Our annual Holiday Party is Tuesday, December 4, at the home of Scott Holmberg at 552 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30307. A map showing directions from our regular meeting place to Scott’s home is enclosed.

We will do our usual White Elephant Auction to raise funds to donate to the Dekalb Library that provides us with our meeting room. Items do not have to be philatelic for this holiday event.

Our party is always Pot Luck. Scott will be providing Lasagna and Don Laberteaux has promised his famous cake. The club will provide soda and ice tea. We have a couple salads and desserts promised but will need additional dishes. Feel free to bring other beverages you want as well. Barbara Asher is coordinating food if you have any questions.

2019 membership renewal form is enclosed. Membership renewal is important. Filling in your collecting interest gives us a chance to update the list we will distribute to all members in March.

NOTE: January meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday due to the first Tuesday falling on New Year’s Day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 30 – Dec 1-2  FLOREX Osceola Heritage Park, Events Center Hall B, 1901 Chief Osceola Trail, Kissimmee, FL  Details at www.FlorexStampShow.com

December 1  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA  from 9 – 11 a.m.  Coffee, talking and stamps.  Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.
December 4
Holiday Party at Scott Holmberg’s home. 552 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta. Map attached.

January 8
Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00.

January 18-19
NOLAPEX. DoubleTree Hotel, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd. Kenner, Louisiana. Sponsored by Crescent City Stamp Club. www.ccscno.org

January 22
Regular Meeting and program.

January 25 – 27

February 1 – 3
Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N Tamiami Tr, Sarasota, FL www.sarasotastampclub.com/show.html

February 9 – 10
Myrtle Beach Stamp & Postcard Show. Waccamaw Shoppes At Fantasy Harbor 2999 Waccamaw Blvd, Myrtle Beach. Sponsored by Myrtle Beach Stamp Club https://sites.google.com/site/myrtlebeachstampclub/

February 15-17
AmeriStamp Expo / ARiPEX. Mesa Convention Center 263 N Center St. Building C Mesa, AZ. www.stamps.org/AmeriStampExpo-ASE

Plans are underway for the 2019 Southeast Stamp Expo. Please contact Scott Holmberg if you are interested in volunteering. Our club does the registration desk and the hospitality suite so we need many volunteers.

Also if you would like to work with young collectors contact Barbara Asher to volunteer for the youth activity table.

* * * * *
Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club Membership

Our meetings are held at the Atlanta Library at 980 Ponce de Leon at 7:00 on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Membership includes our monthly newsletter with upcoming stamp collecting events in the area. The First Tuesday meeting includes a stamp auction. The Third Tuesday meeting will have a featured speaker or presentation on a stamp collecting related topic.

Annual Dues of $12.00 entitles you to our monthly newsletter and participation in all club events. You can pay your $12 dues to our Treasurer, Barbara Asher at the next meeting or mail to her at: Barbara Asher, 1633 Adelia Pl, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Name: _____________________________________________________

Mailing Address for Newsletter:
____________________________________________________________________

Email: _______________________ Phone _____________________________

Are you a member of American Philatelic Society? __________

Are you a member of American Topical Association? __________

Stamp Collecting Interest___________________________________________

We want to have a list of members with their interests so that those who bring material to the auction know what other members are interested in.

If you would like the newsletter in email form rather than snail mail, let me know. The newsletter is usually a PDF file and easily emailed.
Our Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs includes our club’s page. The main site is www.sefsc.org. Our club’s page is at www.sefsc.org/atlanta-stamp-collectors-club.html. But be sure to check out all the other information on the site. We will be posting our club newsletter there as well as any handouts from meeting presentations.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary  leacoe@bellsouth.net
Many news items this month.

Button Gwinnett Stamp Bourse on April 28. If you are interested in having a table, contact Allen Johnson. 770-349-7533 or e mail ajrj1957@yahoo.com. Cost per table is $25.

Cobb County Stamp Club has finally secured a regular meeting place. Their meetings are on 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} Sunday at 1:30 pm. New location is 1809 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA “The Bridge Club” (next to Restaurant Depot)

Our Atlanta club voted at the last meeting to purchase a projector to use with laptops for presentations. It will be available at all meetings.

As we have discussed in recent meetings we will be affected by elections this year since our Library meeting room is used for early voting. The usual May joint club meeting will be hosted by the Button-Gwinnett club on May 16 which will be our only May meeting.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 3 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00. Regular ASCC Meeting and auction
April 7  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

April 17  Regular ASCC Meeting. Program by LeA Coe on “Depiction of women on early US Stamps”.


April 28  Button Gwinnett Stamp Bourse  10 am – 5 pm. Mountain Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. There will be Youth Activity table as well as many dealers.

May 16  Joint Atlanta Clubs meeting (No meeting at Library)

May 19 - 20  Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia Stamp Show. The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell St. Marietta, GA 30060

June 16-17  HUNTSPEX 2018. Huntsville Philatelic Club UAH Conference Training Center UAH Campus 1410 Ben Graves Dr, Huntsville, AL. www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html


August 9 – 12  APS Stampshow 2018 combined with ATA National Topical Stamp Show. Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N High St. Columbus, Ohio. www.stamps.org/stampshow

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**Philatelic Creativity and Fun**

_By Steve Swain_

At the January Southeastern Stamp Expo, fellow club member Richard Benjamin and I were talking about my 1938 National Air Mail Week cover collection and how I had been fortunate to purchase from a dealer at the show two South Carolina covers/cachets for which I had been looking for quite some time. Richard mentioned that he had recently purchased a collection that included interesting cachets on 1938 covers that also used the 6-cent Eagle multi-colored air mail stamp (Scott C23) specifically issued for the 1938 National Air Mail Week celebration. Richard brought the covers to the show the next day for me to examine.

