



# The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 4 Number 1 September/October 2010

## Westfield Stamp Club Meetings

### September 23 - A Walk Along Nassau Street

by Steven J. Rod

Come take a casual stroll along the philatelic street of dreams in the middle of Manhattan during its heyday. Don't miss this multimedia presentation by one of philately's leading expert on the history of our great hobby.



### October 28 - The Stamps of Tibet

By Alan Warren

The highest region in the world averaging 16,000 feet above sea level, Tibet is a semi-independent state under Chinese control since 1950. The *Scott 2010 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, Volume 6 lists 23 major numbers for stamps (includes 5 officials) between 1912 and 1950. Alan is Secretary and current editor of *Ice Cap News*, the newsletter of the American Society of Polar Philatelists, and an accredited Chief Philatelic and Literature Judge. Besides Tibet and Polar philately, his other philatelic interests include Scandinavia, first day covers and literature.

## A Philatelic Quiz

1. She was the first woman Cabinet member in the United States. On what stamp is she portrayed?
2. Match the Postmaster General with the President under whom he served:  
\_\_\_ John Wanamaker                      a. John F. Kennedy  
\_\_\_ Arthur E. Summerfield              b. Benjamin Harrison  
\_\_\_ James A. Farley                        c. Dwight D. Eisenhower  
\_\_\_ Winton M. Blount                      d. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
\_\_\_ J. Edward Day                          e. Richard N. Nixon
3. In the center of the state flag of Utah is a beehive. Do you know why it is there?
4. What is the oldest postal service established in America?
5. Who was the first African-American honored on a United States postage stamp?

## News of Members

Bob Hassard writes:

I attended a cancellation ceremony for Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey, and it was really nice. The Hinchliffe Stadium is in very poor condition, but holds a huge amount of memories for baseball fans. Currently, there are only three Negro League stadiums in the nation still standing and Hinchliffe is one of them. Monte Irvin, Willie Mays, Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige, and Larry Doby, of note, started out in this Negro League. One of the umpires in the league, Ossibi Jelks. was there, and **HE IS** the Umpire on the **44¢ Negro League Baseball** stamp issued by the USPS on July 15, 2010 [see page 4]. He is depicted signaling the runner SAFE at home plate. He was a library of knowledge to speak with, the nicest man. He autographed my ceremony card. A couple of the tidbits he told me:

I asked him who was the **Best** player that he ever saw play in the Negro League in his day, and he replied, "Willie Mays, hands down."

He mentioned that at a twin bill in Kansas, Satchel Paige was pitching the first game, and went all the 14 innings to win the game. No relief pitcher. Then in the second game, Satchel came out in the 7th inning to relieve the starting pitching. Unheard of today.

Larry Doby a son of Paterson, NJ.

When Willie Mays tried out for the then Brooklyn Dodgers, he was cut. One of the 'brilliant' Dodger decision makers, as Ossibi Jelks recalls, said, "The kid can't hit a Curve Ball."

And good Club Members, we know the great history of Willie Mays as he rose in prominence in baseball lore. The stadium is located right near the famed Great Falls of the Passaic River in Paterson. It must have been a glorious location to view a game in past eras.

The ASDA National Postage Stamp Show  
October 21 to October 24, 2010  
New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Avenue and 34th Street  
New York City

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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 call:**

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**Postal Fraud in Senegal in 1895: Seeing What We Expect to See**

*By Ed Grabowski*

Back in 1985 a postal history dealer named Bill Bogg, who traded under the name of the New England Stamp Company, was a regular at NOJEX and the New York City Shows. Although he did not specialize in overseas covers, one could always count on finding something of interest in his stock of foreign covers. At one show I was going through his stock of French Colonies covers, and came across the cover shown below from the colony of Senegal. It was a 5 centimes printed matter rate franked with 1c and 4c Group Type stamps which were already in my collecting area. The envelope was posted locally in Saint Louis, the capital of Senegal. The 5c printed matter rate was applicable to printed advertisements, birth, marriage and death notices, New Year's greeting cards, etc. Typically a 5c postal stationery envelope was used for this rate, or a 5c green Group Type stamp was applied to the envelope containing the printed matter, and it was mailed unsealed as per regulations. Occasionally, one would see the 5c rate prepaid with 4c and 1c stamps as in this case, or two 2c stamps and a 1c stamp, or most rarely, five 1c stamps. Bill's price for this cover was fair and I was happy to add the item to my collection.



During the mid-1980's I kept a 3 x 5 file card data base for all of the items in my collection, and had about 24 inches of cards detailing most everything of significance that I owned. It was not until three years later that I switched to a computer data base. That night I was sitting at my desk making out new data cards for all of the day's purchases. I had just finished writing up the card for the Senegal printed matter item purchased from Bill, when my thirteen year old son happened along. He picked up the cover, began studying it and said, "Dad, there is something wrong with the 4c stamp on this envelope." I got my 7 power loop and began taking a detailed look at it. It turns out that the 4c stamp was NOT a 4c stamp. Apparently someone had taken diagonal halves of a 2c stamp (brown on yellowish) and a 4c stamp (lilac brown on gray) to create what appeared, on first inspection, to be an uncancelled 4c stamp. (See enlarged figure) In all probability the sender got these halves from unmarked portions of cancelled stamps in an attempt to save 4c. What is amazing is that this envelope passed through the Saint Louis post office in 1895 without arousing any special attention, and neither Bill nor I noted anything wrong with this cover, despite the fact that the differences in color between the two stamps used to create the new 4c stamp are quite striking once one is aware of what was done.

