



The Philatelic Communicator

Newsletter of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30 • Fall 2023 • N° 222

Competition results galore

This issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* brings you the Palmares of no fewer than three recent exhibitions of philatelic literature.

Most readers were aware of the Chicagopex exhibit, which happened Nov. 17-19 and was heavily promoted in the pages of this newsletter; we even took the novel step of sending out a special two-page bulletin at the beginning of September to remind everyone of the impending deadline.

The Chicagopex results, on page 10, contain an impressive cross-section of our hobby's best recent writing, from the marvelous and broadly applicable Grand Award winner—Dick Winter and John Barwis's much anticipated reference on North Atlantic non-contract steamship sailings—to entries from some of the more obscure corners of our hobby, such as Hugh Lawrence's work on non-denominated air letter sheets of China, or the article on Britain's television license fee stamps by your editor.

Also reprinted here are the results of two other recent literature competitions: the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, which took place in Christchurch on Nov. 25-26, and the Thailand 2023 World Stamp Championship exhibition, which happened in Bangkok Nov. 27-Dec. 2.

Perusing the Palmares of these shows, you will spot familiar names—Cheryl Ganz's opus on U.S. Zeppelin and Airship Mail flights—and many unfamiliar ones, particularly from the Thailand show.

There is much to be gleaned from perusing these lists closely, as I describe in my commentary on page 2. Happy browsing! —M.H.

THE PHILATELIST

A typewriter gives up its secrets

Two-and-a-half years ago, a close friend gifted me a manual typewriter, a 1964 Royal Safari, completely recondi-

Frank Tempone tioned by a genius in California named Kenneth Alexander, after my unceremonious departure from the Latin School of Chicago, where I had taught for eleven years.

Since then, I have done all my writing on manual typewriters, preferring to hurtle through my thoughts on paper rather than obsessively rereading and correcting mistakes on a screen during early drafts. The paralysis I once felt as a writer, brought on by a fear of mistakes, has almost dissipated. Manual typewriters have set me free, and as a result, I now own half a dozen.

The sixth is an Olivetti Underwood Lettera 32, the same model Cormac McCarthy used to write nearly all of his work; his was later purchased at auction for over \$250,000. Reportedly Francis Ford Coppola wrote "The Godfather" on a Lettera 32.

My brother Jeff gave this one to me after yet another stretch of our not speaking to one another for no reason other than distance, routine and time.

Frank Tempone is a freelance writer. This story first appeared in Oct. 2022 at lit.newcity.com



David Tempone

Like a paper grave-stone

A solitary sheet of letterhead found in an old typewriter led one writer on a journey into a forgotten world.

He owns a successful refrigeration business where we grew up on Long Island, and he's got a guy who does junk removal. People on Long Island always "got a guy."

This guy was on a job cleaning out an abandoned storage locker left unpaid by someone who forgot about it, or he died before he could forget about it. My brother's guy came across something that looked like a bowling bag, only narrower. When he opened the case and discovered the Olivetti, he called my brother, whom he owed a favor. My brother sent me a photo of the machine and a text: "You want it? It's yours."

Jeff sent me another photo, though: something that interested us both way more than the actual machine. Inside the case was a single sheet of thick yellowed parchment, a name printed proudly at the top in block serif font: "Hermann Schloss."

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Manuscripts are welcomed on subjects of interest to writers, editors, and publishers of all forms of philatelic literature. All submissions for publication are subject to being editing for style and factual accuracy. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and not necessarily of the Writers Unit 30, its officers and editor, or the American Philatelic Society. Letters and emails received by the editor may be printed unless the writer explicitly requests otherwise. Use of trademarks, product names and/or images that may be subject to copyright protection is only for identification, explanation and/or commentary, without intent to infringe.

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Alan Barasch *Webmaster*

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.

Much ado about literature exhibits

Why so many literature Palmares in this issue of **TPC**?

Well, simply put, shows happen—and before you complain that your eyes are glazing over from scanning column after column of small-size agate type, let me explain the rationale for printing all those results here.

Matthew Healey

Philately is unique among hobbies in having writing and publishing comprise such a major component of our enjoyment. Every week, every month, every year there are dozens of articles written, books published, journals circulated, web sites updated and social media posts itching to share the latest philatelic knowledge.

A lot of it, honestly, is only mediocre—hastily researched, clumsily written, not well illustrated. But a lot of it is actually very good, and some of it is truly excellent. WU30's mission is to help more of it become better researched, better written and better illustrated, regardless of the platform it appears on.

What gets entered in literature competitions is, of course, merely the tip of the iceberg. Many writers never bother exhibiting; doing so requires undergoing a somewhat tedious process of checking eligibility, filling out applications, making copies, figuring out how to pay the fees and getting it all submitted by deadline. Show organizers could find ways to streamline this process, or develop a unified application for multiple shows. On the flip side, many literature competitions complain that the fees they receive don't cover costs,

or they can't find enough qualified judges. These are serious issues that I hope WU30 can play a role in solving.

WU30 wholeheartedly supports the idea of literature competitions, which allow writers—ahem, content creators—to get objective, knowledgeable feedback for their work. Shows also provide visibility, peer recognition, and—gasp!—a potential boost in sales in the case of books.

But beyond acknowledging writers, or amplifying accolades, the publication of these results serves a broader purpose. Point totals and medal levels are really secondary. With these lists, you can—

- Find someone with expertise to talk to your club or write for your journal;
- Identify a consultant or mentor for your next research project;
- Connect with someone who shares your collecting affinity;
- Learn who the chief competitors are in your specialty area;
- Decide which new books you need to add to your philatelic library.

