efficient way to keep track of your references;

- helps keep track of what you have read;
- assists in keeping research organized;
- allows you to create separate, but linked, collections of information on different aspects of a subject or separate subjects;
- permits you to easily remember, access, and reorganize sources found over months or years;
- allows you to link related items, which is particularly useful when looking at auction listings and tracking the same item through various auctions;
- enables sorting your list of citations by name, publication date, etc. which allows you to compare and consider information in different ways;
- lets you tag items with key information that can be used to sort and filter references related to different topics;
- enables the automated creation of a bibliography in different citation styles;
- with a bit of wrangling, allows the automated creation of an annotated bibliography;

- with the installation of an add-on to your word processor, enables the input of appropriately styled citations directly into an article.

I downloaded **Zotero**, a free, open-source program that offers great support, but there are others like **Mendeley** or **Endnote** that offer similar functionality. The use of Zotero has helped me organize my references, sort my information, and keep my data instantly accessible over a period of years. Using this software has enabled me to easily add more information and pick up my thinking, despite breaks in my research that have lasted many months.

I highly recommend using a citation manager for writing articles, whether long or short.

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*Editor's note: Zotero can be found at [zotero.org](http://zotero.org) while Mendeley (which is also free to use) is at [mendeley.com](http://mendeley.com)*

*Endnote costs \$220 for a full license or \$120 for a student license; more info is at [endnote.com](http://endnote.com)*

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## Reports of Secretary-Treasurer and Council

Since the time of the Spring 2023 issue of *TPC*, we have signed up five new members and lost one member who died.

### New Members

2081 Melanie Rogers  
2082 Marjory J. Sente  
2083 Scott Pendleton  
2084 Ingo Nessel  
2085 Jonas Hällström

### Closed Album

Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

We have \$8,926.82 in the bank as of Sept. 6, 2023.

A reminder to all members; be sure you inform the treasurer promptly of new email addresses and/or street addresses. Dues statements are sent by USPS each year, whether you owe or not.

*Respectfully,*

Alan Barasch, Secretary-Treasurer.

••••••

The WU30 Council met at the Great American Stamp Show on Aug. 12.

They discussed whether to reinstate a breakfast. There was no support for it among those at the meeting; this discussion has been had before and appears settled. President Lloyd de Vries pointed out that the traditional Sunday morning time slot presents a conflict to various people who would like to attend.

The Council discussed, briefly, the

fact that the Literature Competition awards are announced at a separate meeting Saturday afternoon, not at the WU30 meeting. Again, there was no support for taking them back.

De Vries expressed dissatisfaction with the job he has been doing as president and offered to step down, but was asked to stay on.

As announced at the public meeting, Alan Barasch will spearhead WU30 efforts to sponsor a YPLF participant, opening a dialog with the A.P.S.

Members who would like to propose a candidate for a writing/editing track should come forward; please reach out to any member of the WU30 council.

At the general membership meeting, Gary Loew spoke about a mentorship program for editors [*See article, page 1*].

# Book promotion: melding old and new

When you write a book, or release—as I have—a compilation of columns in book form, the question that first presents itself is how to publish.

The old way is sinking many hundreds to several thousands of dollars into ordering a quantity of books which must be stored and re-tailed. The issue is multifaceted: (a) How many do I think I can sell? and (b) Where am I going to store them until they sell, or more exactly, IF they sell?

Print-on-demand solves that problem as the author or publisher is relieved of the burden of selling and storage. In our book publicity, we need only refer potential buyers to the bookseller and then wait for the money to roll in to cover the upfront costs and the hoped-for profits. In my case, Amazon does the print-on-demand.

But nothing is as easy as it seems: I still have to do publicity, and in exchange for its work, Amazon takes a hefty percentage of the retail price on the individual orders it processes.

Bottom line, as we say, is that there is less upfront cost, but it is still up to me to publicize the book. And profitability, if it comes, will take longer to get to.

