



The Westfield Philatelist

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

Volume 3 Number 3 January/February 2010

Calendar of Events

January 28 - Westfield Stamp Club Meeting

“The Bordentown Stage” by Robert G. Rose,
 President of New Jersey Postal History Society.

The speaker will tell the story of the Bordentown Stage which ran from Philadelphia to New York during the Colonial Period to about 1790 and its famous handstamp.



February 25 - Westfield Stamp Club Meeting

“An Introduction to the Postal History of
 The Gambia” by member Gary Lowe

The ‘geographically challenged’ country of The Gambia has a fascinating postal history. We’ll see the first ‘Cameo’ stamps, interesting and rare village and town cancellations on cover, as well as examples from the world’s only completely river-based traveling post office.



The ‘Cameo’ stamp seen here is either *Scott 12* (1886) or *Scott 20* (1898). The reason for the ambiguity is that the editor cannot determine the position of the watermark in this copy.

A Philatelic Quiz

1. What was the first United States commemorative series printed in two colors?
2. What United States commemorative series was designed for two colors but printed in one color? Do you know why?
3. What was the first United States stamp to be provided with a special “First Day of Issue” cancellation?
4. Match the following monetary units with the countries on whose postage stamps they can be found:

Monetary Unit		Country	
a. satang	b. qintar	_____ Albania	_____ Austria
c. naye paise	d. groschen	_____ India	_____ Afghanistan
e. sanar	f. chetrum	_____ Thailand	_____ Afghanistan
g. pouls	stotinki	_____ Bhutan	_____ Bulgaria

Answers will be available at the January meeting.

Upcoming USPS Stamp Issues

January 14 - 44¢ Lunar New Year: ;Year of the Tiger.
 Pane of 20.

January 22 - 44¢ Olympic Winter Games: Vancouver 2010
 Pane of 20.

February 3 - \$4.90 Mackinac Bridge Priority Mail single and envelope. Pane of 20. The five-mile long Mackinac Bridge, completed in 1957, separates the Lower Peninsula of Michigan from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is the third longest suspension bridge in the United States. It spans the Straits of Mackinac a strip of water connecting Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

February 3 - \$18.30 Bixby Creek Bridge Express Mail single. Pane of 20. The Bixby Creek Bridge in Monterey County, California, was completed in 1932 and brought automobile traffic to Big Sur., the coastline of central California beneath the Santa Lucia mountains.

February 4 - 44¢ Distinguished Sailors: Admirals William S. Sims and Arleigh A. Burke, Lt. Commander John McCloy and Cook 3rd Class Doris Miller. Panes of 20 (four designs).

News of Members

Congratulations to Dave Steidley whose exhibit “Use of Airmail Stamps, 1918–1993: The First 75 Years” was awarded a Vermeil at Balpex 2009 as well as an AAMS Vermeil Medal.

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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 visit our web site:

www.westfieldstampclub.org

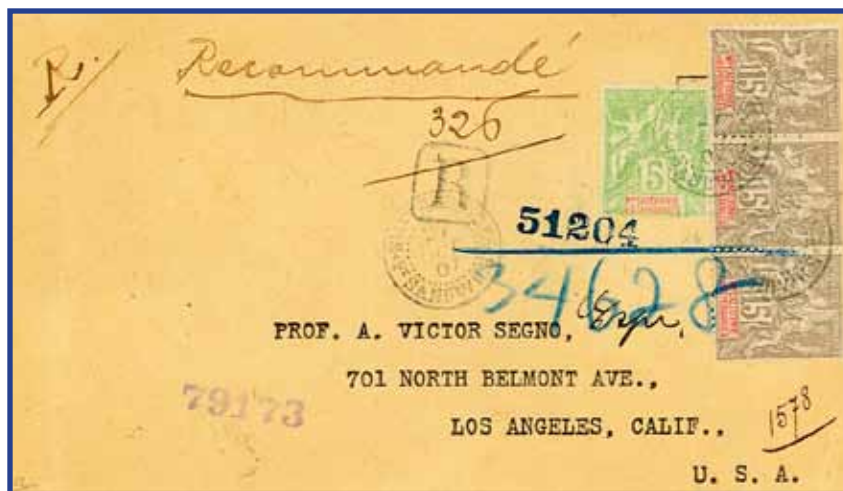


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Professor A. Victor Segno: Move Over Bernie Madoff

