



The Westfield Philatelist

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

Volume 7 Number 3 January/February 2014

Calendar of Events

January 23, 2014 - Show & Tell & Ask Night

This is always a fun evening and we'll again use the computer projector to ensure that everyone gets to see the variety of material presented by our members.

February 27, 2014 - Campione d'Italia - A Geographic Anomaly

By Bruce Marsden

The philatelic story of an Italian enclave on Lake Lugano surrounded by Switzerland and cut off from Italy during World War II.

A Philatelic Quiz

Q1. Who was Otto Lilienthal and why were Orville & Wilbur Wright interested in his work?

Q2. The following inventors have all been honored on United States Postage stamps. Can you match them with their inventions?

1. Edwin Armstrong	—	A. Patented the reaping machine
2. Philo T. Farnsworth	—	B. Received patent for sewing machine
3. Cyrus Hall McCormick	—	C. Regenerative circuits in radio
4. Benjamin Franklin	—	D. Experiments in TV
5. Elias Howe	—	E. Invented bifocals

Q3. Although Julius Sterling Morton has not appeared on a United States Postage stamp, an event that he popularized has been commemorated on a stamp?

Q4. Other than being portrayed on two United States postage stamps, what other connection does George Washington Carver have to postage stamps?

Q5. Who was Charles Dana Gibson and what creation of his appeared on a United States postage stamp?

The 2014 Westfield Stamp Show

(Our 52nd Annual Show)

Will be held

March 1, 2014
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Theme

The 350th Anniversary of the State of New Jersey



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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

From The Editor's Desk

By Frederick C. Skvara

When I was the Director of Chapters for the American Topical Association, I had the pleasure of reviewing the newsletters of the ATA chapters and reporting on the clubs' activities in my column "Chapter Chatter" that appeared in the ATA bimonthly journal of thematic philately, *Topical Time*. Reviewing those newsletters made me realize that the Westfield Stamp Club is almost unique in that we have two regularly published club newsletters.

Timely information on our meetings and activities, introduction of new members, the monthly auction listings and other announcements are provided by Tom Jacks, the club secretary, in his monthly emails (and mailings to those members without email).

The Westfield Philatelist, as a bimonthly publication, can not provide that information in as timely a manner. What it does and can provide is a place for philatelic articles from our members and background information about the activities of the club's members. The newsletter is also the spot to share with the membership photographs of our annual stamp show and the Palmars.

Beginning with this issue I will no longer be attaching the meeting notice or auction listing with *The Westfield Philatelist*. Those items will be sent every month directly from our secretary.

Instead, *The Westfield Philatelist* will be the place to share your philatelic interests through articles, short notes, interesting items you have found at a recent stamp show, exhibits you are working on or awards that you may have won. Send me the information electronically or on paper and I will format it for publication. If you have questions please feel free to contact me by email, telephone or regular mail. This month's meeting is "Show & Tell & Ask", but every issue of our newsletter could be a "Show & Tell & Ask" where you can reach the entire membership and not just those who are able to make our meetings. So think about something that you would like to share and put "your fingers to the keyboard or your pen to paper" and send it to me.

Finally, as some of you are aware, I am a worldwide stamp collector. That is how I began collecting stamps, and I suspect how many of you also began your stamp collecting journey. And while I now have a number of specific areas that I concentrate on, I still collect issues that interest me from anywhere in the world. To celebrate the joy of worldwide collecting, I am introducing a new regular column in this issue: "Collecting the World". In it I will present one or more subjects or topics that I have found of interest. They will include stamps from any country or from any time period. The idea for this column came from the excellent column "Worldwide in a Nutshell" written by Bob Lamb that appears in every issue of *The American Philatelist*.



