



# The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 9 Number 1 September/October 2015

## Westfield Stamp Club Member finds 'Upright Jenny' pane



Besides being the editor and publisher of *The Westfield Philatelist*, I am also the editor and publisher of two American Topical Association study unit journals — *Scalpel & Tongs* and *Americana Philatelic News*. *Scalpel & Tongs* is the journal of the Medical Subjects Unit and is published quarterly on 8½ x 11 inch 24 lb. paper and mailed in a 9 x12 envelope (weighing 2.8 ounces). Our unit has 50 overseas members and the First Class Mail International postage is over \$4.00 per mailing. As I have been using 400 of the Inverted Jenny stamps a year to mail our journal to our members overseas, I have so

### Congratulations!

You have just purchased a Limited Edition "Right Side Up" Inverted Jenny Stamp Souvenir Sheet. This souvenir stamp sheet is one of only 100 sheets printed and distributed for customers to purchase. Yes, that's right; you now own one of only 100 stamp sheets in existence.

Please call 202-268-3326 now to register your souvenir sheet and you will receive a special certificate. (Please have your limited edition sheet of stamps handy when you call.)

Thank you for your interest in the United States Postal Service stamp program.

far purchased close to 200 panes. None of those panes were the 'Upright Jenny' variety. Instead, in a last minute decision, I added three of those panes to an order for a number of recent postal issues in early August from the USPS' Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City. On August 18 I received the order. As I opened the first Jenny package, I could see the the top of some printing on the filler card and knew immediately that I had received an 'Upright Jenny' pane. When I called the number seen above to register the pane, I was told that it was the 20th pane registered with the USPS.

### Upcoming Meetings

September 24 - Communications between Italy and Great Britain during the Great War (1914–1918)

*Martino Laurenzi*

Over the centuries the interaction between Italy and Great Britain has been always very lively, and mostly friendly. Correspondence items, including letters and postcards, represent a tangible documentation of that interaction. This talk focuses on the postal communications between Great Britain and Italy around and during the Great War and is based upon his exhibit in our 2015 show.

October 22 - How to Sell on eBay

*By Robert Rufe*

Bob will give a presentation and live demonstration about the best methods to use when trying to raise money for that next philatelic purchase.



## *The Westfield Philatelist*

### **Editor**

Frederick C. Skvara  
PO Box 6228

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Tel/Fax: 908-725-0928

email: fcskvara@optonline.net

### **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](http://www.westfieldstampclub.org)**

or call

Nick Lombardi

908-233-3045

## **Members in the News**

### **APS 2015 StampShow, Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Nick Lombardi's "1903 Washington Shield" exhibit competed in the Champion of Champions competition and finished second together with thirty-one other exhibits (they only pick one champion and everyone else gets "second"). In the open competition at the show, Bruce Marsden received a Vermeil medal for his exhibit "Switzerland Pro Juventute Usages through UPU Acceptance: 1912-1921."

### **Singapore 2015 World Stamp Exhibition**

At the international level, Roger Brody's exhibit "Series 1902 - United States / The Post Office Enters the 20th Century" received a Gold medal at the Singapore 2015 World Stamp Exhibition

*Contributed by Nick Lombardi*

### ***The American Philatelist***

John B. Sharkey has an article in the July 2015 issue of *The American Philatelist* (Vol. 129 (7), pp 666-671) entitled "Science and Technology on Irish Stamps".

### ***Philatelia Chimica et Physica***

This is the journal of the Chemistry and Physics on Stamps Study Unit of the American Topical Association. In the Fall 2013 issue (Volume 35 (4), pp 162-170), John has an article entitled "Chemists and Physicists on Stamps — The Expensive Ones — A Follow-up".

### ***The American Stamp Dealer & Collector***

Steven J. Rod's article "Interphil! America Celebrates its Birthday with a Huge Stamp Show!" is part seven in a ten-part series in *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector* on some of America's greatest stamp shows. The article appears in the July-August issue.

### ***The United States Specialist***

K. David Steidley has an article entitled "An Unusual Use of an Early Scher-mack Type III on Postcard" in the September, 2015 issue of this journal of the United States Stamp Society.



## **🌿 A Philatelic Quiz 🌿**

- Q1. What U.S. stamp commemorates the capture of Vincennes, Indiana?
- Q2. What U.S. president actually owned property in Washington, D.C. and is the only president buried within the city limits?
- Q3. Where does the name of Albania come from?
- Q4. What is the first U.S. stamp designed by a woman?
- Q5. Why were the 1976 U.S. flag stamps special?

