



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 6 Number 5 May/June 2013

Calendar of Events

May 23 - U.S. Special Handling – The Stamps and the Service

By Robert G. Rufe



1928 (Scott QE4a)

The presentation will cover both the stamps and the service they were used for. His exhibit of these stamps and postal history won the Grand Award at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exposition last month.

June 27 - You Are Invited to Attend the

Westfield Stamp Club's Stamp University

A Fun night of 'hands-on work with stamps and covers

- You will be in a class with 5 others at your very own class table
- there will be hundreds of stamps and covers on your table
- and your class will be competing for great prizes as you seek the answers to the STAMP SAT's — all right on your class' table.
- Class with highest score will win the WSC SU Grand Prize.

You have never seen anything like this before. Do not miss our last meeting for the season — you won't stop laughing all summer!

A Philatelic Quiz

Q1. What president of the United States ran a distillery?

Q2. Who was the first member of the United States House of Representatives to join the military after the United States entered World War II?

Q3. What United States postage stamp depicts a map of the world based on Alphonse J. van der Grinten's Projection?

Q4. What two countries have issued stamps claiming sovereignty over the area known as *Gran Chaco*?

Q5. What country issued the first perforated stamp?

Upcoming Shows

ROPEX/NTSS 2013: 2 WSP Shows in 1!

A joint show by

The Rochester Philatelic Association

&

The American Topical Association

May 17-19 Hours: 11-6, 10-5, 10-3

Main Street Armory

900 East Main Street, Rochester NY

130 Frames of Exhibits for Each Association

Two Grand Awards - Each of which will qualify for the Champion of Champions competition at APS Stampshow, Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 8-11

50 Dealers, Seminars, Youth Area

May 17 - First Day Ceremony for "A Flag for All Seasons" forever stamps in a double-sided pane of 20 (convertible booklet format)

www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html

www.americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2013.shtml

NOJEX 2013 - A WSP Show

Presented by

North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs

May 24-26: 10-6, 10-6, 10-3

Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel,
2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, NJ

200 frames of exhibits

40 Dealers, Regency-Superior Auction

Hosting annual conventions:

Collectors Club of New York

New Jersey Postal History Society

Postal History Society

www.nojex.org

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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 visit
our website

www.westfieldstampclub.org

or call

Nick Lombardi
908-233-3045

Suicide Boulevard

By Frederick C. Skvara

At the April meeting of the Westfield Stamp Club, I purchased a run of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* from 1934. In the April 28th issue there was an article by Don Houseworth with the above title. Presented here is some material abstracted from that article and some additional information.

Sun Yat-sen (1866–1925) was a leading figure in the Chinese Revolution of 1911 and a national hero of China. After he emigrated to Hawaii at the age of thirteen, he converted to Christianity. In 1885 he traveled to Hong Kong where he studied medicine, later practicing in Macao.

But his real interest was in politics, not medicine, and he worked for reforms in China and the end of the Manchu Dynasty which, mainly through his efforts, fell in 1911. Although abroad at the time, he returned a national hero, a founder of the Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party) and became the first president of the China Republic. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the unification of China under the nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek.

He died at the age of 58 on March 12, 1925, at the Peking Union Medical College Hospital in Beijing, China. The Medical College had been founded by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1921. The cause of death was liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma), probably secondary to viral hepatitis B infection which was endemic in China.

His body was originally placed in a Buddhist shrine outside of Beijing, but was moved on June 1, 1929, to a new mausoleum that had been constructed in Nanjing. Nanjing had been chosen as the Chinese capital by the Kuomintang in 1928 and served as the capital until 1937 and again from 1946 to 1949. The site of the mausoleum is at the foot of the Purple Mountain, so-called because of the frequent purple and golden clouds that cover the peaks of the mountain at dusk and dawn. Unfortunately, the construction of a broad boulevard leading to the mausoleum violated an ancient cemetery. In the Orient ancestor worship, at least at that time, was very strong and there were loud and prolonged protests.

“Many descendants of Chinese buried in that cemetery took their own lives upon the boulevard as a gesture of devotion to a principle and a rebuke to those powerful ones who had forgotten the sacredness of death. The highway has since earned the name *Suicide Boulevard*”.



Dr. Sun Yat-sen.
China 1934 (Scott 301)



Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum,
Nanking, China 1929 (Scott 286)



Members in the News

K. David Steidley

Dave Steidley's exhibit: "The 1902 Series One Cent Franklin" won a Gold medal at ARIPEX that was held April 19–21, 2013 in Mesa, Arizona.

Vending/Affixing Machine Coils.

By K. David Steidley

I took advantage of some extra hours to read Steven R. Belasco's book *Guide to United States Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations 1907-1927* published by the United States Stamp Society. Many of you will remember his original series of articles in *The United States Specialist* in the 1990's. I was pleased that these have been updated and expanded into this colorful book. He is now sadly deceased. If you read this book, you may want to have at hand either a hard copy or Internet version of the Spink Shreve Galleries auction catalog of October 2009 that has approximately 225 related lots.

