



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 4 Number 3 January/February 2011

Calendar of Events

January 27 - The 29¢ Flag Over White House

Coil Stamp Under The Microscope.

By Richard Nazar



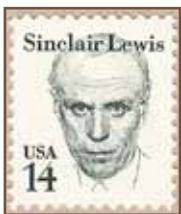
At first glance this stamp seems like an ordinary First Class stamp. However, under closer examination, the stamp offers many collectible varieties. Member Richard Nazar will discuss everything from the normal stamp to the rarities and explain their causes.

1992 (Scott 2609)



February 24 - The Great American Series.

By Roger S. Brody



Come learn about this set of stamps with 63 designs issued between 1980 and 1999 comprising the largest set of face different stamps yet issued by the United States.

1985 (Scott 1856)

A Philatelic Quiz

- Q1. Who is the first named woman to be depicted on a United States postage stamp?
- Q2. What is the longest running stamps series in the world?
- Q3. What United States commemorative postage stamp has an "unfinished bridge" variety?
- Q4. What American stamp was printed by Thomas De La Rue of London?
- Q5. What is wrong with the design of the United States 1932 Winter Olympics Issue, Scott 716?

Member Profile

Gary Wayne Loew

Gary Loew started collecting stamps in the early 1950s. After a typical multi-decade hiatus, he resumed collecting six years ago and is trying to make up for his wasted youth. His collecting interests include postal history, especially of the British Empire. His greatest interest is the stamps, philatelic history and ephemera of The Gambia. The exhibit "Up a Lazy River: The Postal Villages of The Gambia" has won awards at recent World Series of Philately shows. It was first exhibited at the Westfield Stamp Show under the sage mentorship of Steven Rod. Another current collecting interest is the marcophily and postal history of the King George V Silver Jubilee omnibus issue of 1935. With over a thousand village cancellations in hand, he's trying to figure out how to convert an accumulation into an exhibit.

Gary and his partner, fellow Westfield Stamp Club member Rich Nazar, are founders of Philatelic Systems Associates. Their projects include Digital Libraries of philatelic journals for the US Philatelic Classics Society, the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, the Postal Label Study Group, the King George V Silver Jubilee Study Circle and the Society of Israel Philatelists. Their newest project is the digitization of a complete run of the *Postal Bulletin* beginning with 1880. When complete, this will be a powerful primary research tool for US postal historians.

As a marcophilist, Gary is excited about a software tool he is developing to assist philatelists in identifying post offices from partial cancellations on stamps and covers. His database of cancellations is well over 11,000 and will exceed 200,000 entries when complete. Gary's program will be available soon to any philatelist on his website, PhilatelicResearch.org.

Gary is a member of the American Philatelic Society, The Collectors Club, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, the West African Study Circle, the Postal Label Study Group, and the USPCS. He serves as a board member of the King George V Silver Jubilee Study Circle and Westfield Stamp Club. Gary's first philatelic article appeared in a recent issue of *The Flagstaff*.

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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's Desk** ☞

In the November/December 2009 issue of this newsletter, I began running "A Philatelic Quiz" and prepared pages with the quiz answers illustrated with philatelic elements. The pages have been displayed at subsequent meetings of our club. Unfortunately, only those who attended our meetings were able to see the answers to the quiz questions so one of our members wisely suggested that I provide the answers in our newsletter for the benefit of the entire membership. It was an excellent suggestion and, as you noticed, the answers to the September/October quiz were included in the November/December newsletter, but without any images.

Beginning with this issue the quiz answers (and some images) will be included solely in the newsletter and no longer be displayed at our meetings. Placing the answers in the newsletter will give everyone the opportunity to see if their responses to the questions were correct, as I am sure they were. In order to accommodate the answers, the newsletter is being expanded to four pages beginning with this issue.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to submit material for *The Westfield Philatelist*. It is your newsletter and should reflect your interests. I am particularly interested in receiving news of your philatelic activities and short articles. You can send material by email (Microsoft Word, rich text format or plain text), snail mail or hand it to me at a meeting. Hard copy can be printed or handwritten, as long as I can read it. Scanned images should be high resolution jpegs or tiff at 300dpi. If you don't want to scan the material, I will be happy to do it. You can send the material to me or give it to me at one of our meetings. It will be returned promptly.