What to do? Thinking through this in the pre-publication planning stage, it seemed to me my choices were these: (1) Would I be happy to not have the headache of dealing with distribution, or (2) do I want to put distribution on a dual track: Amazon doing what they do, and I doing what I can do?

I've chosen the latter because for the small task of storing groups of 50 books at a time, which can be ordered wholesale at much less cost per book than what Amazon charges to retail individually, I will realize significantly more income per book sold.

The mechanics of doing this turned out to be easy enough. Either way, it was up to me to send out review copies

and a press release or flyer providing ordering information. As can be seen in Figure 1, the flyer my publisher and I created mentions that the book can be ordered from Amazon, but it also says that books can be ordered directly from me, and I will autograph upon request. My bet was that a high percentage of orders would ask for the autograph, and that seems to be the case. Roughly six months after release of my first book, I've sold over 100 copies, while Amazon has sold 20. And three months after release of my book *On Philatelic Writing and Editing*, I've sold nearly 50, while Amazon has sold something over 20.

A word here on philatelic publishing. It is a truism that stamp collectors grumble when they have to lay out good American dollars for an essential reference work. Not surprisingly, stamp collectors would rather spend their limited funds on stamps. The result is that books that are not essential—maybe useful, or just entertaining—are a hard sell. Successfully market 200 copies of such a work and you have the philatelic equivalent of a *New York Times* bestseller.

I'm not there yet, and may never get there, but I haven't given up hope, and continue to plug away at the task of selling. What am I doing, besides sending out review copies? Here is a short list; each of these items has worked to one degree or another:

(a) I've added to my outgoing emails this standard message under my name and email address: "Author, *Philatelic Royalty of the 20th Century: Stories behind modern-era U.S. treasures*" and "Author, *On Philatelic Writing and Editing*." Both are followed by ordering

information directed to me. (My thanks to Steve Roth, who does this with his novels, for the idea.)

(b) I include a copy of my flyer with responses I send out to letters I get from readers of my columns.

(c) The first book was entered in the Chicagopex 2022 literature competition; which gave it public exposure as a worthwhile item of philatelic literature.

(d) When I go to shows, I leave 15-25 copies of the flyer on the freebie table.

I also make time to sit at the show's greeting table for a couple of hours to sell books and talk with friends and buyers.

(e) I've mentioned the book in a couple of the columns I write, and a couple of journals I write for *pro bono* have given me positive reviews in editor's or publisher's columns, or continuing small display ad space.

My publisher and I are also considering establishing a website that will offer the books, along with other philatelic materials, as well as promoting some philatelic organizations and charities I support.

I've thought about publicizing the book on my Facebook page and in my LinkedIn profile, but as it is, I use them to follow others, not to post my own stuff. Besides, I'm not exactly *au courant* with electronic media and the rules surrounding using it to sell products. Well, there you have it.

Hopefully one or more of these approaches might work for those of you selling books. And if you have methods of selling that I've missed, I'd be delighted to hear from you at [jmhstamp@verizon.net](mailto:jmhstamp@verizon.net), or PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125.



Figure 1: publicity flyer

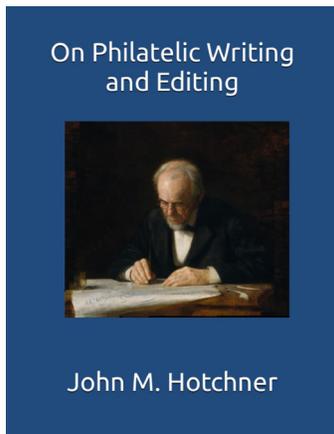
# Book Reviews

## John Hotchner's collected wisdom

Some writers struggle to put words on a page; others find that writing comes as naturally as breathing.

John Hotchner is in the latter group; a self-described compulsive writer, he began writing for philatelic publications in 1976, with his first article in *Linn's Stamp News*, and he has continued non-stop ever since. To date, by his count, he has authored some 3,000 pieces in *Linn's* and other publications.

