



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 13 Number 2 November/December 2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 21, 2019 – “Expertizing at the American Philatelic Society”

By Gary Wayne Loew

Meet the new Director of Expertizing for the APS, and hear and discuss his views on the ever-important area of modern philatelic expertization.



December 19, 2019 – Annual Holiday Party & Donation Auction



October to December USPS Stamp Issues

- October 4 **Purple Heart Medal.** One (55¢) definitive forever stamps in a pane of 20.
- October 11 **Spooky Silhouettes.** Four (55¢) forever commemorative stamps in a pane of 20 (scenes through windows (cat & raven, two ghosts, spider and web, three bats).
- October 25 **Holiday Wreaths.** Four (55¢) commemorative forever stamps in a pane of 20. (green leaf wreath, pine cone wreath with red ribbon, hydrangea and berry wreath with red and gold ribbon, green ivy and winterberry wreath).

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

The newsletter of the Knoxville Philatelic Society in Tennessee, an ATA chapter, always included an actual stamp and some short accompanying text. Since I have been reviewing their society’s newsletters as ATA Chapter Coordinator, the stamps have run the gamut from definitives to commemoratives and either mint or canceled. With over 150 members, 150 copies of a particular stamp were needed for each issue. And of course with that many copies needed, they certainly had to be inexpensive.

I always thought that was a great idea and a nice little gift for the members and beginning with this issue I will be borrowing that idea for *The Westfield Philatelist*. Over the years I have accumulated multiple copies of some inexpensive stamps and will be including one or two actual stamps with descriptive text on a separate 3-hole punched 5½ x8½ inch page in each issue of our newsletter.

For this issue I have enough copies of the two stamps to supply every member with the same stamps. But, that may not always be the case. In the future not all members may receive the same stamp(s) and printing on a separate page rather than including the items in the newsletter itself, allows me to print only one version of the newsletter. I can then print one or more different versions of the 5½ x 8½ inch sheets with different stamps.

I will be mailing our newsletter and the stamp page in a 6 x 9 envelope which makes the mailing much easier for me. Folding the newsletter to fit a No. 10 envelope would have required careful placement of the stamps and text so as not to have the stamp(s) creased. That would have taken more time.

I hope you enjoy this new benefit of being a member of the Westfield Stamp Club.

On another note, you will notice that the bulk of the material in this issue is from me. But remember that this is the club’s newsletter and I would love to have more submissions from the members – articles, notes, a favorite stamp/cover, philatelic news, etc.

Fred



The Westfield Philatelist

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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

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RECENT ARTICLES WRITTEN BY MEMBERS

Roger S. Brody - (1) "And the Band Played On — America's Centenarian Enterprises: American Express". *The United States Specialist* September 2019; 90(9):395-402. (2) "Jamestown 1907, Parts Four, Five & Six" *The United States Specialist* August, September & October 2019; 90 (8,9 & 10): 342-349; 409-419; 445-456.

K. David Steidley "Did You Know?" *The United States Specialist* October 2019; 90(10):457.

Frederick C. Skvara - (1) "John Stith Pemberton (1831–1888)". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* July/September 2019; 63(3):49-50. (2) "A Brief Look at Some Hospitals in the American Colonies". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* July/September 2019; 63(3):51. (3) "Smallpox: the Early Years". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* July/September 2019; 63(3):61. (4) "Dr. Nicolae Minovici (1868–1941)". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* July/September 2019; 63(3):65.

2019–2020 PROGRAM

*Submitted by Edward J. Grabowski and Robert Loeffler
Co-Chairmen, Program Committee*

January 23, 2020 – Members' Show & Tell Night

February 27, 2020 – "The Letter Panel Over the Centuries and the Importance of Being Properly Addressed." *By Martino Laurenzi*

March 7, 2020 – Westfield Stamp Club Show

March 26, 2020 – "Farewell to the Stamp Group." *By Edward Grabowski*

April 23 2020– "Exploring the Back of the Book." *By Roger Brody*

May 28, 2020 – TBA

June 11 or 18, 2020 – "Japonica: What It's All About Philatelically" *By Ken Kamholz*

Spooky Silhouettes



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

By Frederick C. Skvara

I recently read Giles Milton's book *How the Allies Won On D-Day: Soldier, Sailor, Frogman, Spy, Airman, Gangster, Kill or Die*, published by Henry Holdt & Company in 2018. He is a British writer and historian who lives in London. The book tells the events of June 6, 1944 through the tales of the survivors – Allied soldiers, German defenders, French resistance fighters and the unfortunate French civilians who lived in the small towns and villages that dot the Normandy coast.

