



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 5 Number 2 November/December 2011

Calendar of Events

November 17- The 29¢ 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. Rich will discuss everything from the normal stamp to the rarities and explain their causes.



A Philatelic Quiz

- Q1. A number of precancel stamps have a series of letters and dates (i.e. SRC Dec46). Why?
- Q2. What is the story behind the stamps of the Falkland Islands overprinted Graham Land Dependency?
- Q3. From what other flags is the Union Flag of Great Britain derived?
- Q4. What United States postage stamp shows the organizer of the first volunteer fire company in America?
- Q5. Why is the ship *Savannah* depicted on a United States postage stamp?

Member Profile

Jack André Denys

I have been a club member for three years. (You can blame Fred for first bringing me). I began collecting stamps at the age of eight, but went into philatelic hibernation after high school until my mid-30s. I still remember my first stamp: Great Britain Scott 243, the 6p rose lilac definitive showing King George VI.

I am a thematicist who collects and exhibits several topics, including Albrecht Dürer, and purely for fun, palindromes on stamps. Since spending my junior year of college studying in Austria, I have had a deep appreciation for art and have always enjoyed history, particularly English history and especially royalty. Hence my fondness for the 950-year-old Bayeux Tapestry [BT], my primary philatelic topic, which depicts William the Conqueror's invasion of England and victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. My exhibit on the BT has earned ten gold awards, qualifying me for the Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) Diamond Award. It has also received the AAPE Creativity Award, the American Philatelic Society award of excellence [1940-1980] and the American Philatelic Congress award for excellence in written text. It was given the Reserve Grand (2007) and the Grand (2008) at the National Topical Stamp Show. Internationally, BT has merited a large vermeil with special prize at WASHINGTON 2006 and a vermeil at LONDON 2010.

I have been president of the American Topical Association, the second largest philatelic organization in the United States since 2008. I am also a member of the APS and the AAPE and a co-founder of the Albrecht Dürer Study Unit of the ATA, serving as president and as editor of its Dürer Journal for 20 years. I have written a number of articles for *Topical Time* and *The Philatelic Exhibitor*.

An extension of my interest in philately is promoting an awareness of philately in family and friends by creating unique personal gifts for them. I choose 8-12 stamps appropriate to their lives, mount them in small frames, and give them on special occasions. The recipients are always very appreciative because they know the gift was made especially for them.

Editor

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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

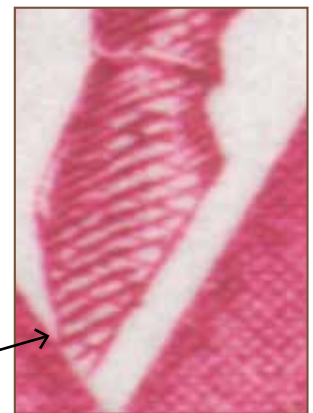
908-233-3045

1968 & 1978 15¢ Oliver Wendell Holmes

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1841–1935) was born in Boston, Massachusetts, the son of the famous poet-physician, also named Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809–1894). After attending Harvard and serving on the supreme court of Massachusetts from 1883 to 1902, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States by President Theodore Roosevelt. At the age of ninety-one he resigned from the court on January 12, 1932, and died on March 6, 1935.

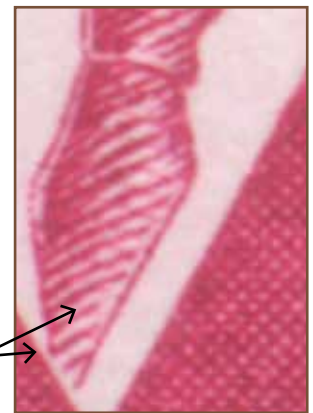
On March 8, 1968, the United States Post Office issued a 15¢ magenta postage stamp (type I) in panes of 100 as part of the Prominent Americans series. When the first-class letter rate rose to fifteen cents on May 29, 1978, two new dies were made (types II & III) and on June 14, 1978, new sheet, coil and booklet stamps were issued. Dies I and II were used in 1978 for both sheet and coil stamps, but die III was only used for the booklet stamps. Using stamps from 1978 issues the differences between the dies are highlighted below.

June 14, 1978 (Scott 1305E), type I



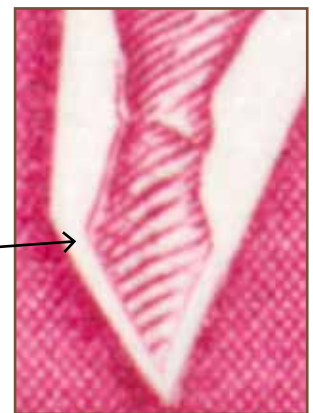
Flag of "5" true horizontal
"c" to left of "E" in postage
Necktie barely touches coat at bottom

June 14, 1978 (Scott 1305Ei), type II



Flag of "5" slants down at right
"c" centered under "E" in postage
Necktie does not touch coat at bottom &
third line from bottom of tie is short

June 14, 1978 (Scott 1288B), type III (booklet only)



Markedly shortened tie
Smaller overall size and "15c" closer to head

Christmas Seals: The Early Years

As I noted in the November/December 2010 issue of *The Westfield Philatelist*, sales of the “Christmas Stamp” created by Emily Bissell in 1907 to raise funds for her cousin’s tuberculosis sanatorium raised \$3,000. This was ten times the amount needed to keep the institution afloat. The success of her efforts prompted the American National Red Cross to take over sponsorship and sale of these stamps with a coast-to-coast campaign in 1908.



