



# The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 11 Number 2 November/December 2017

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 16, 2017 - "Bureau printed precancel errors"

By Robert Loeffler



December 21, 2017 - Annual Holiday Party

As is our custom the food will be available at 7:30 P.M. and will consist of a hot and cold buffet, meatballs, deli meats, salads, pickles, etc. The club is asking that everyone bring a dessert.



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM 2017-2018

January 25, 2018 - Show & Tell

February 22, 2018 - Chess on Stamps

By Jon Edwards

March 3, 2018 - Westfield Annual Stamp Show (Tentative)

March 22, 2018 - Technology in Expertization

By Robert Rose

April 26, 2018 - Mexican Airmails

By Steven Reinhard

May 24, 2018 - Transatlantic Mail

By Carol Bommarito

June 28, 2018 - South Africa

By Eddie Bridges

## 2017 USPS HOLIDAY STAMPS

The Forever (49¢) stamps were issued in a pressure-sensitive adhesive booklet of 20 stamps on October 4, 2017. The stamps show Peter, the main character of Ezra Jack Keats' story *The Snowy Day*, a prominent 20th century picture book featuring an African-American child.

A day later, the four Christmas Carols Forever (49¢) stamps were issued,

also in a pressure-sensitive adhesive booklet of 20 stamps.



The four carols are "Jingle Bells", Deck the Halls", Silent Night" and "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas".



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

or call

Nick Lombardi

908-233-3045

## AWARDS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS

APS StampShow - August 3–6, 2017

**Nicholas Lombardi** - *The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue* (World Series of Philately Prix d'Honneur)



## ARTICLES WRITTEN BY MEMBERS

Beginning with this issue I plan to note the writings of our members that have appeared in any philatelic publication. Since the last issue of *The Westfield Philatelist*, I have found the following published articles. As I can't review all of the available publications, please let me know of any of your writings that I have missed.

**Roger Brody** - "And the B® and Played On — America's Centenarian Enterprises — Ford Motor Company". *The United States Specialist*. 2017;88(10):445-448.

**Jack André Denys** - (1) "Confederate Stamps in Your Collection". *Topical Time* 2017;68(5):30-33. (2) "Collecting Postal Stationery". *Topical Time*. 2017;68(5):43-46.

**Gary Wayne Lowe** - "Mastering Postal History: The Role of Auxiliary Markings in Postal History, Part II". *Kelleher's Stamp Collector's Quarterly*. 2017;3(3):43-53.

**Steven J. Rod** - "Get One Free! At Your Local Post Office". *The United States Specialist*. 2017;88(10):471-474

**John B. Sharkey** - "Arthur Guinness, Irish Brewer". *Philatelia Chimica et Physica*. 2017;38(3):122-124.

**Frederick C. Skvara** - (1) "Jan Jessenius (1566–1621)". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*. 2017;61(3):60-61. (2) "Elisabeth of Belgium – The 'Queen Nurse' (1876-1965)". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*. 2017;61(3):62-63. (3) "Chapter Chatter". *Topical Time*. 2017;68(5):72-81. (4) "Charles Cooper, An American Packet Ship". *Americana Philatelic News*. 2017;47(238):8-9. (5) "Cod Liver Oil". *Philatelia Chimica et Physica*. 2007;38(3):115-118.

## FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH (1917–2015)

The stamp was issued on September 1, 2017, in Notre Dame, Indiana, where Father Hesburgh served as president of the University of Notre Dame for 35 years. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2000. The image on the stamp is based on a 1980 photograph and shows the reverend on the campus of the university.

The Forever (49¢) stamp was issued in two formats, both with pressure-sensitive adhesive – a pane of 20 stamps and a coil of 50 stamps. The pane is available at post offices around the country, but the coil is only available through the Postal Store website and by telephone. 15,000,000 stamps were issued in the pane format, but only 2,000,000 in the coil format.



# JOTTINGS FROM A WORLDWIDE STAMP COLLECTOR

By Frederick C. Skvara

## John Basilone (1916–1945) & The Guadalcanal Campaign

Guadalcanal, part of the Solomon Islands in the Western Pacific Ocean lies east of the island of New Guinea and in July, 1942 was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. On August 7, 1942 the Americans landed on the island and successfully captured the airfield being built by the Japanese. That was the beginning of the Guadalcanal Campaign which lasted until November 13, 1942.

