



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

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Westfield Stamp Club Holiday Party 2014

as reported by Dr. Marion Rollings

The annual Westfield Stamp Club Traditional Holiday Party was held December 18. Twenty-four members and four member's wives joined the festivities. Members and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and a dessert table filled with delectables brought by members. A large donation auction was held and a good time was had by all. Bruce Marsden was the lucky winner of the 50/50. Mrs. Althea Scheller, wife of the late Warren Scheller, one of WSC's founders and member #1, was in attendance. President Nick Lombardi announced the naming of "The Warren Scheller Most Popular Award" for the exhibit at the annual Westfield Stamp Club Show and Exhibition which receives the most votes from the public. Thanks to everyone who made the Holiday Party possible.



Upcoming Meetings

January 22 - Collecting U.S. Rotary Press Gutters

By Rob Loeffler

These gutters occur as a result of misplaced perforations and improper cutting of the panes of stamps.

February 26 - Canal Zone

By Elliot Coleman

March 7
Westfield Stamp Club Show 2015

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The Westfield Stamp Club

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K. David Steidley

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

**A. Warren Scheller (1926–2014)
Westfield Stamp Club Member No. 1**

I was sad to hear of Warren's passing in October of this year. Although I am a relatively new member of our club, I had the chance to get to know him and his lovely wife Althea at previous holiday parties and shows, and then on our trip to APS last year. At APS, I had great fun with Warren in the Circuits department. We both made a beeline for the Circuits—he being much better prepared than I was with his stamp "want list" while I was "winging it" looking through the topicals. At club meetings I had the opportunity to chat with Warren about the history of our club and our collecting interests. I am glad I had the opportunity to tell Warren how much WSC means to me and how grateful I am to him and the others who were instrumental in its forming. I will miss him at our shows and on our next field trip. In his honor, the WSC leadership and Board of Governors have renamed the club's Most Popular Exhibit award "The Warren Scheller Most Popular Award." Awarded every year at the annual Westfield Stamp Club Show and Exhibition for the exhibit that receives the most votes from the public, this is a most fitting tribute since it was one of Warren's favorite.



Dr. Marion Rollings



Oxypathor-03 (Westfield Stamp Club Meeting -November 20, 2014)

as reported by Edward J.J. Grabowski

To All: I thought that you might like to have copies of last Thursday's Oxypathor trial. Possibly these might make *The Westfield Philatelist* for the benefit of those who did not attend the meeting.

Nick Lombardi undergoes a cranial Oxypathor treatment while Drs. Skvara and Rollins carefully monitor his physical and emotional well being during the course of Ed Grabowski's lecture on November 20th. Nick is holding the most powerful and versatile of the Oxypathor models in his left hand. The Oxypathor was a 1900's blood oxygenating device which was reputed to cure just about every known disease. Skvara and Rollins reported Nick to be in excellent health after the 45 minute treatment.



A UV Flashlight

as reported by K. David Steidley

The vicissitudes of life recently brought me to a drugstore in the Phoenix, Arizona, area where I discovered a display of the "Scorpion Master", an ultraviolet flashlight of about four-inch length. It uses nine LED-based emitters and requires three AAA batteries. Given that the device sold for only \$15 and was highly portable, I impulsively purchased one for philatelic pursuits.

The device has a peak wavelength of 390 nanometers (nm). As a brief review, what philatelists call long wavelength is ultraviolet A from approximately 315 to 400 nm and what we call short wavelength is ultraviolet C that has a nominal range of 100 to 280 nm. While the device has a reasonably large and intense beam, it must still be used in a semi-darkened environment to detect tagged stamps. Unfortunately, U.S. stamps require short wavelengths for examination. Therefore, while this device might have use on some foreign stamps, it has extremely limited use for the U.S. specialist.



If you are still undeterred, devices essentially identical to this may be purchased on the Internet (search term: uv flashlight) for as little as seven dollars plus shipping. Its utility in tracking scorpions is beyond the expertise and nerve of this correspondent. For those with a further interest in luminescent stamps, I recommend *Stamps that Glow* by Wayne Youngblood, *Linn's Stamp News*, 1990.

Members in the News

Just south of Newfoundland, Canada in the Atlantic Ocean are the two small islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, an overseas collectivity of France. Under the auspices of the Inter-American Federation of Philately, the St. Pierre and Miquelon Expo 2014 was held from September 24 to 28.

Edward J.J. Grabowski was awarded a Vermeil for “The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: St. Pierre & Miquelon and French Guiana”.

K. David Steidley was awarded a Vermeil in the single-frame category for “An American in Paris: Mail Handling by the American Express Co. in Paris”.



✿ A Philatelic Quiz ✿

- Q1. What is the oldest private, patriotic organization in the United States?
- Q2. What is the first chemical element to be named after a country?
- Q3. What method did the Incas of early Peru use to transmit information?
- Q4. What is the modern name of the Cannibal Islands?
- Q5. Francis Vigo has been portrayed on a United States postal item. Why?



The \$2 Circus Souvenir Sheet from the United States Postal Service

As reported in *Linn's Stamps News* last fall, the USPS issued a \$2 Circus souvenir sheet of three self-adhesive stamps – a \$1 clown stamp (a reproduction of a Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey poster) and two identical 50¢ stamps showing a circus wagon. The circus wagon stamps reuse the design of the 5¢ (05) stamp issued in 1990 (Scott 2452), but with the obvious change in value. The \$1 clown stamp is similar to the clown stamp in the pane of 16 stamps issued May 5, 2014 – the Vintage Circus Poster set. [Note the difference below]

The souvenir sheet with die cuts around the individual stamps is included with the stamps in the *2014 Stamp Yearbook* that sells for \$64.95 and that is the only way the mint souvenir sheet is being made available. A press sheet was also available, but I think I read that it is now sold out. The individual stamps in the press sheet do not have die cuts, but the edges of the sheet itself will have die cuts.