Close reading of these lists offers a few interesting takeaways:

1. Some works were entered in all three shows. How did they fare in each?
2. Articles still aren't a category at international (F.I.P.) shows. How can our organization push to change that?
3. Philatelic web sites get much more recognition internationally than in the United States. Why is that?
4. There is far more diversity in the philatelic world beyond North America and Europe than we might've realized.

We're opening doors here. It's up to you to walk through them.

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Keep the ~~customer~~ editor satisfied

Successful writers learn this: Give the editor what he or she wants. That not only includes what is covered in the article, but the style, including abbreviations and jargon, and the length.

Lloyd A. de Vries

I worked in broadcast news, and when the editor asked for a story that ran 18 seconds, that meant not 15 and not 23. And make the deadline: No one wants a Christmas story in the February issue.

First-person or third-person? Associated Press state abbreviations or the U.S. Postal Service's? Numbers written out or in figures? Provide an article title or leave it up to the editor? "He or she" or "them" or just "he?"

The editors of philatelic society journals are fairly forgiving: They often will change deadly prose into deathly prose, fixing grammar and spelling, or ignoring differences in style. They might even help you out by inserting a few corroborating facts or figures, or adding some helpful transitions.

After all, most aren't paying for the articles. Many say they don't get enough offerings as it is and can't afford to



turn down much. Sometimes they are saddled with a society president whose column must be published but can't write a coherent shopping list.

However, if you are a writer who hopes to get published, you will do yourself a favor by asking the editor of the publication what he or she wants: How long? How formal? What angle? Which catalogue's numbers?

After publication, study your article to see what was changed. And whatever you do, unless the editor's changes made something incorrect, don't complain.

If you do all this or at least most of it, you will find that your stories are mov-

ing to the top of the queue or even that you are being asked to provide articles.

Coming Soon to a Stamp Show Near You?

WU30 shared a booth (and Alan Barasch) at Great American Stamp Show 2023 with the organizing team of Boston 2026, and our visibility resulted in a number of new member sign-ups. The experience whetted our appetite for additional public forays. We will have a booth and present programs at **Rocky Mountain Stamp Show** in Aurora, Co., from May 24-26, 2024. Further "in-person" outreach is also likely this year.

If you are planning to be at the RMSS in May, please let us know if you're willing to help staff our booth or give a brief (15-30 minute) talk. And if you are involved with a World Series of Philately or other major regional show, please consider inviting the APS Writers Unit to attend...

And By The Way

Regarding providing what the customer wants, this journal's editor asked me for a half-page this issue. Done.

Secretary-Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Since the time of the Summer 2023 issue of TPC, we have signed up three new members and lost two members who passed away.

Closed Albums

Paul A. Larsen
William McAllister, III

New Members

2086 Vera Felts
2087 Ari Muhonen
2088 Michael Laurence

I have tried to be a good steward of WU funds and our treasury now stands at \$9,004.39.

Five thousand dollars of that amount is allocated to sponsoring an A.P.S. Young Philatelic Leader (YPLF) on the writer's track, when a suitable candidate is found.

Dues notices were mailed 1 Nov. 2023 with a return envelope for those with an expiration date before 1 Jan. 2024. Look for an envelope the color of goldenrod (former state flower of my home state) in your pile of mail.

Respectfully,
Alan Barasch, Secretary-Treasurer
Secretary@WU30.org

Paying your dues

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

Mentoring philatelic editors: a few counterpoints

Editor's note: The following is a response to Gary Wayne Loew's article, "Recruiting and Mentoring Philatelic Editors" in the Summer 2023 issue (no. 221) of TPC.

Hi Gary—thanks for your article. A number of things occur to me [in response to your assertions].

"The hobby of philately has never been healthier! There are more collectors today than ever in the history of the hobby."

John M. Hotchner

This is counter-intuitive, as we see organized philately memberships falling, subscription totals falling, stamp clubs aging out of business, and prices of middle-value material falling. So, though not really germane to your recommendations, I have to ask what evidence you have? Maybe in China there are more collectors, but I doubt that can be said for the United States. I would ask for more definition and specificity. Clearly we are losing market share, and there is no way to put lipstick on that pig. Stamp collectors used to be easy to find. No longer. Maybe as the total population grows, the lower market share still results in more collectors, but I don't see that—even if true—as being a positive.

I would also want to see you define "stamp collector". Someone who buys a sheet of Elvis stamps and tosses them in a kitchen drawer? Someone with a beginner album? Someone who has joined a group—from local club to national society—and/or subscribes to a philatelic publication? My unscientific observation is that middle class stamp collecting with some involvement with hobby institutions is not what it used to be, despite the large number of clicks on websites.

"The current cohort of philatelic editors is aging out."

Certainly true enough to be a concern, but I would offer that it is no longer enough to be good with words and technical editing to be an editor. When I first began in that field, those talents

and people skills were enough. Now one must be a master of the computer and desktop publishing, as well as printer relations; there are far fewer people with the latter skills (or the will to learn them) nowadays. So, I would say that it is not just a matter of "better editing skills". It is also a matter of training candidates in the ever-expanding technology and helping at least some of them to afford the technology.

Without question, we must pivot and adapt and we have been slow to do so. But new technology does not, for the most part, substitute for the old dynamic that pushed collectors toward being public and involved. Instead, what cell phones and social media do is promote togetherness through loneliness. That is the cause of diminished participation in organizations and reduced subscriptions for publications. We don't have to belong or subscribe—whatever we need is on the Internet. And while that does bring us more collectors, how many of today's collectors are truly contributing to the hobby? That is a gap we have not yet found a way to bridge.