On June 5, 2012 Solomon Islands Post issued a four-stamp miniature sheet attached to a single-stamp souvenir sheet for the 70th Anniversary of the Guadalcanal Campaign. Each of the five stamps shows a Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient along with the medal.

One of those recipients was John Basilone, a local hero as he was raised in Raritan, a town in central New Jersey, about one mile from where I was born. Although originally serving in the United States Army, he joined the United States Marine Corps in July 1940 and was sent to Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.



John Basilone and Medal of Honor. Solomon Islands 2012 (Scott 1175d)

Trying to recapture Henderson Field, the Japanese sent an elite Japanese Sendai Division of 3,000 men on the night of October 24, 1942, to attack the American forces guarding the airfield. Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, who commanded two sections of machine guns, not only kept the machine guns working and firing for two days, but also used his .45 pistol to ward off the attack. At the end of the two days, the Japanese force was decimated and Henderson Field remained in American hands.

For his actions at Guadalcanal, Basilone was awarded the Medal of Honor by Franklin D. Roosevelt. He returned to the states and toured the country raising money for war bonds. But

he wanted to rejoin the fighting in the Pacific Theatre and was assigned to the invasion of Iwo Jima in the Japanese Volcano Islands. He landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, outflanking and destroying single-handedly a Japanese blockhouse that was preventing his unit from leaving the landing beach. He subsequently guided an American tank through a minefield under heavy mortar fire, but was then killed by enemy mortar fire. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the only enlisted marine in World War II to be awarded both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross. He also received a Purple Heart medal.

Raritan erected a statue and named a bridge in his honor and since 1981 has held a memorial parade every year. His name adorns numerous plaques, monuments, buildings, etc.



Solomon Islands miniature sheet with attached souvenir sheet. 2012 (Scott 1175a-e)



Lt. Colonel Harold William Bauer (1908–1942) – [Fighter pilot] (Scott 1175a)



Colonel Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc (1921–2007) – [Fighter pilot] (Scott 1175b)



Colonel Mitchell Paige (1918–2003) – [sergeant in a machine gun platoon on Guadalcanal](Scott 1175c)



Major General Alexander Archer Vandegrift (1887–1973) – [Commanding General of 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal] (Scott 1175e)

## John Basilone (1916–1945) & The Guadalcanal Campaign (cont.)

Note: In 2005 the USPS issued a four-stamps series honoring “Distinguished Marines”. One of those stamps shows Sergeant John Basilone with the insignia of the 5th Marine Division. (Scott 3963)



The Medal of Honor stamp was issued in 1983 (Scott 2045) and shows the medals for the Army, Air Force and Navy. The Navy Medal of Honor, which is awarded to marines, is on the right. John Basilone was awarded that medal for his actions at Guadalcanal.

The other stamp on this fdc is the 1945 stamp (Scott 929) showing marines raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. The cachet shows the Navy Cross that John Basilone was awarded for his actions on Iwo Jima and the Purple Heart which he also received.



### November/December Philatelic Quiz



- Q1. Who was the Revolutionary War heroine who was honored by the United States Post Office, not with a stamp, but with an overprint?
- Q2. A line from one of this poet's poems *Hope died as I was led/ Unto my marriage bed* referred to how her artistic ambitions were thwarted by her husband, a renowned doctor and philanthropist. Who is this American poet whose literary highpoint came with a single poem that was sung to the tune of “John Brown’s Body”?
- Q3. Who was the first non-native American who settled Eschikagou or “Land of the Wild Onions”?
- Q4. What country’s capital was originally built on water and was known as the “Venice of the Orient”?
- Q5. There have been a number of joint issues over the years. Recently a joint issue from two countries showed the highest and lowest places on earth. Who are the two countries and what do these stamps depict?