As I was to learn, the covers were not mailed as part of the April, 1938 national event. The seventy covers were mailed in June and July of 1938. But I quickly agreed on a price for all the covers because they represented a little slice of philatelic creativity and fun.
The covers were mailed to Francis J. Bandi, Bloomington, Illinois, proprietor of Coins, Stamps & Paper Money, according to the covers’ address. Mr. Bandi had identified cities in the U.S. with unusual names, such as England, Secretary, Redcross, Radio, TipTop, Quick, Twin Sisters, Mohawk, New Zealand, Ceylon, Crow, Fork, Corn, and Rat. He prepared covers having his mailing address and somehow had the covers mailed from the cities with unusual names.

The covers from England, Arkansas (showing the young Princess Elizabeth) and Newfoundland, Kentucky are good examples.

The cachets? When Mr. Bandi received the mailings, he cut images from magazines, books, posters, etc., that matched/represented the name of the cities from which the mailings came. He then pasted those images on the covers, creating what we call “add on” cachets.

The reason I’m sure Mr. Bandi pasted the images on the covers after he received them is none of the pasted images show ink from the postmark, which would have surely happened if the images had been affixed to the cover before mailing. But even more evidence is that some images were obviously cut to be positioned so as not to overlay or interfere with the postmark and obscure the unique city name. The covers from England, Arkansas (showing the young Princess Elizabeth) and Newfoundland, Kentucky are good examples.
I really don’t have a favorite cover in the group of seventy. They are all quite clever. But, as a stamp collector, I will reserve a prominent place in my collection for the cover from Stamps, Arkansas!

* * * * * * *

Our Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs includes our club’s page. The main site is [www.sefsc.org](http://www.sefsc.org). Our club’s page is at [www.sefsc.org/atlanta-stamp-collectors-club.html](http://www.sefsc.org/atlanta-stamp-collectors-club.html). But be sure to check out all the other information on the site. We will be posting our club newsletter there as well as any handouts from meeting presentations.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at [sdholmberg1@gmail.com](mailto:sdholmberg1@gmail.com) with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary  
[leacoe@bellsouth.net](mailto:leacoe@bellsouth.net)
Lots of opportunities coming up to join with other stamp collectors. Note the show hosted by the Button Gwinnett club in August has now been named GwinnPex.

Club members are asked to volunteer for the Americover 2018 national show in August - details after calendar.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**


**August 7** Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00. Regular ASCC Meeting and auction.

**August 9 – 12** APS Stampshow 2018 combined with ATA National Topical Stamp Show. Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N High St. Columbus, Ohio. [www.stamps.org/stampshow](http://www.stamps.org/stampshow)

**August 18 – 19** 2018 Summer Stamp and Postcard Show, Columbia Philatelic Society, Spring Valley High School, 120 Sparkleberry Ln, Columbia, SC [www.stamps.org/cps](http://www.stamps.org/cps)

**August 21** Regular ASCC meeting and program. This will be a Show and Tell meeting. Please bring something to show and discuss.
August 25  GWINNPEX. Sponsored by Button Gwinnett Stamp Club Mountain Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. 9 AM – 5 PM
http://www.sefsc.org/gwinnpex.html
September 4  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club meeting and auction.
September 18  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club meeting and program.
www.memphisstampcollectorsociety.org

Ralph Nafziger of the American First Day Cover Society has asked for volunteers from local clubs for the upcoming AMERICOVER 2018 in Norcross in the following areas.

Registration Table: Friday, August 3—12-2 p.m.;4-5 p.m.
  Saturday, August 4—10 a.m.-12 noon;2-4 p.m.;4-5 p.m.
  Sunday, August 5—2-4 p.m.

Society/Sales Table: Friday, August 3—10 a.m.-12 noon; 12-2 p.m., 4-5 p.m.
  Saturday, August 4—10 a.m.-12 noon; 4-5 p.m.
  Sunday, August 5—10 a.m.-12 noon; 12-2 p.m. 4-5 p.m.

Audio-Visual: Friday, Saturday, Sunday—as needed.

If you can help, please contact Ralph at nafziger@peak.org or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com.

___________________________________________________________

Monaco FDR Stamp is NOT an Error
by Steve Swain

While recently doing some internet research on stamps described as errors, freaks and oddities (EFOs), I was confronted with website after website highlighting and bemoaning the “error” on Monaco’s 1947 50¢ philatelic exposition airmail issue (Scott C16). The National Postal Museum. Linn’s Stamp News. eBay offerings. Stamp collecting blogs and forums. On and on. “If you get out your magnifying glass to look at this stamp, you will see that President Roosevelt has an extra finger on his left hand. It is an obvious error.”
Shown here is the Monaco issue with FDR’s left hand enlarged. On the enlargement, the presumed six fingers are numbered, with the first finger being the thumb. FDR is using a magnifying glass to look at a stamp he is holding between his thumb (1) and third fingers (3).

The key to understanding that the Monaco stamp does NOT show FDR’s hand having six fingers is the photograph used to create the stamp’s design, shown below on the left. The image in the middle is an enlargement of FDR’s left hand holding the stamp. The right most image is the enlargement of the Monaco stamp, previously shown.

