

THE TEXAS PHILATELIST

AUGUST 2015
Volume 63, Number 3
www.texasstamps.org

Journal of the Texas Philatelic Association



Shipping
Magnate
Albert
Ballin

Page 7



TEXAS CAVE POST OFFICES
PAGE 20

OKPEX Report on Page 11

Charles Deaton



The high-value Columbian and Trans-Mississippi issues are among the most attractive and sought-after of all US commemorative stamps. Here, from my current stock, are three lovely examples, a used \$2 Columbian, an unused \$3 Columbian, and a used \$2 Trans-Mississippi. The two used stamps have light cancels that do not detract from the engraved beauty of the designs. The unused \$3 Columbian is well centered with great color, and has no gum, which makes it much easier on the pocketbook than a full original gum stamp. If you are seeking stamps such as these for your album, please let me know.

I am always buying and selling stamps

My Selling specialty is tracking down those rare stamps and covers that are hard to find but that really add something special to your collection. This could be nice dollar-value Columbians or Trans-Mississippi stamps, perhaps fine used copies of the first two U.S. stamps, or maybe some covers and cards from your hometown or area. What are you seeking that I can help find?

My Buying specialty is helping those who desire to sell all or part of their stamps in a fair, efficient, and pleasant transaction. Just let me know when you are thinking of selling.



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

- 2 **President's Message**
By John Germann
- 4 **Editor's Notes**
By Tom Koch
- 5 **68th Greater Houston Stamp Show, Sept. 18-20**
- 7 **Shipping Magnate Albert Ballin**
By Gregg Philipson
- 11 **OKPEX Exhibitor Pulls Off Rare Double**
- 16 **TPA/OPS Sale #5 Prices Realized**
- 18 **Friends We'll Miss**
- 20 **Texas Cave Post Offices**
By Thomas Lera
- 24 **Chapters in Action**
- 27 **Calendar of Events**
- 29 **Membership Report/
Classified Emporium**

ON THE COVER

A painting of Transatlantic shipping pioneer Albert Ballin and a 1957 Deutsche Post stamp featuring him.

August 2015 Volume 63, Number 3

THE TEXAS PHILATELIST (ISSN 0893-2670) is published quarterly by the Texas Philatelic Association, Inc., 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, Texas 78739-3005. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, 3916 Wyldwood Rd., Austin TX 78739-3005

Tom Koch, Editor
1013 Springbrook Drive, DeSoto TX 75115
E-mail: tkoch@tx.rr.com

Clayton Finney, Advertising
+1 (214) 906-9068
E-mail: cfinney@sbcglobal.net

President's Message

At summer's end we have Texas' second major stamp show of the year – the Greater Houston Stamp Show, to be held Sept. 18-20 at the Humble Civic Center, where it has been staged since 1996 (for more details, please see the announcement elsewhere in this issue). For those of us from other parts of our big state or nation who are not familiar with the layout at Houston, this venue is just a hop-skip-and-jump from Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH). Wherever you might be, come join us/support us/meet us.



John Germann

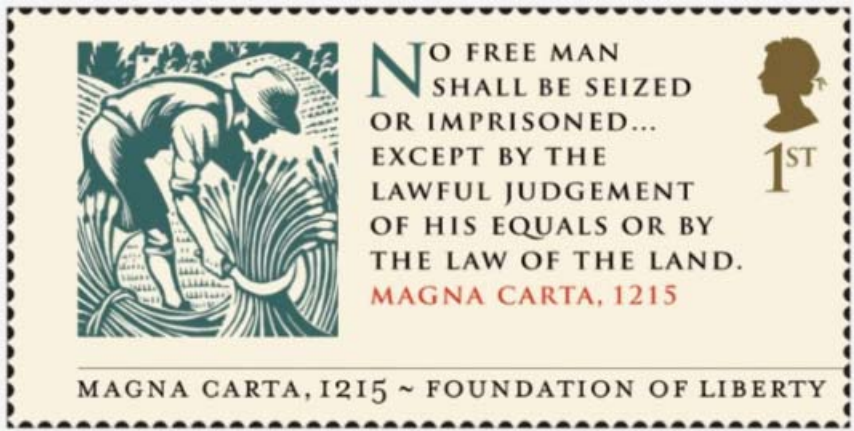
A year ago at this time I reported on the re-coronation of the “king” of philately – the unique British Guiana 1¢ magenta of 1856. In a new and delightful wrinkle to this stamp's history, it will not be consigned to “solitary,” gathering dust in a bank vault. Instead its owner, shoe designer Stuart Weitzman (where did my college major choice go wrong?), has generously chosen to put his \$9.48 million stamp on display (both sides) to the public at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, DC for several years. I suspect that will be good in the long run for the popularity and value of the stamp; I know for certain that it will be good, both long and short term, for philately. Hats off to Mr. Weitzman and the museum for making this arrangement. If you haven't



Stuart Weitzman

seen the “new” National Postal Museum recently, it is well worth a visit on its own. The “king” exhibit is a “no brainer” reason for doing so. I was there in December; I must and will go back.