One of the best features of this book are the numerous cover censuses and in conjunction with these the author has published a Rarity Scale. While I do not know if this scale is original with him, it is a quite brilliant and well-worded tool. I will be using it myself in the future. Here it is:

Rating	Estimated Number of Examples
Extremely Rare	1-2
Very Rare	3-5
Rare	6-10
Very Scarce	11-20
Scarce	21-50
Uncommon	51-100
Common	101-500
Very Common	More than 500

With Belasco's book I set out to generate a want list for my #300 Franklin Usage exhibit. Since I show only covers and cards there, most items are eliminated. Known commercially on cover for #300 are only two types: Shermack Mailing Machine, type III (uncommon) and U.S. Automatic Vending, type Ia (rare). The former is commonly found with Detroit or Chicago cancels. The later is known commercially on a few postcards from N.Y.C. and Passaic, N.J. The value of Belasco's book was evident when I turned to a 2009 *Scott's U.S. Specialized* for prices and found, to my amazement, additional listings--- Brinkerhoff Type II on cover at \$800 and Shermack Type II on cover at \$2,000. Rechecking Belasco, the Brinkerhoff II is a single philatelic usage in 1930 and the Shermack II type is only known on philatelic covers and is even "very rare" at that. I can sleep well without either of these.

This returned me to my original short list of the Shermack Type III and the U.S. Automatic Ia (vertical coil) shown here that are priced at \$140 and \$2,100, respectively. There is also a horizontal U.S. Automatic coil shown in Scott's with a dash for price but again a recheck with Belasco found a comment that these are "not known used on cover". The Shermack price seems high as I have a few nice pieces acquired at rather less than this. The U.S. Automatic price seems realistic as one sold for \$2,200 in the April 2006 Shreve Galleries Sale 77.

While reading this book, my attention was focused on the #300, but I could not help imagine what others might have to do to create and fulfill their own want lists. It seems a very long and expensive haul for most other specialists.

Good luck and good hunting to all.



[Ed: This book is still available from the United States Stamp Society (\$44 members; \$55 nonmembers postpaid). Contact USSS Executive Secretary, PO box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634]



Answers – March/April Philatelic Quiz

Q1. *Who is the only president of the United States to hold a doctorate degree?*

Ans. **Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th president of the United States (1913-21)**

Born in Staunton, Virginia, he spent his early years in Georgia and South Carolina. In 1875 he entered Princeton University graduating four years later. After studying law at the University of Virginia and an unsuccessful law practice in Atlanta, Georgia, he entered Johns Hopkins University. There he pursued advanced studies in government and history and received a PhD in 1886. His doctoral dissertation was titled "Congressional Government".



1938 (Scott 832)

Q2. *Why did Nicaragua overprint some early 20th century stamps with the letter "B"?*

Ans. **Stamps could only be sold in Zelaya province.**

Nicaragua had two monetary systems, with currencies of different values, in use between 1904 and 1912 — a system of paper money in the western half of the country and a silver-based system in the eastern half, the province of Zelaya. Speculators used the discrepancy between the values of the two currencies to profit by buying stamps in one part of the country and selling them in the other part. To prevent this the government of Nicaragua overprinted stamps for use in Zelaya with the letter "B". These were the only stamps sold in Zelaya and the only ones that could be used on mail. The letter "B" stands for Bluefields, the provincial capital of Zelaya. The letter "B" was often accompanied by the text *Dpto Zelaya* or *Costa Atlantica*. In 1912 Nicaragua went on the gold currency standard and the special stamps for Zelaya were discontinued.



Nicaragua 1907
(Scott 1L54)

Q3. *What is a Sanitary Fair?*

Ans. **A fair or bazaar held by the United States during the American Civil War.**

One of the most successful ideas to raise monies for the United States Sanitary Commission 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. *The South Orkneys are now considered a part of what stamp-issuing entity?*

Ans. **British Antarctic Territory**

The South Orkney Islands are located in the South Atlantic Ocean about 900 miles northeast of the Antarctic Peninsula and are composed of four main islands — Coronation Island, Laurie Island, Powell Island and Signy Island. Discovered in 1821 by sealers, they were named after the Orkney Islands in Scotland by James Weddell in 1823. William Speirs Bruce established a meteorological station on Laurie Island in 1903 that was sold to the Argentinian Government in 1904. That base has been continuously staffed since then and was the reason for Argentina's claim to the islands in 1925.

But the United Kingdom had also claimed the islands along with a number of other territories in the region in 1908 and that were administered as dependencies of the Falkland Islands. In 1947 the British established a research station on Signy Island. In March 1962 the South Orkney Islands along with the South Shetland Islands and Graham Land became the new separate colony of British Antarctic Territory.



Upland Goose. South Orkneys Dependency of Falkland Islands 1944 (Scott 4L5)



Omond House, Laurie Island, South Orkney Islands. British Antarctic Territory 2002 (Scott 321)

Q5. *What nation used a stylized chrysanthemum in the designs of many of its stamps prior to 1947?*

Ans. **Japan**

The Imperial Seal of Japan, the Chrysanthemum Seal is a yellow or orange chrysanthemum with two sets of sixteen petals. A representation of it can be seen on almost every Japanese postage stamp issued between 1872 (Scott 9) and 1947 (Scott 393).