☞ **News of Members** ☞

Roger S. Brody

In November, Roger Brody was the first recipient of the newly established **Collectors Club Friendship Cup Award**. The award is given in connection with the Club's annual One-Frame Competition and is for the most interesting exhibit as voted on by the members attending the event. Roger's exhibit, "No Runs, No Hits, Just Errors: The Great Americans" was the runaway winner. Congratulations!

Nicholas Lombardi

Congratulations are also due Nicholas Lombardi whose exhibit, "The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue", won the **Reserve Grand Award** at the FLOREX show held in December in Orlando, Florida.

The Westfield Stamp Club
Will Celebrate its 50th Anniversary
and the
125th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty
On March 5, 2011
At its Annual Stamp Show

My Favorite US Stamp Series

by Steven J. Rod

Who is famous? What contributes to fame? This question took a giant place on the American agenda back in the late 1930's, when the United States Post Office Department was busy planning the "Famous American Series of 1940." The idea for this series was promoted as far back as 1935, when it was being called a series in honor of "Heroes of Peace". Since receiving the set as a gift for my 13th birthday, they have always been my favorite!

This unprecedented commemorative series – a set of 35 stamps – was so far the largest stamp series ever issued. It utilized a new size for a stamp, larger than the regular issues (such as the Presidentials) and smaller than the plethora of horizontal and vertical commemoratives being issued. *Till this day, collectors call stamps issued in that size "Famous American size".* The 35 Famous Americans were issued over a 10 month period, beginning on January 29, 1940, and ending on October 28, 1940. It was a busy time for United States stamp collectors, especially those interested in the growing passion for stamps postmarked on their first day of issue. While FDCs began to be formally created in the early 1920's, they utilized the normal machine cancel of the city of release. The USPOD began the practice of preparing special "First Day of Issue" machine cancel postmarks in 1937. (Of note, is that the introduction of the now ubiquitous "First Day of Issue" hand cancel rubber stamp was first used for the 1-cent and 2-cent Authors, Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper). The 35 stamps were issued in 29 different cities, with Boston and New York City each having three FDOIs, and Cambridge, MA and Washington DC each having two first days.

Two happenings stand out when looking at the story behind the Famous Americans. One is that up until the very last minute, numerous changes kept being made in the series. The second is the unprecedented participation of the public in determining those who should be

Authors

Washington Irving
(1783–1859)



Poets

Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow
(1807–1882)

Educators

Horace Mann
(1796–1859)



Scientists

John James Audubon
(1785–1851)

Composers

Stephen Collins
Foster
(1826–1864)



Artists

Gilbert Charles
Stuart
(1755–1828)



Inventors

Eli Whitney
(1765–1825)

honored. Members of the public, and particularly stamp clubs around the nation, became actively involved in expressing their choices. Since 1940, this "voting" has been rivaled only twice: in 1993 when the USPS promoted balloting for the forthcoming 29-cent Elvis stamp, (you had to vote for either the 'young Elvis' or the 'old Elvis') and again when the USPS held nationwide balloting to select the subjects of the "Celebrate the Century" Series that was issued beginning in 1998.

Six months before the stamps began to appear, *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* of July 29, 1939, reported the final confirmation that the long awaited series was finally announced by the USPOD:

"After many rumors had reached the philatelic press, the Post Office Department on July 19 formally announced the tentative details of the series of stamps 'in honor of famous Americans who achieved distinction in the arts and sciences.' The Postmaster General expressed thanks for the numerous suggestions from the public and the aid of philatelic societies in the selections. Mr. Farley stated that he believed the list of selections represented the judgement and views of the nation at large."

