



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

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2015 Westfield Stamp Club Holiday Party

Photographs courtesy of Marion Rollings



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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

From the Editor

The next issue of *The Westfield Philatelist*, the March/April issue, will be my last issue as editor and publisher. I have been editing and publishing our newsletter since the spring of 2008 and although I have enjoyed putting each issue together, it is time for me to step down. As some of you may know, I edit and publish two study unit journals of the American Topical Association — *Scalpel & Tongue*, *The American Journal of Medical Philately* (journal of the Medical Subjects Unit) and *American Philatelic News* (journal of the Americana Unit). All publications have publishing deadlines, and deadlines are relentless. Trying to keep up with three has absorbed too much of my time.

Since I retired from my medical career, philatelic obligations have been consuming more and more of my time and have diverted me from the main reason that I retired — to pursue my interest in medical, nature and fine art photography. I have also noticed that I have spent far too little time actually working on my stamp collections, which is, in my opinion, the greatest joy for a stamp collector. So, for the last couple of years I have been withdrawing from some philatelic endeavors and redirecting my efforts to photography and personal philately. Stepping down as editor of our club newsletter is another step in that direction.

I want to thank the members who have sent in articles, photos and notices for inclusion in our newsletter as I am sure they were enjoyed by the membership.

But as I only produce *The Westfield Philatelist* on a bimonthly basis, it doesn't really fill the main requirement of a stamp club newsletter and that is to provide timely news of club happenings. That function has been admirably fulfilled by our secretary, Tom Jacks, who every month gives us all the information that we need for our upcoming meetings and events, and Steve Rod, who supplies us with detailed auction listings.



Members in the News

Nicholas Lombardi

At Seapex, held September 11-13, 2015, in Tukwila, Washington, the multi-frame Grand Award winner was Nicholas Lombardi for "The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue."

Martino Laurenzi

Martino exhibited his collection of KGV high values ("The Seahorse Overprints at Home and Abroad") at STAMPA - the Irish National Stamp Show Held in Dublin, Ireland. He was pretty pleased with the outcome, as the jury was kind enough to award him a gold.

K. David Steidley

In the January 2016 issue of *The United States Specialist*, Dave's article "The 17¢ Domestic Airmail Rate", describes two elusive covers showing the 17¢ airmail rate, the only domestic airmail letter rate without its own stamp.

Steven J. Rod

The November/December 2015 issue of *The American Stamp Dealer and Collector*, presents Steve's final part of his ten-part series on the U.S. international philatelic exhibitions — "Washington 2006". Steve mentions that the inaugural issue of this magazine, then called *The American Stamp Dealer*, made its appearance at the show.

✦ Answers – November/December 2015 Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q1. Saint Pierre et Miquelon recently issued a souvenir sheet showing the reconstructed *Hermione*. Of what significance was the French frigate *Hermione* to the American Revolution?

Ans. **It carried Marquis de LaFayette to America.**

Acting as a liaison between the two countries Lafayette returned to France in 1779 to secure aid for the Americans. On March 10, 1780, LaFayette departed from Port des Barques on the Charente River in southwestern France, arriving in Boston on April 28 with news that France was sending men and ships for George Washington. He traveled on *Hermione*, a 12-pounder, 32-gun frigate built nearby at Rochefort, France, and launched on April 28, 1779. The ship was involved in several battles during the American Revolutionary War and then returned to France in 1782. After subsequent service in India she ran aground off Le Croisic, France, in 1793 and was wrecked.



Q2. What does the recent set of two stamps and souvenir sheet from Tristan da Cunha showing USS *Hornet* and HMS *Penguin* commemorate?

Ans. **The last action in the War of 1812**



On June 1, 2015, Tristan da Cunha issued two stamps and a souvenir sheet (Scott 1039-41) commemorating

the battle between the USS *Hornet* and HMS *Penguin* on March 23, 1815, off the coast of Tristan da Cunha in the south Atlantic Ocean. *Hornet* was commanded by James Biddle (1783–1848) an American commodore in the United States Navy, who was wounded in the battle while *Penguin* was commanded by James Dickinson, a commander in the Royal Navy, who was killed during the battle. *Penguin* was captured and as she was badly damaged in the engagement, she was set on fire and sunk.

