



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club
 American Philatelic Society Chapter #540
 American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 8 Number 3 March/April 2015

Westfield Stamp Club Show 2015

Photos courtesy of Ed Grabowski, Marion Rollings & The Westfield Leader



Marion Rollings & Allan Fisk staffing the registration table.



Your editor at the cancellation station & the show cover



As seen in *The Westfield Leader*, President Nick Lombardi at the Court of Honor exhibit "The Jenny—Printing Variations of America's First Airmail Stamp"

Paul Lachman for The Westfield Leader
 UPSIDE DOWN STAMP... The Westfield Stamp Club held their annual show on March 7th in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building. Pictured here is Stamp Club President Nick Lombardi pointing to the Inverted Jenny stamp, also known as the Upside Down Jenny Stamp, in which the lines of the Curtiss JN-4 airplane in the center of the design appears upside-down. The postage stamp was first issued on May 10, 1918.



Tom Jacks (Moutainside Stamps), one of dealers at the show.



Ed Grabowski & Henry Laessig searching for treasures at the dealers.

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The Westfield Stamp Club

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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

Westfield Stamp Club Show 2015, cont.

Photos courtesy of Ed Grabowski, Marion Rollings & The Westfield Leader



Dave Steidley giving the show lecture: "The First U.S. Airmail Stamp and the Error of its Ways".



Roger Brody at his Gold Award winning exhibit: "The Jamestown 1907 Issue"



Nick Lombardi & Marion Rollings picking a raffle ticket for the 2013 Inverted Jenny sheet.



Attendees enjoying the show

Heavy is the Head That Wears the Crown

2014 Oxypathor Clinical Studies

as reported by Edward J.J. Grabowski



During 2014 the first OXYPATHOR CLINICAL STUDIES in more than 100 years were conducted on Jeff Boarsky, President of the Hamilton Stamp Club and monitored by Dr. Ron Gonzales; and Nick Lombardi, President of the Westfield Stamp Club and monitored by Drs. Fred Skvara and Marion Rollings. Note: Nick tested the advanced OXYPATHOR MODEL with the special head electrode which oxygenated the brain directly. Both subjects reported EXCELLENT HEALTH after the trials. A manuscript detailing these studies has been submitted to *Popular Science*.

🌿 Answers – January/February 2015 Philatelic Quiz 🌿

Q1. What is the oldest private, patriotic organization in the United States?

Ans. **Society of the Cincinnati**

In 1775 Henry Knox, commander of George Washington's artillery suggested the idea of a fraternal organization for officers of the Continental Army serving during the American Revolutionary War. **The Institution**, the founding document of the Society of the Cincinnati, was adopted on May 13, 1783, by a group of officers at a meeting held at the headquarters of Major General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben in Dutchess County, New York.

The Society is the oldest United States private, patriotic organization. Its purposes are to preserve the memory of the American Revolutionary War; to keep the bonds between the officers of the Continental Army; to preserve the liberties fought for; to engage in charitable purposes; to distinguish its members as men of honor and to secure the pay due them.

The badge of the Society consists of a gold eagle with a



(Scott 1851)

cartouche on its breast showing an image of Cincinnatus, a Roman aristocrat and statesman who was consul (460 to 438 B.C.) and considered a model of civic virtue.



Q2. What is the first chemical element to be named after a country?

Ans. **Copper**

It is believed that the origin of the word Cyprus comes from the ancient word for copper, Kypros, which was abundant on the island. Copper was discovered there during the Bronze period (2500 B.C. -1050 B.C.) and has been an important source of copper. The link between Cyprus and copper begins with the Greek Kyprios (a Cypriot) from which we get the Latin cuprium. Shortened to cuprum, it becomes the source of the Anglo-Saxon words copor and coper. Add a 'p' and you have the English word copper. The link between the word copper and the Latin cuprum is also suggested by Cu, the chemical symbol for copper.



Answers – January/February 2015 Philatelic Quiz, cont.

The stamp shown here was issued by Cyprus in 1983 (Scott 596) and shows the chemical symbol of copper (Cu), a copper ingot from 1450-1200 B.C. and a bronze jug from the 2nd century A.D.



Q3. What method did the Incas of early Peru use to transmit information?

Ans. *Quipus*

Data including tax information, census records and dates was recorded and transmitted using colored cords with knots. Known as a *Quipus*, or talking knots, the cords were made out of colored, spun or plied threads from llama or alpaca hair. Using a series of knots, numeric and other information was encoded on the cords.

The stamp shown is from a set of 9 issued in 1951 for the 5th Pan-American Congress of Highways. It depicts a “post boy” carrying a *Quipus* on his left arm. The image is from an illustrated chronicle written between 1607-1613 by Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, a Quechus nobleman from Peru. Quechuas is a collective term for several indigenous South American ethnic groups, including the Incas of Peru.



