TEXAS PHILATELIST
Journal of the Texas Philatelic Association

Sealed
With
A
Kiss

TPA Meetings Set For
TEXPEX 2017
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TPA at a Crossroads
Page 5
Charles Deaton

I am always buying and selling U.S. and foreign stamps, covers and collections

Charles Deaton
P.O. Box 27408. Houston TX 77227
Phone (713) 927-9948 cwdeaton@aol.com

IN THE SUMMER
Contact me on Cape Cod:
P.O. Box 2836. Orleans, MA 02653
THE TEXAS PHILATELIST

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ON THE COVER
A lipstick imprint on a cover is a distinct way to “Seal the Letter” with an actual kiss.

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1013 Springbrook Drive, DeSoto TX 75115
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The Texas Philatelist    February 2017  1
A new year has rolled around and that means that the excitement of TEXPEX is close at hand. Be sure to block off February 24-26 on your calendars. I hope that you’ve had an opportunity to check out and use the new Directory on our website. If so, please share any thoughts with me or with Lyle.

There was a lot going on in the stamp world late in 2016. Among the more interesting developments:

A) For the 2018 edition, Scott catalogs have been reduced in size by 50 percent, with the catalogs split in two and sold together. For a more thorough description of the changes, please see: http://www.linn.com/news/world-stamps-postal-history/2016/october/reorganization-scott-standard-catalog-volumes.htm.

B) The cost of collecting a single copy of each US stamp and piece of stationery issued in 2016 has ballooned to $99.38, nearly doubling the 2015 cost – thanks in no small part to the issuance of the $22.95 Priority Mail Express stamp, the largest denomination ever issued by the Post Office. The Dec. 16, 2016 issue of Linn’s has an interesting table of issues and costs over the last 25 years.

C) Signs of the times: Government postal administrations continue their partnership with the private sector. Sweden and Denmark have turned to private stamp printers + the USPS has partnered with Amazon for parcel deliveries + France produced a new Christmas stamp booklet, complete with a scratch-off that makes you eligible for drawings for largely electronic prizes/vacations/a new car (before you place an order with La Poste, however, keep in mind that only French residents can win!). Another sign of the times: First Class, first-ounce USPS mailing rates are set to climb back to 49¢ on January 22.
President’s Message (Continued)

D) The American Philatelic Research Library (APRL), the world’s largest, had its grand opening celebration at Bellefonte, PA on October 28-29. If you haven’t visited the American Philatelic Center or used the APRL, I would highly recommend them – they are impressive facilities with equally impressive and friendly staffs. The APS has announced that it will sell the recently recovered (June 2) stolen Jenny invert to help pay off the loan incurred to build the new facilities.

E) While on the subject of “Jennies,” panes of the “new” inverted Jennies have sold out at the USPS outlet in Kansas City. The remaining copies are all housed in post offices around the country. At least 30 of the 100 right-side-up panes have been found/reported so far.

F) The USPS literally went Mad in 1989. Linn’s columnist John Hotchner has revealed that the Letter Carrier stamp, Scott #2420, was designed by Jack Davis, Mad magazine founder and cartoonist of Alfred E. Neuman fame. I looked closely but could not identify any hints of “What, me worry?” (except perhaps for the rather strange grin on the carrier to the far left).

G) In a stunning discovery, the only known pane of the 1893 $2 Columbian stamp (Scott #242) saw the light of day after an extended stay in the safe of an elderly widow of a German stamp collector. It sold for more than $675,000 plus 19 percent V-A-T in a German auction (see the following page).

Here’s wishing you a fabulous 2017, philatelically and otherwise
THE TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

“Friendship Through Philately”

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

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Directors: Uttam Dhillon (2020), Anne Benner (2020),
Jonathan Topper (2018), Dr. Ben Termini (2018)

The Texas Philatelist  February 2017  4
Fellow TPA Members:

Our Texas Philatelic Association is now 120 years old, only 10 years younger than the American Philatelic Society itself. And, it is one of precious few state philatelic societies still in existence. But it is no exaggeration to say that it is now at a crossroads.

At the end of this year our long-term secretary-treasurer, Lyle Boardman, will retire. Also at year’s end we will lose our long-term *Texas Philatelist* editor, Tom Koch, to retirement. Their fine work, talents, commitment, and constant loyalty have been absolutely invaluable to our TPA for years, for decades actually. But the time has finally come for them to go into well-deserved retirement. Before they do so they wanted to send a personal letter announcing their retirements and providing additional details of their functions to each member; be on the lookout for same.

