



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 10 Number 2 May/June 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 25, 2017 - United States Beer Tax Stamps

By Lou Caprari

Beer Stamps were issued between 1866 and 1951 and are listed in the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers with the prefix REA.

A bourse will be held before the meeting and there will be a mini-auction of 20 lots.



June 22, 2017 - Annual Election of Officers & Board of Governors for the 2017-2018 Year

The Slate

Officers

President	Nicholas Lombardi
Vice-President	Edward J.J. Grabowski
Treasurer	Alfred E. Fleury
Secretary	Tom Jacks

Board of Governors

John Crout
 Allan Fisk
 Rob Loeffler
 Marion Rollings
 K. David Steidley



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Leon Drone (New Providence) collects United States plate blocks, sheets & first day covers.

Robert Gray (Livingston) collects India from 1914 to 1924 and Travancore, a region of southwest India.



UPCOMING SHOWS

June 23-25, 2017 — NTSS 2017

The National Topical Stamp Show, a World Series of Philately event, and the American Topical Association Annual Meeting will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The show venue is the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel. Eighteen dealers will staff the bourse and thirty-nine exhibits will be vying for awards. The theme of the show is "Brewing Up Topicals". For more information on the biggest event of the year for topical/thematic collectors go to the ATA website: www.americantopicalassn.org.



September 8-10, 2017 — NOJEX 2017

New Date & Location

The Annual Exhibit of the North Jersey Federated Stamps Clubs, Inc., a World Series of Philately event, will be held at the Best Western Robert Treat Hotel at 50 Park Place, Newark, NJ. For more information go to www.nojex.org.



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Marion Rollings
Steven J. Rod
K. David Steidley
A. Warren Scheller (Honorary)

Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). The club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located in the center of Westfield at 425 East Broad Street.

Dues are \$8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

The club newsletter will be published every two months from September to June.

**For information visit
our website**

www.westfieldstampclub.org

or call
Nick Lombardi
908-233-3045

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

On the next page you will find a financial statement from Al Fleury for our show in March. It shows a loss as did our 2016 show. As you can see over half of our expenses are due to labor costs to set up the frames and the expense of trucking the frames to and from our show. How can we reduce the impact of those costs on the bottom line?

The only realistically way that I can see is to increase the number of dealers, and in order to do that, we might want to consider a larger venue where we could not only accommodate more dealers but more exhibits as well.

We should also offer a show cover and special cancellation that would appeal to the general public. I was disappointed that we couldn't offer such a cover at this year's show. Since I was not canceling covers this year, I spent most of my time at the registration desk, and more than one person came looking for that cover.

[see pg. 4]

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Roger Brody

At the Garfield Perry March Party, Roger Brody was awarded a Gold and the American Philatelic Congress Award for his exhibit "Prominent American Series: Inspiration – Innovation – Inflation".

Audrey Yankielun

As appeared on the cover of the March 9, 2017, issue of *The Westfield Leader*. Photograph by Paul Lachenauer



STAMP DESIGNER WEAR – Stamp Artist Audrey Yankielun discusses her bolero jacket she created out of Argentine stamps with Martino Laurenzi at the Westfield Stamp Club's annual stamp show, held Saturday, March 4, in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building.



WESTFIELD STAMP CLUB PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

WESTFIELD STAMP CLUB ANNUAL SHOW - MARCH 4, 2017

Respectfully Submitted by Alfred E. Fleury, Treasurer

April 1/2017

EXPENSES

E-blast mailing for show	\$ 50.00	
Ad in Linn's regarding show	66.00	
Large Wooden Tables	104.93	
Tip to Driver	-----	
Cancel Stamp for Covers	-----	
Postage Stamps for Covers	-----	
Judge Travel Expenses (Vogel)	25.00	
Dealer Luncheon	71.60	
Outside Labor	200.00	
Morning Donuts and coffee	19.98	
Trucking of Frames	475.00	
Postage - Judge Exhibit Info.	13.30	
Signs and Banners	133.00	
Judge Luncheon	<u>107.63</u>	
Total Expenses		\$1,266.44 (2016 \$1,377.03)

INCOME

Stamped and Cancelled Cover sales at Reception	11.00	(past show covers)
Donation for table by Audrey	50.00	
Donation to Club by Judge Vogel	25.00	
Table - Barry & Gerry Covers	125.00	
Table - Jim Chada	125.00	
Table - Drew Wintringham	125.00	
Table - Mountainside Stamps	125.00	
Table - The Excelsior Collection	150.00	
Table - 33 Stamps	125.00	
Frames - Brody	6.00	
Frames - Fleury	3.00	
Frames - Fisk	9.00	
Frames - Laurenzi	12.00	
Frames - Lessing	12.00	
Frames - Grabowski	<u>27.00</u>	
Total Income		\$930.00 (2016 \$1,022.00)
Net Loss		(\$336.44) (2016 \$355.03)