# Did Professor Segno Have a Favorite Customer?

By Ed Grabowski

As readers know, success in my Philately & International Mail Order Fraud collecting is founded upon having a large group of friends and dealers who are on the constant lookout for covers for me. While visiting the show in Saint Pierre & Miquelon in September 2014, I met a fellow collector named Carlos Vergara who lives in Illinois and collects Chile. Fortunately, our connecting flight home from Saint Johns, Newfoundland was delayed, and I got to spend some time with Carlos. I took the opportunity to tell him about Professor Segno and the other notables in my new collecting area, and asked him to be on the lookout for covers for my collection. As soon as I arrived home, I sent him scans of the few Chilean covers I had including that shown in Figure 1. It was posted from Molina, Chile, a small town in central Chile, on November 14, 1913 and is based on a 10 centavos envelope brought to the 40c registered overseas rate with then current Chilean stamps. It transited via Valparaiso and New York enroute to Professor Segno in Los Angeles. The registration clearly indicates that the envelope contained some form of monetary vehicle. Possibly the sender was interested in a year's subscription to Professor Segno's Success Waves which were sent to clients twice a day for a year for only \$10 – the equivalent of \$200 today. Within a month new Chilean covers started arriving from Carlos, and I now have about ten addressed to Professor Segno from Chile alone.

Most recently, Carlos sent me an email on a Chilean cover again from the town of Molina that was being offered on the Delcampe auction site. For those who are not aware of it, Delcampe is the European equivalent of eBay, and definitely worth your attention even if you only collect U.S. material. This cover is based on a 5 centavos Chilean postal stationery envelope that was revalued to 10 centavos in 1915 (H&G 26), and brought to a 60 centavos rate with a 1911 50 centavos stamp (Fig. 2). The cover was posted on September 5, 1915 to Professor Segno in Los Angeles (arrival on October 5<sup>th</sup>). The 60 centavos rate comprised 20c for postage, 20c for registration and 20c for a return receipt. The letter bears a registry label attached in Molina, a registry transit label attached in Santiago and an A.R. label indicating the request for a return receipt (Avis de Réception) attached in Molina. All in all it is one of the most striking Segno covers in my collection. Unfortunately, it also appealed to another serious collector, so I may have paid too much for it in my enthusiasm during the bidding period.

I regularly search both eBay and Delcampe with the search term Registration. Unfortunately, the seller of this cover only used the descriptor Reg for this lot, so my search missed it. This is a constant problem in searching for material on line – what search terms should one use? Some Segno covers are listed under Los Angeles; others are listed under California; and others are listed under USA or United



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

States. Registration searches capture a lot of Segno covers. Titles and descriptions are so very important for on-line sales, yet many sellers do not recognize such, and very casually list their materials. I have one eBay seller who lists his cover titles simply as Cover From Country Name, and nothing further. I caught one of his covers by chance one day, and added him to a favorite sellers list. By the time he exhausted his cover supply, I ended up buying two dozen covers from him; but would not have bought any save for that first lucky hit.

So I was delighted when the new Chile cover from Molina came. On close examination, the handwriting shows that this cover was from the same sender as that in Figure 1. Clearly someone in Chile was impressed with Professor Segno and his success waves. Shortly thereafter, the same Delcampe seller listed two other covers that were virtually identical to this cover. I caught these since I was now searching Reg on Delcampe. The frankings, addresses and routings on these covers were the same, as were the transits on the reverse. There are variations in the labels amongst all three covers (Figs. 2, 3 & 4), with the most unusual variation being use of half of an A.R. label to provide the R. for the registry label on the third cover. What is different about the three covers were the dates of posting. The first was posted on September 5, 1915 as noted, the second on October 2, 1915 and the third on November 8, 1915. Some client in Molina was sending Professor Segno money approximately every thirty days in 1915! Clearly he was a good Segno customer, but what was he buying? After joining the Success Club, clients were offered copies of six books that Segno had published previously. Such titles as *The New Science of Mentalism* or *How to Be Happy Tho' Married* were favorites on the Segno list of publications. That is why he established the Segnogram Publishing Company – he could more profitably print his own books himself. He also published texts for the LA school system on the side.

Most recently a fifth Chilean cover from Molina came

up on eBay (Fig. 5). Registration indicates that the envelope contained some form of monetary vehicle. It was posted on October 28, 1916 to Professor Segno at the 40c registered overseas rate. Again, a careful analysis of the handwriting on the front of the cover shows it to be from the same client as the previous four covers!

So whoever the client in Molina was, he had to be one of the best Segno had considering the regularity with which he was sending Segno money. All three of the 1915 covers are shown in chronological order (Figs. 2, 3 & 4). I could not resist purchasing these covers on Delcampe. The surprising thing is the amount of competition I had – all three had significant competitors but in different countries, suggesting that they are different and unrelated collectors. But why were they bidding separately on these lots? Possibly some good vibrations were still emanating from the scans of these covers.



### Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

#### Otto Wichterle (1913–1998) (Czech Republic)

Otto Wichterle was born in Prostějov, Austria-Hungary, now in the Czech Republic. After graduating in chemistry his early research led to a procedure to throw and spool polyamide thread resulting in producing the first Czechoslovak synthetic fiber.

His post-World War II research was centered on a form of plastic that could be used for permanent contact with living tissues. The result of this research was the invention of the modern soft contact lens that he first produced in his home in 1961.



Czech Republic 2013 (Scott 3590)

## ✦ Answers – May/June 2015 Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q1. Who was the first, and I believe the only, President of the United States to perform his duty as commander-in-chief in actual battle?