The photo enlargement clearly shows that FDR does not have six fingers on his left hand. He has a ring on his little finger (encircled in red). The area to the immediate left of that finger is FDR’s shirt sleeve cuff that has been buttoned and shows creases in the material.

Compare the photo enlargement to the enlargement of FDR’s hand from the Monaco stamp. Same ring on his little finger (encircled in red). No “sixth finger” to the left of the ringed little finger. Instead, it is FDR’s shirt sleeve cuff. The stamp’s engraving process simply was not able to duplicate the clarity of the photograph.

Several years ago, a Linn’s columnist wasn’t satisfied with focusing only on the presumed six-fingers. “Giving the president 11 digits is bad enough,” he wrote. “But having America’s best-known philatelist pick up a stamp by pinching it with his oily fingers? Come on, Monaco — where did you leave his stamp tongs?”
The columnist obviously had not seen the photo used for the stamp’s design. Not only did the photo not show FDR with six fingers on his left hand, he was not using tongs to handle the stamp. Shame on FDR, not the designer of the Monaco stamp!

Our Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs includes our club’s page. The main site is www.sefsc.org. Our club’s page is at www.sefsc.org/atlanta-stamp-collectors-club.html. But be sure to check out all the other information on the site. We will be posting our club newsletter there as well as any handouts from meeting presentations.

Please contact Allen Johnson (ajrj1957@yahoo.com) if you are interested in a table for the August 25 GWINNPEX bourse. Rate $25 per table. Show set up starting at 8:00 am and show runs 10 AM to 5 PM. There is a youth activity table and the church has concessions for lunch.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

If anyone is going to the APS show, please remember one of my topical collections is dragons. I’d love something with the show first day cancel which is titled “Here be Dragons”.

LeA Coe, Secretary

leacoe@bellsouth.net
2018 membership renewal form is enclosed. Membership renewal is important. Filling in your collecting interest gives us a chance to update the list we will distribute to all members in March. The Linn’s US Stamp Popularity Poll is enclosed. Please complete your ballot and turn in at one of the February meetings so we can mail them together before the March 1 deadline.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1  
“Competitive Thematic Exhibiting” APS On-the-Road course Sarasota, FL. More details and registration information [http://stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses or 814-933-3803].


February 3  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

February 6  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00.

February 17 – 18 Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia Stamp Show. The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell St. Marietta, GA 30060
February 20 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and program. We will have Show and Tell program – all who went to the Southeast Stamp Expo, please bring items you found that you want to tell us about.

February 22 APS On-the-Road Courses Birmingham, AL 1. What is Astrophilately. 2 The Black Heritage Series: Preserving Our Heritage. Information and registration http://stamps.org/on-the-road-courses


March 6 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club meeting and auction.

March 20 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club meeting and program.


* * * * *

The Birmingham Alabama Philatelic Society, a member of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, asked that we remind member clubs that the APS AmeriStamp Expo 2018 will be held in Birmingham on February 23-25, 2018. The APS is looking for volunteers to assist in all facets of the show. If you, or member of your stamp club, would like to volunteer contact Kathleen Edwards, kedwards@stamps.org, 814-933-3800 ext 217.

Upon request, the APS will reimburse volunteers for parking or mass transit expenses. Volunteers who work eight or more hours may request a free ticket to the Saturday night banquet. Volunteers can also sign up at: American Philatelic Society

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary leacoe@bellsouth.net
Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club Membership

Our meetings are held at the Atlanta Library at 980 Ponce de Leon at 7:00 on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Membership includes our monthly newsletter with upcoming stamp collecting events in the area. The First Tuesday meeting includes a stamp auction. The Third Tuesday meeting will have a featured speaker or presentation on a stamp collecting related topic.

Annual Dues of $12.00 entitles you to our monthly newsletter and participation in all club events. You can pay your $12 dues to our Treasurer, Barbara Asher at the next meeting or mail to her at: Barbara Asher, 1633 Adelia Pl, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Name: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address for Newsletter: ____________________________________________

Email: ____________________ Phone ____________________

Are you a member of American Philatelic Society? ___________

Are you a member of American Topical Association? ___________

Stamp Collecting Interest ____________________________________________

We want to have a list of members with their interests so that those who bring material to the auction know what other members are interested in.

If you would like the newsletter in email form rather than snail mail, let me know. The newsletter is usually a PDF file and easily emailed.

LeA Coe, Secretary  leacoe@bellsouth.net
Linn's 2017 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

1. Year of the Rooster
2. Dorothy Height
3. Oscar de la Renta
4. John F. Kennedy
5. Nebraska Statehood
6. WPA Posters
7. Mississippi Statehood
8. Henry David Thoreau
9. Sports Balls
10. Total Solar Eclipse
11. Andrew Wyeth
12. Disney Villains
13. Sharks
14. Protect Pollinators
15. Father Ted Hesburgh
17. History of Hockey
DEFINITIVES AND SPECIAL STAMPS

18. Love Skywriting
19. Lilyokalani Gardens
20. Gateway Arch
21. U.S. Flag
22. Seashells
23. USA Star
24. Uncle Sam's Hat
25. Robert Panera
26. Delicioo
27. Green Succulent
28. Boutonniere
29. Corage
30. Strawberries
31. Flowers from the Garden
32. The Snowy Day
33. Christmas Carols
34. Althimers

POSTAL STATIONERY

35. Northern Cardinal forever stamped envelope
36. Lilyokalani Gardens Priority Mail stamped envelope
37. Barn Swallow forever stamped envelope
38. Azulillo Chilean Blue Crocoss forever postal card and double reply postal card

The stamp poll ballot is on page 24. Stamps are not shown to scale.
LINN'S 2017 U.S. STAMP POPULARITY POLL

Select from the following list the 2017 commemorative stamps; 2017 definitive and special stamps; and 2017 postal stationery that have the best and worst designs in your opinion, as well as those you feel are the most important and least necessary in subject.