"My view has always been that the officers and board members have the primary responsibility for obtaining articles and columns for their publications..."

I can not disagree more emphatically! An editor can not wait for a balanced selection of material for a journal to be submitted or recruited by others. It is a primary responsibility of the editor to (a) fill the pages of the journal and (b) to make sure what is published is balanced as to things like short and long articles, old and new philatelic material of the area being covered, that there is material for the novice and the experienced collector, that there is member recognition, club news and research, etc. My experience is that the editor *must* be personally involved in this process, including one-to-one solicitation of material to publish. Maybe the *American Philatelist* is different, and you had a

wealth of material to choose from. But I can assure you that it is the rare journal these days that can exist, let alone have the needed balance based on what comes in over the transom. Now, the editor can certainly commission other officials of the organization to solicit material, but the ultimate responsibility remains at the editor's desk.

"The adventure of becoming an editor."

Let's not fool ourselves. The editor's job is 95% hard work: time consuming work, deadline and detail-oriented work—and maybe 5% adventure. It is the job in a society that is the hardest to fill. As president of societies, I can get 20 volunteers for board positions for every volunteer I can get for the editor's chair. This is reflected in the fact that more and more societies are having to find a way to pay editors at least a modest honorarium, if not commercial rates. This is right and just, because a good editor is worth their weight in gold. The editor carries the society because the society's journal is the primary benefit for most of the membership, and the vehicle for encouragement in club activities.

Yes, I agree that WU30 can and should find ways to encourage new people in this field. You have made a start. I hope others will come up with practical ideas. How about we change our name to Writers and Editors Unit? We probably need to have the analog to what I did many years ago on *How to become a philatelic judge*; thus pamphlets on *How to become a philatelic writer* and *How to become a philatelic editor*. Maybe a regular Editors' Corner in each issue of TPC where working editors reveal their methods for gathering material, managing deadlines, developing technical skills, keeping relationships with authors, etc.

I do hope you are getting useful input from others. You deserve a lot of credit for starting this discussion, and I hope it will continue from theory to introduction of changes to fulfill your vision.

New manager for Greene Foundation's Sutherland library

The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Canada's leading expert group, has announced the appointment of Natalie Mitchell as Library Manager of the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library in Toronto. Mitchell started work there on Nov. 1.

Later the same month, the foundation also announced the appointment of a new president, David McLaughlin.

Mitchell holds Bachelor and Master of Arts, History, degrees from the University of Akron. She also earned a Master of Information degree at the University of Toronto with a concentration in Archives and Records Management and collaborative specialization in book history and print culture.

Mitchell brings experience with managing the acquisition and maintenance of collections from rare books and manuscripts to archives and in completing large-scale digitization projects with the requisite metadata generation, in both corporate and academic environments.

"We are excited to welcome Natalie to our organization. As we seek to enhance our library's services and reach, Natalie, as Library Manager, will be important to its future and a key advocate," said



Natalie Mitchell

Aidan Matney

The foundation has also named a new president

Ingo Nessel, the foundation's V.P.

McLaughlin also serves as president of British North America Philatelic Society (B.N.A.P.S.) and is an officer with the Royal Philatelic Society, Canada (R.P.S.C.) and the Federación InterAmericana de Filatelia (F.I.A.F.). He conceived and served as exhibition chairman of the Capex 22 international stamp show, held in Toronto last year.

The Greene Foundation, established in 1975, encourages and promotes research in philately and postal history. To this end, it provides expertization services and supports educational programs, exhibitions and publications, as well as maintaining the Sutherland Library.

The library is home to the world's foremost British North America philatelic reference collection, including a significant holding of early Canadian philatelic journals in OCR-searchable format, a comprehensive collection of Canadian auction catalogues and research collections from important Canadian philatelists. In addition to its British North America focus, the library maintains reference material applicable to philately in general and selected worldwide publications.

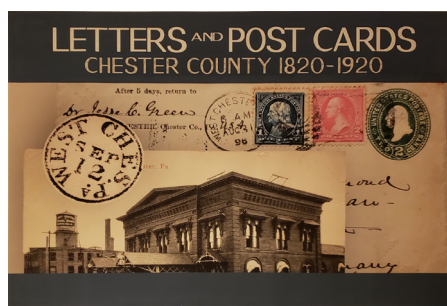
The library is a contributing member of the Global Philatelic Library which combines the catalogs of 27 philatelic research libraries worldwide online.

More information on the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library and the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation can be found at greenefoundation.ca

Bill Schultz mounts postal exhibit at Pa. local history center

Visitors to the Chester County History Center, an hour west of Philadelphia, can see Bill Schultz's latest postal history exhibit, "Domestic Rates—U.S.P.O. Acts of 1792-1863," which is on display until June 1, 2024. The exhibit features letters and postcards from Schultz's own collection of mail to and from West Chester, Pa.

Schultz had previously curated, in 2017, an exhibit at the center entitled "You've Got Mail," based on a wide-ranging collection of postal



history originally assembled by Robert Brinton (1888-1946). Brinton, a gentleman farmer and accomplished amateur historian, spent his free time trying to document all the post offices in his native Chester County, and show the way postal communications evolved throughout the 19th century.

"It appears that Robert Brinton trav-

eled to each post office, photographed it and collected available documents and covers for the location," according to a synopsis and finding-guide for the exhibit at mycchc.org

Brinton apparently aimed to compile his study into a book entitled *Early American Post Offices and Post Roads 1674-1800*, but died before he could complete it. Due to the extensive scope of the Brinton material, visitors who wish to delve into it should reach out to museum staff prior to their visit so that specific areas of interest can be prepared for study. Appointments can be made by emailing library@chestercohistorical.org or calling 610-692-4800 x221.