Lyle and Tom have been needing, and indeed have been requesting, relief for years – largely to no avail. Similarly, we have functioned without a membership/publicity chairman for the last five years, despite frequent pleas for assistance there. That a society cannot exist without dedicated officers is a truism, and that is especially true for a society that tries to serve upwards of 400 members from across our state.

The principal topic at the TPA Board of Directors Meeting at TEPX in February will be, therefore, a discussion of the future of our organization, the issues that we are facing, and amendments to our constitution that might help us to address these issues. That meeting is open to the entire membership, but we will get back to all of you with the results.

In the meantime, if you are interested in stepping up to one of these tasks, or if you have any questions about them, please contact us:

1) Secretary/Treasurer: Email Lyle at: lcb1941@att.net or write him at 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005

2) Journal Editor: Email Tom at tkoch@tx.rr.com or write him at 1013 Springbrook Drive, DeSoto, TX 75115-3943

3) Membership/Publicity Chairman: Email me at jghist@comcast.net or write me at 12102 Whittington Drive, Houston, TX 77077-4911

Thanks very much...........John Germann
The Texas Philatelic Association is set to hold its 120th Annual Meeting along with open meetings of the TPA Foundation Trustees and TPA Board of Directors on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 during the annual TEXPEX World Series of Philately Show at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine, Texas. The three-day show runs from Friday, Feb. 24 to Sunday, Feb. 26. TEXPEX serves as the annual gathering for the TPA.

A special feature will be a TPA presentation titled “Texas Railroads in Philately – Searches Yield Scarce Items” by TPA member Bill Halstead. Bill is a collector of revenue stamps on railroad documents, with Texas being a category within his collection.

Any TPA member who wishes to volunteer for the setup on Thursday, Feb. 23 is encouraged to contact entech.design@verizon.net.

All members and guests are welcome to attend all TPA events to be held in the Piney Woods room (see schedule on this page). For information about the show and hotel reservations and updates, please visit the TEXPEX website at www.texpex.org. The show will also feature the 3rd Annual TEXPEX Club Shoot-Out exhibit competition between TPA affiliates.

### 120th Meeting of the TPA

**Saturday – Feb. 25, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8-9 a.m.</td>
<td>TPA Foundation Trustees</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10 a.m.</td>
<td>TPA 121st Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>TPA Seminar by Bill Halstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 p.m</td>
<td>TPA Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All are open meetings convening in the Piney Woods Room
Leading societies convening at TEXPEx this year include the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and the United Postal Stationery Society. They will be joined by the Texas Postal History Society, the American First Day Cover Society Sawyer Chapter, and The Space Unit of the American Topical Association.

To accent the flavor of the host city, Grapevine, Texas, there will be a First Day of Issue ceremony for a new 20-stamp pane of the U.S. Postal Service 5¢ Grape issue on Friday, Feb. 24. The stamp was originally issued in 2016 in coil format. Debbie Reynolds, executive director of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Assn. will make a presentation at the event.

Not only will the APS World Series exhibition feature excellent entries from such societies as the USPCS and the UPSS, the UPSS also will hold its own “Champion of Champions” competition at TEXPEx for the best of the Marcus White Award winners of the past several years, and a UPSS Single-Frame Competition.

The TEXPEx Club Shoot-Out will feature one-frame exhibits from the following TPA Affiliates: defending champion Mid-Cities Stamp Club (Arlington Branch), the American First Day Cover Society Sawyer Chapter, the Collectors Club of Dallas, the 2015 champion Oklahoma City Stamp Club, the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, the Houston Philatelic Society, Mid-Cities Stamp Club (Granbury Branch), and the San Antonio Philatelic Society. The winning club has its choice of a fine used US #1 1847 stamp or a fine used Penny Black, the world’s first stamp, issued in 1840 by Great Britain. The winning clubs of the first two competitions raffled off their stamps to raise funds.

TEXPEx offers free parking and free admission, along with many national and local dealers. There will be a Youth and Beginners Table for the young and older.
Eighteen years after D-Day, on June 6, 1962, singer Brian Hyland’s song, “Sealed With A Kiss,” reached No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 Hits. It was about a teenage romance that was put on hold during the summer school break. The young man promised to send his love everyday “in a letter sealed with a kiss.”