**VOTE BY THE NUMBER PRECEDING THE ISSUE NAME ONLY**

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<th>Commemorative stamps</th>
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<td>3. Oscar de la Renta</td>
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<th>BEST DESIGN</th>
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<td>Definitive and special stamps</td>
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<td>30. Strawberries</td>
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<td>Postal stationery</td>
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<td>35. Northern Cardinal forever stamped envelope</td>
<td>37. Barn Swallow forever stamped envelope</td>
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<tr>
<td>36. Liliuokalani Gardens Priority Mail stamped envelope</td>
<td>38. Azulillo Chilean Blue Crocus forever postal card</td>
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Now vote for your single personal favorite stamp issue of 2017. Your choice can be from the commemorative, definitive-special or postal stationery categories. Se-tenant issues (different designs in one pane) are counted as one issue.

**MY FAVORITE 2017 STAMP**
(please write in number and stamp issue name):

No._____Issue_____

SEND BALLOT TO: Linn's Stamp Poll, Box 4120, Sidney, OH 45365.
All ballots must be postmarked by March 1, 2018. Photocopied ballots are acceptable. Stamps are pictured in this issue on pages 20-21.
2018 membership renewal form is enclosed. Membership renewal is important. Filling in your collecting interest gives us a chance to update the list we will distribute to all members in March.

We will have election of officers at the January meeting. Barbara, Scott and LeA are willing to serve another year in their offices but anyone can put in to serve as program coordinator which has not been filled in several years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00.

January 6  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

January 16  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and program. We hope to have John Allensworth’s presentation on Bhutan which has been delayed from last fall.

January 20-21  2018 Winter Stamp and Postcard Show, Spring Valley High School, 120 Sparkleberry Ln, Columbia, SC  Contact: Mark Postmus mapostmus@yahoo.com


February 1  “Competitive Thematic Exhibiting”  APS On-the-Road course Sarasota, FL. More details and registration information http://stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses or 814-933-3803.


February 3  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn GA  from 9 – 11 a.m.  Coffee, talking and stamps.  Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

February 6  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club meeting and auction.

February 20  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club meeting and program.


_________________________________________________________

**Exciting Exhibits Await at This Year’s SE Stamp Expo**
Mel Coe, Show Exhibits Chairman

An exciting set of over 150 frames of exhibits await visitors to the Southeastern Stamp Expo in Atlanta. The exhibits are in and all the frames we have available will be full of displays. One of Atlanta’s favorite exhibitors, Regis Hoffman brings back his exhibit on “Letters to the Stars”. To the left is one of his items. Show Chairman Scott Mark also has announced an exhibit of the Inverted Jenny from the APS. There are only a hundred in existence and each are accounted for. I enjoyed watching one specimen of the “Jenny” go up for auction by Robert A. Siegel, in New York for over a million dollars. One will be on display during the weekend of the show.

Addie Amos’ Youth Exhibit centers on “The Penguin: A Bird That Doesn’t Fly”. An exploration of “The Walt Disney Commemorative of 1968” and “Walt Disney’s First Superstar: Mickey Mouse” will fill over a dozen frames.
Do you remember mail being delivered by street car say around 1892? Nope, but Gary Hendren will have his exhibit on St. Louis Street Car Mail available. Sounds like a que for a Judy Garland song. Judy won’t be there but I’m willing to bet most philatelists in Atlanta will be. I’m looking forward to meeting y’all at the end of January.

Southeastern Stamp Expo

Hilton Atlanta Northeast
5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Dates: Friday, Jan. 26th through Sunday, Jan. 28th

Times: 10 am – 5:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm Sunday

Admission: $5 for the whole family, all weekend (waived for show volunteers; inquire at sestampexpo@gmail.com)

Hotel Info: Hilton Atlanta Northeast (770-447-4747 and use Group Code SESE18; or go to www.sefsc.org/hotel-reservations and use the link to book through Hilton’s website)

Rate is $97 per night (excludes mandatory $5 marketing fee) and includes free buffet breakfast for two each morning

Further Information: www.sefsc.org or email sestampexpo@gmail.com

Show Highlights

- Celebrating the 100th anniversary of United States Air Mail service, show cachet and commemorative cancel available, by artist Chris Lazaroff
- 23 dealers, 21 from out of state
- USPS Retail Sales, Friday and Saturday
- 168 frames of exhibits, including the Inverted Jenny from the APS
- Numerous presentations
- Structured Youth Area with free stamps for kids
- What’s in your Attic? Stamp collection evaluations
- United States Postal Service ceremony, Friday 11 am
- Cachetmakers’ Bourse, Saturday 11 am
- Hospitality Suite, Room 1020, Friday and Saturday at 5:30 pm, for Club Members (complimentary beer, wine, and snacks)
- Awards Banquet, Saturday 6 pm, $50 per person, choice of chicken or salmon
- Annual General Meeting of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, Sunday 11 am

* * * * * * * * *

The Birmingham Alabama Philatelic Society, a member of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, asked that we remind member clubs that the APS AmeriStamp Expo 2018 will be held in Birmingham on February 23-25, 2018. The APS is looking for volunteers to assist in all facets of the show. If you, or member of your stamp club, would like to volunteer contact Kathleen Edwards, kedwards@stamps.org, 814-933-3800 ext 217. Upon request, the APS will reimburse volunteers for parking or mass transit expenses. Volunteers who work eight or more hours may request a free ticket to the Saturday night banquet. Volunteers can also sign up at: American Philatelic Society

Our Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club is responsible for the Registration Table and the Youth Activities Table at the upcoming Southeastern Stamp Expo. If you are interested in volunteering (which also gets you free admission to the show) please talk to Scott Holmberg (sdh1@cdc.gov).