Thailand 2023 World Stamp Championship: Literature results

This international competition, under patronage of the F.I.P. (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) and F.I.A.P. (Federation of Inter-Asian Philately) included three literature categories: Books, periodicals and catalogs.



As an international, the Thailand show used more stringent point/medal levels than the two national-level shows whose results appear in this issue.

The 36-member combined philatelic and literature jury was led by Honorary President Richard Tan of Singapore. For space reasons, only the top medal levels are given here. The full results are at: thailand2023wsc.com/palmares/

A video overview of the literature entries can be seen at youtu.be/O6jqRMEj4aA

BOOKS & MONOGRAPHS

LARGE GOLD:

Pedro Vaz Pereira (Portugal) *The Portuguese Post 1853-1900 in the 500 Years of the Post in Portugal* (96 pts)

GOLD:

Eugenio de Quesada (Spain) *El Correo sin Correos en España, Siglos XV. al XIX. Cartas de Fraude y Fuera de Valija* (92 pts)

Chu Feng-Hwa (Taiwan) *My Pilgrimage: A Collection of Philatelic Studies and Records 2009-2018* (91 pts)

Luis and Eduardo Barreiros (Portugal) *Portuguese India: Postal History and First Issues —From the “Natives” to 1900* (91 pts)

Pablo Alejandro Reim (Argentina) *Joyas Filatélicas de la República Argentina 1862-1867* (90 pts)

Zhao Yue, Zhang Jiaojiao (P.R. China) *An Overview of Chinese Maritime Customs Gazette for Movements in the Service (Indoor Staff of Revenue Department, 1865-1913)* (90 pts)

Madhukar Deogawanka (India) *Indian Stamp Booklets* (90 pts)

Sociedad Filatélica de Madrid (Sofima) (Spain) *Madrid Railway Stations* (90 pts)

Peter Frantzen (Thailand) *Thai Postal Stationery and Booklets 2022; published as Volume VI of Thailand Philatelic Handbook* (90 pts)

Erik Emsing (U.S.A.) *Peru—The Scenic View Cards 1898-1901: A Postal Stationery Odyssey* (90 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Ute and Elmar Dorr (Germany) *Hungarian Post Offices in Foreign Letter Service from 1900 to the Outbreak of World War I* (88 pts)

Peter Frantzen (Thailand) *Thailand Philatelic Handbook Volume 8A The Att(s) Surcharges of Rama V 1889-1908* (88 pts)

Mehmet Akan and Timur Kuran (Turkey) *Microhistory of Turkish Posts, 1920-2015 Vol. I* (88 pts)

Jazad Ali (U.S.A.) *The Stamp Cancelling Machine Slogan Postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago 1923-2023* (88 pts)

Aleš Marinšek (Croatia) *Local Issues of the Independent State of Croatia* (87 pts)

Johann Olchowik (Germany) *Contributions to the History of the Railway Junction and the Post Office in the Upper Silesian Village of Morgenroth-Chebzie-Ruda Slaska-Chebzie* (87 pts)

János Dán (Hungary) *Postal Censorship in Hungary 1939-1946* (87 pts)

Tang Qiutao (P.R. China) *Research on Qinhuangdao Postal History* (86 pts)

Oral Avci (Turkey) *Postal History of Ottoman Iraq during the British Occupation 1914-1923* (86 pts)

Chen Guocheng (P.R. China) *Research on Regular Stamps of Chinese Folk House (1986-1991)*

(85 pts)

Jung-I Yang (Taiwan) *Machine Slogan Postmarks of Taiwan (1951-2007)* (85 pts)

Saif Ameal (Iraq) *Municipalities Fees in Iraq* (85 pts)

Valentin Levandovskiy (Russia) *Series of Articles on Mail Correspondence Sent from Railway Stations and Traveling Post Offices of the Russian Empire and USSR, published in the Rossica Journal (U.S.A.) in 2018-2023* (85 pts)

VERMEIL:

Syed Abid Hussain (Pakistan) *The State of Bahawalpur Independence Period (14 Aug.-3 Oct. 1947)* (83 pts)

Wu Dongyu (P.R. China) *History of Postal Routes by the Chinese People's Post (1949-1956)* (82 pts)

Wu Wei (P.R. China) *Kan Tai Keung's Stamp Design* (82 pts)

Anatoly Truba (Russia) *Winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature: The Fate of Writers and Postal Miniatures* (81 pts)

Eko Prasetyo (Indonesia) *The Garuda Indonesia Contingent—Postal Services in the Land of Conflicts* (80 pts)

Emilio Milisenda (Italy) *Umberto Nobile and the Airship “Italia”: Polar Expedition History, Mail, Documents, Curiosities, 2nd ed.* (80 pts)

Yurii Obukhov (Russia) *Perm Post from the Yarn Clase to Trains and Steamships 1598-1917* (80 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

MABÉOSZ (Hungary) *100th Anniversary of MABÉOSZ* (78 pts)

Yukihiko Shoda (Japan) *Brazil Classic Philately* (78 pts)

Wellington Philatelic Society (New Zealand) *Wellington Philatelic Society: The First 100 Years* (78 pts)

Rizwan Kodwawala (Pakistan) *Pakistan Meter Stamps 1947-2022* (78 pts)

José Eduardo Cimó (Brazil) *Freemasonry in the World of Philately* (77 pts)

Mashael Abdulaziz al-Hajeri (Kuwait) *Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait 1990-1991* (77 pts)

Binod Shrestha (Malaysia)