Philip Carteret landing at Elizabethtown in August 1665. Notice the hoe over his right shoulder. He's ready to garden in the Garden State

Welcome to Dr. Peebles and The Dr. Peebles Institute of Health

By Edward J.J. Grabowski

Members of the Westfield and Hamilton Stamp Clubs know of my fascination with Professor A. Victor Segno, his American Institute of Mentalism and Segno Success Club, and the history of his fraudulent activities in separating the average person from his hard-earned money as reflected in the worldwide collection of Segno covers that I have accumulated over the past ten years. In fact, this collecting area is now being transmogrified into a collection that I am calling 'Philately & International Mail Order Fraud'. So as not to be encumbered with having to collect material from ordinary, everyday fraud schemes, I have put the following conditions on what this collection will contain: the principal perpetrator(s) should have come up with a clever scheme to defraud the worldwide public; they should have created a seemingly erudite company in the United States from which they operated; they should have used the international mails and international media (newspapers and local journals) to advertise their wares; there should be a strong philatelic record of their international success; and they should have been challenged by the U. S. Post Office and other public-minded organizations for their fraudulent schemes. Professor Segno nicely qualifies on all accounts as the first entry into my collection.

Readers of *The Westfield Philatelist* and members of the Westfield Stamp Club may remember that I recently introduced you to E. Virgil Neal and Charles S. Clark, whose New York Institute of Science sold booklets on a home-study course in hypnotism and magnetism.¹ All sorts of outrageous claims were made for those putting their ideas into practice, and they were put out of business for mail order fraud by the Post Office and the American Medical Association in 1914. They have nicely qualified as the second entry into my collection. In April and June of 2014 I will tell the members of the Hamilton and then Westfield Stamp Clubs about Elvard L. Moses and his Oxypathor Company, and hopefully convince everyone that he is the third entry into my collection. There is even a rumor about that I am going to hook up Presidents Jeff Boyarsky and Nick Lombardi to a genuine Oxypathor unit during my talks.

At BALPEX this year I came across the cover shown in **Figure 1** at the table of Christopher/