By Ed Grabowski

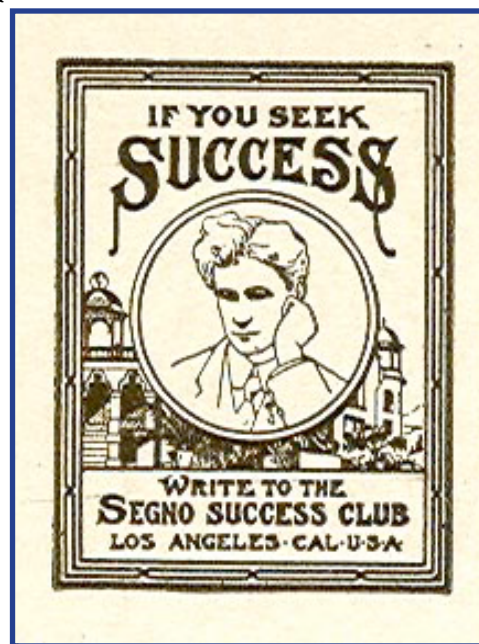
Bernie Madoff has dominated the news from the revelation of his Ponzi scheme for investment to his recent sentencing. We should remember he is not the first, nor will he be the last, of the villains who separate people from their money. In collecting the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type for over thirty years, I noted a small sub-group of about ten covers in my collection addressed to a Professor A. Victor Segno of Los Angeles, California. All are from the 1905 – 1915 period, and are from a variety of colonies including many from small villages. A typical example is shown below. It is a registered cover posted from Port Sandwich, New Hebrides,



on October 27, 1907, and franked at the proper 50c rate with four Group Type stamps of New Caledonia. The New Hebrides islands were administered by New Caledonia at this time, and because of the tiny amount of mail coming from there the stamps of New Caledonia were used. From the postal history point of view, this cover is among the rarest in my collection of more than 2400 Group type covers.

Who was Professor Segno and why do I have so many covers addressed to him? Recently a Google search struck pay-dirt. Professor Segno was a self-proclaimed mentalist who wrote a book entitled *The Science of Mentalism*. In the early 1900's he formed the Segno Success Club as evidenced by the advertising card shown on the right.

For the sum of \$5.00 per year he would regularly send his 'good vibrations' in your direction. These were guaranteed to improve your life in the areas of love, wealth, health, success, hope, ambition, happiness, etc. He even promised that his vibrations would promote hair growth! Five dollars was a considerable sum one hundred years ago. How successful was Professor Segno's Success Club? According to the web it had over 12,000 members at its maximum. He employed a staff of more than two dozen to handle his correspondence and mailings, and was able to build a most impressive home/office in the Echo Park section of Los Angeles as seen on the next page. Numerous club members sent in testimonials noting how successful his 'good vibrations'





Hebrides cover, I have Segno covers from Madagascar, Reunion, Saint Pierre & Miquelon, Martinique and Guadeloupe. I have seen Segno covers from French Guiana, many of the South and Central American countries, and a few from Europe. How was he able to reach so many distant places in the world before radio, television and the web? I don't know, but he was clearly successful at getting his message out.

In 1931 he was charged with fraud by the Federal Trade Commission. In addition to memberships in his very successful Success Club, he was also selling talismans called 'lucky shekles'. He had these made in the US from materials which he claimed were from 1891 BC and found in Palestine. These talismans combined with membership in his club would promote your overall well-being. No follow-up on these charges is shown in subsequent FTC annuals, and Professor Segno seems to have disappeared around this time. 🌸

were in improving their lives in the noted areas.

The *Los Angeles Times* ran articles in the early twentieth century noting that Professor Segno was a fraud, yet they had little impact on his success. In addition to the New

Scouting - A Brief History

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell was born in London in 1857 and joined the 13th Hussars in India in 1876 where he began a program of scouting as a branch of army training. He was sent to Africa during the South African (Boer) War (1899–1902) and became a national hero following his defense of the siege of Mafeking, a town in the Cape Province of South Africa. He eventually rose to the rank of lieutenant general, becoming inspector general of cavalry in the British army, but retired from the military in 1910 to devote his time to the scouting movement. He was made a baronet in 1920 and a baron in 1929 (Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell).