A Story of Gautam Buddha—As Told through Postage Stamps, Revised, expanded 2nd ed. (77 pts)

Wang Jiaxing (P.R. China) *Angels in White on Stamps* (76 pts)

Madiraju Lokeswara Rao (India) *Buddhism on Stamps* (75 pts)

Maha Ali Alkhashil (Saudi Arabia) *The Saudi Revenue Stamps and Their Role in Supporting the National Economy* (75 pts)

PERIODICALS & JOURNALS

LARGE VERMEIL:

Hsu Te-Shan (Taiwan) *Chinese Taipei Philatelic Federation Journal* 26 (87 pts)

Steve Volis (U.S.A.) *Rossica Journal* Vols. 179-180 (87 pts)

Ho Huei-Ching (Taiwan) *2022 Seminars and Activities Proceedings* (31) (86 pts)

Jason You (Taiwan) *Collectors Philatelic Annual Report (2022)* Vol. 34 (86 pts)

Stanley Gibbons Ltd (U.K.) *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (85 pts)

Ian McMahan (Australia) *Postal Stationery Collector* (85 pts)

Chen Shan (P.R. China) *Yanling Philatelic Magazine* (85 pts)

Ho Huei-Ching (Taiwan) *Chinese Taipei Philatelic Magazine* No. 99 (85 pts)

Lew Siew Poh (Singapore) *YILIN Philately 2020* (85 pts)

VERMEIL:

A.I.D.A. (Italy) *AIDA Flash—Notiziario dell'Associazione Italiana di Aerofilatelia 2021-2022* (81 pts)

A.I.D.A. (Italy) *I Quaderni di AIDA: Italo Balbo e la transvolata sull'Atlantico Meridionale 2/2022* (81 pts)

Polski Związek Filatelistów—Redakcja Filatelisty (Poland) *Filatelista* (81 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

Takashi Yoshida (Japan) *The Philatelist Magazine* (78 pts)

Li Ching-En (Taiwan) *NTU Philately Annual* No. 33 (77 pts)

Yeh Yu-Yo (Taiwan) *NTU Philately Annual* No. 34 (77 pts)

Croatian Philatelic Federation (Croatia) *Hrvatski Filatelist*



F.I.P. talk on literature judging at Bangkok

The F.I.P. held a well-attended seminar on Judging Criteria for Literature Exhibits on Dec. 1 in Bangkok during the Thailand 2023 World Stamp Championship.

The session drew over 50 participants, filling the assigned room and exceeding organizers' expectations. **Javaid Muhammad** of the United Arab Emirates, head of the F.I.P. Literature commission, led the session.

Response among attendees was enthusiastic, with many requests to obtain the seminar's slideshow for further reference.

The question-and-answer session facilitated an engaging and open discussion. Attendees reportedly found it beneficial to gain a deeper understanding of the judging criteria for international literature exhibits.

The success of this seminar has sparked interest in hosting similar F.I.P. qualifying seminars in the future to further promote the F.I.P. Literature class.

TPC will endeavor to give advance notice of any such future seminars, so that those considering attending an F.I.P. show where one is being hosted can plan accordingly.

Writers Unit #30 at Rocky Mtn. show

The A.P.S. Writers Unit #30 will have an in-person presence as a Guest Society at the annual Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Aurora, Co. (a suburb of Denver) this spring. The show takes place May 24-26 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and features 400 exhibit frames and over 40 dealer booths, along with a dozen society and activity booths.

The show coincides with the Denver Postcard and Paper Show, allowing for some cross-pollination between the related hobbies.

Writers Unit members interested in giving a brief presentation at the show should contact one of the WU30 board members to discuss logistics.

More details, including show activities, hotel information and so forth, can be found online at: rockymountainstampshow.com

(75 pts)

SILVER:

Croatian Philatelic Society Zadar (Croatia) *Zadarski Filatelista* (73 pts)

The Philatelic Federation of Korea (KPF) (Korea) *Philatelic Monthly "Woopyo"* (73 pts)

Myanmar Philatelic Society (Myanmar) *The Burma StaMPS* Vol. 1, 2022 (73 pts)

Andrés Galarón Calvo (Spain) *Weekly philatelic items in the Diario de Burgos, 2020-2023* (72 pts)

Xianning Elderly Philatelic Association (P.R. China) *Bound volume of Taiyi Stamp Community, 2021-2022* (71 pts)

CATALOGS

GOLD:

Japan Philatelic Society Foun-

ation (Japan) *Japanese Stamp Specialized Catalogue 1871-1876; Japanese Stamp Specialized Catalogue 1876-1908; Japanese Stamp Specialized Catalogue 1948-1965* (92 pts)

Stanley Gibbons Ltd (U.K.) *Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue—Queen Victoria, Vol. 1, Part 1* (91 pts)

Juan Carlos Espada Zunica (Bolivia) *Stamp Catalogue of Bolivia* (90 pts)

Michael Kramarenko (Ukraine) *Russia—Specialized Postage Stamp Catalog 1845-1924* (90 pts)

Stanley Gibbons Ltd (U.K.) *Stanley Gibbons India Catalogue (Including Convention and Feudatory States)* (90 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Reinaldo Macedo (Brazil) *Estudo Dos Aerogramas Do Brasil 1974-2015* (88 pts)

Andor Hodobay (Hungary)

Catalogue of Hungarian Postal Stationery (88 pts)

Gunnar Lithén (Sweden) *Facit Special Classic 2024* (88 pts)

Stanley Gibbons Ltd (U.K.) *Stanley Gibbons Germany Catalogue (Covering German States, Occupation Issues and German Colonies)* (88 pts)