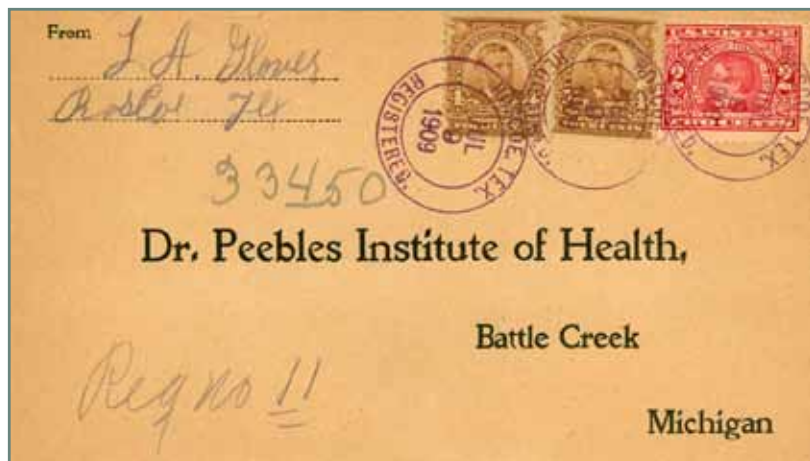


Figure 1

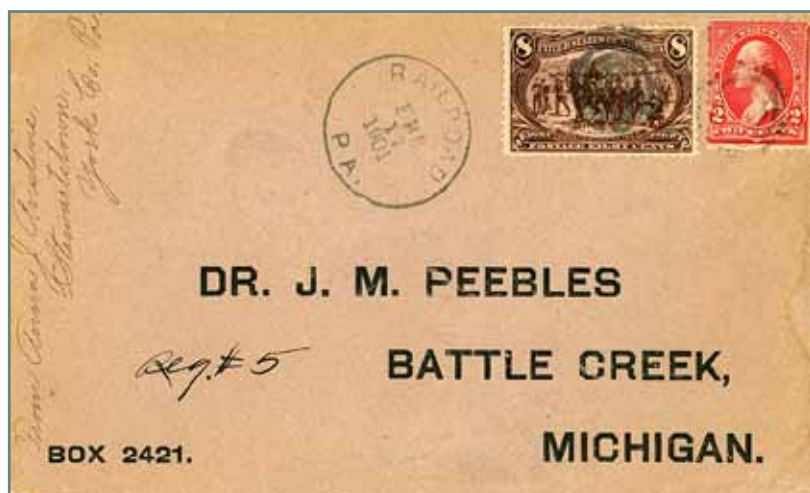


Figure 2

Richard Covers of North Carolina. It is addressed to The Dr. Peebles Institute of Health, and beautifully franked at the 10c registered rate with Grant and Seward issues of the early 1900's. It was posted from the little town of Roscoe, Texas on July 9, 1909 to the Institute in Battle Creek. This cover just had the right feel as a possible member of my new collection, with Dr. Peebles as the new fraudster. A quick web search showed that Dr. James W. Peebles and his associates fostered a scheme by which potential clients were encouraged to write to the Institute describing their medical symptoms in detail, and for a mere \$5 the Institute would have its experts formulate a medicine that would cure all of the client's ills. A second cover to Peebles quickly emerged on eBay and is shown in **Figure 2**. It was posted from Railroad, PA, during February 1901, a town that has less than three hundred people even today. It is nicely franked at 10c with an 8c Trans-Mississippi issue and a 2c Washington issue. Further searching of the web brought forward the ad shown in **Figure 3**, clearly showing that Dr. Peebles was becoming qualified as one of my fraudsters. Herein he offers his pamphlet

1902 HOME AND FLOWERS 29

HEALTH RESTORED

The entire country is astonished at the wonderful cures perfected through the method originated by Dr. J. M. Peebles, the Grand Old Man of Battle Creek, Mich. This science is a **subtle force of nature**, combined with **magnetic medicines**, and called by the eminent doctor,

PSYCHIC SCIENCE

It has been termed the **greatest pain reliever known**. In a perfectly natural manner it **builds up the system and restores health**. It makes no difference how serious or hopeless the case may seem, there is **positive hope** in this grand science. It has **restored the deaf, blind and lame**, cured the **paralytic**, and those suffering from **Bright's Disease, Consumption, Stomach Trouble, Catarrh, Nervous Debility, Neuralgia, Heart Disease, Rheumatism, Female Troubles**, as well as men and women addicted to the **liquor, morphine and other vile habits**.

Geo. H. Weeks, of Cleveland, Ohio, sends heartfelt thanks for restoration to health after suffering from nervous prostration and insomnia for years; he says he now enjoys excellent health and restful sleep every night. **Mrs. J. A. Rust, of Itasca, Minn.**, cured of uric acid poisoning in two month's treatment, writes: "I am better than in years, and each day brings new health and strength. I will refer all ailing ones to you." **Mary A. Bari, Crawford, Mich.**, suffering from pronounced female difficulties and kidney disease, says: "I took your treatment three months and it has been a success in my case. I am indeed grateful to you for my recovery." **C. E. Davis, Woodman, N. H.**, who suffered all the miseries of a dyspeptic, writes that as the result of Dr. Peebles' treatment, he had not missed a meal since last March. **D. W. Bridgman, of Del Norte, Colo.**, writing Sept. 30, after a three month's course, "When I began treatment with Dr. Peebles' Institute of Health I was a cripple, unable to walk but little with cane. Now I am able to walk with ease. Some days ten or fifteen miles. My general health is excellent. I can hardly find words to express my gratitude as previously I had tried everything I could hear of and got no relief." **Mrs. Isaac Varney, Dover, N. H.**, a sufferer of spinal trouble and nerve exhaustion, writes she would not go back to the state of health she was in before taking this treatment for all the world. **Solomon Fried of Vanderbilt, California**, cured of neuralgia and catarrh, says: "I am well and a thousand times obliged to you."

"A Message of Hope"

written by Dr. J. M. Peebles, in a plain and concise manner, tells you exactly how and where you can gain perfect health; in fact, it gives you the key to the grandest knowledge known to man. Remember this book costs you nothing, and it reveals wonderful secrets and makes the impossibilities of yesterday realities of today.

ABSOLUTELY FREE Send your name and address and leading symptoms to Dr. J. M. Peebles and his associates and you will receive full diagnosis without any cost whatever, as well as this grand book, which is beautifully illustrated, rich in all its details, containing matter which will be a revelation to you. It is a token which any one may be proud of. Write today and receive "A Message of Hope" and diagnosis of your case absolutely free. Address

DR. PEEBLES' INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
Department 57, BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

Figure 3

entitled *A Message of Hope* with promises to cure a myriad of diseases through a science which is a subtle force of nature combined with magnetic medicines.