Those will not be found in this relatively slim volume, of course. As the title makes clear, this book is not about stamps or postal history; rather, it is a compendium of Hotchner's musings on the craft of producing philatelic



literature—its mechanics, its problems and frustrations, and (often) the happy solutions Hotchner has found through long experience. And he knows what he's talking about: besides his decades as a writer and editor, Hotchner is also a seasoned literature judge.

Hotchner's style is at once matter-of-fact and folksy. The greatest pleasure his writing brings, besides the why-didn't-

**On Philatelic Writing and Editing** by John M. Hotchner. 8½ by 11 inches, 86 pages, perfect bound, softcover. Exhibitors Press, Silver Spring, Md., 2023. ISBN 9798825513195, available from the author (PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125) or on Amazon. \$19.95.

I-think-of-that revelations, is the feeling of you-are-not-alone-in-this-my-friends.

Longtime readers of *The Philatelic Communicator* will experience strong déjà vu reading this book: most of its content is literally ripped from the pages of this newsletter. Indeed, if there is any criticism that one could level at this book, it is that by picking up his columns, layouts and all, from *TPC*, the book has a choppy and inconsistent feel. However, that is offset by the benefit of having all of Hotchner's writings conveniently gathered in one place. The modest cover price is well worth it. —MH

## How to join us

At just \$15 annually, WU30 is one of the best bargains in philately. Signing up is easy:

[wu30.org/resources/WU30Application.pdf](http://wu30.org/resources/WU30Application.pdf)

Applications received before Oct. 1 are recorded as members for that calendar year, and will receive all back newsletters. Applications received on or after Oct. 1 will be recorded for the following calendar year.

While a good, old-fashioned paper check will always do, WU30 also accepts nifty, 21st century methods such as PayPal:

[www.paypal.com/paypalme/apswu30](http://www.paypal.com/paypalme/apswu30)

If choosing this method, please be sure to add 75¢ to your remittance to cover the inevitable PayPal fees. #thankyou

## RPSL Crawford medal winner

The Crawford Medal awardees for 2023 were announced at the closure of the second annual Crawford Festival, a two-day event that took place at the Royal Philatelic Society, London on June 27-28.

The winner was Lars Engelbrecht for *Postal Stationery of Denmark: The bi-coloured issue 1871-1905* (2 volumes).

Runners-up were Luis and Eduardo Barreiro for *Portuguese India: Postal History and the First Issues from the "Natives" to 1900*

Five other works were shortlisted: Michael Mahler, *Stamp Taxes in Nevada* (4 volumes); Sven Pählman, *Postal Routes*

*to the Dutch Possessions in West Africa, West Indies and Suriname 1652 to 1919: a Guide to Dutch Maritime Mail*; David Spivack and Stephen Reah-Johnson, *The British South Africa Company King George V Admiral Stamps*; Brian Trotter, Colin Hoffman and Patrick Flanagan, *Rhodesian Philately to 1924: the British South Africa Company Period*; and Peter Young, *The Inks of De La Rue & Co. and their introduction of synthetic and aniline ingredients c.1850-1910*

All Crawford Medal awardees since 1920 are listed at: [rpsl.org.uk/The-Society/Medals-and-Awards/Crawford-Medal](http://rpsl.org.uk/The-Society/Medals-and-Awards/Crawford-Medal)

## Luff Awardees

The A.P.S. announced this year's winners of the John N. Luff awards on July 3.

They are **Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski**

of Beverly Hills, Ca. for distinguished philatelic research; WU30's very own **Lloyd A. de Vries** of Paramus, N.J. for exceptional contributions to philately; and **Patricia A. Kaufmann** of Lincoln, Del. for outstanding service to the A.P.S.