This music was unusual for the time, with the sound of a “haunting” harmonica and a change in key device modulation.

So what is this “sealed with a kiss” business?

Some historians will suggest that an “x” came to symbolize a kiss. Fealty oaths to kings were sealed with a kiss, as were letters, with an “x” in red wax. No one knows this for sure.

When the U.S. Marilyn Monroe commemorative stamp was issued June 1, 1995, at Universal City, Calif., other post offices created their own pictorial postmarks. On the facing page (Figure 1) is a red ink “Sealed with a Kiss” postmark from Sacramento, Calif., with lip imprints on a commemorative card.

Hark back to World War II, when soldiers and their sweethearts/wives/lovers used postal acronyms as “secret” messages on covers sent back home and to the military bases or battle areas. One acronym was S.W.A.L.K. which meant “sealed with a loving kiss.” There was also S.W.A.K. (sealed with a kiss). Several of
these acronyms were quite suggestive or downright risqué. Females sent messages, too, such as C.H.I.P for “Come Home I’m Pregnant.”

Figure 2 is one of my favorite World War II covers. Corp. Alphonso N. Caracciolo Jr. of Pennsylvania is writing to Jennie Valenti at 1626 So. Iseminger St., Philadelphia, Pa., on Feb. 27,
Figure 2 - Caracciolo did not place his customary acronyms on this cover to Valenti from Hawaii. Note a censor, who may not have passed the letter on with such coding, applied his handstamp of approval.

1944. “Tubby” Caracciolo was a semi-skilled brick and stone mason along with being a tile setter whose education topped out in grammar school. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on Aug. 18, 1942, and was serving as a warrant officer. Several other covers from Caracciola to Valenti show her maiden name. This one is addressed to Mrs. A. Caracciolo. She has apparently applied lip imprints to the cover upon its arrival. While technically not “sealed with a kiss,” she sealed the spirit of it upon arrival. The U.S. Army APO 950 was located at Fort Armstrong, Hawaii.

In earlier covers from Caracciolo to Valenti, he apparently used personal acronyms such as SWAMK, ILYTJ, ISTG, YAAIMHM, ISAMSFYSHMG, SHMG. Your guess is as good as anyone’s on these. The second one could be, “I Love You Too, Jennie.”

On the next page are several acronyms Caracciolo used on the reverse of letters to Valenti. Most were from Camp Shelby, Miss., where Caracciolo was a private first class in 1942, then a corporal by spring 1943.

No search indicated that Caracciolo married Valenti. A current semi-private family website indicated he had a spouse but the name was unknown to the family members. He died in 1992 at Camden, N.J.  

HVMTAOY - Happy Valentines Month To All of You.

The Texas Philatelist  February 2017  10
Here are four samples of the reverse of Caracciolo’s covers to Valenti with his own acronyms. These are from Fort Shelby, Miss. Caracciolo wrote other love notes on the inside of the envelope under the flaps.
More Coded Covers Between Sweethearts

The two covers above are the first of 400 love letters that Fran Jordan and Bob Zielsdorf exchanged. They are featured in Bob’s memoir, Sealed With A Kiss: An American Love Story in Letters. At top is Bob’s first cover to Fran, and below is Fran’s first cover to Bob, both featuring acronyms.

The story begins in Pennsylvania during 1957 when they had just entered their teens and runs through eight years of correspondence until they married in 1965. Years later, when Fran became ill for a while, she sorted the letters and reread all of them. When Bob retired, he felt the letters had captured unique moments, not only from their lives but also from a pivotal time in American culture. “I thought maybe there was a book there,” he said. See www.bobzielsdorf.com
White House Captures Grand Award at 2016 29th Mid-Cities Stamp Expo

It wasn’t quite like Donald Trump’s election to the White House on Nov. 8, but Stanley Christmas’ exhibit “The 4½¢ White House Stamp” won the Grand Award at the Mid-Cities Stamp Expo in Grapevine, Texas, held Nov. 10-11, 2016.

Christmas, who served as chairman of the Expo for several years and will return as chairman for the 30th annual show next year, also won the Mid-Cities Stamp Club President’s Award and the United States Stamp Society President’s Award along with a show gold medal.