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdh1@cdc.gov with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary leacoe@bellsouth.net
As we have discussed in recent meetings we will be affected by elections this year since our Library meeting room is used for early voting. Both of our July meetings will have to be cancelled due to early voting for the run off elections. There is a chance to get together at Don LaBerteaux’ home on July 7. Or check out the Cobb County club’s meeting (details on last page of newsletter). Our members can also attend the Button-Gwinnett club meeting at 7 PM on July 18 at Mountain Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

Club members are asked to volunteer for the Americover 2018 national show in August - details after calendar.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **July 7**
  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

- **July 8**
  Cobb County Stamp Club meeting (details below)

- **July 18**
  Button – Gwinnett Stamp Club meeting (info above)

- **July 22**
  Cobb County Stamp Club meeting (details below)

- **July 28-29**

- **August 3 - 5**

- **August 7**
  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction.
1919-1922 Shanghai Overprints

By Steve Swain

The Treaty of Nanking, signed August 29, 1842, was a peace treaty ending the First Opium War (1839–42) between the United Kingdom and the Qing dynasty of China. After the signing of the Treaty, many American merchants began conducting their business directly from the region. Mail to and from the U.S. was sent through our nation’s consulate in Shanghai.

Initially, the U.S. Postal Agency accepted payment in U.S. currency only. Not having U.S. currency, many non-Americans encountered problems sending letters via U.S. which had a negative consequence for U.S. Postal Agency revenue. To complicate matters, the value of the local Chinese currency traded at 2-to-1 to the U.S. dollar, that is, one U.S. dollar was valued at twice that of Chinese currency.

To attempt to simplify the situation, in 1919 the United States introduced sixteen denominations of surcharged stamps for use in the Post Offices in China. The current definitive stamps of 1917-
1919 were used with overprints at twice the value of the stamp being overprinted, that is, overprint values ranged from 2¢ to $2 as applied to the 1¢ to $1 stamps. (A special delivery stamp was overprinted but not put into use.) All of the issues were overprinted in black ink except for the 7¢ and $1 issues, which were overprinted in red.

Note that a shortage of 1¢ and 2¢ values in 1922 led postal authorities to allow a second overprint on the 1¢ and 2¢ values that are now designated by Scott as K17 and K18. In contrast to the original overprinted 1¢ and 2¢ values, the surcharge overprint on the two stamps in 1922 show “2 cts.” and “4 cts” instead of the original overprint of “2¢” and “4¢”, as shown below.

A time-honored collecting challenge is to assemble a complete set of the eighteen Shanghai Overprints. This can be a rather expensive pursuit because not only were the stamps issued for only a very brief time and in only three cities in China, they were issued in very limited quantities. For the 3¢ through 10¢ denominations, only 13,000 of each stamp was used for overprinting. Only 8,000 were used for each stamp in the 12¢ through 30¢ range, and a paltry 4,000 overprinted stamps were issued using the 50¢ and $1 stamps.

Your challenge is even more intriguing if you desire to assemble a collection of used examples of each issue. Quantities of mint stamps today far exceed genuinely cancelled copies because most mailers in Shanghai were well aware that purchasing the un-surcharged stamps with U.S. currency was a far better value than buying and using the overprints.

A very specialized collecting theme associated with the Shanghai Overprints are called the Darrah Overprints. Before the release of the “official” Shanghai Overprints, the amount of mail being handled by the Consulate Post Office in China had increased to a point that a separate post office seemed to be required. This independent post office was launched by the current Consulate Postmaster, John Darrah. Darrah coordinated the unauthorized local printing of surcharge overprints onto various stamps, such as the Parcel Post, Special Delivery and Postage Due issues, shown below. Inverted overprints on some stamps exist in the group.
The first overprints were applied by a rubber handstamp (type I), and these were quickly superseded by typographed overprints (types II and III). The stamps were withdrawn from sale after one week following a reprimand for Darrah by the Postmaster General. Later, to appease Washington postal authorities, Darrah declared the overprints to be precancels. Darrah’s unauthorized overprints are listed as local precancels by Scott. Some catalogs do not even list the issues.

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Cobb County Stamp Club has finally secured a regular meeting place. Their meetings are on 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1:30 pm. New location is 1809 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA “The Bridge Club” (next to Restaurant Depot)

Please contact Allen Johnson ([ajrj1957@yahoo.com](mailto:ajrj1957@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in a table for the August 25 bourse. Rate $25 per table. Show set up starting at 8:00 am and show runs 9 AM to 5 PM. There is a youth activity table and the church has concessions for lunch.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at [sdholmberg1@gmail.com](mailto:sdholmberg1@gmail.com) with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary  
[leacoe@bellsouth.net](mailto:leacoe@bellsouth.net)
As we have discussed in recent meetings we will be affected by elections this year since our Library meeting room is used for early voting. Both of our July meetings will have to be cancelled due to early voting for the run off elections. There is a chance to get together at Don LaBerteaux’ home on July 7. Or check out the Cobb County club’s meeting (details on last page of newsletter).

