



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 2 Number 2 November/December 2008

President Nicholas Lombardi Appointed APS Vice President

With the unfortunate death of APS President Nick Carter on September 11 and the election of Wade Saadi by the APS board of directors to that position on September 22 an opening was created in the board of vice presidents. Since the three vice presidents must work closely together as a team, APS vice presidents Steven J. Rod and David L. Straight were asked by President Saadi for a list of possible appointees. Based on their recommendation, Nick Lombardi was appointed by President Saadi at the September 29 meeting of the board of directors and the appointment was approved unanimously. As many of you know besides being president of our club for the past eight years, Nick is also President of the United States Stamp Society, a director of NOJEX and a member of the board of directors of the Collectors Club of New York.

Upcoming Programs

November 20, 2008 "Fake Classic Covers". Presented by Michael Lawrence, Editor-in-Chief of *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, retired editor of *Linn's Stamp News* and past Executive Director of The Philatelic Foundation.

December 18, 2008 - "Annual Holiday Party", donation auction and 50/50 drawing are all on the program. Come and enjoy the company and the free food and drinks. If you have material you would like to donate for the auction, please give it to Steve at the November meeting.



Start making your plans now!

March 14, 2009

The Westfield Stamp Show

Theme: Albert Einstein (Born March 14, 1879)

Members in the News

John Crout was awarded a Silver-Bronze at the Philadelphia National Stamp Show for his exhibit "Presidential Inaugurations of the Twentieth Century: Campaign-Election-Inauguration".

Henry Laessig received a Certificate of Recognition at BALPEX for his exhibit "Major Croatian Postal Rates: 1941 - 1945 (April 1941 - May 1945)".

David Steidley Attends APS Summer Seminar

In the "Letters to the Editor" column of the September 2008 issue of the *American Philatelist* you will find a photograph of one of the classes held this past summer at the APS Summer Seminar in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Prominently seated in the first row with a broad smile is our own Dave Steidley. The instructor is Wayne Youngblood and the course is "Stamp Technology". I asked Dave for a few comments on the experience and he supplied the following:

I have attended the APS week long summer stamp meeting twice in the last three years and had a great time on each occasion. Many other attendees have been there numerous times which is always a good sign.

The fact you are alone and may not know anyone the first day is okay as activities span most meals and most nights. It's stamps, stamps, stamps night and day. In addition to the main topic you select (hint: enroll early so you get what you want) there are a dozen or so one hour electives on every possible subject. It does not matter what you collect, there is lots going on for you.

It is a four hour drive from Westfield to the town of Bellefonte. The area is not expensive by New Jersey standards. Try the APS Summer Seminar— it is a great experience!

Do you have any news that you would like to share with your fellow members?

Do you have a short philatelic note or article that you think the club would find interesting?

This is your newsletter.

I am always looking for contributions.

Editor

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The Westfield Stamp Club

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Meetings are held at 8:00 PM 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 call:

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Images are scanned on a Heidelberg Linoscan flatbed scanner. The newsletter is composed using Adobe InDesign and Photoshop on a Macintosh computer and printed on a Xerox Phaser color printer.

SNOWFLAKES

Snowflakes are clusters of solid plate-like or star-shaped crystals or crystal fragments of an almost endless variety but with a pronounced symmetry. They are complicated in nature and beautiful in form, often with thin lamina or translucent prisms, but always based on a hexagonal system having 60° or 120° angles. The individual crystals are transparent ice but snow appears white because of the numerous reflecting surfaces.

Although the hexagonal symmetry of snow crystals had been known by the Chinese before the birth of Christ, Olaus Magnus (1490–1557), archbishop of Uppsala in Sweden, depicted their symmetrical structure in a book published in Rome in 1555. With the development of the microscope, the structure of ice crystals could more easily be seen and studied and in 1665, Robert Hooke (1635–1703) an English physicist, published his famous book *Micrographia* containing microscopic illustrations of snowflakes.

Actual photomicrographic images of snowflakes on postage stamps are uncommon, but in 1989 Great Britain issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Microscopical Society. One of these stamps depicts a photomicrographic image of a snowflake, the symbol of the Royal Microscopical Society. The 1971 Christmas stamps from Canada show some of the beautiful and intricate structures that these little pieces of ice can attain. However, much more common on postage stamps are representations of snowflakes as seen on the 1974 Christmas stamp from Finland.



Snowflake 10x. Great Britain 1989/ Scott 1285



Stylized snowflake & elves. Finland 1974/ Scott 552



Christmas 1971. Canada 1971/ Scott 554–557



Online Exhibits

There is a huge virtual international philatelic exhibition at <http://www.exponet.info> originally sponsored by the Union of Czech Philatelists. The site is in either English or Czech. The opening screen shows the country flags of the exhibitors. Clicking on a flag leads you to a list of exhibits from exhibitors in that country. Clicking on an exhibit brings up small images of the pages in the exhibit. Click on a page and the page is presented large enough to read the text. You can also search by exhibit category by clicking on the English menu flag at the top. An amazing site.