The Reserve Grand Award was presented to D.A. Lux for “The 20¢ Brooklyn Bridge Stamp of 1983 and Its First Days – A 100-Year Celebration.” In addition to his gold medal, Lux received an American Philatelic Society Certificate of Award and the Texas Philatelic Association’s President’s Award.

Karen Cartier received the Texas Stamp Dealers Association Most Popular Exhibit award for “Disney’s Greatest Full-Length Animated Movies: 1937-1998.” Besides a Silver-Bronze Medal, the exhibit received an American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Silver Award of Honor.
Mid-Cities Expo 2016 Awards

**Multi-Frame**

**Grand and Gold**

The 4½¢ White House Stamp
Stanley Christmas
Also, Mid-Cities Stamp Club
President's Award, United States
Stamp Society President's Award

**Reserve Grand and Gold**

The 20c Brooklyn Bridge Stamp of 1983 and Its First Days – A 100-Year Celebration
D. A. Lux
Also, American Philatelic Society
Certificate of Award, Texas Philatelic Association
President's Award

**Vermeil**

*Introduction to Spanish Thermal ATM Stamps and their Varieties*
Peter Elias
Also, MSS Award

**Silver**

*Axis Powers & Philately in WWII: Germany & Italy*
David Stockbridge

**Silver-Bronze**

*Disney's Greatest Full-Length Animated Movies: 1937 - 1998*
Karen Cartier
Also, Texas Stamp Dealers Association Most Popular Exhibit

**Single-Frame**

**Gold**

*Porte de Mar Stamps of Mexico - (1875 - 1879)*
Ben Termini
Also, Mid-Cities Stamp Club
Foreign Material Award

*Jules Verne - Fantastic Voyages*
Ray Cartier

*A Martian Chronicle*
L. Bussey
Also, American Topical Association
First Award for Best Topical Exhibit

**Grand**

*The First Ladies*
Keith Maatman
Also, Mid-Cities Stamp Club Silver Award, Women Exhibitors
Sterling Achievement Award

**Silver-Bronze**

*The Spidey Stamp and Its Promotion*
Peter Elias
Also, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors
Silver Award of Honor
Mid-Cities Expo 2016 Awards

NY 2016
Peter Elias

Bronze
Lord of the Rings – The Trilogy
Karen Cartier

Single-Page
Mini Exhibit Award

Leave it to Beaver(s)
Ben Termini

Four-Page
Mini Exhibit Award

Research of a Pre-WWII Cover from the Japanese Imperial Navy
Skip Ely

Above - The first three frames of special guest Van Siegling’s exhibit that won the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Diamond Award for its 10 World Series of Philately Gold medal victories.

Left - Siegling roams the Expo bourse in his Potter regalia. He also addressed the awards banquet.

The Texas Philatelist November 2016 15
A friendly reminder that dues notices were sent out in October and November. If you have not responded yet, do so as soon as you can to reduce the need to send out reminders (saving time and money). If you are not sure of your status, check on www.texasstamps.org or contact Secretary-Treasurer Lyle Boardman at lcb1941@att.net.

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Editor’s Notes – Tom Koch

Changes for a Couple of Texas Stamp Dealers

George Kubal of Castle Stamps is not retiring but is cutting back on some of his show schedule. He has been a loyal advertiser in The Texas Philatelist for several years and you will still see his ads in each edition. We appreciate George, and the next time you see him stop by his dealer table to shop or say hello. Steve Crippe of gradedstamps.com, another staunch advertiser in The Texas Philatelist and supporter of TEXPEX and Texas stamp shows, has moved to another state. We wish Steve the best in his new environs. Come back and see us when you can.

Time for Fresh Blood

If you read President John Germann’s “Crossroads” message on page 5, you are aware of the TPA’s immediate need to fill the secretary-treasurer position and that of this publication’s editor. It is time for Lyle Boardman and me to move on and let other members take charge of these services. Both of us have vowed to guide the next people who take these positions during ensuing months. This is an opportunity to have new ideas and fresh approaches by new people, especially with the publication. The time for action on this is now.

By late 2017, Lyle and I will not be handling these duties. Both of us have placed subtle notices about our intentions in the Texas Philatelist during the past two years. There has been no response from the membership. However, this time we have set a firm deadline that requires a response by membership.

