



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 9 Number 2 November/December 2015

Upcoming Meetings

November 19 - "Use of French *Franchise Militaire* Stamps (F.M.) from the French Colonies During the Era of the Group Type"

By Edward Grabowski

Franchise stamps are usually issued to charitable or national institutions allowing their mail to be sent free of postage. Franchise stamps have also been issued for use by military personnel as we will see in Dr. Grabowski's talk. Germany, Italy and Vietnam have also issued military franchise stamps besides France.

December 17 - Annual Holiday Party

Details will be provided by our Secretary, Tom Jacks, in the December meeting notice.

ATA Releases Free Holiday Checklist

The American Topical Association has just the thing to put you in the holiday spirit: a free checklist. This year's topic is indeed jolly, as the checklist of stamps and related items features the characters of Charles M. Schulz.

The list includes 68 stamp items, plus 34 postmarks, cinderellas, etc. The checklist will be updated as new information becomes available. It can be downloaded free through the end of December at www.americantopicalassn.org. A free print copy of the three-page list will be mailed when an addressed, stamped envelope is received by ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008.

As with all ATA checklists, the Schulz list can be searched and sorted by country, issue date, or Scott number, and there is a description of each item. Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Woodstock, Lucy, Linus and all the others can be found on stamps. The list can be used to start a topical collection, or for a fun holiday project.

This is the fourth year the ATA has offered a free list. Previous topics were Halloween, turkeys and gingerbread. This year's list was compiled by topical cartoon collector Carol Costa and Jack André Denys, ATA President.

ATA members may obtain, for a small fee, checklists on more than 1200 topics, and the newly expanded dATA-base can also be "custom searched" for stamps on very specific topics. ATA membership benefits and membership information are on the website.



One of the enjoyable sets of stamps in the checklist is this set of Christmas stamps issued by Gibraltar on November 11, 2001 depicting Snoopy from the "Peanuts" comic strip. (Scott 890-894).

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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

A Charlie Brown Christmas Stamps

By Frederick C. Skvara



I admit to being addicted to the “Peanuts” comics in my daily local paper so I was thrilled when I learned that the USPS was releasing a set of ten Christmas stamps showing still frames from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the animated special featuring characters from the “Peanuts” comic strip. The 10 different First-Class Mail Forever (49¢) stamps were issued on October 1, 2015, in a self-adhesive double-sided booklet of 20 stamps. They were printed by the Banknote Corporation of America (SSP) using offset lithography with microprinting. The stamps were designed by Antonio Alcalá, who was also the Art Director.

“Peanuts” first appeared on October 2, 1950, and continues to this day in numerous daily comic strips, television specials, books and other memorabilia. The Peanuts characters were the brainchild of Charles M. Schulz, an American cartoonist, who was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 26, 1922. Schulz produced 17,897 episodes of “Peanuts” over 50 years with his last entry published on February 13, 2000, one day after his death in Santa Rosa, California. That was the site where the stamps were issued on October 1, 2015.

A recent book published by Abrams, *Only What's Necessary* by

Chip Kidd, succinctly sums up Schulz’s minimalist style and his lasting legacy. Schulz once said, “Keeping it all very simple is the key here.”

❖ A Philatelic Quiz ❖

- Q1. Saint Pierre et Miquelon recently issued a souvenir sheet showing the reconstructed *Hermione*. Of what significance was the French frigate *Hermione* to the American Revolution?
- Q2. What does the recent set of two stamps and souvenir sheet from Tristan da Cunha showing USS *Hornet* and HMS *Penguin* commemorate?
- Q3. Who are Jason Lee and John McLoughlin and on what stamp are they depicted?
- Q4. What country was known as Nyasaland?
- Q5. What country’s coat of arms contains three crowns?

✦ Answers – September/ October 2015 Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q1. What U.S. stamp commemorates the capture of Vincennes, Indiana?