## How to build better exhibits—including the writing part

As a winner of many Large Gold and Gold medals, as well as shows' Grand Awards, Ed Andrews has achieved success in philatelic exhibiting. In this handbook, he shares some

**Alan Warren**

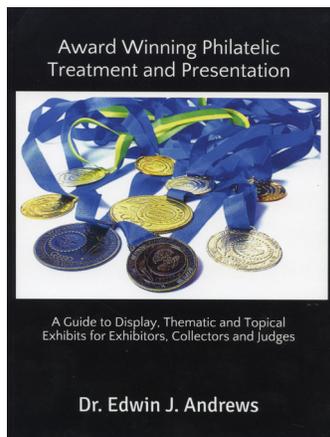
guidelines for exhibitors at all levels. His focus is on topical and thematic exhibits as well as display exhibits that are similar to what are known as open philately in the international shows.

He emphasizes that exhibitors need to be aware of the American Philatelic Society's *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*, 7th edition, that is available free from the A.P.S. The manual points out that 20 percent of the evaluation points used by judges deal with treatment, and another 5 percent with presentation. Together, the two features account for one quarter of an exhibit evaluation.

The author describes the differences between the three types of exhibits—thematic, topical, and display. However, he also shows how a philatelic item could be used in all three types. It is how they are treated that makes the difference.

Writing is a key part of exhibit preparation, and the author includes many pointers on becoming a better writer.

The title page of an exhibit is an



**Award Winning Philatelic Treatment and Presentation: A Guide to Display, Thematic and Topical Exhibits for Exhibitors, Collectors and Judges** by Edwin J. Andrews. 8½ by 11 inches, 180 pages, perfect bound with card covers or hardbound. Exhibitors Press, Silver Spring, Md., 2021. ISBN 9798454594732, available from Amazon. \$40 soft cover, \$55 hard cover.

important component of treatment and succinctly states the purpose and scope of the exhibit. Treatment or the flow of text in developing the storyline of the exhibit is spelled out in general terms, and further refined for the three kinds of exhibits in a chapter devoted to each.

The selection of the philatelic items is important and each piece should help tell the story of the exhibit. The organization of the exhibit is emphasized so that the story is comprehensive without duplication or overcrowding. The page

headings and subheadings help with the organization and flow. Andrews includes dos and don'ts every step of the way. He reinforces his text with many illustrations of pages, not only from his own exhibits but also from award-winning displays by others.

Although presentation accounts for only 5 out of 100 points, Andrews points out "...the importance of making an exhibit appear neat, attractive, and inviting to the viewer." First impressions are very important. He lists the tools that exhibitors need to prepare exhibit pages including ruler, razor knife, mounts, matting material, computer templates, transparencies and other items. The color of the exhibit page paper should be attractive and not detract from the material mounted on the page. Special techniques are described for mounting non-philatelic elements needed for display exhibits.

Judges will also benefit from this handbook with the author's guidelines for evaluating topical, thematic, and display exhibits as well as an expanded version of the exhibitor evaluation form. A bibliography lists articles, handbooks, and web sites for more details on treatment and presentation as well as exhibiting in general. An extensive list of terms reveals the wide variety of philatelic elements that can be used in the three types of exhibits. Exhibitors are also warned to avoid countries that purposely create varieties or errors as well as cancelled-to-order (C.T.O.) stamps.

## Classifieds

Writers Unit 30 members and non-members alike may place classified ads at no charge by emailing the editor at: [wu30editor@gmail.com](mailto:wu30editor@gmail.com)

**A.P.S. volunteer opportunities** are available year-round; for example, you can assist with the development of new

albums to be posted on the A.P.S. website. Create an album with your club members or for your philatelic organization to attract new members to join you, like the Swiss Sampler created by the American Helvetia Philatelic Society. [stamps.org/donate/volunteer](http://stamps.org/donate/volunteer)

**Here's an idea** to promote the hobby: Present your local vet with framed cat & dog stamps

during National Stamp Collecting Month (a.k.a. October). Turn it into a contest! More ideas at: [classic.stamps.org/Stamp-Collecting-Month](http://classic.stamps.org/Stamp-Collecting-Month)