Welcome to the Westfield Stamp Show by Steven J. Rod

I don't know how many of you were able to attend our show on March 4, but I would like to draw your attention to the handout (shown below) that **Steve Rod** prepared for the show. It was intended for people new to stamp collecting and to stamp shows – both old and young. Unfortunately, we had almost no youngsters attend our show this year.

This handout was a great idea and I congratulate Steve for taking the time and energy to put it together, but this contribution to foster the enjoyment of stamp collecting is just what I have come to expect from Steve.

I would only add one website to the list at the bottom, that of the American Topical Association, which has a number of resources for beginning stamp collectors. The site is: www.americantopicalassn.org

Welcome to our Westfield Stamp Show!
We are so happy that you have come to visit us!

Here are some FAQ's and Answers!

1) What is this event?

This is the annual postage stamp and postal history show sponsored by the Westfield Stamp Club, which has been meeting here in this room since the Club was founded in 1962. We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month, September-June. Please join us!

2) What is contained in the A-frames I see in the middle of the room?

These are collections created by our members to show off the items that they collect, and most often these exhibits "tell a story". Some are only one-frame in size (16 pages) and others are as many as 10 frames (160 pages). View them at a speed at which your interest in the material is piqued: some may interest you page by page and others frame by frame!

3) What is happening at the tables I see lining the walls of the room?

Stamp collecting involves acquiring stamps to build your collection. These are six popular dealers from nearby towns who are all experts on the material they have for sale. It can be postage stamps, "covers" (stamps still on their envelopes) or items related to stamps and covers. Always feel free to sit and search through their merchandise for items of interest to you, and feel free to ASK THEM QUESTIONS!

4) Why is the United States Postal Service here?

We are grateful to the Westfield Post Office for making sure they ordered as many different stamps and products about stamp collecting to make them available to you at our Show.

5) Hey! I think I like this -where can I find out more information?

Look for anyone wearing an "ASK ME" badge!

There are three great websites which we recommend:

www.learaboutstamps.com (the universal site created by and for collectors)

www.stamps.org (the American Philatelic Society)

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/> (the Smithsonian National Postal Museum)

ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO OUR SHOW TODAY!



CONCERNS ABOUT PROFESSOR SEGNO AND RESIDUAL SUCCESS WAVES

by Edward J.J. Grabowski

Word has it that Westfield Stamp Club member Ed Grabowski journeyed to Akron, Ohio, to present his *Philately & International Mail Order Fraud* lecture to the members of the Akron Collectors Club. The focus of this talk is Professor A. Victor Segno of Los Angeles and his famous Success Waves. These were sent twice a day in the early 1900's to members of his Success Club for a modest \$10 per year. Members of the Akron Club were seriously concerned about residual Success Waves and the possibility of their concentration in the Akron area during Ed's talk with possible undesirable and dangerous side effects. To protect themselves from this possibility, members came to the talk with self-prepared protective equip-

ment as the photo below shows. Akron Club President Tom Bieniosek, seen at the right of the photo, chose not to wear any protective gear, but did engage in a short clinical trial with the Oxydonor, a precursor of the Oxypathor. The Oxydonor can be seen in the hand of the member next to Tom. The Oxydonor and Oxypathor supposedly polarized the skin and permitted the ready entry of oxygen into the blood which cured virtually any known disease. We are pleased to report that President Bieniosek survived the trial in excellent health, and suffered no undesired consequences because of his lack of protective equipment from residual Success Waves.

Anonymous



The Oxydonor



The Oxypathor



The Harding Scandals

Warren G. Harding (1865–1923), the 29th President of the United States, was born in Blooming Grove, Ohio to George Tryon Harding, a homeopathic physician and farmer and Phoebe Dickerson, a midwife who went on to become a physician (homeopathic). He was widely considered to be a decent man who was not up to the office of the Presidency and most historians feel that he was probably ignorant of most of the unscrupulous activities engaged in by some members of his cabinet. Described as a man who didn't know how to say no, he appointed a number of friends and acquaintances to positions to which they had no previous experience or ability. Once the scandals started to see the light of day, he himself was quoted as saying:

My god, this is a hell of a job! I have no trouble with my enemies...But my damn freinds, they're the ones that keep me walking the floor nights.