But, I have limited my collection to those who were successful at international mail order fraud. Would Dr. Peebles continue to qualify? As if by magic, an email announcement of a Spink Singapore sale arrived, featuring material from Singapore, Burma, etc. A quick perusal of the catalog revealed the cover shown in Figure 4. It was posted in the small village of Nyaunglebin, Burma, just northeast of Rangoon on May 18, 1901 to, none other than, Dr. J. W. Peebles, MD. It arrived in Battle Creek on June 22nd. Burma used Indian stamps at this time, and this is a nice item of Burmese postal history originating in a small village. It also provides Dr. Peebles with the international aura necessary for entry into my collection. I am happy to report that my bid was successful and I now have this cover.

Further work on the web has indicated that Dr. Peebles and his co-conspirators were convicted in the United States District Court of Detroit, MI in late 1902 for violating US postal laws. Thus, all of the elements for entry into my collection of international mail order fraud seem to be present, so I am welcoming Dr. Peebles, his associates and the Dr. Peebles Institute of Health to the fold. Additionally, I have more recently found Peebles-related covers from Canada and the Philippines for this part of the collection. Would you believe that he had an associate named Dr. W. Thompson Bobo? Peebles and Bobo, I am not making this stuff up!

References

1. *The Westfield Philatelist*, Vol 7, No 1, September/October 2013.



Figure 4

Collecting the World

Greenland: Greenlandic Ships

Other than Australia, Greenland is the largest island in the world and lies mainly within the Arctic Circle in the northern Atlantic Ocean. As only 16% of the island is ice-free (southern and western coastlines), the majority of its population (58,400 in 2012) live in communities scattered along its coastlines. Before the advent of air travel, ships were used to link these coastal communities to one another and to Denmark and thus have played a major role in Greenland's transportation system.

On June 24, 2002 Post Greenland issued a set of four stamps depicting ships and boats connected with Greenland. These stamps were designed by Martin Mörck, a Norwegian artist and engraver and printed using a combination of recess printing and lithography and perforated 13. Mörck has produced over 600 engravings for postage stamps, mainly for the Nordic countries, but also for Canada, France and Monaco. The stamps were issued in a booklet containing two panes of four stamps each with each stamp printed twice in a setenant arrangement [Scott 397-400]. Additional sets of four stamps in this series were issued in 2003 (Scott 416-419), 2004 (Scott 434-437) and 2005 (Scott 452-455).

Nordlyset (Northern Light)

The barque *Nordlyset* is shown on the 2-krone stamp. It was built at the Elsinore Wooden Ship Yard in Elsinore, Denmark in 1851 for the Royal Greenland Trading Department to carry out trade with



Greenland. It made its first trip to Greenland in 1853 and until it was retired in 1926, it had made over 100 trips across the Atlantic Ocean between Greenland and Denmark. Remember, Greenland is a self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark.

Hvidbjørnen (White Bear)

The 4-krone stamp depicts *Hvidbjørnen*, a three-masted barque acquired by the same company in 1888, but also outfitted with a steam engine and commanded by naval officers hired by the company. It made only 21 voyages to Greenland as it was lost in 1895 when it sank after being crushed by a violent reaction of field ice off Nunarsuit Island, Greenland. The ship had been on its way to Qaqortoq, a town in southern Greenland. The crew and passengers made it safely to land and were rescued three weeks later.



Stærkodder (Strong Otter)

Communications between the coastal communities and larger towns of Greenland was carried out by smaller sailing sloops, such as *Stærkodder* depicted on the 6-krone stamp. Stationed at Qaqortoq it ran aground in October 1805 on its way to Paamiut, a town in southwestern Greenland. After repairs it resumed its duties until October 1846 when it was lost returning from Ritenbenk to Nugssuaq, two towns on Greenland's west coast.



Haabet (Hope)

The 16-krone stamp shows *Haabet*, a ship used by a Norwegian trading company based in Bergen, Norway, for trading and missionary activity in Greenland. On May 12, 1721 it sailed from Bergen, sighting Cape Farewell at the southern point of Greenland on June 4. But it encountered a large amount of field ice and didn't reach the port of Nuup Kangerlua until July 3. One of the persons on board was Hans Egede (1686-1758), a Danish-Norwegian Lutheran missionary and his family, who would establish a colony on Kangeq Island off the western coast of Greenland which he christened Island of Hope. In 1728 the colony was moved to the mainland and eventually became Nuuk, Greenland's capital.