With the fall of France in May 1940, 330,000 Allied troops were evacuated from Dunkirk, France, to escape the advancing Germans thus ending land operations by the Western forces in Europe. And it wasn't until January 1943 that President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill began to prepare for the invasion of German-occupied Western Europe. In December, 1943 General Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Allied Commander, and with General Bernard Montgomery and Lt. General Frederick Morgan, planned Operation Overlord, a major airborne and amphibious assault on the beaches of Normandy, France.

The landing zone would cover 60 miles of Normandy coastline divided into five beaches: Utah and Omaha to be assaulted by Americans; Juno by Canadians and Gold and

Sword by the British. Operation Neptune, the Normandy landings, commonly known as D-Day, was launched the morning of June 6, 1944, and involved 156,000 Allied troops, 7,000 ships and 20,000 armored vehicles. The Allied troops were successful in carving out a beachhead, but it was neither as large nor as secure as planned.

After 24 hours, the Allies held only a precarious ribbon of coastline and had very little penetration inland. But, although the beachhead was small, it did allow the allies to bring in huge quantities of men and machines over the following days. The beaches were fully secured by June 11 and over 326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had landed at Normandy. The port of Cherbourg was seized by the Allies by the end of June allowing the landing of approximately 850,000 men and 150,000 vehicles. By the end of August the Allies had reached the Seine River, Paris was liberated on August 25 and the Germans had been removed from northwestern France. With the collapse of the German counter-offensive in the Ardennes in January 1945, the road to victory seemed clear. The Allied forces crossed the Rhine River on March 7, 1945, and Berlin was liberated on May 2, 1945. The war in Europe came to a close with the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 7, 1945.

D-Day Landings, 75th Anniversary. Gibraltar 2019 (Scott 1705–1708)

[In the background of each stamp is an outline of the Normandy coast and the assault beaches.]



Soldiers in landing craft assault boat. On the left is USS LST 495 (Landing Ship Tank) ship that carries tanks, wheeled vehicles and military supplies.



Soldiers leaving landing craft assault boat.



Landing craft, vehicle, personnel (LCVP) boat (i.e. Higgins Boat) and soldiers heading for the shore on Omaha Beach.



Soldiers among German-laid beach obstacles.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN (1889–1977)

By Frederick C. Skvara

Charlie Chaplin is considered one of the most talented and influential artists of the early twentieth century who transformed the cinema from a simple form of entertainment to a new way to communicate and has inspired practically every filmmaker. For most of his films, he not only starred in them, but also wrote the screenplays, directed, produced, edited and composed most of the music. In 1972 he received an Honorary Academy Award for “the incalculable effect he has had in making motion pictures the art form of this century”. He received two more Academy Awards and numerous other awards in the United States and abroad. Some of his films are regarded as classics and have been included in lists of the greatest films ever made. Statues of his iconic character “The Little Tramp” have been erected around the world. In the 1980s, IBM used that character to advertise their personal computer and a Soviet astronomer discovered and named a minor planet, 3623 Chaplin, after Chaplin in 1981.

Chaplin was born near London, England, on April 16, 1889, to parents who were both music hall performers and who taught Charlie to sing and dance starting him on a vaudeville career at the age of seven years as a member of a clog-dancing act (i.e. a form of step dancing wearing wooden-soled clogs). His father died while Charlie was young and his mother was in and out of mental institutions leaving the young Chaplin to a succession of boarding schools, orphanages and even living in the streets.