United States 1986

Distressed by the unfolding events he took a trip across country and on his way to San Francisco from Alaska became ill with what has been described as 'ptomaine poisoning,' developed pneumonia and eventually died of an embolism on August 2, 1923. Below are brief descriptions of some of most famous scandals that plagued his administration.

Alien Property Custodian Scandal



Battle of Verdun, France (1916).
Marshall Islands 1997

During World War I an Alien Property Custodian was appointed to handle United States property belonging to citizens of enemy nations. During the Harding administration, the custodian was Thomas W. Miller who was eventually convicted and sent to jail for accepting a \$50,000 bribe from Jess Smith, an unofficial assistant to Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty. The bribe was to influence Miller in disposing of some alien property, namely the selling of German patents to United States companies.

Justice Department Scandal

The Justice Department was headed by Harding's political mentor and closest advisor, Harry M. Daugherty, who was implicated in working with bootleggers and, with Jess Smith, selling alcohol illegally. Remember, the eighteenth amendment to the constitution prohibited the manufacture, sale or transportation of alcoholic beverages and with the passage of the Volstead Act in 1920 the Prohibition Era began. Although Daugherty was acquitted by two juries, Jess Smith, rather than face legal charges for being involved in the illegal activities, put a bullet in his brain.



Detail from *Federal Agents Pouring Wine Down a Sewer During Prohibition, Destroying Wine*, a painting by Ben Shahn in the Museum of the City of New York. United States 1998

Veterans Bureau Scandal



Battle of Marne River, France 1918. Sketch by Captain Harvey Dunn. United States 1980

Congress created the Veterans Bureau in 1921 to consolidate several programs that had been established to assist our war veterans. Its first director was Col. Charles R. Forbes, a WWI veteran and president of a Seattle engineering firm, who was listed as a deserter during one point of his military career. He was accused of receiving kickbacks from a number of contractors, especially those involved in building hospitals and of selling government property and excess war material at a fraction of its value. After a Senate investigation found that he stole \$200 million from the government, he was indicted for bribery and corruption, found guilty and sentenced to two years in Leavenworth prison. The bureau attorney, Charles F. Cramer, committed suicide.



50th Anniversary of the Veterans Administration United States 1980

The Harding Scandals (cont.)

Teapot Dome Scandal

The most notorious scandal of this period, the oil reserves scandal, did not actually come to light until after the death of President Harding. In 1910 Congress had designated certain oil-bearing federal lands as naval oil reserves and a 1920 act directed the secretary of the navy to conserve these properties. Shortly after taking office Harding appointed Albert B. Fall, a United States Senator from New Mexico, Secretary of the Interior and Edwin M. Denby Secretary of the Navy. Fall convinced the President to authorize the transfer of several of the United States oil reserves from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior. Two reserves in California, at Elk Hills and Buena Vista Hills, and one in Wyoming at Teapot Dome were transferred. Fall entered secret negotiations with several oil companies to lease the lands, without competitive bidding, in the return for personal loans of over \$400,000.

Following a newspaper article, a Senate investigation was launched, both secretaries resigned, the oil leases were cancelled and Fall was found guilty of accepting money for the oil leases, fined \$100,000 and sentenced to a year in prison—the first former cabinet officer ever convicted of a felony committed while in office.



Cloisonne enamel teapot (1662–1911 A.D.) China 1969



Centenary of first United States oil well at Titusville, Pennsylvania. United States 1959



50th anniversary of Wyoming statehood. United States 1940



Centenary of California statehood. United States 1950



High Mountain Meadows by Conrad Schwiering (1970). Centenary of Wyoming statehood. United States 1990



✦ Answers – March/April 2017 Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q1. *What country issued the “sinking fund” definitives?*

Ans. **France**

Following World War I France was saddled with high debt and experiencing severe inflation. In order to raise funds to help with the debt, Prime Minister Raymond Poincaré established a “sinking fund” (caisse d’amortissement) in 1926. Between 1927 and 1931 five sets of special semipostal stamps were issued with the surtax used to raise money for this fund. Three definitive stamps were printed in two different designs —the Sower and Louis Pasteur — and in different colors from the original definitives and with the surcharge and denomination printed in a different color. Thus, they are not overprints, but new bicolored stamps. [Ref: “They Are Not What They Look Like”, an article by Larry Rosenblum in the October 2016 issue of *Philateli-Graphics*, the Journal of the Graphics Philately Association.]