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2    Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

June 5    Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00.

June 8-10 NAPEX National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington DC. McLean Hilton at Tyson’s Corner 7920 Jones Branch Dr McLean, VA www.napex.org

June 16-17 HUNTSPEX 2018. Huntsville Philatelic Club CHANGE OF LOCATION. Sparkman Building (Building 1) Calhoun Community College, 102 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805. www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html

June 19    Regular ASCC Meeting. This will be Member Bourse since our July second meeting date possibly will be blocked if there is any run-off voting. We will have extra tables set up so you can have an area to lay out your items. Be sure to put prices on your items so you can be free to wander to other member’s sections and shop and swap.
Highway Post Offices – Traveling Down the Nostalgia Highway

By Steve Swain

Highway post offices (HPOs), built on bus chassis, were a noble experiment in the 1940s that allowed postal clerks to sort mail enroute toward a general destination. This provided a faster level of service than sorting mail at stationary points and then moving it in bags to the destination post office.

The first regular HPO route ran from Washington, DC, to Harrisburg, Virginia. It was established on February 10, 1941, and operated until August 21, 1965. A total of 410 HPO routes operated in
This country, initially government owned and operated. But by 1955, the federal government had contracted out the operation of all routes.

The era of the HPO bus was relatively short lived, spanning the years from just prior to World War II to the early 1970s. The concept of sorting enroute in buses failed for exactly the same reason that the railway post offices failed. Both did well in serving cities and towns along a comparatively straight line. But by the late 1950s, America was no longer built along straight routes. Rather, communities developed into a fan shaped pattern, especially around major metropolitan areas. There could never be enough highway units to serve them all. For this very reason, the regional mail centers were created. They served not only as depots for long haul service by air, but for local mail distribution as well, all of which is hauled by trucks.

There are two primary collecting themes related to HPO mail: Trip number postmarks and cachets. Shown below are two 1949 covers with Trip 1 and Trip 2 postmarks for the route between Savannah, Ga. and Cordele, Ga. Notice that the same “First Trip” cachet was used on each cover.

A somewhat more interesting and robust collecting theme are the cover cachets. Most cachets fell into recognizable handstamp categories: A map showing the route; a comparison with the pony express; a side view or front view of an HPO bus.
But some cachets were quite skillfully created and colorful, such as the ones shown below.

![Image of postcards]

For more information and images of covers and cachets, visit the National Postal Museum’s site at [http://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits/current/moving-the-mail/mail-by-rail/highway-post-office-buses/index.html](http://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits/current/moving-the-mail/mail-by-rail/highway-post-office-buses/index.html).

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**Linn’s announces winner of 2017 US Stamp Popularity Poll.**

May 21 issue of Linn’s Stamp News lists the results of the poll and the Total Solar Eclips stamp was the overall winner as favorite stamp. Our Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club was listed among those organizations participating in the poll. They has 1,631 mailed in ballots as well as 700 online votes.

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As we have discussed in recent meetings we will be affected by elections this year since our Library meeting room is used for early voting. The usual May joint club meeting will be hosted by the Button-Gwinnett club on May 16 which will be our only May meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn GA from 9 – 11 a.m.  Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.


March 6  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner.  Meeting starts at 7:00.

March 10-11  Nashville Stamp & Postcard Show, http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org

March 20  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting.  Our program presented by Vincent Rehder will be “German Colonial Possessions: From German East Africa to German New Guinea”

April 3  Regular ASCC Meeting and auction

April 17  Regular ASCC Meeting and program
Negative Stamp Cancellations

By Steve Swain

A fancy cancel usually refers to a 19th century postal cancellation that includes an artistic design. The design was typically carved in cork and the device was used to cancel stamps after pressing the cork onto an ink pad. Below on the left is an image of such a cancelling cork.

An intriguing sub-category of fancy cancels is called negative cancellations. The design cut into the cancelling cork was done in such a way as to make only the edges or perimeter of the design “raised”. It was only this raised area that could pick up the ink from the ink pad leaving the non-inked portion of the design open, not printed, negative. Many negative cancellations (examples below) were simply letters or numbers on a solid background. Nothing too fancy about them.

But there are numerous examples of elaborate negative cancellations that surely required a more skillful hand in carving the cork, as seen with the examples below.
The far left image shows a 3-cent Washington (Scott 65) with "Union" and a negative Pentagon star fancy cancel. The second from the left image is also a 3-cent Washington (Scott 65) with a negative "Lincoln" and stars in a circle. The third image shows a 2-cent Jackson (Scott 183) with a negative “WORCHESTER MASS.” surrounding a multi-pronged cross. Even revenue stamps were adorned with negative cancellations. The image on the far right is a 5-cent red Playing Cards stamp (Scott R28c) with a very rare negative eagle design.

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Thanks to Jonathan Goldstein for providing the cartoon on the next page.

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May 16  Joint Atlanta Clubs meeting (No meeting at Library)  Mountain Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Usual 5 lot and $5 minimum for auction. Pizza supper provided.

May 19 - 20  Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia Stamp Show.  The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell St. Marietta, GA 30060

June 5  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction.  Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner.  Meeting starts at 7:00. Regular ASCC Meeting and auction

June 16-17  HUNTSPEX 2018. Huntsville Philatelic Club UAH Conference Training Center UAH Campus 1410 Ben Graves Dr, Huntsville, AL. [www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html](http://www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html)

June 19  Regular ASCC Meeting.  This will be Member Bourse since our July second meeting date possibly will be blocked if there is any run-off voting.