Stanley Gibbons Ltd (U.K.) *Stanley Gibbons, Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1970 Catalogue* (87 pts)

Stanley Gibbons Ltd (U.K.) *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Catalogue* (87 pts)

Tamás Eröss, Antal Pukler, Imre Sebestyén (Hungary) *Plate Defects on Hungarian Stamps* (86 pts)

Fischer sp. z o.o. (Poland) *Catalogue of Polish (and Related to Poland) Postmarks 2023* Vol. I (86 pts)

Fischer sp. z o.o. (Poland) *Catalogue of Polish (and Related*

to Poland) Postmarks 2022 Vol. II (86 pts)

Carlos Raúl Gómez (Argentina) *Catalogue Gz, Specialized of Stamps Postcards from Argentina* (85 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

Aleksandr Genkin (Russia) *Artistic Forms of Telegrams of the USSR Catalog 1956-1991* (78 pts)

Yohann Tanguay (Canada) *The Brigham Estate, Province of Canada Part I* (76 pts)

JSC MARKA (Russia) *Catalogue of the State Signs of Postal Payment of the Russian Federation 2020-2022* (3 Vols.) (76 pts)

Gurgen Kocharyan (Russia) *Catalog of Postage and Tax Stamps, Postal Stationery and Philatelic Issue with Michel Catalog Numbers; Asia Volume 2; Countries of the Indochina Peninsula; Burma and Thailand 1882-2023* (76 pts)

Typewriter secrets

Continued from page 1

Presumably, the typewriter now in my possession once belonged to this man, and all I knew about him lay in a strange array of type: some cursive, sans serif, bold, not bold. Some words all uppercase while others both upper and lower. The strangeness of his choices, his seeming inability to make up his mind, or his perfect willingness not to opt for uniformity, fascinated me, and I quietly vowed to bring him back to some semblance of life, at least in my mind, by finding out more about him.

I'm not a typewriter restorer as much as I am a cleaner. All this one needed was a good cleaning and a new ribbon—things I could handle. Hermann Schloss took good care of this machine, probably by using it regularly.

Hermann Schloss was a philatelist, a thing I had never heard of until I discovered his letterhead. The word is an odd one, the Greek root *phil-* (loving) combined with *-ateles* (free from tax, toll, or charge). Stamps are used in lieu of a toll, so philately is a “love for stamps,” apparently.

He wrote two books about his love for stamps. More specifically, he wrote about counterfeit stamps: how to spot the tiniest of characteristics that would indicate fraud. His books are listed on his letterhead in reverse chronological order. *Timbrex* came first in 1944, and his more popular (and more clearly titled) *Distinguishing Characteristics of Classic Stamps* was published in 1948. I imagine he was more proud of the latter, as I found it cited in just about every stamp collectors' newsletter and bibliography I found online.

A few copies of the more popular title exist online, but I'm not going to pay a hundred dollars for one. My interest in his life far exceeds any interest I have in detecting counterfeit stamps. I wrote to a book dealer and offered a few dollars if they would photograph anything personal he may have written in the pages. All I wanted was a biographical

note, maybe some self-indulgent side commentary in the book somewhere, but from the pages I was able to see online, Schloss didn't write that way. His writing was clear and direct, meant to instruct rather than impress. In the end the bookseller ignored my request. I imagine they thought it a strange ask anyway. Why would anyone want to know anything about a stranger, popular only in the tightest, most obscure circles?

My son, David, ridicules me for my habit of looking up where the cemeteries are in any new city we travel to and who's buried there. It's come up a lot recently because my wife and I have been driving him all over the country on college visits. There's something drawing me to the dead, something not that unusual if my interest were just in the resting places of famous people, but as I get deeper into my fifties, I want to know more about ordinary people who no longer exist—people a little like me.

Hermann Schloss's final resting place is Mount Hebron Cemetery in Flushing, a part of Queens that is home to the U.S. Open and the Mets. It's also the inspiration for the fictional Valley of Ashes in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, where nondescript men covered in soot to the point of invisibility do nothing but shovel ash while expensive cars roar past (on what is now Rte. 25A) to get to all that life happening in New York City.

More than 217,000 people are buried in Mount Hebron, more than the population of Salt Lake City. As a child I remember riding in the car to Brooklyn to see my Aunt Sis and being terrified as Calvary Cemetery unfolded, its seemingly endless headstones—miles and miles of dead people—rolling with the landscape just off the highway. Almost 1.8 million people are buried there, most of them, I imagine, forgotten.

I managed to locate a photograph of part of the book jacket for *Distinguishing Characteristics of Classic Stamps*. It reads:

“Hermann Schloss wrote this book during a three-year period of hiding with the French Underground. During

this self-imposed imprisonment in a room where he never even saw the light of day, Mr. Schloss had little of most things, but plenty of time. Because of this, philately has gained immeasurably, for his vast philatelic knowledge, combined with his ability to draw his own designs...”

Aside from the incredible story that Schloss participated in the French Resistance for three years—something I selfishly wish he'd written about instead of the stamps—I'm struck by the word “time,” which is actually underlined on the book jacket. What once existed as an abundant resource for the man is spent. There is no time left.

I also thought for a second that the typewriter I held in my hands may have typed the words of the book, that this was, in fact, the typewriter Hermann Schloss had with him while fighting the Nazis in World War II.

But the Olivetti Underwood Lettera 32 was manufactured in 1963, making that an impossibility. Schloss died two years later, on July 10, 1965, at age 70.

Hermann Schloss lived in a low-rise apartment building on 168th Street in Flushing. He spoke fluent English, French and German. Schloss was a member of the German Philatelic Society and The Collectors Club in Manhattan, a philatelic club founded in 1896 that still exists. A quick search of Hermann Schloss on the Club's website yields no results.