Here's some “in case you haven't heard” news from the world of philately:



1) 2015 is a big year for the UK and important philatelic topics – the “classic of classics” Penny Black was issued 175 years ago and the Magna Carta was “issued” 800 years ago. The Royal Mail has already commemorated both (Note: The Magna Carta set includes one value that cites our Bill of Rights.)

2) The USPS is about to commemorate another “king.” In August Elvis is set to appear on a US stamp, for the second time.

3) Poland got the jump on all other stamp-issuing entities. It was the first to commemorate “Frozen,” the highest grossing animated movie of all time; it did so with a souvenir sheet.

4) The USPS hoped that its emergency 49¢ “forever” set of ferns would indeed be forever. But a court ruling has determined that it ain’t necessarily so – that the 49¢ rate would continue only until the end of the “emergency” that inspired it.

In closing, please be aware that your TPA Officers could use some help. If you have any interest in aiding those currently heading the Association’s secretarial/treasury/editorial/ presidential offices, please email me at jghist@comcast.net. Email me, too, if you would like to help coordinate the second annual Texas Stamp Club Shoot-Out at TEXPEX next February. THANKS, and take good care . . . *John Germann*.

Editor's Notes – *Tom Koch*

There have been long periods of time when world famous stamps seldom saw the light of day. One was the 1¢ magenta of British Guiana, the one pictured in my comic books in the 1950s. Having survived ownership by the demented John du Pont, it is now on display at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, DC and next year will be seen at the World Stamp Show in New York. Now comes the sale of the famed Locket Copy of the U.S. C3a shown at right. A coin dealer purchased the stamp that was placed in the locket by Ned Green and given to his wife Mabel. Of course, Green spent many years in Texas where he delved in business, politics and sporting ventures.



THE TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION



"Friendship Through Philately"



Chapter No.
0632-49588

OFFICERS

John J. Germann, President
12102 Whittington Dr.
Houston, TX 77077-4911
email: jghist@comcast.net

Vince King, 1st Vice President
315 S. Locust St.
Denton, TX 76201-6055
e-mail: entech.design@verizon.net

Thomas Koch, 2nd Vice President
1013 Springbrook Dr.
DeSoto, TX 75115-3943
e-mail: tkoch@utdallas.edu

Lyle C. Boardman, Secretary-Treasurer
3916 Wyldwood Rd.
Austin, TX 78739-3005
e-mail: lcb1941@att.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Ballantyne (2018) **Ray Cartier** (2018) **Peter Elias** (2016)
Clayton Finney (2016) **Andrew Tittle** (2016) **Greg Cain** (2018)

THE TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John J. Germann, Chairman
Vince King, 1st Vice President, **Thomas Koch**, 2nd Vice President,
Lyle C. Boardman, Secretary-Treasurer
Directors: **Uttam Dhillon** (2016), **William K. McDaniel** (2016),
Jonathan Topper (2018), **Dr. Ben Termini** (2018)



The Humble, Texas Civic Center, home to the Greater Houston Stamp Show

68th Greater Houston Stamp Show Set for Sept. 18-20, 2015

One of the oldest stamp shows in Texas, GHSS offers a variety of multi-frame and single frame exhibits (1,200 pages) that compete for medals and special prizes, a wide range of dealers (33) from across the country, a large Beginners' Booth, a USPS substation, hourly door prizes, a Sam Houston Philatelics auction, society meetings, guest speaker presentations, an awards dinner and many other activities.

The show has become famous for its special color-themed, single-frame exhibit competition. The original Crayola™ box having exhausted, the second round has begun, and this year's color is GREEN. Any one-frame exhibit that ties to the color green will be accepted for the competition. In addition to the color competition, there will be regular single- and multiple-frame exhibits competing for medals and special prizes.

The Texas Philatelic Association and the Texas Postal History Society will hold meetings open to the public on Saturday. The TPHS will also hold its Fall Fling for members and their guests Friday evening. The American Topical Association will have a representative in attendance. And the American Association of Phila-

telic Exhibitors will present a forum on exhibiting on Saturday afternoon.

The Awards Dinner, featuring the renowned Texas barbeque buffet and equally renowned entertainment, is to be held at the Humble Civic Center at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Reservations can be made by contacting Denise Stotts at stottsjd@swbell.net or P.O. Box 690042, Houston, TX 77269-0042.