Lyle has been stoic in his dedication to not one, but two tasks. He has served nobly in both. I am grateful for the opportunity to be your editor these past few years and hope to contribute stories and photos as we move along.
TSDA 2017 STAMP FAIRS

DALLAS • 411 W. Arapaho Road (Richardson)
Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Apr 7-8, Jun 23-24, Aug 25-26, Dec 8-9

HOUSTON • Crown Plaza Hotel
7611 Katy Fwy. (I-10 West)
Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Feb 10-11, Apr 21-22, Jul 14-15, Nov 3-4

SAN ANTONIO • Norris Conference Center
618 Northwest Fwy Loop 410
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Feb 4-5, May 6-7, Jul 8-9, Oct 14-15

Professionals Serving the Philatelic Community of Texas
For Information Contact:
THOMAS CUNNINGHAM, PO BOX 863237, PLANO, TX 75086-3237
(214) 546-1179 - E-mail: CunninghamStamps@aol.com

Check out the new TPA Membership Directory with individual collector interests in the Members’ Only section of the TPA website:
www.texasstamps.org
Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, admission and parking are free at all shows listed. For inclusion on this calendar and the one on our website at www.texasstamps.org, prepare the listing in the format below. Email the information to tkoch@tx.rr.com.

For the latest Texas Stamp Dealers Association (TSDA) information, see the website www.TSDAstamps.com.

2017

FEB 4-5  TSDA SAN ANTONIO STAMP SHOW
Norris Conference Center, 618 Northwest Freeway Loop 410, Suite 207 (across San Pedro from NorthStar Mall), San Antonio, TX 78216, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3.

FEB 10-11 TSDA HOUSTON STAMP SHOW
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (IH-10 West), Houston, TX 77024, Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4.

FEB 24-26 TEXPEX WORLD SERIES OF PHILATELY SHOW
Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 Hwy. 26 East, Grapevine, TX. Friday 10-6, Saturday, 10-6, Sunday 10-4.

APR 7-8  TSDA DALLAS STAMP SHOW
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX 75080-4551, Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4.

APR 21-22 TSDA HOUSTON STAMP SHOW
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (IH-10 West), Houston, TX 77024. Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4

MAY 6-7  TSDA SAN ANTONIO STAMP SHOW
Norris Conference Center, 618 Northwest Freeway Loop 410, Suite 207 (across San Pedro from NorthStar Mall), San Antonio, TX 78216, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3.

JUN 8-9  TSDA SAN ANTONIO STAMP SHOW
Norris Conference Center, 618 Northwest Freeway Loop 410, Suite 207 (across San Pedro from NorthStar Mall), San Antonio, TX 78216, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3.
### Calendar of Events

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUL 14-15</td>
<td><strong>TSDA HOUSTON STAMP SHOW</strong></td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (IH-10 West), Houston, TX 77024</td>
<td>Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 25-26</td>
<td><strong>TSDA DALLAS STAMP SHOW</strong></td>
<td>Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX 75080-4551</td>
<td>Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 15-17</td>
<td><strong>GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW</strong></td>
<td>Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Road, Humble TX 77338</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 14-15</td>
<td><strong>TSDA SAN ANTONIO STAMP SHOW</strong></td>
<td>Norris Conference Center, 618 Northwest Freeway Loop 410, Suite 207</td>
<td>Friday 10-5, Sunday 10-3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 3-4</td>
<td><strong>TSDA HOUSTON STAMP SHOW</strong></td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (IH-10 West), Houston, TX 77024</td>
<td>Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4.</td>
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<td>NOV 10-11</td>
<td><strong>MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB EXPO</strong></td>
<td>Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051</td>
<td>Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 8-9</td>
<td><strong>TSDA DALLAS STAMP SHOW</strong></td>
<td>Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX 75080-4551</td>
<td>Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4.</td>
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### TX4.us/tpc/meetings.htm

**HAVE MORE FUN! COLLECT PRECANCELS**

**TEXAS PRECANCEL CLUB**

Come to our Spring Meeting!

**March 18, 2017, 9 am-4 pm**

St. Mary’s Church

603 Church Ave, College Station, Texas

**VISIT our WEBSITE**

http://tx4.us/tpc/meetings.htm

For more information: John C. Foster

retsoftware@hotmail.com or call (512) 346 8253
Chapters in Action

Report chapter activities by email or mail. We welcome minutes, recent newsletters, or summaries of your club activities and news sent by email or by regular mail to: Greg Cain at greg.cain@comcast.net or Greg Cain, 1926 Brimbery St., Houston TX 77018-1730. Much appreciation for clubs which forward reports.

