



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

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Members Garner Awards at Recent Stamp Shows

Philatelic Show, Boxborough, Massachusetts - May 1 to May 3, 2015

During the first weekend in May, both the United States Stamp Society and The Collectors Club held annual meetings at Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Massachusetts. A number of WSC members belong to both organizations and several exhibited at the show. Once again, our members did well.

The Grand Award was won by Nick Lombardi for his exhibit, "The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue" which also won the U.S. Stamp Society's Statue of Freedom Award and the APS Research Medal. Lombardi also won a gold medal and the USSS W. Wallace Cleland Award for the best single frame exhibit by a USSS member for "The U.S. Three Cent Jackson Stamp of the 1902 Series." Roger Brody won a gold medal for "Jamestown 1907" as did Ed Grabowski for "The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: New Caledonia & Dependencies and French Oceania." David Steidley won a single frame gold medal for "American Express in Paris: Mail Handling by the American Express Co. in Paris" and Bruce Marsden rounded out the field with a vermeil medal for "A Trip to the Alps."



NOJEX, Secaucus, New Jersey May 29 to May 31, 2015

Roger Brody won the Reserve Grand and Gold for "Jamestown 1907" which also won the Best United States Exhibit, the Sidney Schneider Memorial Award: Best Exhibit by North Jersey Federated Stamp Club member and the U.S. Stamp Society "Statue of Freedom" Award. Roger also had two exhibits in the Court of Honor: "And the Brand Played On, America's Centenarian Enterprises" and "Unique Incredible Rarities Series 1902-United States". Henry Laessig's exhibit "Sanjak of Novi Pazar Feldpost Expositur Cancels of the 1879-1908 Austrian Occupation of Novi Pazar" was awarded a Gold. Bruce Marsden was awarded a Gold for Switzerland Pro Juventute Usages 1912-1926".

In the single frame exhibits, Nick Lombardi took the Grand and a Gold for "The Three-Cent Jackson Stamp of the 1902 Series. David Steidley was awarded a Vermeil for "American Express in Paris: Mail Handling by the American Express Co. in Paris". Also awarded a Vermeil was Nathan Zankel for "Palestines London One Overprints".



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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

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From the Editor

As you can see from the first page of this newsletter, a number of our members exhibit and win awards. I think it is fair to say that, for one reason or another, many of our members do not have an opportunity to view these exhibits at the shows, but would enjoy seeing some of the work that goes into making award-winning exhibits.

So I am putting out a request to our exhibitors. Why not send in for publication in *The Westfield Philatelist* a page or several pages from your exhibit that you think our members would enjoy — the title page, plan page, a particularly interesting page, etc. They could be sent as pdf files and I can just plug them in the newsletter.

And don't forget. I won't know of any awards, honors or activities of our members unless someone sends me that information. Nick Lombardi sent the information on the Boxborough show and I pulled the NOJEX Palmares from the NOJEX website. But I don't know if any of you won awards at other shows or took on other philatelic responsibilities in other organizations unless you notify me. It is okay to toot your own horn.



Steve Rod, World Stamp Show-NY 2016 Vice President, at APS StampShow 2011 in Columbus, Ohio, in August.

✿ A Philatelic Quiz ✿

- Q1. Who was the first, and I believe the only, President of the United States to perform his duty as commander-in-chief in actual battle?
- Q2. Who was the subject of the first United State postage stamp inscribed "Black Heritage"?
- Q3. What United States postage stamp shows the month, day and year it was issued?
- Q4. The phrase "...of the people, by the people and for the people..." in Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is a rephrasing of the words of what great foreign statesman and champion of his people that he used in a speech before the state legislature in Columbus, Ohio, on February 7, 1852?
- Q5. What island in the Mozambique Channel, rather than become part of the independent Comoro Islands, chose to remain under the control of France in 1975 and resumed issuing its own stamps in 1997?

✿ Answers – March/April 2015 Philatelic Quiz ✿

Q1. Who or what earned the nickname “Nurse of the Mediterranean?”