Sweden: Uppsala University

Most medieval universities had been chartered through a papal bull (edict) and Uppsala's bull was issued by Pope Sixtus IV in 1477 giving the university the right to establish the four traditional faculties of theology, law (Canon and Roman law), medicine and philosophy.



Jöns Jakob Berzelius (1779–1848), Swedish chemist who obtained degrees in chemistry and medicine from Uppsala. He invented the use of Latin characters for chemical symbols, developed the atomic weight table and proposed the present method of writing molecular formulae. Sweden 1979 (*Scott 1293*)



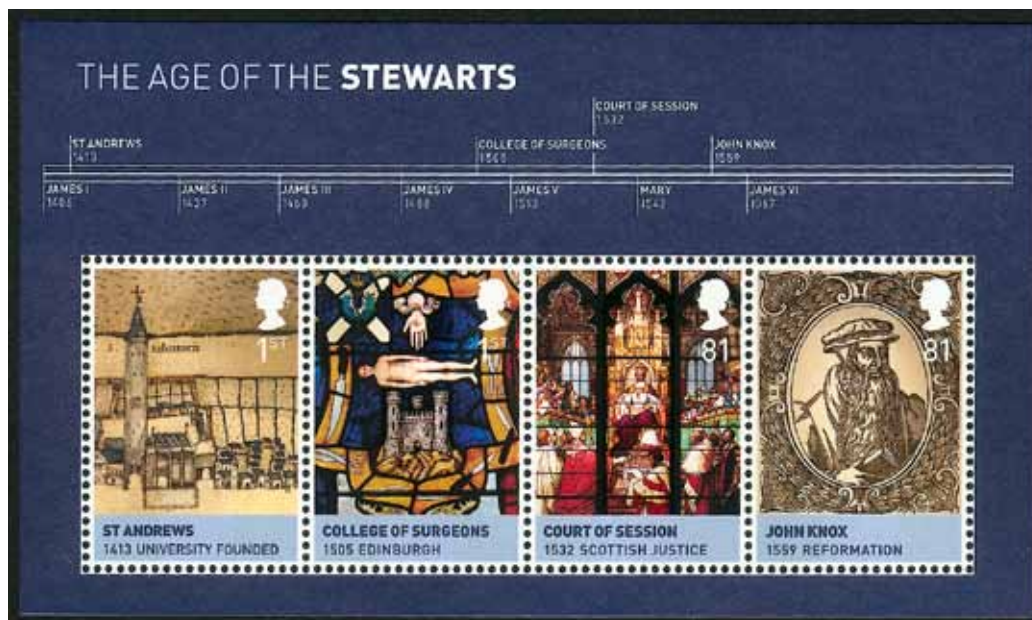
500th anniversary of Uppsala University. The stamp shows the Museum Gustavianum, the oldest preserved building at the university built between 1622-1625. Under the cupola is the *theatrum anatomicum* added by Olaus Rudbeck, a professor of medicine and architect. The building is named after King Gustavus Adolphus (1594–1632) who reigned from 1611–1632). Sweden 1977 (*Scott 1208*)



Carolus Linnaeus (Carl von Linné) (1707–1778), studied medicine at the Universities of Lund and Uppsala, but obtained his degree in medicine at Harderwijk University in the Netherlands. Stamp on the left shows Linnaeus with *Enneandria* (ninth class of Linnaean system of plants which includes plants having hermaphrodite flowers with nine stamens) while the one on the right depicts *Linnaea borealis*. Sweden 2007 (*Scott 2549–2550*)



Great Britain: The Age of the Stuarts



From left: St. Andrews University (c. 1580); Stained glass window at Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh (1897 by Moxon & Carfrae; Great South Window at Parliament House, Edinburgh (1868); John Knox, 1505–1572 (1580) [Teaching was begun at St. Andrews in 1410 obtaining a formal charter in 1413. The Barber Surgeons of Edinburgh were incorporated as a Craft Guild in 1505 and received a Royal Charter in 1506.] Great Britain 2010 (*Scott 2774*)