American First Day Cover Society Fred C. Sawyer North TX Chapter 56 (afdcschap56.org) – Member Bob Emrick was selected to be the cachetmaker featured in the annual AFDCS Court of Honor. Bob is the 36th cachetmaker so honored and joins the long list of esteemed cachetmakers in the series such as Dorothy Knapp, Torkel Gundel, Judith Fogt, Dave Curtis, Chris Calle, Susan Jorritsma (designer for Artcraft), and Julian Pugh. There is a short article about Bob and the Court of Honor on the AFDCS Newsblog at http://www.afdcs.org/newsblog.html.

Austin Texas Stamp Club (www.stamps.org/austin-texas-stamp-club) – At the club’s first meeting in October, member Marvin Lehr shared tips and traps for using eBay to buy and bid on stamps. The second meeting of the month witnessed the club’s regular auction, called by member John Foster, with 52 lots sold (out of 80 offered), realizing $796.50. At the first November meeting, Jason Fay gave a presentation on mourning covers, showing a variety of the black-edged envelopes (including a homemade example) that announce someone’s passing. The monthly auction, called by Phil Nordstrom, highlighted the second November meeting, with 78 lots offered. Secretary Lyle Boardman reminded members that it was dues time. The club’s year ended with a twist: mixing things up a bit, the monthly auction was held at the first meeting and, for the first time, at the club’s northern location (Lakewood HOA club house), producing very nice results (including some interesting items that your reporter won and is still working into his collection). Journal readers are reminded that the bid sheets are available from the club secretary. The club’s holiday party, scheduled for the second meeting, was held al fresco when arriving members discovered the South Austin Senior Activity Center locked. Fortunately, the weather was pleasant and the party, picnic-style (with the sidewalk benches serving as tables), worked out well. Activities that Vice President Lisa Nicks had planned will instead be enjoyed at the January 2017 meeting. – Lyle Boardman
Collectors Club of Dallas – A November-December event was held Dec. 7 at Cadot restaurant in North Dallas. Host Jerry Wells showed a special set of Spanish Civil War covers including 1937 – Cordoba to Holland bearing the black handstamp of General de Llano on face; 1938 – Montforte de Lemos bearing the violet round hospital marking - Francuicia Postal; 1939 – Llobregat to Madrid; with beautiful markings in blue of "Saludo a Franco !Arriba Espana! and "Camara Oficial dela Propriedad Urbana de Hospitalet;" – Undated from the Chief Medical Services at Castilla La Vieja to Berlin; bearing in blue "Viva Espana! Censura Militar;" and Undated – from Vitoria to Aviles bearing 2 black markings "Censura Militar;" and "Militar de la 82 Division Compania Mixta de Sanidad." Jim Doolin hosted the October meeting at Cadot on “Pancho Villa, Columbus, New Mexico, and The Pershing Expedition.” – Anne Benner

Heart of Texas Stamp Club – The officers elected for 2017 are President – Brad Schultz, Vice President – James Fabbre, Secretary – Royce Walston, and Treasurer – James Berryhill. The annual Christmas social was held Dec. 1 at Coach’s Smoke restaurant and included a show and tell and door prizes. The January 5th meeting was cancelled because of extremely cold weather. – James Berryhill

El Paso Philatelic Society – No report.

Houston Philatelic Society (www.houstonstampclub.org) – The last quarter of 2016 was a rather traditional one. It included the last of five auctions, called nobly by Ron Strawser. We also had presentations by members: Jonathan Topper discussed the early history of Christmas Seals and Rich Bajenski followed that with an exploration of the U.S. Transportation Coils of the 1980s-1990s. Our traditional Holiday Party and eatfest finished out the year. Throughout all of this a Nominating Committee managed to work up slates of candidates for the club’s officers and the board of directors, which were then voted on and approved by the membership. For 2017 David Willig will serve as president, Bryant Korn as vice president, Jay Stotts as secretary, and Larry Ballantyne as treasurer. The First Quarter 2017 issue of The Perforator, the club’s newsletter, edited by Jay Stotts, contains several interesting articles on Australian philately. This reflects
the vigorous activity of the club’s newly formed Australian Study Group, which has coalesced around its “thought leader” Rich Bajenski. – John Germann