**The Stuart Rossiter Trust** supports research and publication relating to the history of communication through postal systems of the world. Can we help you with publishing your Postal History book or mono-

graph? Contact the trust by email to: [srtcrr@gmail.com](mailto:srtcrr@gmail.com)

**Picture Postcard Annual (UK)** available now at £9.95. The 2023 edition features dealer and auction house listing, club contact details, early posting dates and auction records. Also a diary of postcard fairs and auctions for the year, and lots of feature articles. Visit: [postcardcollecting.co.uk/books](http://postcardcollecting.co.uk/books)

## Neyhart and Sanftleben are winners of *La Posta* prizes

Streetcar post offices and California Gold Rush artifacts were the subjects of winning articles over the past year in *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*, whose publisher announced the quarterly journal's annual awards over the summer.

Peter Martin announced the winner and runners-up of the 2023 Richard W. Helbock Prize for the best postal history articles appearing in the previous year's *La Posta*, as well as the winner and runners-up of the Charles A. Fricke Award for the best "Small Bites of Great American Postal History" article of one or two pages in length appearing in the previous year's journal.

Despite stiff competition, Charles Neyhart Jr. of Portland, Ore., has won the top Helbock Prize for a record sixth time. His latest winner, "A Tie that Binds: The Streetcars and Post Offices of Portland, Oregon," examined the linkage between the street railway system and the postal scheme in the Rose City. The article appeared in the Third Quarter 2022 issue of *La Posta*.

Neyhart previously won the top prize in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2020 and 2022. His "Portland, Oregon, Rural Stations 1909-1947," took last year's top prize.

The 2023 runner-up was "German P.O.W.s in America During World War II," by Jesse I Spector of Lenox, Mass. (1Q). Through postal history, Spector reviewed the role of POW camps in the forty-five states that housed more than 400,000 German P.O.W.s during the war and detailed the life of the inmates.

Third place went to "Fancy Town Postmarks on Stampless Covers," by James W. Milgram of Lake Forest, Ill. (2Q). Milgram detailed an extensive list of unusual U.S. fancy town postmarks used during the stampless period and showed how they were applied.

"Significant Innovations in U.S. Domestic Dead Letter Office Operations, 1860-1985," by Tony Wawrukiewicz of



Charles Neyhart, Jr.



Kurt Sanftleben

Portland, Ore. (1Q) placed fourth and "Military Training Camp Postcards Tell the Story—Maybe" by Steve Swain of Roswell, Ga. (4Q) was fifth.

Receiving Helbock Prize honorable mentions were: "The Telegram Every Wartime Wife Dreads Receiving," by Patricia A. Kaufmann of Lincoln, Del. (1Q); "Attached and Detached Rating Handstamps," by James W. Milgram (1Q); "The Postal History of Albany, Oregon: Hub of the Willamette Valley," by Ralph Nafziger of Albany, Ore. (4Q); and "Use of New Rate Sources on Unusual Items From 1872 until 1989," by Tony Wawrukiewicz (4Q).

The top three finishers receive cash prizes. The selections were based on voting by the *La Posta* editorial staff and the subscribers of the journal.

The Helbock Prize is named in honor of the founding editor of *La Posta* who died in 2011. Helbock founded the journal in 1969 and continued to edit it for more than 42 years until his death.

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The *La Posta* 2023 Fricke Award was presented to "A 'Poke' Mailed from the California Gold Rush," by Kurt Sanftleben of Virginia Beach, Va. The article appeared in the Second Quarter 2022 issue of *La Posta*. It showcased a Califor-

nia Gold Rush miner's "poke" that had held gold but wound up in the Philadelphia Dead Letter Office.

The Fricke Award runner-up was "A Letter Confirming Facts from a General's Memoir," by Joseph W. Cagnina of Spotsylvania, Va. (3Q). "A Treasure Inside' Padlocked Postcard," by Bob Toal of Glen Arm, Md. (1Q) took third place.