From 1906 to 1913 he performed in numerous music hall skits working for the Fred Karno Company. His film career began after signing with the Keystone Film Company in December 1913 and starring in his first film *Making a Living* in February 1914 and in December 1914,

he starred in *Tillie’s Punctured Romance*, the first feature-length motion picture produced by Keystone. In the film *Kid Auto Races at Venice*, he introduced his famous costume – derby hat, tight frock coat, baggy trousers, out-sized shoes, moustache and a cane. In the 1915 film *The Tramp* (Essanay Studios) he went beyond slapstick introducing a note of sadness and showing that the character cared for others, making him not only funny but endearing. His films with Keystone and other studios were sensationally successful and his salaries soared astronomically to the point where studios could no longer afford him and by 1918 he was known around the world. On February 3, 1919, being financially independent, he joined with the screen stars, Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, and the director D.W. Griffiths to form United Artists film studio where Chaplin could have complete control over his films

Although the great bulk of his work was created in the United States, he never became an American citizen, and after being linked by some politicians and newspaper columnist with alleged “subversive” causes, he left the United States in 1952 and only returned in 1972 to accept the Academy Award. At the ceremony he was given a 12-minute standing ovation, the longest in the history of the Academy.

Charlie Chaplin died on Christmas Day, 1977 after suffering a stroke in his sleep. His home in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland, has been converted into a museum, “Chaplin’s World” that opened in 2016.

There have been a number of stamps issued for Charlie Chaplin, several of them in 2014, the 100th anniversary of the debut of “The Little Tramp”. All the ones accompanying this article depict Chaplin’s character, “The Little Tramp”.



Great Britain 1999
(Scott 1862)



United States 1994
(Scott 2496)
[From Stars of The/Silent
Screen, pane of 10
Designer: Al Hirschfeld]



United States 1998
(Scott 3183a)
[From “Celebrate the
Century: 1910s”. Illus-
trator: Dennis Lyall]



Austria 2014
(Scott 2496)



ORIGIN OF THANKSGIVING IN CANADA

By Frederick C. Skvara

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in the United States, Canada and a few other countries to give thanks for the harvest and events of the past year. The early Virginia settlers had days of thanks for special occasions and harvest celebrations are as old as civilization itself. But the first Thanksgiving Day celebration in America occurred in the autumn of 1621, when by order of William Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Colony, the Pilgrims held a three-day festival to commemorate their harvest.



United States 2001
(Scott 3546)

he discovered Frobisher Bay in Baffin Island that was subsequently named for him.

Samuel de Champlain (1567–1635) was a French explorer and colonial statesman who made several voyages to Canada between 1603 and 1608, eventually establishing a settlement at Quebec and in 1612 being appointed Lieutenant-Governor. Earlier in 1605 he, along with the French merchant and explorer Pierre Dugua de Mons (1558–1628), established a settlement at Port-Royal, Nova Scotia in New France, the first permanent European settlement north of St. Augustine, Florida. It was here that Champlain formed “the Order of Good Cheer” on November 14, 1606, to share a huge feast of thanks with their First Nations neighbors and prepare for the long winter ahead.

Landing of the Pilgrims near Plymouth Rock,
Massachusetts, 1620



From American Oil Company
Stamp Album, 1937



United States
1970 (Scott 1420)



Samuel de Champlain.
France 1956 (Scott B305)



Port Royal, Nova Scotia.
Canada 2005 (Scott 2115)
[400th Anniv. of founding,
from drawing by Champlain]

In Canada the native peoples of the Americas held ceremonies and festivals to celebrate the bounty of the harvest long before Europeans arrived in Canada. Early European thanksgivings were held to give thanks for some special fortune such as that held in 1578 by Martin Frobisher, an English explorer (1535–1594) who, looking for the Northwest Passage, landed in Newfoundland and held a formal ceremony to give thanks for surviving his long, wandering journey. This is considered to have been the first Canadian Thanksgiving. In an earlier expedition

In 1879 Parliament declared Thanksgiving a national holiday with the second Monday in October being settled as a date in 1957. The holiday is celebrated earlier than in the United States because with a cooler climate, the harvest season falls earlier in Canada.



Parliament Building.
Canada 1948 (Scott 277)

Martin Frobisher (1535–1594)



With barque *Gabriel*.
Canada 1963 (Scott 412)



Great Britain 1972
(Scott 665)



A Thanksgiving Blessing

The Selkirk Grace written by Robert Burns (1759–1796), the Scottish national poet and given before a meal on his visit to the seat of the Earl of Selkirk:

*Some can eat, but hae no meat
and some hae meat, but canna eat.
But we can eat and we hae meat
And so the Lord be thankit.*



ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q1. Who was the originator of the adhesive postage stamp?