I will continue my pursuit of the details of Hermann Schloss' life. I want to know whom he loved and where he drank, if he had any sons who loved him but didn't really like him, if he had a brother who thought about him once in a while. I'm driven to know more about Hermann Schloss and people like him as if there might be a moment in the future when the only evidence of my time on earth is something like a junked typewriter accompanied by a sheet of parchment, and when you feed the paper into the machine, the platen catches it, and you scroll to the space just beneath the letterhead, it sort of looks like a headstone.

New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition Results

This 18th annual exhibit “down under” took place Nov. 25-26. The jury chair was Jeff Long, FRPSNZ.

Full results are at nzpf.org.nz/18th-nz-national-philatelic-literature-exhibition-2023/

BOOKS & MONOGRAPHS

LARGE GOLD:

Ronald M. Lee *Airmail, The Story of Australia's Overseas Airmail, Books 1, 2 & 3* (93 pts)
Brian Richard Peace *Australian Crash Mail and Mail From Other Incidents, Vol. 5, 1950-2005* (90 pts)

GOLD:

Cheryl R. Ganz *U.S. Zeppelin and Airship Mail Flights* (89 pts)
Henry S.Y. Ong *Malayan Meter Marks 1927-1945* (88 pts)
Kamal Giray *The Ottoman Post Offices & Services in Iraq* (87 pts)
Darius Luitikas *Scouting in the Baltic Countries: A History in Philately* (86 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Kamal Giray, Otto Graf *The Ottoman Post Offices and Services in Albania* (84 pts)
Harold Krische *American Aid for German War Prisoners: A Postal History* (83 pts)
Kamal Giray *Prisoners of War at the Ottoman Front During World War I* (82 pts)
Martyn Cusworth *The Italian South Atlantic Airline (LATI), 2nd ed., ICSC handbook 10* (81 pts)

VERMEIL:

Roger E. Harris *Delivered by the Hotel's Care* (78 pts)
Terry Hancox *New Zealand 1960 Health Olympics Plating* (77 pts)
Sue Vernall *Wellington Philatelic Society—The First 100 Years* (77 pts)
Terry Hancox *New Zealand 1960 Health Kotare & Kereru Plating* (76 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

Mashael Abdulaziz al-Hajeri *Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait (1990-1991), A Postal History Study* (74 pts)
Martin C. Lovegrove *Collecting Hejaz Railway* (74 pts)

SILVER:

Dr. Hans-Ulrich Stauffer *Postal History and Philately in Eritrea* (69 pts)

PERIODICALS & JOURNALS

LARGE GOLD:

Takashi Yoshida *Stampedia Philatelic Journal* (92 pts)

GOLD:

Richard Bloxham *New Zealand Stamp Collector* (89 pts)
P.C. Shaw *Hong Kong Philatelic Society Journal No. 25/100th Anniversary Issue* (86 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Martin Kent Miller *First Days* Nos. 462-467 (83 pts)
Ian McMahon *Postal Stationery Collector* Vol. 28, Issues 1-4 (82 pts)
R. Casey, K.J. Bryson *Japanese Philately, Volume 77* (80 pts)

VERMEIL:

Alan Tunnicliffe *New Zealand Airmail News* Nos. 819-823 (79 pts)
Capt. John Paston *The Gannet* (75 pts)

SILVER:

Sue Vernall *Philatelic Judges Forum* Vol. 12 No. 2, 3; Vol. 13 Nos. 1-3, Vol. 14 No. 1 (68 pts)

CATALOGS

LARGE GOLD:

S.A. Hansen, F. Aune *Priced Catalogue of Norwegian Air Mail 1870-2020* (93 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Adam Miller *Stamps on Music: The Worldwide Catalogue & Handbook of Stamps* (84 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

Peter Bond *The Postage Stamps of Aden 1937-1968, 2nd ed.* (73 pts)

DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

GOLD:

Charles Schafstall *Scout & Guide Meter Stamp Catalogue* (85 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Balcaen, Hargreaves, Mallet *The Canadian Philatelist* Vol. 38, Issues 130-133 (82 pts)
Adam Miller *New Zealand Railway Charges Stamps 1925-1959, ver. 18* (80 pts)

VERMEIL:

Adam Miller *New Zealand*

Railway Newspaper Parcel and Freight Stamps 1890-1928 v. 10 (78 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

Andrew McNiven *Upper Hutt Stamp Club News 2022* (74 pts)

SILVER:

Matt Henderson *Waimate Stamp News, A Stamp Collector's Response to Covid 2020-2022* (68 pts)

WEB SITES

LARGE GOLD:

James Gavin thedigitalphilatelist.com/about-us/bahamas-philately (92 pts)
Michael Kogan paleophilatelie.eu (91 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Paul McTaggart www.pycnz.org (68 pts)
Ross Marshall www.collectorsNZ.co.nz (83 pts)
Kyar Kyar Toe kotoephilately.blogspot.com (81 pts)

VERMEIL:

Michael Kogan ukraine-war-in-philately.eu (76 pts)
William Burdon marlerandbeyond.com (75 pts)
Zahidul Islam Echo, R. Howard Courtney echosphilahouse.com (75 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

William Burdon sq.wgburden.com (73 pts)

SILVER:

Rakhel Dash thephilatelist.org (65 pts)

Calendar of philatelic literature exhibitions, 2023-24

Jan. 19-21: Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Sarasota, Fla. *This show, co-sponsored by Writers Unit #30, is articles-only. The deadline for entries has passed; entries and their synopses are posted for browsing at the show's web site, sarasotastampclub.com/literature-entries/*

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 was Oct. 16, 2023. The U.S. commissioner is Chris Lazaroff (clazfdc@gmail.com); contact him to see whether late entries can be accepted.*

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). More details and the application forms at marebalticum.ee*

Chicagopex: Grand award to Winter and Barwis

The annual Chicagopex philatelic literature exhibition took place Nov. 17-19.