Fricke Award honorable mentions went to: "One Iowa Postmaster's Story," by Steven J. Bahnsen of Chicago, Ill. (2Q) and "Postal Rates for Postal Historians," by Scott Tiffney of Bellefonte, Pa. (2Q).

Daniel M. Knowles of Santa Fe, N.M., won last year's Fricke Award for "Substitute Soldiers in the American Civil War."

The Fricke Award winner receives a \$100 cash prize. As with the Helbock prize, award selections were based on voting by the *La Posta* editorial staff and the subscribers of the journal.

The Charles A. Fricke Award for the best "Small Bites of Great American Postal History" is named in honor of the longtime *La Posta* columnist who died in 2017 at the age of 94.

Subscriptions are \$36 a year. For more information contact: *La Posta* Publications, PO Box 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403; or e-mail [laposta.joan@yahoo.com](mailto:laposta.joan@yahoo.com) or visit [lapostapub.com](http://lapostapub.com)

## Tie for AFDCS Writing Award

Two works tied for first place in the American First Day Cover Society's Philip H. Ward, Jr., Memorial Award for Excellence in First Day Cover Literature published in 2022. One was by Henry Scheuer, for his two-part article in *The American Philatelist* in Nov.-Dec. 2023, "How the Earliest Collectors Sought Out First Days." This article also won the 2023 U.S. Stamp Society/Barbara Mueller Award.

The other was a book, *The Connecticut Tercentenary Issue of 1935*, by Peter J. LaPlaca and Anthony F. Dewey. Included in the book is a complete catalogue of all known first-day cachets for the issue, Scott 772.

The runner-up work was the article "Earliest Documented Uses of the Large Bank Note Stamps" by Ralph Nafziger, which appeared in the Nov. 2022 issue of *The Chronicle*, the journal of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society.

Although all articles in First Days, the official journal of the AFDCS, are automatically considered for this award, "I find it interesting that none of these works was published in our journal," said AFDCS president Lloyd A. de Vries. "Their publication in media not specifically about first day covers shows, in my opinion, the wider acceptance that FDCs are gaining."

A complete list of past winners can be found at [afdcs.org/ward.html](http://afdcs.org/ward.html)

## SARASOTA

### Call for article entries

The sixth annual "Articles Only" Literature exhibit will be held Jan. 19-21, 2024 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition at the Municipal Auditorium in Sarasota, Fla.



Co-sponsored with Writers Unit 30, this literature exhibit will be open only to articles of less than 8,000 words. This is one of

only three opportunities each year for literature exhibitors in the United States, GASS and Chicagopex being the other two.

The restriction to articles only, a concept that was pioneered at the Sarasota show, can be equated to a single frame competition for regular philatelic exhibits. This exhibit 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. Authors of short articles are encouraged to participate. Those wishing to take part in the exhibit are advised to send entries in quickly, since capacity is limited.

One Sarasota participant observed, "This was a real opportunity to compete among peers, not authors of major philatelic works. The bonus was feedback

from the judges, helping me to improve my future philatelic writing. We now have the equivalent of one frame philatelic exhibits for literature."

All submissions are to be in digital form, scanned or submitted as PDF files if originally appeared in print. Once accepted, entries will be posted on the show's web site and available to all, including the A.P.S. accredited judging panel. This year's panel includes Ken Trettin as Chief Judge along with Cheryl Ganz and Alan Warren. Entrants are encouraged to consult the revised *Manual for Literature Exhibiting & Judging* posted on the American Philatelic Society web site, [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org).

The literature exhibit's co-sponsor is the A.P.S. Writers Unit 30.

"Involvement in this effort furthers the mission of Writers Unit 30 by encouraging more collectors to share their knowledge through the many journals our hobby is fortunate to have. We can then recognize those works through these exhibits," says David Crotty, WU30 Vice President.