\$2 Circus souvenir sheet included in the 2014 Stamp Yearbook with die cuts around the individual stamps.



Clown stamp from the Vintage Circus Poster pane of sixteen. (Scott 4898) issued May 5, 2014



Circus Wagon coil stamp (Scott 2452) issued August 31, 1990. [dull gum]

❖ Answers – September/December Philatelic Quiz ❖

Q1. What was the first United States stamp that contained a secret mark?

Ans. **\$1 Dr. Bernard Revel (Scott 2193)**

On September 23, 1986, the USPS issued the 36th stamp in the Great Americans series, a \$1 stamp showing Dr. Bernard Revel (1885–1940), an Orthodox rabbi and scholar, who was president of Yeshiva University in New York City from 1915 until his death. The stamp also commemorates the 100th anniversary of Yeshiva University which began as the Yeshiva City Chaim in New York City in 1886.

Just to the right of Dr. Revel’s mouth, hidden in his beard is the hexagonal Star of David, sometimes called the Seal of Solomon.



Q2. What country issued the first Franchise stamps?

Ans. **Switzerland**

Franchise stamps are government-issued stamps issued to charitable or national institutions that allowed mail from those entities bearing these stamps to pass through the mails without postage stamps. In 1871 Swiss Post issued a label that is considered the first franchise stamp. It was for use by French soldiers who were interned in Switzerland following the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–1871. The stamps were requested by the International Red Cross.

Beginning in 1911 they overprinted the 1910 postage due stamps with numbers representing the specific institution for which the stamp was issued. In 1935 they issued the “Servers of Mankind” series showing a Protestant, a Catholic and Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. The series was issued with and without overprinted numbers (shown here are the stamps without the numbers).



“Servers of Mankind”. Switzerland 1935 (Scott 13a-15a)



Q3. What was the first train to carry mail in the United States (the locomotive of that train is shown on a United States stamp)?

Ans. **Best Friend of Charleston (Scott 2363)**

Built by the West Point Foundry in New York in 1830, it was the first locomotive engine to be built entirely in the United States and the first to carry the United States mail. Its first trip occurred on Christmas Day in 1830 on the rail line of the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company, a company chartered by the South Carolina legislature to explore connecting Charleston to inland markets by rail. It became the first steam locomotive in the United States to establish regularly scheduled passenger service.

On October 1, 1987, the USPS issued a set of five 22¢ booklet stamps depicting historic locomotives, one of which shows the *Best Friend of Charleston*.



Q4. Where does the name Venezuela come from?

Ans. **“Little Venice”**

When early explorers saw native houses built on stilts over shallow Lake Maracaibo, it reminded them of Venice, Italy, and they named the area Venezuela which means “Little Venice”.



Map of Venezuela.
Venezuela 1896 (Scott 140)



Q5. What is the only United States stamp to show a dead turkey?

Ans. **Freedom from Want (Scott 2840a)**

The first stamp in the 1994 Norman Rockwell souvenir sheet, representing the painting *Freedom from Want*, depicts a roast turkey being served at a family gathering, probably Thanksgiving.

In 1943 Norman Rockwell (1894–1978) painted four oil paintings – *Freedom of Speech*, *Freedom of Worship*, *Freedom from Want* and *Freedom from Fear* – based on the four essential human rights identified by Franklin D. Roosevelt in his 1941 State of the Union address. The paintings were reproduced by *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1943.



Collecting the World

Native New Zealand Seaweeds 2014



Hormosira banksii. (Scott 2501)



Landsburgia quercifolia. (Scott 2502)



Cauferpa brownii. (Scott 2503)



Marginariella boryana. (Scott 2504)



Pterocladia lucida. (Scott 2505)

The islands of New Zealand lie between the Tasman Sea to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east and over 900 species of seaweeds have been recognized around their coasts. Seaweeds are photosynthetic marine macroalgae and come in three major groups – green, brown and red algae. In marine ecosystems they are vital to food chains, provide shelter and create habitats for invertebrates and vertebrates. They can be found in shallow intertidal areas as well as in deeper waters along as there is sufficient sunlight to support their growth. Using the energy of sunlight they make organic molecules that then become key elements in marine food chains. They range in size from microscopic to large kelp that may reach 100 feet in length.

Unlike land plants, seaweeds have no roots, flowers or fruits. They reproduce by spores and are anchored to rocks, wood, shells, etc. by rhizoids (slender rootlike filaments).

In some parts of the world they are an important part of the diet of humans as they contain a number of polysaccharides that are not only used in food products, but in toothpaste, hand creams, dental impressions and paint.



The set of five stamps and the souvenir sheet were issued on February 5, 2014, and designed by 2Di4Design in Wellington, New Zealand.

I obtained much of the information shown above from a beautifully designed New Zealand presentation pack. Most of the writeup in that pack was done by Wendy Nelson, a phycologist (one who studies algae) who is a Professor in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland and who recently published the book *New Zealand Seaweeds – an Illustrated Guide*.

I thoroughly enjoyed this set of stamps showing seaweeds, an uncommon topic on stamps.