The War of 1812 had actually ended on December 24, 1814, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity in Ghent, Belgium, between Great Britain and the United States, but that news had not reached these ships before the battle.



Q3. Who are Jason Lee and John McLoughlin and on what stamp are they depicted?

Ans. **They are depicted on the 1948 Oregon Territory Centenary stamp (Scott 964)**

James Lee (1803–1845) was a Canadian Methodist missionary who traveled to the Oregon Country in the mid-1830s and was instrumental in the settlement of that area by Americans.



John McLoughlin (1784–1857) was a merchant for the Hudson Bay Company in charge of the Columbia District at Fort Vancouver for the Company. After resigning from Hudson Bay in 1846, he moved to Oregon City in the Willamette Valley and operated a general store that was famous as the last stop on the Oregon Trail. His efforts on behalf of the American cause in Oregon Country earned him the title of “Father of Oregon”. Both men have statues in the U.S. Capital’s National Statuary Hall.

Q4. What country was known as Nyasaland?

Ans. **Malawi**



1934 (Scott 34)

1986 (Scott 480)

[cont. on pg.4]

Q4. (cont.)

After being visited by Dr. David Livingstone in 1859, it became a part of the British Central Africa Protectorate in 1891 and became Nyasaland on Jul 6, 1907. It issued the first stamps inscribed with that name on July 22, 1908. From 1954–63 it became part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, becoming a separate colony in 1963. It became the independent republic of Malawi within the British Commonwealth on July 6, 1964.

Malawi lies in Southeast Africa bounded on the north and northeast by Tanzania, on the east, south and southwest by Mozambique and on the west by Zambia. Twenty percent of the country is water (Lake Nyassa), the third largest lake in Africa, after Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika.



★ A Philatelic Quiz ★

- Q1. The first bishop of Quebec was honored by Canada with a commemorative stamp. Who was he?
- Q2. What is the claim to fame of Gustav Stresemann, Ludwig Guidde and Carl von Osietzky who appear on a 1975 souvenir sheet from Germany?
- Q3. What organization does the “Blood and Fire” flag honor that appears on a 1965 stamp from Great Britain?
- Q4. Canada issued a 4¢ commemorative in 1949 showing the ship *Matthew* for the entry of Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation. Whose ship was it?
- Q5. Who was Emily Pauline Johnson (1861–1913) that appears on a 1961 Canadian stamp?

Q5. What country’s coat of arms contains three crowns?

Ans. **Sweden**

The symbol of the Three Crowns was introduced in Sweden in the late thirteenth century when it appeared on the shield of Magnus III (1240–1290), King of Sweden from 1275 to 1290. In the fourteenth century it was frequently found on the coins of Magnus IV (1316–1374) who was King of Sweden from 1319 to 1364.

The symbols probably represented the three kingdoms of Magnus IV — Sweden, Norway and Scania. In Sweden’s Coat of Arms the crowns are yellow or gilded coronets — two above and one below — on a blue background.



1939 (Scott 284)

Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By *Frederick C. Skvara*

The Fibonacci Sequence (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34...)

Leonardo of Pisa (ca 1170–1250), better known as Fibonacci, was an Italian mathematician born in Pisa but studied in Algeria where he learned the Hindu–Arabic decimal system. Through his book, *Liber abaci*, (“Book of the Abacus”), he made a number of contributions in algebra, geometry and number theory. The book was completed in 1202 but his work only survives by way of a revised edition from 1228.

Fibonacci is mainly remembered because of a number sequence he mentions in a problem in *Liber abaci* about the growth of a rabbit population. A French mathematician Edouard Lucas (1842–1891) gave the sequence its name—the Fibonacci sequence. It is a sequence of numbers that begins with any two positive integers and with each following number being the sum of the preceding two numbers. The simplest of these sequences was called by Lucas the Fibonacci sequence and is seen in the above title. A simple formula to determine the *n*th number in the sequence is

$$F(n) = 1.618^n - \sqrt{5}$$

and when rounded off to the nearest integer gives the exact number being sought. An interesting property of the Fibonacci series is that the ratio between two consecutive numbers is alternately greater or smaller than the Golden Ratio (1.61803...) and as the series progresses it approaches a limit that is the Golden Ratio. This ratio, which is obtained by halving the sum of 1 and the square root of 5, and the closely related Fibonacci series occurs throughout nature.