I am not surprised that the post office staff in Senegal missed this item. They were probably processing hundreds of items each day, and did not have the time nor reason to carefully check each item. That the fact that Bill and I did not catch this fabrication is another matter. I am sure that our attention was on the fact that the franking was a bit unusual, and that's what we saw – nice examples of the 4c and 1c stamps used to prepay the printed matter rate. We saw what we expected to see – a slightly unusual franking that would cause Bill to raise the price a bit, and me to desire it for my collection. My son brought an unbiased eye to the matter. The franking didn't matter to him, the usage was of no importance – it was just another one of Dad's many covers. But the stamp stood out and immediately caught his eye.



Is this just a curiosity or is it a major rarity? It is the only example of postal fraud that I am aware of in all of the Group Type. Had the creator been caught and prosecuted, I would consider the rarity side of the equation. My friend and fellow-specialist in Paris considers it a curiosity. I am beginning to mount my Senegal Group Type collection for exhibition, and decided to put this cover on the title page. We will see what the judges think. ✨

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### Westfield Stamp Club Members Speak at the National Postal Museum

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Three Westfield Stamp Club members will be speaking at the 2010 Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium being held at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, DC, from September 30 to October 1.

On September 30

Steven J. Rod - *The Case of Thirty-five Esthetic and Political Messages: The Famous Americans of 1940*

Robert Odenweller - *New Zealand Presents Itself to the World Through Postage Stamps*

On October 1

Roger Brody - *National Identity – The Stamps of Series 1902*

As the symposium title, *Stamps & The Mail: Imagery, Icons & Identity* indicates, the presentations will focus on the stamps designs and how they have been used to convey historical, cultural and political messages.

The symposium is free, but preregistration is required and may be completed online at [www.postalmuseum.si.edu/symposium2010/registration](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/symposium2010/registration).

The result of a gift from the estate of Winton M. Blount in 2006, the symposiums are cosponsored by the American Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Research Library.

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### United States Stamp Web site of Interest

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At our September board meeting several of the board members mentioned a “great” website for United States postage stamps. After taking a look at it, I have to agree. It has a tremendous amount of information and is beautifully illustrated. The site is:

**[www.theswedishtiger.com](http://www.theswedishtiger.com)**

The description on the site states:

“Here you will find images of all US postage stamps up to 1952. Along with updated market prices. Included are US revenues, officials, Hawaii, Confederate Stamps and more back of the book.

I track prices at major US New York auction houses. These include Matthew Bennett, Shreves, Cherrystone and Robert Seigel. Occasionally I will include a US sale from Harmers or other international auction houses. Where possible both with ebay and auction houses I will indicate the grade the stamp was awarded by a recognized an expertiser such as the PSE.

Prices are updated twice yearly. Some issues, such as the 1869 Pictorial Inverts have a record of each sale. Other issues have specialized articles attached to them.

This US stamps site is offered free, therefore there is no commercial bias in the opinions offered. There is a section on ebay stamp dealers which has been put together based on the comments I have recieved from you, the viewer.”

# Negro League Baseball

*From the Editor's Files*

Black baseball was a major attraction for the urban black populations in the United States following the end of World War I. In 1920, mainly due to the efforts of Andrew 'Rube' Foster, the Negro National League was born in Kansas City, Missouri, with eight teams including his own team the Chicago American Giants. 'Rube' Foster was born in La Grange, Texas, in 1879 and besides a driving force behind the Negro National League and a skilled manager — he led his Chicago American Giants to several pennants — he had previously been an outstanding pitcher with Chicago and Philadelphia teams. In 1926 he developed a mental illness and died in a sanitarium in 1930.

The increasing popularity of black baseball led to the organization of the Negro Southern League, also in 1920, by Thomas T. Wilson, owner of the Nashville Elite Giants. When the Negro National League dissolved in 1931, a second Negro National League was organized in 1933 by Gus Greenlee, a Pittsburgh bar owner. A third league, the Negro American League, was founded in 1937 helping to satisfy the increasing popularity of Negro League baseball during the 1930s and 1940s.

Following the end of World War II, the increasing sentiment for social justice coupled with the recognition of the skill and talent of many of the players in black baseball led to the breaking of baseball's color barrier. On April 18, 1946, Jackie Robinson appeared in a game with the Montreal Royals in the International League. The Royals were a part of the Dodgers organization and, after only a single season with the farm team, Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 helping them gain a National League pennant and being named the National League Rookie of the Year.

Once Robinson broke the barrier black players steadily moved into major league baseball.

But what happened to the Negro Leagues? The Negro National League dissolved in 1949 while the Negro American League managed to stay alive through the 1950s, but, in 1962, it too dissolved.

On July 15, 2010, the Negro Leagues Baseball stamps were dedicated in Kansas, City, Missouri, as noted above, the birthplace of the Negro National League and the location of the Negro League Baseball Museum. The two setenant stamps show one scene painted by artist Kadir Nelson. The stamp on the left shows a runner being called

safe at homeplate while a portrait of 'Rube' Foster can be seen on the the stamp on the right.

There have been eight previous United States commemorative postage stamps depicting black baseball players. They are illustrated below.

Jackie Robinson (1919–1972)



Roberto Clemente (1934–1972)



Satchel Paige (1906–1982)



Josh Gibson (1911–1947)



Roy Campanella (1921–1993)

2006 (Scott 4080)