The 35 stamps are divided into seven groups of five each. It's fun to carefully examine each one of the 35 biographies, and see that so many can actually have been included in two or more of the groupings. I love collecting covers showing how each of these stamps were used to carry the mails back in 1940.

Note: Each group had stamps denominated in 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢ and 10¢. Only the 1¢ stamps are shown here (Scott 859, 864, 870, 874, 879, 884 and 889)

🍂 Answers – November/December 2010 Philatelic Quiz 🍂

Q1. On what United States postage stamp is a phthisiologist pictured?

Ans. **Edward Livingston Trudeau, M.D. was depicted on the 76¢ stamp issued on May 12, 2008, in the Distinguished Americans Series (Scott 3432A)**



A phthisiologist is a physician specializing in the study and treatment of tuberculosis, although the term is now obsolete. Edward Livingston Trudeau (1848–1916) was diagnosed with tuberculosis two years after graduating from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. After moving to Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, he recovered and in 1884 founded the Adirondack Cottage Sanatorium at Saranac Lake, the first sanatorium for tuberculosis in the United States.



Q2. The *Vanguard* by English painter John A. MacWhirter was the original source for a well-known United States postage stamp. Do you know which one?

Ans. **The \$1.00 *Western Cattle in Storm* postage stamp issued in 1898 as part of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition Issue (Scott 292) and reprinted in 1998 (Scott 3209h & 3210).**

The Vanguard was painted in 1878 by John MacWhirter (1839–1911), a Scottish landscape painter, in the Scottish highland town of Calendar and depicts Scottish cattle in a storm. In 1887 Charles O. Murray, an English engraver made a steel engraving of the painting and it is from this engraving that the vignette for the 1898 stamp was created. The stamp shown here is the 1998 reprint.



Q3. What country has the honor of issuing the first charity stamps and what are they known as?

Ans. **The first stamps used to raise money mainly for charitable purposes were issued in the United States during the Civil War — the Sanitary Fair stamps.**

The United States Sanitary Commission was formed during the Civil War with an initial emphasis on improving sanitation in the field and care of the injured. But their objectives broadened as the war progressed and came to include the collecting and distributing of medical supplies and food, establishing proper diets, transporting the sick, inspecting hospitals and providing battlefield services. The one thing the government did not authorize for the commission were funds to carry out its duties and

as the war dragged on and private donations decreased, other sources of funds had to be found.

One of the most successful ideas was holding a fair or bazaar at which there would be exhibits and booths selling goods and services. At some of these fairs a small post office staffed by “attractive young women”, who for a small fee would write and address a note and, at the fairs at which they were available, place a Sanitary Fair stamp on the envelope. These notes would be picked up at the fair post office by the addressee. If however, the note was to be mailed, the proper U.S. postage would also have to be affixed. Only eight fairs had Sanitary Fair stamps and all the stamps were issued in the period from December 1863 to December 1864. Fifteen different types of Sanitary Fair stamps are known. The one shown here was issued at the Great Central Fair in Philadelphia between June 7 through June 28, 1864 (Scott WV12).



Q4. On July 26, 1988, the USPS issued a stamp for the bicentennial of the ratification of the United States Constitution by the state of New York. What is shown in the scene on the stamp?

Ans. **The vignette depicts Wall Street with Federal Hall on the right and Trinity Church in the distance.**



Q5. Who was the first country to join the General Postal Union?

Ans. **British India joined the General Postal Union in 1876.**

As a result of the Treaty of Bern on October 9, 1874, the General Postal Union was created to coordinate postal policies among member nations. In 1878 the name was changed to the Universal Postal Union and following the formation of the United Nations, the UPU became a specialized agency of that organization.

That part of the Indian subcontinent under British control has been given the name “British India” and would certainly include India itself. The stamp seen here is an official stamp from Patiala, a convention state of the British Empire in India, now part of Punjab state. It is a 1906 India stamp (Scott 78) with a 1907 overprint (Scott O27).