Ans. **James Madison**

At the Battle of Bladensburg, Maryland, on 24 August 1814, British General Robert Ross' forces defeated the colonial militiamen led by General William H. Winder. As Bladensburg is only about six miles from Washington, D.C., the British reached the capital that same evening. James Madison was president at that time and as we all know one of the president's titles is commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces. Madison was present at Bladensburg and at one point actually took command of one of the American batteries. Thus, as a sitting president, he performed his duty as commander-in-chief in actual battle.



1938 (Scott 808)



Q2. Who was the subject of the first United State postage stamp inscribed "Black Heritage"?

Ans. **Harriet Tubman (1821–1913)**

Born into slavery in Maryland she married John Tubman, a free man, in 1844 and in 1849 escaped from slavery by traveling to Pennsylvania through the Underground Railroad. She went on to become the preeminent conductor of the Underground Railroad eventually leading over 300 slaves to freedom in the North before the Civil War. When the Civil War broke out she worked for the Union Army as a cook, nurse, scout and spy, became a strong abolitionist and promoter of women's suffrage.



1978 (Scott 1744)



Q3. What United States postage stamp shows the month, day and year it was issued?

Ans. **Vietnam Veterans Issue**

On November 15, 1979, Veterans Day, the United States Post Office issued this 15¢ commemorative showing the ribbon of the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM). The stamp shows the month, day and year of issue. According to a short note in the "U.S. Chronicle" column in the August 1979 issue of *The American Philatelist* the medal could be awarded to personnel who served in Vietnam from July 1, 1958 until the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.



1979 (Scott 1802)

The medal was established by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965 and made retroactive to November 15, 1961 and was last awarded April 30, 1975. The medal supercedes and replaces the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) which was issued for service in Vietnam before 1965. At the request of a service member, the AEFM can be exchanged for the VSM. That explains the July 1, 1958, date mentioned in *The American Philatelist* as the AEFM can be awarded for service in Vietnam from July 1, 1958, to July 3, 1965.

It is helpful to remember that U.S. military advisors had been deployed in what was then French Indochina since 1950 and the civil war in Vietnam began in 1955. Large-scale U.S. military intervention didn't begin until 1964 which is considered the beginning of the Vietnam War.



Q4. The phrase "...of the people, by the people and for the people..." in Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is a rephrasing of the words of what great foreign statesman and champion of his people that he used in a speech before the state legislature in Columbus, Ohio, on February 7, 1852??

Ans. **Lajos Kossuth (1802–1894)**

Every year on March 15 (or the nearest Sunday), Hungarians around the world rededicate themselves to the principles of democracy that are nearly identical to



1958 (Scott 1117-18)

those found in the United States Declaration of Independence and Constitution. In 1848 Hungary was part of the Austrian Empire ruled by the Hapsburg monarchy, but the Hungarians wanted independence and freedom from that empire. On March 15, 1848 Lajos Kossuth, a statesman and champion of the people's rights organized an armed revolt. Although the Austrian Diet accepted a free Hungarian nation and March 15 became the Hungarian National Day of Independence, the celebration was short-lived. While the Croats and Serbians were encouraged by Austria to revolt against Hungary, Austrian and Russian armies invaded Hungary forcing the Hungarian government to resign. Kossuth, who was minister of finance transferred the civil authority to General Artúr Görgey on August 12, 1849 and Kossuth fled to Turkish territory where he was arrested and put in prison. The United States and Great Britain secured his release from

## ✦ Answers – May/June 2015 Philatelic Quiz, cont. ✦

the Sultan of Turkey in 1850 and during 1851–1852, Kosuth traveled throughout the United States giving speeches. When he spoke to the state legislature in Columbus, Ohio on February 7, 1852, he expressed his thoughts of the very essence of democracy:

“All for the people and all by the people.

Nothing about the people, without the people.

That is Democracy.”

His words were paraphrased by Abraham Lincoln eleven years later in the Gettysburg Address.

Kossuth died in Turin, Italy on March 20, 1894.



1948 (Scott 978)



Q5. What island in the Mozambique Channel, rather than become part of the independent Comoro Islands, chose to remain under the control of France in 1975 and resumed issuing its own stamps in 1997?

Ans. **Mayotte**

Mayotte is an archipelago of several islands with a total area of 144 square miles. Its official name is Département d’OutreMer de Mayotte (Overseas Department of France).



150th Anniversary of voluntary attachment of Mayott to France. France 1991 (Scott 2271)



Sada Bay. Mayotte 2004 (Scott 203)



## Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

### New Jersey—350 Years

To celebrate the founding of New Jersey and to commemorate the significant link between the state and the island of Jersey in the English Channel, Jersey Post issued a set of six stamps in miniature sheets of ten and in a souvenir sheet of six (Scott 1789-94a) on September 15, 2014. The illustrations on the stamps, souvenir sheet, first day cover and Presentation Pack were created by True North and printed in Canada by Lowe-Martin in offset lithography. Three of the stamps show landmarks in Jersey (Elizabeth Castle, Corbière Lighthouse and Seymore Tower) and three show prominent sites in New Jersey (Barnegat Lighthouse, Statue of Liberty and George Washington Bridge).