Sower with 50¢ + 25¢ (blue). France 1928 (Scott B29)



Q1. *What country issued the first four-color stamps?*

Ans. **El Salvador**

In 1897 El Salvador issued two four-color stamps showing the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Central America. There are reprints of the originals and the stamps were overprinted for use as official stamps. The Republic of Central America existed from 1821 to 1841 and was a sovereign state in Central America. It contained the present-day countries of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. [Ref: “Inky Business”, an article by Glenn H Morgan in the October 2016 issue of *Philateli-Graphics*, the journal of the Graphics Philately Association.]



1897 (Scott 175)



1897 (Scott O74)



Q3. *What is the Freedom Bell and what country has issued stamps depicting it?*

Ans. **Germany-Berlin**

On Labor Day 1950, General Dwight D. Eisenhower started a campaign to raise funds for a bell to be given to the city of Berlin by the American people as a symbol of anti-communism. The Freedom Bell was shipped to Berlin after touring the United States. It is rung daily at noon and on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve. Sets of stamps were issued depicting the bell in 1950, 1951-52 and in 1953 that differ in the position of the clapper. [Ref: “Bells” an article by Mary Anne Bell in the January/February issue of *Philatelic Chat-ter*, the newsletter of the Johnstown Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No.4).]



1951 (Scott 9N73)
(Clapper on left)



1952 (Scott 9N78)
(Clapper on right)



1953 (Scott 9N97)
(Clapper straight)

Freedom Bell. Germany-Berlin



✦ Answers – March/April 2017 Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q3. *Reverse painting on glass was recently used by what foreign post office to produce the first glass stamp ?*

Ans. **Austria in 2016 (Scott 2620)**

On June 6, 2016, Austrian Post issued a €6.30 stamp showing the Virgin Mary weeping over the dead body of her crucified son, Jesus. This is the traditional design of the Pietà, which dates back to the 14th century in northern Europe. It wasn't until the late 15th century that Michelangelo Buonarroti sculpted his famous Pietà that is presently in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The image on the stamp is from a reverse glass painting from the late 19th century from Sandl, a northern Austrian municipality. The seven swords in Mary's heart represent the seven sorrows of Our Lady of Sorrows (Mother of Sorrows, *Mater Dolorosa*). The images of the flowers below the cross stand for the hope that Jesus' sacrifice brings to the world.

Reverse glass painting was common in Sandl where, at that time, sheets of glass could be obtained cheaply from the many glass works in the nearby Bohemian forests. During the winter peasant families, in order to produce extra income, worked together to produce the glass paintings with each member of the family having a specific part of the painting to produce. The paintings were produced on the back of the glass sheets so that the front could easily be cleaned without disturbing the painting.

For the stamp each glass blank was handcrafted by Augarten, a Viennese porcelain manufacturer, and handpainted on the back using non-fading pigments and a silkscreen printing process.



Q5. *What country issued a stamp showing the “Sword of Light” ?*

Ans. **Ireland 1923 (Scott 65)**

Soon after the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland was formed in 1921, plans were made to issue a series of stamps for the Irish Free State that would be established in 1922. The designs had to have an Irish association or emblem. The ½d, 5d, 6d, 1sh values that were issued on April 20, 1923, show the “Sword of Light” with its name in Gaelic (*An Claidheam Soluis*). It is the Emblem of Progress and Learning and is surrounded by a Celtic design of a dragon representing Evil. The image is from the ancient *Book of Kells*, an illuminated Latin manuscript of the four gospels. It was produced in the ninth century at a monastery founded in the sixth century by St. Columba in Kells, a town in County Meath. The stamp was reissued in 1934, 1941 and 1949. [Ref: “Irish Stamp Designs”, an article by W. Ward in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, May 7, 1928.]



Sword of Light

Ireland 1941
(Scott 106)

Ireland 1949
(Scott 137)





May/June 2017 Philatelic Quiz



- Q1. *What postal innovation is Anthony Trollope credited with and that has been portrayed on numerous stamps from around the world?*
- Q2. *What role did Emile Baudot play in the transmission of telegraph messages?*
- Q3. *Semipostal stamps have been issued by many countries to raise funds for a number of worthy causes – fighting tuberculosis, aiding victims of wars and natural disasters, etc. But what country issued semipostal stamps to fund horse racing?*
- Q4. *Who is considered “The Father of Pacific Botany?”*
- Q5. *What is the connection between the Panama Canal and the 1900 stamps from Nicaragua showing a smoking volcano and a lake?*