1908 Christmas Seal, type II (Scott WX4) and type I (Scott WX3) tied (December 22, 1908) to Christmas post card.

They hired Howard Pyle (1853–1911), an American illustrator and author, who designed a stamp showing a holly wreath and the words “Merry Christmas”. Sales were so successful that the Washington office of the Red Cross had to hire twenty extra clerks to handle the orders. The 1909 and 1910 “Christmas stamps” continued to be sold by the American National Red Cross. Beginning in 1910 they were designated as “seals” in order to make clear that they were not postage stamps and that they could not be used to pay the cost of mailing an envelope.

In 1911 the American Red Cross issued a seal designed by Anton Rudert (1889–1964), a mural painter, showing *The Old House Among the Cedars* (Scott WX7). It was the beginning of seals showing a more pictorial design and the first to be printed by typography rather than lithography. Sold now by the National Association for the



Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis (NASPT), sales reached \$320,000.

The American Red Cross and the NASPT continued to work together issuing and selling Christmas seals through 1919. The 1919 seal (Scott WX24) was the last one to show the Red Cross emblem and is the only seal to show both the Red Cross and the double-barreled Cross of Lorraine, the symbol of the National Tuberculosis Association, the new name of the NASPT. Sales totaled \$3,872,533. The seal was designed by Ernest Hamlin Baker (1889–1975), a portrait artist who would become well-known for his portraits of famous persons (Dwight D. Eisenhower, Earl Warren, Richard M. Nixon, etc.) on the covers of *Time* magazine.



With the withdrawal of the Red Cross in 1920, the issuance and sale of Christmas Seals fell solely to the National Tuberculosis Association and they significantly broadened the campaign.



One of the more interesting seals issued after 1920 was the 1934 Christmas seal (Scott WX72), designed by Herman D. Geisen. It depicts *Little Red*, a small cottage at Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Mountains of New York that was part of the Adirondack Cottage Sanatorium (name changed to the Trudeau Sanatorium in 1915).

Established in 1885 by Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau (1848–1915) for the treatment of tuberculosis, a disease that he himself suffered from, it was the first tuberculosis sanatorium in the United States. Trudeau was a New York physician who contracted tuberculosis shortly after graduating from medical school and went to the Adirondack Mountains, essentially to die. However, with the combination of rest, fresh air and sunlight and good food he survived and established the sanatorium that bears his name.



Quiz Answers (cont. from pg. 4))

Q5. What was the first United States Postal Service issue released outside the United States?

Ans. The 1978 CAPEX Wildlife Souvenir Sheet.

At the 1978 Canadian International Philatelic Exhibition (CAPEX) in Toronto, Canada, the USPS released a souvenir sheet of eight stamps depicting mammals and birds native to the United States – Canada Border.

Answers – September/October Philatelic Quiz

Q1. Who were the Buffalo Soldiers and where did they originate?

Ans. They were the first Black professional soldiers in a peacetime army originating at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In 1866 the United States Congress passed legislation establishing six all African American Army units — the 9th and 10th cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 42st infantry regiments. The 10th cavalry regiment was formed on September 21, 1866, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1867 out of respect, and for the fierce fighting ability of the 10th cavalry, Cheyenne warriors gave them the name “Wild Buffalo”. Out of this grew the generic term “Buffalo Soldiers”.



United States 1994
(Scott 2818)

Assigned to the most desolate posts, they fought Mexican revolutionaries, outlaws and hostile Native Americans. They were also used to explore and map the Southwest and to establish frontier outposts for future towns.

They fought in the Indian Wars of the American West (1866–1891), The Spanish-American War (1898), the Philippine War (1899–1902) and World Wars I and II. Segregated armed forces units ended with the Korean War.



Q2. France issued a semipostal stamp in 1944 showing the coat-of-arms of Renouard de Villayer. What role did he play in moving the mails?

Ans. In 1653 he established a local postal service in Paris, the *Petite Posts*.

Jean-Jacques Renouard de Villayer (1607–1691), a counselor of state of France, set up letter boxes at various locations in Paris and offered for sale small slips of paper (*billet de port payé*) that the sender would fill in and then attach to the envelope. They indicated that postage had been paid and the letters would then be dropped in the letter boxes. The slips of paper were affixed to the letters with a solution of isinglass, a form of collagen obtained from the swim bladders of fish (sturgeon), that can be used for gluing. The letters were delivered inside the city the same day. These receipts are considered the earliest forerunners of postage stamps. The stamp shown here was issued on December 9, 1944, Stamp Day.



France 1944
(Scott B190)



Q3. In the early stages of the American Revolutionary War the Americans relied mainly on ammunition to win battles. Who taught the colonists to use the bayonet as a fighting tool?

Ans. Baron Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand von Steuben (1730–1794).

Born at Magdeburg, Prussia, he rose to the rank of captain in the Prussian Army during the Seven Years' War (1756–1763). Armed with a letter of introduction to General George Washington from Benjamin Franklin who, at the time, was a United States agent in France, von Steuben arrived in America in 1777.



United States 1930
(Scott 689)

After being appointed inspector general of the colonial army by Congress in May 1778, he used Prussian military methods to teach the men the essentials of military tactics, drills and disciplines. He also established standards for camp sanitation. His bayonet training and effective bayonet charges were crucial in winning a number of engagements with the British.



Q4. Do you collect dead countries?. Well, as of October 2010 there is another one. Can you identify it?

Ans. Netherlands Antilles

Consisting of several islands in the West Indies, the Netherlands Antilles has been an integral part of the Netherlands, since 1954, although the title Netherlands Antilles has been used on stamps since 1949. Originally consisting of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten, Aruba separated from the Netherlands Antilles in 1986.

On October 10, 2010 the remaining islands split into three groups each with its own name and stamps — Curacao, Sint Maarten and Caribish Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius). The first stamps issued by these entities are shown on the right.



[Continued on page 3]