Ans. **Malta**

The island nation of Malta consists of three islands (Malta, Comino and Gozo) in the central Mediterranean Sea between Sicily, Italy and Tunisia in Africa. When World War I began in 1914, Malta had four military hospitals and the large Royal Naval Hospital of Bighi. The Bighi Hospital was built between 1830 and 1832 by the British who had taken Malta from France in 1800 during the Napoleonic Wars. The hospital closed in 1970. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries it was a major treatment site for casualties from conflicts in the eastern Mediterranean. Following the Gallipoli (1) landings on May 4, 1915, 600 casualties arrived at the Valletta Station Hospital in Malta. That small trickle eventually became a torrent. From 1915 until February 1919 hospital facilities in Malta treated approximately 58,000 patients from the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and 78,000 from the Salonika Expeditionary Force (2).

This influx of patients during the war was beyond the capacity of the Maltese hospitals that were present in 1915 and new facilities had to be created. Eventually, the Allies established 27 hospitals and camps in Malta during the war to provide medical care for the wounded. But beyond the hospital facilities, the homes of the residents of Malta were used for convalescing patients and transportation around the island was provided by the private cars and carriages of the Maltese. These efforts earned Malta the nickname “Nurse of the Mediterranean”.

Malta Post marked the centenary of World War I by issuing three stamps on November 7, 2014, noting its role in aiding the wounded from the war. The Bighi Hospital is depicted on the 10c stamp while the Floriana Hospital is shown on the 59c stamp. The €2 stamp shows HMHS *Rewa*, a hospital ship launched in 1905 by the British India Steam Navigation Company. It was initially requisitioned as a troop ship in World War I, but later converted to a hospital ship.

Notes:

1. Gallipoli is a small peninsula in Turkey on the European side of the Dardanelles, a narrow strait connecting the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean Sea. It was the scene of heavy fighting during World War I resulting in 250,000 casualties.
2. Salonika is a seaport in northeastern Greece and the capital of the modern Greek region of Macedonia. In 1916 it was the scene of a joint French and British campaign assisting Serbia in its war with Bulgaria.



Map of Malta. Malta 2010 (Scott 1408)



Bighi Hospital was occupied by Senglea Trade School and a secondary school in 1977. (Scott 1524)



Floriana Hospital contained 600 beds and was close to both the Marsamxetto and Grand Harbors that were used for disembarkations of the wounded. (Scott 1525)



HMHS *Rewa* was launched in 1905 for the British-India Steam Navigation Company and was converted to a hospital ship during WWI. She was sunk by a German U-55 U-boat while heading to Britain in 1918. (Scott 1526)

Q2. What was the last United States commemorative stamp approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt?

Ans. **1945 3¢ Iwo Jima (Scott 929)**

Several days before his death on April 12, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his approval for two commemorative stamps — Iwo Jima and Crossing the Rhine. As the United States Post Office Department was a branch of government, the President had to give final approval for all stamp issues. The stamps showing United States Marines raising the American Flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, was issued on July 11, 1945. The Crossing the Rhine was not issued.



✦ Answers – March/April 2015 Philatelic Quiz, cont. ✦

Q3. What famous American was involved in establishing the northern border of Maine.

Ans. **Daniel Webster**



150th anniversary of birth of Daniel Webster. 1932 (Scott 725)

Daniel Webster, United States statesman, orator and lawyer was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire, on January 18, 1782. He was appointed Secretary of State by William Henry Harrison and continued in that position under John Tyler when Harrison died on April 4, 1841, only 32 days after taking office.

On August 9, 1842, Webster as United States Secretary of State and Alexander Baring, 1st Lord Ashburton (1774–1848) signed the Webster-Ashburton Treaty settling several issues about the border between the northern United States and the British North American colonies. It established the northern border of Maine and

the United States gave up any claims to land north of the St. John River which runs from Fourth St. John Pond to the Bay of Fundy and marks the boundary between Quebec and Maine for a number of miles.

Webster died on October 24, 1852 in Marshfield, Massachusetts.



Sesquicentennial of Maine statehood. 1970 (Scott 1391)



Q4. What was the first United States stamp issue to show the Latin scientific names for plants or animals?