(Scott 449)



Q4. What is the modern name of the Cannibal Islands?

Ans. *Fiji*

The Fiji Islands are a group of over 800 islands and islets (only 100 are inhabited) in the south-west Pacific Ocean. Europeans discovered the islands when Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer employed by the Dutch East India Company, visited them in 1643.

What he and Captain James Cook (1773 visit) found was that cannibalism was widespread in the islands. The frequent wars among the tribes, along with the daily practice of human sacrifices, yielded numerous victims, known as ‘long pig’, to be eaten. Thus, these islands earned the nickname – the Cannibal Islands.



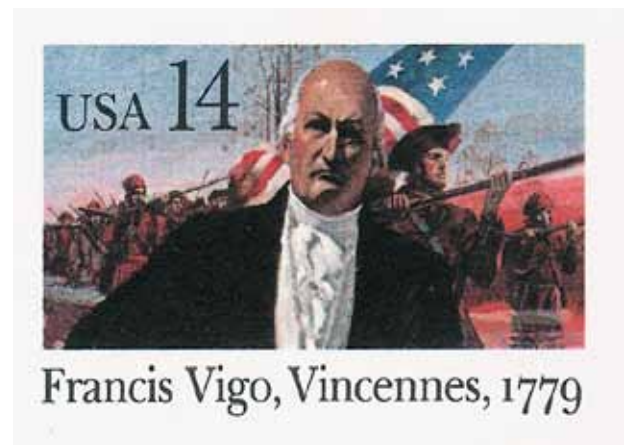
(Scott 134b)

Q5. Francis Vigo has been portrayed on a United States postal item. Why?

Ans. *Italian-American patriot*

Francis Vigo (1747–1836) was born in Italy and became a well-known trader in St. Louis. He became a friend of General George Rogers Clark (1752–1818), a Virginia military officer, and was asked by Clark to scout for Clark’s expedition to capture British forts in the North-west Territory during the American Revolutionary War. Vigo was briefly held by the British in 1779 during which he obtained significant military intelligence that he passed on to Clark. He also supplied Clark with the funds that allowed Clark to capture several forts in Illinois and Fort Sackville in Vincennes, now in Indiana.

Clark’s successful expedition paved the way for the Louisiana Purchase and continued westward expansion of the United States. On May 24, 1986, the United States Postal Service issued a 14¢ postal card (Scott UX111) depicting Francis Vigo in the foreground and General Clark with his men in the background. The date 1779 on the card indicates the year when Clark captured Fort Sackville. Italy issued a 650 lire postal card with a similar design on the same date.



A Philatelic Quiz

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

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

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

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

Q5. Who is responsible for the Welland Canal?

Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

The Fahrenheit Scale

In November 2014, Germany issued a single 60c stamp commemorating the 300th anniversary of the construction of the Fahrenheit Scale. The stamp depicts a scale with three fixed reference points adjacent to a band of blue for temperatures below freezing and a band of red for temperatures above freezing. A small band of white is seen at the 0°F point.



Germany 2014 (Scott 2808)

A basic part of nearly all physical examinations, especially in a hospital setting, and now with the Ebola crisis in airports and other non-medical facilities, is taking a patient's temperature with a thermometer.

Galilei Galileo (1564–1642) used a glass column containing alcohol in 1592 that expanded or contracted when it was heated or cooled. But it did not have a scale and all that could be shown was whether the temperature was rising or falling.

Shortly thereafter in 1625, the Italian physician and physiologist, Sanctorius Sanctorius (1561–1636)(1) measured body temperature using a thermometer with a scale, the first to do so. But these early thermometers were highly inaccurate because the bore of the glass tubes used was not uniform and little was known at that time how liquids expand.

The accuracy of thermometers was greatly improved by the German physicist, engineer and glass blower, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686–1736) who was born in Danzig, but lived mainly in the Netherlands (The Hague). His scale was based on the work of Ole Christian Römer (1644–1710), a Danish astronomer, who constructed the first modern thermometer using alcohol as the liquid. While Fahrenheit's thermometers were also initially filled with alcohol, in 1714 he invented the mercury thermometer calibrating them with refer-



Ole Christian Römer.
Denmark 1944 (Scott 293)

ence to three fixed points on a scale. He used two frigorific mixtures (2) and defined 0°F as the temperature of a mixture of ice, water and ammonium chloride and 32°F as the temperature of a mixture of ice and water without the salt. Initially, his upper reference point was set at 96°F for the temperature of blood (his wife's). Fahrenheit later noted that, using his scale, water boils at 212°F and the upper reference point was eventually replaced with 212°F for the boiling point of water. While the Fahrenheit scale is widely used in the United States and some other countries, the scale based on the work of Anders Celsius (1701–1744) (3) is far more widely used around the world.