The Grand Award went to Dick Winter and John



Barwis for their important reference work, *North Atlantic Non-Contract*

Steamship Sailings 1838-1875, published last year by the American Philatelic Society (and reviewed in the March 2023 *American Philatelist*). The Reserve Grand was awarded to Chris Hargreaves, editor of new edition of *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, part of the *American Air Mail Catalogue*.

Bill DiPaolo chaired the literature jury, with Peter McCann and Pat Stilwell-Walker judging and Robert Conley apprenticing.

While the Palmares posted at chicagopex.org lump all the lit categories together, the listing here sorts them by type and then medal level.

JOHN KEVIN DOYLE GRAND AWARD

Richard F. Winter, John H. Barwis *North Atlantic Non-Contract Steamship Sailings 1838-1875*

RESERVE GRAND

Chris Hargreaves (ed.) *The Airmails of Canada and Newfoundland* (2nd Edition)

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY MEDAL

Robert Hill, Jr. *The New River*

Mail: A Postal Social History of Virginia's Montgomery, Pulaski, and Giles Counties

BOOKS & MONOGRAPHS

NORTH ATLANTIC
NON-CONTRACT
STEAMSHIP SAILINGS
1838-1875



RICHARD F. WINTER
and
JOHN H. BARWIS

LARGE GOLD:

Richard F. Winter, John H. Barwis *North Atlantic Non-Contract Steamship Sailings 1838-1875* (95 pts)

Jazad N. Ali *The Stamp Canceling Machine Slogan Postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago 1924-2023* (90 pts)

Michael Mahler *Philatelic Shanghai-la: New York stamp taxes on bonds, 1910-1920—A spectacular philatelic subfield hidden for a century* (90 pts)

GOLD:

Hal Vogel, Serge Kahn *Ahead of the Pack* (88 pts)

Franco Frescura Vol. 1: *Poste Restante at the Cape and other Essays*; Vol. 2: *Postal Officials of the Cape of Good Hope* (86 pts)

John H. Barwis *Colonial New Sweden and its Postal Communications, 1638-1655* (85 pts)

Michael Bloom (ed.) *The Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery of Guatemala* (85 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Robert Hill, Jr. *The New River Mail: A Postal Social History of Virginia's Montgomery, Pulaski, and Giles Counties* (83 pts)

Erik A. Easing *Peru: The Scenic View Cards 1898-1901, A postal stationery odyssey* (83 pts)

Mashael Abdulaziz al-Hajeri *Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait*

(1990-1991): *Prologue, War and Aftermath—A Postal History Study* (83 pts)

Harold Krische, Military Postal History Society *American Aid for German War Prisoners: A Postal History* (82 pts)

VERMEIL:

Richard T. Hall *The Swiss National Exhibition 1939: The "Landi"* (Five vols.) (79 pts)

M. Lokeswara Rao *Himalayan Birds on Stamps* (78 pts)

SOCIETY JOURNALS

LARGE GOLD:

Vickie Canfield Peters (ed.) *The Airpost Journal* (90 pts)

GOLD:

Martin Kent Miller (ed.) *First Days* (89 pts)

Michael Mahler (ed.) *The American Revenuer* (85 pts)

VERMEIL:

Christopher Dahle (ed.) *Biophilately* (78 pts)

LARGE SILVER:

Vera Felts (ed.) *The Philatelic Gourmet* (71 pts)

ARTICLES

LARGE GOLD:

Hugh Lawrence "The Non-Denominated Domestic Airletter Sheets of China (1948-1956)" (91 pts)

LARGE VERMEIL:

Dickson Preston "Pre-UPU Mail to Afghanistan during the Third Anglo-Afghan War" (84 pts)

Matthew Healey "Television License Fee Stamps, Orwellian but Colorful..." (83 pts)

Matthew Healey "The Philatelic Legacies of the Crimean War" (83 pts)

Gary Wayne Loew "A Ted Proud Retrospective" (83 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" (83 pts)

Matthew Healey "Could This Sheet Be Unique?" (82 pts)

Matthew Healey, Paul Ramsay "The Struggle Behind Britain's National Health Stamps" (80 pts)

Jerry H. Miller "German Crisis Years 1918-1923... Background to German inflation and Rise of the Weimar Republic" (80 pts)

Norman Rushefsky "The Chicago Cubs" (80 pts)

VERMEIL:

Ingo Nessel "Hong Kong Jusqu'a Mails" (78 pts)

SILVER:

Michael Bloom "Bringing Philatelic Handbooks Back from the Dead" (68 pts)

Michael Bloom "New Guatemala Handbook: Crowdsourced and Brought Back from the Dead" (68 pts)

BRONZE:

Joseph Connolly, Sean Connolly "The Women's Philatelic Society of New Haven and the New Haven Railroad Y.M.C.A. Stamp Club" (55 pts)

CATALOGS

LARGE GOLD:

Chris Hargreaves (ed.) *The Airmails of Canada and Newfoundland* (2nd Ed.) (90 pts)

GOLD:

Charles Schafstall (ed.) *Scout and Guide Meter Stamp Catalog* (86 pts)

DIGITAL MEDIA

LARGE VERMEIL:

Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada
philatelicspecialistsociety.com
(84 pts)