Lord Baden-Powell. Monaco 2007 (*Scott* 2466) [The Europa theme for 2007 was Scouting, in honor of its centenary.]

Following his return to England in 1903 he found that his book *Aids to Scouting for NCOs and Men* that he had written in 1899 was being widely used as a guide to training boys. He soon became involved in the Boys' Brigade, an interdenominational Christian youth organization combining drill and other activities with Christian values. William Alexander Smith (1854–1914), a businessman, member of the Volunteer Force of Great Britain and a Sunday school teacher organized the Boys' Brigade in 1883. In 1906 Ernest Thompson Seton, founder of the League of Woodcraft Indians in 1902, traveled to England where he met Baden-Powell and gave him a copy of his book *The Birch Bark Roll of the Woodcraft Indians*.

Influenced by Seton's book and encouraged by his friend William Smith, Baden-Powell set up a camp on August 1, 1907, with a local Boys' Brigade at Brownsea Island in Poole Harbor in southeastern England. There he tested his ideas on scouting and the activities at the camp are now considered the beginning of the scouting movement. Shortly after the publishing of his book *Scouting for Boys* in 1908, Scout troops began to spring up first in England and then internationally. After a group of girls demanded to be allowed entry to a boy scout rally at the Crystal Palace in 1909, Baden-Powell, several months later, founded, in 1910, the Girl Guide Movement under the auspices of his sister Agnes Baden-Powell. At the first World Scout Jamboree in Olympia, London, in 1920, Baden-Powell was acclaimed Chief Scout of the World, a title that he held until his death in 1941 and that has not been held by anyone since.

Scouting in the United States of America

Several youth organizations oriented to the outdoors existed in the United States before the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. Ernest Thompson Seton (1860–1946), a noted author and wildlife artist, was born in England of Scottish parents and immigrated to Canada with his family when he was six years of age. After moving to New

York and later to Connecticut, he became a naturalized United States citizen. In 1902 started the League of Woodcraft Indians, a program for boys based on North American Indian lore and outdoor life. In 1905 Daniel Beard (1850–1941), an American artist and outdoorsman, founded the Sons of Daniel Boone, an organization based on American frontier traditions.

While both of these organizations had a number of features common to scouting, they lacked a true organizational structure. That structure was brought to the scouting movement in 1910 by William Boyce (1858–1929), a newspaperman, entrepreneur and explorer, when he incorporated the Boy Scouts of America in Washington, D.C., recruited people to run the organization and provided the necessary funding. With the incorporation Seton and Beard merged their groups



Ernest Thompson Seton



William D. Boyce

into the Boy Scouts of America and are largely responsible for the traditional scouting movement. In 1916 the Boys Scouts of America received a Congressional Charter from the United States Congress and began an active program to absorb all the other scout-type youth programs into their organization. There were two the Camp Fire Girls founded in 1910 in Thetford, Vermont by Luther Gulick, a physician and his wife, Charlotte as the sister organization to the Boy Scouts of America. When they began to accept boys in 1975 the name was changed to Camp Fire Boys and Girls and in 2001 they adopted the current name, Camp Fire USA. Baden-Powell urged his friend Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low to bring the Girl Guide movement to the United States and in 1912 she founded the first Girl Guides in Savannah, Georgia. Its was changed to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America in 1913 and its headquarters were moved to New York. In 1950 they received a Congressional Charter.

United States Postal Issues Commemorating Scouting



Second National Jamboree, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. 1950 (Scott 995)



Boy Scouts of America, 50th Anniversary. 1960 (Scott 1145)



Juliette Gordon Low. 1948 (Scott 974)



Camp Fire Girls, 50th Anniversary. 1960 (Scott 1167)



Boy Scouts of America and Camp Fire Girls. 1985 (Scott 2161,2163) [From set of four commemorating the United Nations International Youth Year]



Girl Scouts of America, 50th Anniversary. 1962 (Scott 1199)



U.S. Boy and Girl Scouting Begins (1910s Celebrate the Century Series. 1998 (Scott 3183j))



12th Boy Scout World Jamboree, Farragut State Park, Idaho. 1967 (Scott UXC7)