Notes:

1. Sanctorius was born in what was the Republic of Venice and graduated in medicine in 1582 from the University of Padua and practiced in Poland from 1587–1601. In 1611 he was appointed Professor of Medicine at Padua and in 1629 settled in Venice. Besides his thermometer he designed a balance to calculate a body's weight in relation to food intake and excretion, publishing his work in 1614 in *Ars de statica medicina*. Also invented by Sanctorius was the first instrument to measure the pulse rate, the pulsilogium consisting of a lead weight on a long thread the length of which could be adjusted according to the pulse rate. Sanctorius was a pupil of Galileo and his pulsilogium is similar to Galileo's pendulum.

2. A mixture of two or more chemicals that reaches an equilibrium temperature that is not dependent on the temperature of any of the chemicals before they are mixed is known as a frigorific mixture. 0°F is defined as the temperature of ice, water and ammonium chloride, a frigorific mixture. Another frigorific mixture is formed by mixing liquid water and ice without the addition of a salt and the defines 32°F. Some articles I read mention that Fahrenheit used sodium chloride or a mixture of salts in his brine mixture.

3. In 1742 Anders Celsius (1701–1744), a Swedish chemist developed a scale with 0 degrees as the freezing point of water and 100 degrees as its boiling point.



Anders Celsius.
Sweden 1982
(Scott 1402)

[This article first appeared in the January/March 2015 issue of *Scalpel & Tongs* and is reprinted here with permission.]



Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

Willard Frank Libby (1908–1980) & Carbon-14 Dating

In digging through a collection of stamp booklets from Sweden, I came across a booklet issued on November 29, 1988, honoring winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. One of the stamps (shown below) honors Willard Frank Libby who won the 1960 Nobel Prize in Chemistry “for his method to use carbon-14 for age determination in archaeology, geology, geophysics and other branches of science.” Born on December 17, 1908, in Grand Valley, Colorado, he attended the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a doctorate in chemistry in 1933. During World War II he was at Columbia University in New York where he worked on several projects including the Manhattan District Project, the United States Army component of the overall Manhattan Project, a research endeavor that led to the first atomic bombs during World War II. From 1945 to 1959 he worked at the Institute for Nuclear Studies (now the Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies) at the University of Chicago and then moved to the University of California, Los Angeles where he remained until his death.

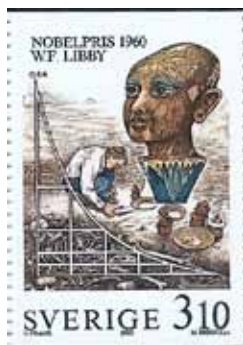
It was at the University of Chicago that he announced his discovery of a method for dating carbon-containing materials, by measuring the amount of carbon-14 present in the material. Carbon-14 is a naturally occurring radioisotope that is continuously generated in the atmosphere when cosmic rays interact with atomic nitrogen. The activity of the radioactive isotope, carbon-14, decreases at

a known rate and by measuring the remaining amount of the isotope in a particular material, one can determine its age.

With this discovery it was now possible to accurately determine the age of archeological objects and Libby and his team dated linen wrappings from the Dead Sea Scrolls, charcoal from a Stonehenge campsite and bread from Pompeii that was buried in the eruption of Vesuvius (A.D. 79). One scientist stated in nominating Libby for the Nobel Prize, “Seldom has a single discovery in chemistry had such an impact on the thinking in so many fields of human endeavour. Seldom has a single discovery generated such wide public interest.” His method has revolutionized our understanding not only the the present, but also of events that have happened thousands of years ago.

In medicine carbon-14 can be used as a tracer in studying various aspects of metabolism in diabetes, gout, anemia etc. Carbon-14 has been used in the urea breath test for *Helicobacter pylori* infection, but it has been widely replaced with carbon -13.

On December 3, 2004, Monaco issued a single stamp commemorating the discovery of the carbon-14 dating technique. It shows a portrait of Libby and an hourglass, a nice analogy since the decay of carbon-14 occurs at a regular and predictive rate, like the flow of sand in an hourglass.



Archaeologist, graph of first-order decay of carbon-14 and Tutankhamun. Sweden 1988 (Scott 1709)



Willard Frank Libby & hourglass. Monaco 2004 (Scott 2364)

[The selvedge mentions his discovery as well as the Nobel Prize. Unfortunately the stamp lists his name incorrectly as Frank Willard Libby.]

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