Mid-Cities Stamp Club-Arlington Branch – (www.mid-citiesstamp-club.com) – At the October meeting, Club Secretary Ben Termini reported that the greater club had 105 members and that 2017 dues and leadership nominations were being accepted. Members Stanley Christmas and Ray Cartier were recognized for their recent awards at the Houston stamp show and Ray gave a report on his participation at the Waxahachie Chautauqua in September. Karen Cartier shared that her new book Tales by Mail-Book 2 is available. It could serve as a good way to introduce youngsters to stamp collecting. Gene Pfretzschner showed an exhibit he’d prepared for the club’s upcoming EXPO show. – Ben Termini.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club-Granbury Branch – The September meeting held at the Bentwater Activities Center featured an auction of material from member Cliff Donohoo’s estate that realized $1,460. In addition, material from the estate of Jerry Potter could be had for a small donation. The October meeting began with the annual picnic. Afterward, David Stockbridge welcomed members and guests and gave an update on successfully securing meeting space for 2017. A dozen members offered items for Show and Tell, including Roy Douglass’s Chinese presentation booklet of petroleum stamps, Al Hull’s Jordanian cover with a Jerusalem cancel, and Lloyd Willis’s 1939 cover that traveled from New York City to London to Egypt and on to Aden. Volunteer opportunities were shared that included assembling an exhibit for TEXPEX, donations to the club’s “mystery box,” and helping out at the club’s Grapevine show. The meeting wrapped up with Jim Myres’s stamp quiz that included questions about European offices in colonies, unusual stamp denominations, and the organization of Scott catalogs. The following month, Stockbridge reminded members that the theme for the one-frame TEXPEX exhibit was “your ugliest stamp.” He asked for additional entries to help fill the 15 spaces in the club’s allotted frame. Members next debriefed the recently concluded EXPO (judged by all a success) and Alliene Franklin reminded the group that she had begun collecting items for the silent auction box at next year’s show, a tradition that saw 130 items donated for this year’s show, most of which were sold.
Stanley Christmas was the evening’s speaker. Stan gave a talk on making your own stamp mounts. Two guests, Julie and Justin Rimmer, became the club’s newest members. Welcome, Julie and Justin! The meeting closed with Dave announcing the program for January – “Clean Out Your Closet” – Dr. Eugene Atkinson

San Antonio Philatelic Association (www.sastamps.org/) – The Philatex featured a story titled “Tannu Tuva” by Brother Edward Loch. He showed the first stamp he ever saw – a Tanna Tuva issue. He acquired the stamp in 1949 when a neighbor threw his stamp collection in his trash. Brother Loch went into the alley, where many of the stamps were blowing in the wind. The Tannu Tuva was the first of many he rescued. He took it to his father’s hardware store and encased the Tannu Tuva prize between pieces of glass, an item he showed during his presentation. Tuva voluntarily became a part of the Soviet Union in 1944. In 1992 it was a signatory to the treaty that created the Russian Federation; it was renamed “Tyva Republic” in 1993. The club held its Blue Chip Auction in early December. It was noted that new member Kevin Blackston collects landscapes, the 14¢ American Indian issue, modern local post and used U.S. – Lea Senghaas and Dora Roberts

Texas Precancel Club (http://tx4.us/txpcclub.htm) – In the Oct/Nov Texas Precancels newsletter, Katie Foster explained why she has been tardy with club business. She had back surgery and spent many weeks in a therapy program. The club reported it had 125 members near the end of the year. In the “About Texas Counties” series, George Dresser wrote about Clay, Jack and Montague counties supplied images of old courthouses and downtown areas. Precancels shown were Clay: Bellevue, Bluegrove, Buffalo Springs, Byers, Henrietta, Petrolia; Jack Jacksboro, Jermyn, Bowie; Montague: Nocona, Ringgold, and Saint Jo. John Williams reported he resolved the identification of two Dallas cancels on Scott 711 and 567. They did not match any cataloged local handstamp. His problem was a period after “Texas.” He found a C17 with a similar cancel that showed the device used was a roller square hand cancel. He still believes all three are post-cancels. – Katie Foster
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<td>Regular Members ................268</td>
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<td>5105 Robinson, B.C. - Katy, TX</td>
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