Ans. **James Chalmers**

In 1837 James Chalmers submitted some examples of gummed labels to be used for the prepayment of postage to Robert Wallace, a Member of Parliament, who was the Chairman of the Select Committee on Postage. Thus, he produced the first essays of adhesive postage stamps originating the idea of adhesive labels for the prepayment of postage. In addition he was the first to suggest that the labels for postage be cancelled with the town name and a date, for in a February 1838 letter to Lt. Colonel William Maberly, secretary of the General Post Office, he placed an illustration of a square one-penny stamp with a line cancellation: DUNDEE 10th February 1838. This was the first essay for an adhesive stamp showing a cancellation.

And although Chalmers is recognized as the originator of adhesive labels to prepay postage, the British Stamp Office, as early as 1711, had used adhesive labels for the payment of taxes on patent medicines. Even earlier in 1653 in Paris, prepaid receipts could be attached to letters and deposited in post boxes for delivery within the city. That system was set up by Jean-Jacques Renouard de Villayer (1607–1691), a member of the French Council of State.

James Chalmers was born in 1782 in Arbroath, a seaport on the North Sea in eastern Scotland. In 1809 he moved to Dundee, Scotland establishing a prosperous business as a bookseller, bookbinder and supplier of writing materials, later expanding it into printing and ink manufacturing. After James died in 1853, the business continued with his son, Charles, and still is in operation under the name of David Winter & Son (i.e. Charles took Winter in as a partner in 1868). [Ref: “James Chalmers: The Real Inventor of the Adhesive Postage Stamp?” by Michael Peach. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* 2013; 44(1):42-45.]



Booklet cover showing portrait of James Chalmers. Several of his adhesive labels are depicted on the inside booklet cover. The booklet was issued by Great Britain in 1982 for the bicentenary of his birth in 1782. The booklet is one of a series of booklets produced in the 1980s whose covers depict postal history. (Scott bklt 573 with pane MH93d)

Q2. Competitive swimming has been included in every Summer Olympics of the modern era and the “crawl” or freestyle, which has been shown on a United States postage stamp, is considered the premier stroke. Do you know in what country the “crawl” was invented?

Ans. **Solomon Islands**

Alick Wickham (1886–1967) was born on the coast of New Georgia Island on the shore of Roviana Lagoon in the Solomon Islands. His father was an English plantation owner and his mother was a native woman from Simbo Island in the Solomons. Most children living around the lagoon learned to swim at an early age including Alick who learned an overarm swimming stroke and a kicking-leg movement.

In 1898 Alick moved to Sydney, Australia, to attend Newington College and several years later entered a swimming race at the Bronte Baths. A prominent swimming coach who observed Wickham’s swimming style remarked: “Look at that kid crawling!” Alick became one of Australia’s top swimmers and his stroke became the foundation of the “Australian crawl” perfected by Frederick Cavill and his sons that eventually evolved into “Freestyle”: the stroke that dominates international swimming today. [Ref: “Different Strokes: The Solomon Islands’ Crawl and the War Canoe”. by Nicholas Oughton. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* 2019; 49(12):68-71]



Helene Madison (1913–1970) won three gold medals in freestyle swimming at the 1932 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1966) and the United States Olympic Hall of Fame (1992). United States 1990 (Scott 2500)

Alick Wickham portrait and plaque showing honors. The stamp depicts the Bronte Baths where Alick demonstrated the “crawl” in a race. Solomon Islands 1984 (Scott 534)



Q3. What was the first stamp to be printed by the photogravure process?

Ans. **Bavaria 1914 definitives**

The exact origin of the photogravure process is unclear, but it appears to have been developed by Joseph Nicéphore Niepce (1765–1833) in the 1820s in France and by William Henry Fox-Talbot (1800–1877) in 1852 in England. The first stamps printed by photogravure were printed by FA Bruckman of Munich, Bavaria, the 1914-1920 Bavarian definitives showing a portrait of King Ludwig III (1845–1921). He reigned from 1913 to 1918 when he was deposed at the end of World War I and his kingdom was declared a republic. Today, photogravure is more correctly referred to as gravure since computer technology has replaced the photographic methods used in the past. [Ref: “New Collector” by Richard West. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* 2019; 49(12):26-27]



King Ludwig III. Bavaria 1914 (Scott 95)



Q4. What is the first United States postage stamp to depict an actual flower?