Ans. **George Rogers Clark Issue (Capture of Fort Sackville) (Scott 651)**

The United States secured the Northwest Territory for American settlement mainly through the efforts of George Rogers Clark (1752–1818), a soldier from Virginia and leader of the Kentucky Militia. With his men he drove the British out of present day Illinois and Indiana including the capture of Fort Sackville in Vincennes, Indiana, in February 1779, after a month-long siege. Exhausting his monies, he paid his troops with promissary notes that he was sure Virginia and the colonies would cover. Unfortunately, though excellent at waging the war, he was not good at keeping records and Congress avoided paying the obligations.



Despondent, he turned to alcohol and in 1808 suffered a stroke with paralysis of his right leg. Later that same year he burned his leg after he fell in front of his fireplace resulting in the leg being amputated. Unable to walk and without money his strength finally gave out and he died on February 13, 1818, after a second stroke.

It took 111 years after his death for the United States Post Office to honor his capture of Fort Sackville with a 2¢ commemorative stamp on February 25, 1929. A postal card issued in 1979 (UX78) again honored the battle for Vincennes.



Q2. What U.S. president actually owned property in Washington, D.C. and is the only president buried within the city limits?

Ans. **Woodrow Wilson**

Now designated a National Historic Landmark, the residence at 2340 S Street NW in Washington, D.C. was owned by Wood Wilson and it is where he died on February 3, 1924. His wife, Edith Wilson, lived there until her death in 1961 at which time it was bequeathed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Woodrow Wilson was buried in the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the only



Scott 1040)



Christmas USA 15c

United States president to be buried within the city limits. The 1980 Christmas stamps shown here depicts the Epiphany Window in the Bethlehem Chapel in that cathedral (Scott 1842).



Q3. Where does the name of Albania come from?

Ans. **Albania was originally settled by natives of the town of Alba, Italy.**

Alba, Italy is a commune in Cuneo Province in the Piedmont region of northwest Italy



Thethi Park. Albania 1999 (Scott 2591)



Q4. What is the first stamp designed by a woman?

Ans. **10¢ Great Smoky Mountains stamp (Scott 749)**

The 10¢ Great Smoky Mountains stamp in the 1934 National Park series was designed by Ester A. Richards, a temporary designer working for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the summer of 1934. She was born in Topeka, Kansas, on February 14, 1885 and died in Philadelphia on February 12, 1972. Depicted on the stamp is a view of Mount Le Conte in Sevier County, Tennessee. The design is based on a photograph taken by a commercial photographic firm from Knoxville, Tennessee, working for the Department of the Interior.



Q5. Why were the 1976 U.S. flag stamps special?

Ans. **It was the first all different 50-stamp pane**

The state flags of the original thirteen colonies are shown in the order of the dates on which they ratified the Constitution, although statehood was effective before constitutional ratification. The remaining flags are shown in the order they were admitted to the union. The timeline is left to right in each row beginning at the top of the pane and then going down the rows. Thus, Delaware is the first stamp in the first row and Hawaii is the last stamp in the last row. New Jersey is the third stamp in the first row.



New Jersey state flag (Scott 1635)



Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

Czeslaw Slania (1921–2005)

On March 17, 2000 Sweden Post issued the 1000th stamp engraved by Czeslaw Slania, who is considered by many, the world's greatest stamp engraver and certainly the most prolific. The 50 Krone stamp measures 60 mm x 81 mm, probably the largest engraved postage stamp in the world. Depicted on the stamp is a portion of a 1695 painting entitled *Great Deeds by Swedish Kings* by David Klöcker Ehrenstrahl (1629–1698), a Swedish nobleman and painter. The painting resides in Drottningholm Palace, the royal Swedish residence located on the island Lovön in Lake Mälaren in Stockholm and tells the story of the Swedish monarchs during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries when Sweden was a great power. Sweden's national coat of arms, the Three Crowns can be seen on a central shield above the roaring Nordic Lion Göta. Surrounding the shield are Fortitudo (power) with a shield, Gloria (honor) holding a victory statue in her hand and Virtus (virtue) holding a laurel wreath. The stamp was produced with Slania's steel engraving and four-color offset lithography. Born in Upper Silesia, Poland on October 21, 1921, he made numerous sketches as a child and during his school years.