Ans. **1969 6¢ Botanical Congress set (Scott 1376-79)**

In 1969 the United States Post Office issued a block of four stamps to commemorate the XIth International Botanical Congress that was held in Seattle that year. The congress is held every six years rotating among the continents. The United States stamps feature plants from the four corners of the United States.



The stamps show clockwise from upper left:

Cypripedium reginae (Showy Lady's Slipper) - Northeast

Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas Fir) - Northwest

Fouquieria splendens (Ocotillo, Vine cactus) - Southwest

Franklinia alatamaha (Franklin Tree) - Southeast

This is the first time that latin names for flora (or fauna) were used on United States postage stamps.



Q5. Who is responsible for the Welland Canal?

Ans. **William Hamilton Merritt**

William Hamilton Merritt, soldier, merchant, promoter and politician was born July 3, 1793, at Bedford in Westchester County, New York. In 1796 he moved with his family to Upper Canada (present day lower Ontario) where the family established a farm and later a general store. Although he was involved in a number of activities, including serving in the War of 1812, he is best known for his promotion of the Welland Canal linking Lake Erie with Lake Ontario. The canal is 27.6 miles in length extending from Port Colborne on lake Erie to Port Weller on Lake Ontario with a rise of 326 feet and originally 25 locks. Construction began on November 30, 1824 and completed in 1833. It was reconstructed in 1872-87 and completely rebuilt as a ship canal 1912-32 and is now called the Welland Ship Canal. Merritt died on July 5, 1862, at Cornwall, Canada West and is viewed as one of the great figures in the history of Canadian transportation.

In 1974 Canada Post issued an 8¢ postage stamp commemorating the sesquicentennial of the start of construction of the canal (Scott 655).



Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

Francisco de Miranda (1790–1816)

Spain entered the American War for Independence in 1779 against the British and on the side of the American colonists. On March 9, 1781, Bernardo de Gálvez, Governor of Spanish Louisiana, with the aid of the French, laid siege to Pensacola, then a part of British West Florida. Within two months the British forces surrendered and Spain gained control of all of British West Florida.

Francisco de Miranda, a native Venezuelan, was a Spanish captain under Gálvez's command during the siege and for his participation was promoted to lieutenant colonel. When Miranda later took part in the Battle of the Bahamas without Gálvez's permission he was arrested and imprisoned. Whether his imprisonment was a factor in his subsequent ideas on independence for Spain's American colonies is not clear, but in 1783 he travelled to the United States and met a number of the leaders of the American Revolutionary War — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Paine and Henry Knox.

His revolutionary ideas were further developed in Europe where he actively participated in the French Revolution, and although he later turned against the Revolution, his name remains engraved on the Arc de Triomphe. Re-



In 2009 Venezuela (Scott 1693) and France (Scott 3729) jointly issued stamps for Francisco de Miranda, a Venezuelan revolutionary.

turning to South America in 1805 he attempted to achieve independence for Venezuela, but his forces were defeated. Although his own plans for the independence of the Spanish American colonies did not succeed, his visionary plan eventually did succeed under Simón Bolívar. Ironically, Bolívar turned Miranda over to the Spanish Royal Army for a perceived act of treason against the independence movement and Miranda was imprisoned in Cádiz, Spain, where he died in 1816. Today, he is considered a hero in both Venezuela and France for his struggle for independence of the Spanish colonies in the New World and for his support of the French Revolution.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849), Poet, Short Story Writer

*Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door...*

The above lines from the beginning of his most famous poem, “The Raven”, are probably what first comes to mind when we think of Edgar Allan Poe. But his tales of terror and sadness, of the macabre and gothic horror (“The Fall of the House of Usher” or “The Tell-tale Heart”) essentially created a new genre. With works like “Murders in the Rue Morgue” and “The Purloined Letter”, he is also credited with the invention of the detective story.

Born in Boston, he had a problem with drinking most of his life and died in Baltimore, supposedly after a drinking binge and was buried in an unmarked grave.

San Marino issued a set of three stamps for famous fictional detectives. The one for Edgar Allan Poe shows an image related to his horror tale “The Black Cat” and the name of the detective first introduced in “Murders in the Rue Morgue”, Auguste Daupin (or Dupin). It is thought that Arthur Conan Doyle based Sherlock Holmes on Poe's Daupin.