Ans. **2¢ Founding of Jamestown. (Scott 329)**



The frame of this stamp shows a tobacco plant on the left and a stalk of Indian corn on the right. The genus *Nicotiana* contains about 70 species of annual or perennial herbs and shrubs native to the tropics and warm temperate zones. The plant shown on the stamp is *Nicotiana tabacum* with ovate to lanceolate leaves.

(i.e. more easily seen in image showing the stamp frame from Johl). Originally from tropical America in pre-Columbian times, it is now widely cultivated and the principal source of commercial tobacco and was cultivated by the Jamestown colonists from imported seeds.



Frame of 1907 2¢ Founding of Jamestown. Max Johl Vol.1, pg. 37

Nicotiana rustica (Wild tobacco) with ovate-caudate to elliptic leaves is the original tobacco, smaller and hardier than *Nicotiana tabacum*, originally found in the Andes and from Ecuador to Bolivia and cultivated in pre-Columbian times by Indians of Mexico and eastern North America. As Roger Brody notes (2), it was tobacco from this plant that the Indians in Virginia used when the colonists arrived. And although it is not very pleasant for smoking, it has been cultivated in order to obtain nicotine to be used as an insecticide.

Domesticated corn evolved thousands of years ago in the Americas where it was originally cultivated. One of the oldest varieties of corn is Indian corn (*Zea mays*) also known as flint corn, a dietary staple of the North American Indians and the variety that the Indians taught the early colonists how to grow. It is the variety shown on the stamp. [Ref: (1) “Botanical Art Stamps Offered in Two Pane Sizes; Jan. 29 First-day Ceremony at Ameristamp Expo” by Michael Baadke. *Linn’s Stamp News* 2016. (2) “Jamestown 1907: Part 1 & 3” by Roger S. Brody. *the United States Specialist* 2019; 90(5&7):201-208;296-306. (3) “#329 Two-Cent, Carmine. Founding of Jamestown: The Jamestown Exposition Issue” *The United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century* by Max G. Johl 1947; I:37]

ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ

Q5. Who was the first United States president to throw the first pitch to open the baseball season?

Ans. **William Howard Taft**

On April 14, 1910, William Howard Taft (1857–1930), the 27th President of the United States (1909–1913) threw out the first ceremonial pitch between the hometown Washington Senators and the visiting Philadelphia Athletics to open the 1910 Professional Major League Baseball season. Previously Grover Cleveland, William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt had been invited to open the baseball season by throwing out the first ceremonial pitch, but they all refused. Taft genuinely loved baseball and his presidential pitch forever bonded baseball and the American Presidency.

He threw it to Walter Johnson, the Senators starting pitcher who caught the ball. The next day Johnson brought the ball to the White House and asked Taft for an autograph which the President agreed to writing: "To Walter Johnson with hope that he may continue to be as formidable as in yesterday's game. William H. Taft". Johnson threw a one-hitter and the Senators won 3-0 .



William Howard Taft.
1930 (Scott 685)



Walter Johnson.
2000 (Scott 3408i)

Walter "Big Train" Johnson (1887–1946) spent his entire 21-year career as a pitcher for the Washington Senators and then managing that team from 1929–1932. One of the greatest pitchers to play the game , several of his pitching records are still unbroken: all-time career leader in shutouts with 110; led the majors in strikeouts a record 12 times; only pitcher to have over 400 wins (417) and strike-out over 3,500 (3,509) batters. He was one of the inaugural members elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.[Ref: "Two Bills in the 1908 Presidential Election: Bryan and Taft". *Linn's Stamp News* 2015.]



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



- Q1. Where are the Islands of Refreshment?
- Q2. What is the only United States stamp issue to celebrate the anniversary of statehood of more than one state?
- Q3. What Olympic host country was the first country to issue advance publicity stamps for the games?
- Q4. Who were the Fussach Messengers?
- Q5. What was the relationship between Horace Greeley and Jefferson Davis?