## Answers to September/October 2017 Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara

**Q1. Who is the world's first aeronaut commemorated on a postage stamp?**

**Ans. Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier (1754–1785) was the first man to experience aerial flight.**

Born in Metz, France, he studied surgery at the Military Hospital at Metz, and in 1772 he became a pharmacist's apprentice, finishing his apprenticeship in Paris. He started giving lectures describing the experiments of Benjamin Franklin, and in 1780 became a professor of physics and chemistry at the University of Reims, but returned to Paris in 1781. While there, Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier began their experiments with hot air balloons. On September 19, 1783, the Montgolfier brothers released a balloon from Versailles carrying three passengers – a sheep, a rooster and a duck. The animals survived and the brothers prepared a larger balloon for human flight. On October 15, 1783, Pilatre de Rozier rose in a balloon tethered to the ground by 100 feet of rope and experienced aerial flight. A little over a month later, on November 21, 1783, de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes, a major in the French Army, ascended nearly 3000 feet from the gardens of Chateau de la Muette in the first free aerial flight. They landed about five miles away after a twenty-five minute flight. Interestingly, the flight was witnessed by Benjamin Franklin who, along with John Adams and John Jay, was in Paris to sign the Treaty of Paris ending the American Revolution. On June 15, 1785, Pilatre de Rozier and Pierre Ange Romain, a French chemist, attempted to cross the English Channel in a new hot air balloon suspended from a hydrogen balloon. Tragically, the hot air balloon collapsed after a spark ignited the hydrogen balloon. Both men were killed when they fell from a height of around 3,000 feet. [Ref: "Countries Honor World's First Aeronaut", an article by George Griffenhagen in *Stamp Collector*; June 10, 1989:21]



Pilatre de Rozier. France 1936 (Scott 308) [150th anniversary of de Rozier's death]



200th anniversary of first manned flight. France 1983 (Scott 1863–1864) [The stamp on the left depicts the Montgolfier hot-air balloon used by de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes on their first flight. On December 1, 1783, Jacques Charles (1746–1823), a French inventor and scientist, and Nicolas-Louis Robert (1761–1828), a French inventor, ascended to a height of about 1,800 feet in the hydrogen balloon seen on the stamp on the right. A number of countries also issued stamps commemorating this anniversary]



**Q2. A painter and an author, who were at one point both cadets at West Point, have had their work appear on United States stamps. Who were they?**

**Ans. James A. McNeil Whistler and Edgar Allan Poe**

James Abbott McNeil Whistler (1834–1903), an American painter and etcher, was born in Lowell, Massachusetts and spent part of his youth in the court of the Tsar in St. Petersburg, Russia, with his father, a military engineer. Whistler entered the United States Military Academy at West Point with the class of 1855, but failed to graduate. In 1855 he went to Paris studying and teaching and in 1859 settled in London. He painted mainly in one or two colors as shown in his 1872 portrait *Arrangement in Grey and Black: The Art-*



James A. McNeil Whistler. U.S. 1940 (Scott 885)



Answers to September/October 2017  
Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara

*ist's Mother*, which resides in the Louvre in Paris. Whistler died in London.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849), an American poet, critic and short-story writer, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. After his mother died in 1811 he lived with a Richmond, Virginia, merchant and traveled to Scotland and England where he was given a classical education. He continued his education upon returning to Richmond and attended the University of Virginia in 1826 for less than a year. In 1830 he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, but was expelled for missing classes and drills. He spent most of his adult life in poverty and ill health, due in part to heavy drinking resulting in the loss of a number of literary jobs. He died in Baltimore after a heavy bout of drinking. Some of his most famous works include the short stories “The Fall of the house of Usher” (1840) and “The Pit and the Pendulum” (1843). His poems include “The Raven” (1845) and “Annabel Lee” (1849). In 1841 he published what is considered the first detective story in English literature “The Murders in the Rue Morgue”. [Ref: “West Pointers on Our Stamps”, a 1991 article by Jack R. Anderson in the column “Stamps’ Views From the Past.”] (*While neither one of the U.S. stamps for Poe depict any of his works, the selvedge of the pane of 20 stamps issued in 2009 does — see pg. 4*)