Sunflower
Great Britain 2000 (Scott 1919)



Sunflowers
Indonesia 1957 (Scott B106)

A good example of the Fibonacci series in botany is the spiral arrangement of seeds on the face of certain varieties of sunflowers where two sets of logarithmic spirals, one turning clockwise and the other turning counterclockwise, can be found. The number of spirals in each set is different and are usually adjacent Fibonacci numbers.



Virgatosphinctes transitorius (Jurassic ammonite)
Austria 1976 (Scott 1032)



Lytoceras fimbriatus (Jurassic ammonite)
Switzerland 1958 (Scott B274)

In the animal kingdom, the shells of snails and ammonites also show the logarithmic spirals related to the Fibonacci series. Ammonites are cephalopod mollusks that evolved during the Ordovician Period of the Paleozoic Era (450–500 million years ago) and, through a wealth of species numbering over 2000, became the dominant form of marine life in the Mesozoic Era (65–230 million years ago). Included within the Mesozoic Era is the Jurassic Period (135–180 million years ago). Although the ammonites became extinct, the nautiloid type of mollusk from which they evolved persisted as the genus *Nautilus* which is found today in the Indian Ocean.

I believe the first stamps to actually acknowledge the Fibonacci numbers is a set of three issued by Liechtenstein on March 4, 2013, emphasizing the connection between nature and mathematics. The series is based on an exhibit by Georg Schierscher, a Liechtenstein mathematician, who sought to “awaken a joy and interest in mathematics and secondly, to demonstrate how deeply mathematics is rooted in the natural sciences”.

Hans Peter Gassner, a Vaduz graphic artist used three leaves of indigenous plants to demonstrate the leaves conform to a standard structural plan.



A photographic image of a vine leaf in autumn is paired with a “reconstructed” leaf in a polar coordinate circle with a spiral raster. The numbers on the bottom represent the first 17 numbers of the Fibonacci sequence.
Liechtenstein 2013 (Scott 1459)



A photographic image of a grape leaf is paired with a “reconstructed” leaf in a polar coordinate circle with a spiral raster. Here the numbers represent the quotient of the adjacent numbers which will approach the Golden Ratio.
Liechtenstein 2013 (Scott 1470)



A photographic image of a Japanese maple leaf is paired with a “reconstructed” leaf in a polar coordinate circle with a spiral raster. The numbers at the bottom of the stamp is a decimal representation of the Golden Ratio.
Liechtenstein 2013 (Scott 1459)



Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

Centenary of ANZAC (Malta)



Malta Post issued a miniature sheet with a single €3.59 stamp for the centenary of ANZAC (Australian & New Zealand Army Corps) that landed on the beaches of Gallipoli (1). The Gallipoli Campaign which also involved British and French troops was a failure for the Allies and after eight months, the Allied Forces were evacuated with total casualties of 68,502.

Malta played a significant role in the campaign as a backup base for the Royal Navy and as one of the major hospitals in the Mediterranean with close to 58,000 men from the campaign treated on Malta. About 300 ANZAC troops who died from wounds suffered in Gallipoli are buried on Malta. In addition, about 800 Maltese volunteers went to Gallipoli to assist in the campaign digging trenches, working as stevedores unloading ships or handling the mules.

The stamp on the miniature sheet depicts two Red Cross workers, one of whom is obviously a nurse, treating a wounded soldier. Another soldier appears on the left. At the bottom of the sheet is the text "St. John Ambulance Association Malta Centre" and the symbol of the Red Cross and the eight-pointed Maltese Cross with four animals, the badge of the St. John Ambulance Association. (2)

Notes:

- 1) The Gallipoli Peninsula extends southwest from the south coast of Turkey and lies between the Dardanelles on the Southeast and the Gulf of Saros and the Aegean Sea on the northwest and west.
- 2) The St. John Ambulance Association was founded in 1877 in the United Kingdom and is dedicated to providing medical first aid including ambulance services. It also provides training for these services.