After World War II he enrolled in the Academy of Art in Krakow, Poland, where he studied engraving techniques and etching including copper plate engraving. During the 1950s he worked for Poland's Government Printing House and the Polish Post Office where he learned steel engraving. He emigrated to Sweden in 1956 and in April 1960 became an employee of the Swedish Post Office where he re-



Great Deeds by Swedish Kings.
Sweden 2000 (Scott 2374)



Gyrfalcon. Sweden 1981
(Scott 1351)



Queen Silvia. Sweden 1985
(Scott 1444)



Sigismund III Vasa, King of Poland (1587–1632) and King of Sweden (1592–1599). Sweden 1998 (Scott 2312); Poland 1998 (Scott 3421) [Joint issue]



mained for most of his professional life.

Besides the numerous Swedish stamps engraved by Slania, at least thirty different countries have also used his works on their postage stamps including the United Nations and the United States. In addition, he was a court engraver to the royal houses of Sweden, Denmark and Monaco.

The table below lists eight United States commemorative postage stamps engraved by Czeslaw Slania.

Issued	Scott Number	Subject
1983	2036	200th Anniversary of 1783 Treaty of Amity & Commerce between United States & Sweden establishing a commercial alliance between the United States and Sweden
1985	2154	Veterans World War I - from <i>Battle of the Marne</i> painting by Harvey Dunn
1990	2184	Earl Warren (1891–1974) - 14th Chief Justice of United States Supreme Court
1993	2749	Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly Grace Kelly (1929–1982)
1993	2755	Dean Acheson (1893–1971) - United States Secretary of State - 1949–1953
1993	2790	<i>Madonna & Child</i> by Giovanni Battista Cima de Conegliano, 1497) [booklet stamp]
1994	2590	<i>Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga</i> by John Trumbull
2001	3504	Nobel Prize Centenary showing Alfred Nobel and medals



Veterans World War I. United States 1985 (Scott 2154) [The design is based on a painting, *Battle of the Marne* by Captain Harvey Dunn]



Madonna & Child by Giovanni Battista Cima de Conegliano, 1497. United States 1993 (Scott 2790) [This stamp was also issued in panes of 50, but only the booklet stamp was engraved by Slania.]



Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga by John Trumbull. United States 1994 (Scott 2590)

Postcard Brings Back Memories

By Frederick C. Skvara

On Halloween Allan Fisk and I decided to visit the Eastern PA Stamp Show sponsored by the Allentown Philatelic Society. It was held in the church hall of the Jordan United Church of Christ in Allentown, Pennsylvania. We had beautiful weather for the drive, which is about an hour from my home in Bridgewater. The venue was very nice with a small food stand offering coffee and donuts, hot dogs, sandwiches, cookies and cakes and cold drinks. The prices were more than reasonable and it was staffed by a very pleasant woman, either a member of the society or a spouse of a member. Since food was available at the show, Allan and I were able to spend the entire day at the show which ran from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. allowing us more time to visit the thirteen dealers who had set up booths. One of the dealers was Hugh Merritt, a member of the Westfield Stamp Club.

At the show I picked up the postcard shown below. When Allan and I saw it, we were reminded of a recent groundbreaking program at the Westfield Stamp Club where a patient, a high-ranking officer of the club whose name is being withheld in the interest of patient confidentiality, underwent a “medical procedure” using a therapeutic device never before seen by the members of the club. In attendance was the owner of the device, a man who interested in unusual medical therapies knows no limits, and two doctors, one to monitor the physical effects of the procedure and one to monitor the patient’s mental status. After the proper releases were obtained and it was verified that the patient’s will was updated, the “experiment” was performed with unusual results. There was no change in the patient’s vital signs which were exactly as one of the doctors had predicted and his mental status was questionable, as the other doctor had surmised before the procedure.



The postcard depicts a scene from one of the “Bowery Boys” movies. Although I couldn’t identify the movie, the character on the left is “Slip” Mahoney, played by Leo Gorcey (1917–1969) and the “patient” in the chair is “Satch” played by Huntz Hall (1920–1999). I could not identify the man on the right.

“The Bowery Boys” were successors to “The East Side Kids” which had been in movies since 1940. In 1945 Gorcey and Hall formed Grippo Productions and rechristened the series “The Bowery Boys”.