Adaptation of Whistler’s Portrait of his Mother. U.S. 1934 (rotary press printing on left (Scott 737) and flat plate printing on right (Scott 738)



Edgar Allan Poe.  
U.S. 1949 (Scott 986)



Edgar Allan Poe.  
U.S. 2009 (Scott 4377)



Q3. *What role did Sir Isaac Brock play in the War of 1812?*

Ans. **Saved Western Canada from the United States**

Isaac Brock was born on Guernsey on October 6, 1769, and entered the British Army at the age of fifteen. From 1790–1793 he served as a lieutenant in Jamaica and Barbados, and in 1801 took part in the Battle of Copenhagen and operations in the Baltic. The following year he left for Canada and in 1810 he was appointed lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. When hostilities with the United States were declared on June 18, 1812, American forces at the frontier fort of Detroit crossed the Detroit River and invaded Canada. Brock countered the invasion and, aided by his Shawnee Indian allies led by Tecumseh, captured the fort at Detroit on August 16, 1812. Three days later at the Battle of Queenston Heights in Upper Canada, he repelled an invasion from New York across the Niagara River, but was mortally wounded during the battle. Considered a hero of Upper Canada for saving Western Canada from the United States, a monument was erected at the site of the Queenston Heights battle and on October 13, 1824, his remains were placed in a vault beneath the monument. A monument was also erected in St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. [Ref: “Channel Hopper: Brock” an article by Bob Ausubel in *GBCC Chronicle*; October 1999 (81): 20-22.]



Sir Isaac Brock.  
Canada 1969 (Scott 501)





Answers to September/October 2017  
Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara

**Q4. What stamp did the United States Post Office Department issue to appease the losers of a lawsuit against it?**

**Ans. The 50th Anniversary of the American Trucking Association (Scott 1025)**

A Maryland congressman, George H. Fallon, introduced a bill in the United States House of Representatives on October 9, 1951, for a postage stamp commemorating the 125th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on February 28, 1827. The USPOD announced that a stamp for that anniversary would be issued on February 28, 1952. Five days before the release, the Atlantic Freight Lines, Inc., a trucking firm, wanted an injunction to stop the release of the stamp arguing that the stamp would, in effect, advertise one of its competitors and that the USPOD was favoring the railroad carrier over other carriers. The day before the release the court ruled in favor of the post office. On the 50th anniversary of the American Trucking Association, the USPOD released a stamp honoring the association at its 1953 convention in Los Angeles, thus appeasing the loser of a lawsuit against the department. [Ref: 1) "The Story Behind the Stamps", an article by Steven J. Rod in *Stamps*; November 22, 1986:34-35 and 2) "Adverse Reaction to One Commemorative Gave Rise to Another One", an article by John M. Hotchner in *Linn's Stamp News* May 22, 2017; 90(4621): 6]



125th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. U.S. 1952 (Scott 1006) [Depicted on the stamp are three stages in the development of rail transportation: Pioneer Car, Tom Thumb (1st steam locomotive by B&O) and a modern diesel locomotive.]



50th anniversary of trucking industry. U.S. 1953 (Scott 1025)



**Q5. When was the idea of joint issues of identical stamps conceived and what countries were involved ?**

**Ans. 1956 (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway & Sweden)**

The idea of joint issues of identical stamps was first expressed in 1956 when the Scandinavian countries listed above issued identical stamps celebrating Nordic Cooperation. Each country released two stamps showing five swans representing the five Scandinavian countries – a lower value in red and an higher value in blue as seen below. [Ref: Joint Issues, an article by Russell Anderson in *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* September/October 1994: 12-14]



Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), a northern hemisphere swan. Denmark (Scott 362); Finland (Scott 344); Iceland (Scott 299); Norway (Scott 354); Sweden (Scott 493)



Answers to September/October 2017  
Philatelic Quiz



Prepared by Frederick C. Skvara

Q2 (cont.) The illustration in the selvedge is from “The Bells and Other Poems” published in 1912 by Hodder and Stoughton, New York & London containing the poems of Edgar Allan Poe with illustrations by Edmund Dulac (1882–1953), a French-born British illustrator. The quote is from Poe’s famous poem “The Raven” (1845).