July 3  Regular ASCC Meeting and auction.
Philately and the 2018 Tax Law

By Steve Swain

(The information below should not be construed as tax advice. Please consult a tax professional for a complete assessment of your individual tax situation.)

The 2018 tax reform bill finalized major revisions to the US tax code for both corporations and individuals. The bill represents the most significant tax changes in the United States in more than thirty years. Are there provisions in the new law that potentially affect philatelists during 2018 in anticipation of filing your tax returns by April 15, 2019? I believe two are noteworthy.

Many organizations, philatelic or otherwise, are recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, your donations to such organizations are tax deductible to the full extent that the law allows. The new tax law did not make any changes to the requirements for and advantages of 501(c)(3) status. However, whether you choose to report philatelic donations as itemized deductions on your 2018 tax return will depend on a comparison calculation.

Individual taxpayers have an option of using the standard deduction or itemized deductions when determining how much to subtract from their income before their tax is calculated. The new law almost doubles the standard deduction. For single filers, the standard deduction increased from $6,500 to $12,000. For married couples filing jointly, a standard deduction of $24,000 is now available.

Before filing your 2018 tax return, you should do a comparison calculation. For itemizing to make sense on the tax return you file in 2019, your total itemized deductions will have to be more than the new standard deduction. For example, if you are a married, filing jointly taxpayer and contributed philatelic items with a market value of $3,000 to a 501(c)(3) organization, and had
additional itemized deductions (e.g., mortgage interest and property taxes) of $25,000, your total itemized deductions of $28,000 would be larger than the new standard deduction. However, if the only deductions you had were the $3,000 donations, then you would definitely take the $24,000 standard deduction. Given the increased standard deduction, it is anticipated that significantly fewer taxpayers will itemize the deductions going forward.

The second provision of the new law that may affect philatelists is also associated with itemized deductions, specifically “hobby losses” included in the “Miscellaneous” deductions category. Because hobbies are not businesses, hobbyists (e.g., philatelists) have never been allowed to take the tax deductions to which business people are entitled. However, for decades the tax law did permit hobbyists to claim as an itemized deduction their hobby-related expenses up to the amount of income the hobby earned during the year. An additional provision was that in order to qualify as a deduction, the allowable hobby loss amount had to be greater than 2% of your adjusted gross income. So, not much of a deduction, but at least possibly something.

All miscellaneous deductions, including hobby losses, have been eliminated under the 2018 law. This means that philatelists will not be able to deduct any expenses from their hobby, but they still must report and pay tax on any income they earn from the hobby.

Most of the changes to individual taxes made by the 2018 law are temporary and are set to expire after the 2025 tax year. It will be interesting to see what, if any, lobbying in the interim is successful for the reinstatement of tax provisions that could be favorable for philatelists.

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LeA Coe, Secretary          leacoe@bellsouth.net
I hope that you had a chance to enjoy your hobby in October even with the disruption in our meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m.  Coffee, talking and stamps.  Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

November 6  Joint Atlanta area Stamp Club meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner.  Meeting starts at 7:00.  There is an auction as well as program presented by Mike Simic on: "Introduction of Yugoslavia and area stamps".  Atlanta club will provide pizza and desserts.  As usual, please be sure your auction lots have a $5 minimum bid.

November 17 - 18  Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia Stamp Show. The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell St. Marietta, GA 30060 Sat. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

November 20  Possible meeting. If there are run-off elections we will not be able to meet.

November 30 – Dec 1-2  FLOREX Osceola Heritage Park, Events Center Hall B, 1901 Chief Osceola Trail, Kissimmee, FL  Details at www.FlorexStampShow.com

December 1  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m.  Coffee, talking and stamps.  Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.
Meetings will resume in January. There will be a December newsletter with details on the Holiday Party and January meeting dates.


The Ivory Stamp Club, with Captain Tim Healy
By Steve Swain

Do you remember your first stamp album? Better yet, do you still have your first stamp album? Not sure if any of us are old enough to have this one, but a stamp album offered by Captain Tim Healy, as a promotional strategy for Proctor & Gamble’s Ivory Soap, was the first album for almost a million people in the mid-1930s. Shown here is the front cover, an example page, and the back cover of the Ivory Stamp Club album I purchased from club member Mel Coe.

In a radio series, Australian Army officer Captain Tim Healy, an authentic explorer and world traveler, fascinated his listeners with stories about stamps on a 15-minute show that aired three times a week. A page in the album (below) listed the days, times, and radio stations for the broadcasts.
H.E. Harris & Co. and Proctor & Gamble offered their listeners stamp packets for 10 cents and two Ivory Soap wrappers. By sending in the wrappers, you could become a member of "Captain Tim's Ivory Stamp Club." By 1936, almost a million people had written in asking for the stamp album and over 2 1/2 million people had joined the stamp club. Many of these members became Harris customers and helped build the company into one of the largest stamp businesses in the world.

There were several versions of the front and back covers for the Ivory Stamp Club album. Shown below are two other versions of the front cover.

All of the albums contained the same worldwide pages (approximately 60) for stamps, beginning with Abyssina and ending with Western Australia. Other pages in the album were listings of stamp packets you could order when redeeming Ivory Soap wrappers, listings of other stamp packets available from H.E. Harris & Co., a “Gallery of Famous Collectors” with brief bios of Franklin D. Roosevelt, King George V and others, and some guidelines for how to “Organize Your Own Ivory Stamp Club.”