Journal editors and authors are encouraged to submit entries for the show no later than Dec. 1, 2023, though earlier is recommended. A complete prospectus and entry form are on the show's web site at:

[www.sarasotastampclub.com](http://www.sarasotastampclub.com)

### Calendar of philatelic literature exhibitions, 2023-24

**Nov. 17-19: Chicagopex**, Chicago, Ill. Visit [chicagopex.org/chicagopexcurrent.html](http://chicagopex.org/chicagopexcurrent.html) Deadline for entries has passed.

**Nov. 25-26: New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition**, Christchurch, New Zealand. Deadline for entry forms was Sept. 1; the deadlines to submit the works themselves are Oct. 1 for competitive entries or Nov. 1 for non-competitive entries. Info: [cps.gen.nz/page/442611](http://cps.gen.nz/page/442611)

**Jan. 19-21: Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition**, Sarasota, Fla. This show, co-sponsored by WU30, is articles-only. Deadline for entries is Dec. 1, 2023. More info at: [sarasotastampclub.com/the-exhibition/literature-entry-form/](http://sarasotastampclub.com/the-exhibition/literature-entry-form/)

**Apr. 16-19: EFIRO World Stamp Exhibition**, Bucharest, Romania. This FIP show includes a literature class. Deadline to send the application form to national commissioners is Oct. 16, 2023. The U.S.

commissioner is Chris Lazaroff ([clazfdc@gmail.com](mailto:clazfdc@gmail.com)). Application forms can be found at: [efiro.ro/rules](http://efiro.ro/rules)

**July 26-28: Mare Balticum 2024**, Tartu, Estonia. The latest incarnation of this traveling show has FEPA/FIP recognition and includes a literature exhibition. Application deadline is Feb. 29. The U.S. commissioner is Vesma Grinfelds ([vesmag@gmail.com](mailto:vesmag@gmail.com)). More details and the application forms at [marebalticum.ee](http://marebalticum.ee)

# GASS literature palmares: Grand award to Stotts

The literature exhibition at the A.P.S. Great American Stamp Show on Aug. 10-13, 2023 ended in a remarkable three-way tie for the top spot with



three entries earning 93 points each. In the end,

the jury gave the Grand Award to Jay Stotts, editor of the monumental new reference book on the U.S. Fourth Bureau Issue, published by the United States Stamp Society, while the other two entrants, Serge Kahn and Michael Mahler, shared an unusual duo of Reserve Grand awards for their works on the explorer Charcot and New York stamp taxes, respectively.

The booth for the literature competition at GASS was well stocked with examples of the entries for visitors to browse.

William DiPaolo chaired the literature jury, with John Hotchner and Hal Vogel also judging.

## GRAND AWARD

**Jay B. Stotts**, *The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922-1938*

## RESERVE GRAND AWARDS

**Serge Kahn**, *Jean-Baptiste Charcot in the Antarctic*

**Michael Mahler**, *Philatelic Shangri-la: New York Stamp Taxes on Bonds, 1910-1920*

## ARTICLES

### LARGE GOLD:

**Ronald J. Klimley**, "Martial Law & Censored Mail in Poland 1981-82"

### GOLD:

**Basil L. Copeland Jr.**, "WWII Patriotic Covers of Victory,

Vermont" (3-part series)

**Patricia A. Kaufmann**, "A Cammann Imprint Discovery that Changed a Catalog Listing, Plus Insights on Dr. James T. Patterson"