A brief search of the internet did not reveal any recordings of Captain Tim’s radio broadcasts. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have located such recordings.
We need to plan our Atlanta Club holiday party. Please bring ideas to either Scott Holmberg or Barbara Asher for location or food.

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If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary  leacoe@bellsouth.net
Check out the calendar – our joint meeting with the other Atlanta clubs is coming up in October and there are other chances to meet with other stamp collectors.

It was great to see so many of our club members at CHARPEX, the Americover show and the GwinnPex show. I hope everyone got a chance to see the exhibits and found great bargains.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 1  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA  from 9 – 11 a.m.  Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

September 4  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction.  Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00.

September 15 – 16  Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia Stamp Show. The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell St. Marietta, GA 30060 Sat. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

September 18  Regular ASCC meeting and program.  Scott Holmberg will discuss his upcoming exhibit: ACROSS THE PACIFIC “VIA ‘FRISCO”-STEAMSHIP MAIL FROM NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNITED STATES TO 1907

[www.memphisstampcollectorssociety.org](http://www.memphisstampcollectorssociety.org)
October 2  JOINT ATLANTA AREA CLUBS MEETING. Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00. There is an auction as well as program presented by Mike Simic on: "Introducing of Yugoslavian and area stamps". Atlanta club will provide pizza and desserts. As usual, please be sure your auction lots have a $5 minimum bid.

October 6  Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

October 16  NO MEETING – our library meeting place is the location for early voting.

November 6  Regular Atlanta Stamp Collector’s Club meeting and auction. We have been advised that even though the library is Early Voting it will not be a regular polling place so we can meet.

$1 and $5 Prexies – Almost the Find of a Lifetime

By Steve Swain

Charles (Chad) Snee of Linn’s Stamp News writes a column called Dollar-Sign Stamps in which he shares stories about dollar-denominated U.S. postage stamps and postal history. Snee’s recent article, Sixty-Seven $5 Statue of Freedom Stamps on Cover, was accompanied by the image shown here.

Spread across the entire width of the 10-inch-by-13-inch envelope are sixty-seven $5 Statue of Freedom stamps (Scott 573), along with single examples of the $1 (Scott 571), 50¢ (Scott 570), 25¢ (Scott 568) and 15¢ (Scott 566) Fourth Bureau stamps. What would require such a large amount of postage? As Snee explains, the mid-1930s mailing was between two divisions or
branches of the Bank of America. It was not the size or weight of the mailing that required the hundreds of dollars of postage. Instead, it was the contents.

The breakdown for the postage is 48¢ first-class postage for a 16-ounce mailing (3¢ per ounce), 15¢ minimum registry fee, and $336.27 supplementary registry fee for an indemnity (insurance) of $3,057,000. The contents of the mailing had to be financial documents such as stocks or bonds requiring a considerable amount of insurance.

Although Snee’s article did not address the value of such a cover, the piece is certainly quite rare. According to several sources, the cover could command a very handsome amount at auction (in the tens of thousands of dollars range, or more).

Snee’s article was doubly intriguing given a recent occasion that prompted me to characterize this article as “almost” the find of a lifetime.

Instead of traveling 10 miles to my closest US Post Office, I routinely visit a Contract Postal Unit (authorized under the USPS Approved Postal Provider Program) located in the rear of a Hallmark card shop near my house. On a recent occasion, I took several large envelopes to that outlet to be weighed and to purchase the appropriate postage. The woman assisting me told me the price to mail each envelope and began to enter information into her meter postage machine. I asked her to instead allow me to purchase commemorative stamps to affix to the envelopes since the mailings were being sent to stamp collectors, like me. She said, “Since you are a stamp collector, do you have a minute to look at something?” Intrigued and having a bit of free time, I readily agreed.

She retrieved a manila folder from underneath her counter, handed it to me, and said, “My husband was a stock broker in New York.” My initial thought as I saw what the folder contained was “the find of a lifetime.” There were stacks of large blocks of cancelled $1 and $5 stamps from the 1938 Prexie series (Scott 832 and 834). Blocks of 28, 25, 20, 16, along with smaller denominations from the Prexie series on piece after piece. I did a quick count and there were at least two hundred of the $1 and $5 issues (examples seen here).

But the blocks were not on full cover. I looked again through the folder hoping to find at least one such piece, but to no avail. It was apparent that someone had cut the blocks of stamps off several mailings.
The only information available from the various pieces was a handstamped date of May 20, 1942 on the reverse of one of them. Why did someone place large blocks of dollar-denominated stamps on the mailings? As with Chad Snee’s explanation about the cover with the $5 Statue of Freedom stamps, I am convinced that the $1 and $5 Prexies were used for the indemnity (insurance) coverage on mailings of stock and bonds. Recall the clerk who showed me the pieces said her husband’s profession at one time was a stock broker. I offered the clerk what I considered to be a fair price for the pieces, explaining that they would be an interesting, curiosity addition to my collection. The next day, she agreed to the purchase.

A possible silver lining in my “almost the find of a lifetime” story is the $1 Prexie issue has a variety with a “USIR” watermark that is somewhat scarce (Scott 832b). Not having complete intact covers, I soaked the stamps off the pieces several days after I acquired them. I am anxious to test my stamps for the watermark and will keep you updated!

We need to plan our Atlanta Club holiday party. Please bring ideas to either Scott Holmberg or Barbara Asher for location or food.

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