### LARGE VERMEIL:

**Kenneth Gilbert**, "The Miracle of Bern: West Germany and the 1954 World Cup"

**Jay Joyce**, "Philately for Non-Philatelists—Four Articles in Non-Philatelic Journals"

### VERMEIL:

**Igor Grigorian**, "The Crown of Hungary - Was it Prepared for the Armenian King?"

**Patrick J. Morgan**, "Cachet Artist: Verna Mann - That Cover Artist"

### LARGE SILVER:

**Dan Maddalino**, "Introduction to Trinidad & Tobago Semi-Postal Stamps"

### SILVER:

**Juan L. Riera**, "The Sikorsky S-38 in the British West Indies"

### SILVER BRONZE:

**Juan L. Riera**, "Breadfruit is Found on Numerous Stamps"

## CATALOGS

### LARGE GOLD:

**Robert L. Conley**, *New Mexico Territorial Postmark Catalog*, 11th Edition

## COLUMNS

### GOLD:

**Dennis Sadowski**, "Stamp Collecting Column"

**Charles J. Vukotich, Jr.**, "Exploring Astrophilately" (also A.T.A. Study Unit Journal Award 1st Place)

## ELECTRONIC

### GOLD:

**American Air Mail Society**, *Air*

*Crash Mail of The World*

### LARGE VERMEIL:

**Michael Kogan**, [www.Paleophilatelie.eu](http://www.Paleophilatelie.eu)—*The place where Paleontology and Paleo-anthropology meets Philately*

### LARGE SILVER:

**Dr. Sulekha Chaudhuri**, *India's Special Edition Stamps 1947-1980*

**Ross Marshall**, [www.CollectorsNZ.co.nz](http://www.CollectorsNZ.co.nz)

## HANDBOOKS

### LARGE GOLD:

**American Philatelic Congress**, *The Congress Book 2022*

**Franco Frescura**, *Poste Restante at the Cape* (2 volumes)

**Tasmanian Philatelic Society**, *Tasmanian Postal Stationery*

**Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz**, *The Uses of U.S. Postage Due Stamps and Their Substitutes, 1879-2023* (also A.P.S. Research medal)

### GOLD:

**Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society**, *Tied-On Seal Guide*

**Sue Vernall**, *Wellington Philatelic Society—The First 100 Years*

### LARGE VERMEIL:

**Raymond J. Burby**, *Natural Disasters on Postage Stamps: A Guide for Collectors* (also A.T.A. Study Unit Journal Award 2nd Place)

**Robbin Dick**, *Focus On Fakes*

**Erik A. Emsing**, *Peru—The Scenic View Cards 1898-1901—A Postal Stationery Odyssey*

**Ulf J. Lindahl**, *The Development of the Ethiopian Posts 1894-1909: The Exhibit*

**Lokeswara Rao Madiraju**, *Himalayan Birds on Stamps* (also A.T.A. Study Unit Journal Award 3rd Place)

**Michael Schumacher**, *The 50th Anniversary of "The Match of the Century": A Philatelic Look*

**George Toth**, *Hypnostamp: Uncovering The Healing Power of Postage Stamps*

## SOCIETY JOURNALS

### LARGE GOLD:

**James Grist**, *The Upland Goose*

**Peter Martin**, *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*

**Vickie Canfield Peters**, *The Airpost Journal*

**Scandinavian Collectors Club**, *The Posthorn*

**Jean R. Walton**, *NJPH, Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society* (also Postal History Award)

### GOLD:

**Donald A. Chafetz**, *The Israel Philatelist*

**Polonus Polish Philatelic Society**, *Bulletin of the Polonus Polish Philatelic Society*

**Michael D. Roberts**, *Mexicana*

**U.S. Possessions Philatelic Society**, *Possessions*, Vol. 64

### LARGE VERMEIL:

**Faroe Islands Study Circle**, "238", *Journal of the Faroe Islands Study Circle*

**Keith Hart**, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*

**Jeff Stage**, *Duck Tracks*

**Jeff Stage**, *Empire State Postal History Society Publications*

### VERMEIL:

**Armenian Philatelic Society**, *ARPA Journal*

**Society for Hungarian Philately**, *The News of Hungarian Philately*

### LARGE SILVER:

**Kent Choquette**, *The Ration Board*

**Oregon Stamp Society**, *The Album Page*