The show is conveniently located in northern Houston near the Bush Intercontinental Airport. Nearby are three golf courses, many family friendly restaurants, and a shopping mall. There are 11 reasonably-priced hotels near the show. Hotel descriptions, locations and contact information are given on the club website.

Additional information on the Greater Houston Stamp Show 2015 can be found at the Houston Philatelic Society website: www.houstonstampclub.org.

The Humble Civic Center is located at 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas, 77338. Show hours are 10 AM to 6 PM Friday and Saturday, and 10 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Both parking and admission to the show are free for all three days.



Meetings at the Greater Houston Stamp Show

TPA

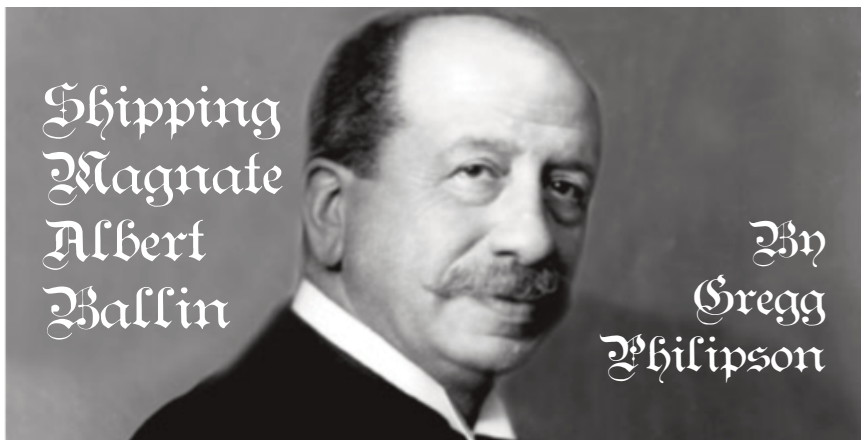
Foundation - 8 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, Humble Civic Center. Open to members and the public.

TPA Directors - 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, Humble Civic Center. Open to members and the public.

TPHS

Texas Postal History Society Fall Fling for Members - 6:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m., area restaurant

Texas Postal History Society General Meeting - 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, Humble Civic Center



The following report by TPA member Gregg Philipson is presented here with permission after first appearing in the Winter 2015 issue of *The Israel Philatelist*.

Albert Ballin was a German Jewish visionary and philanthropist who revolutionized and modernized the trans-oceanic shipping industry during the early part of the 20th century. As the managing director of the famous shipping firm, “The Hamburg America Line,” he was highly successful in building transatlantic business into the most modern, profitable and luxurious cruise line of his day. He has been credited by many as the father of the modern cruise ship industry, and his achievements are world-renowned.



Origins of the Shipping Firm

His success was noticed by the Hamburg America Line management and he soon became the managing director for the firm. There is also a large German emigration center in Hamburg (much like America’s Ellis Island except for outgoing passengers) named for Albert Ballin. It is called “The Ballin Haus” and it stands today as a monument to Ballin (image at left). He built the Hamburg America Line

into the most advanced and luxurious cruise line the world had ever seen.

World War One

During World War I it is said that Ballin befriended Kaiser Wilhelm II and was looked upon with great respect. However, as the war progressed, Ballin saw the writing on the wall and realized that Germany was not going to be victorious. He also became disillusioned with the fact that even prominent Jews would never be fully accepted into mainstream German society.

Ballin committed suicide in 1918 shortly before the armistice was signed that ended World War I. He died by an overdose of sleeping pills. The possibility that his beloved Hamburg America Line was going to be broken up and perhaps nationalized and his lack of acceptance into German society was more than he could bear. His fears were later well-founded, but for another reason. Neither the ships nor the company were nationalized; instead, some vessels were ceded as war prizes to the United States and Great Britain after the Great War.

Albert Ballin Ship

In 1923 the Hamburg America Line named a newly built state-of-the-art cruise liner



in honor of Ballin. However, the SS *Albert Ballin* was renamed in 1935 after it was confiscated by the Nazis, and renamed the SS *Hansa* (image above).

The former SS *Albert Ballin* went into service in World War II,

flying Nazi colors. She was sunk in 1945 when she hit a mine. The SS *Hansa* was later recovered by the Soviet Union in 1949 and then renamed the *Sovietsky Sojus*.

Ballin Museum

There is also a street in central Hamburg named Ballinstadt for Albert Ballin and an emigration museum called the Ballinstadt Emigration Museum (References 1, 2).

The Gregg and Michelle Philipson Collection and Archive contains hundreds of Ballin artifacts, including many philatelic items. There are baggage tags, passenger lists, deck plans, postcards, original photos and other *Ballin/Hansa* onboard collectables.

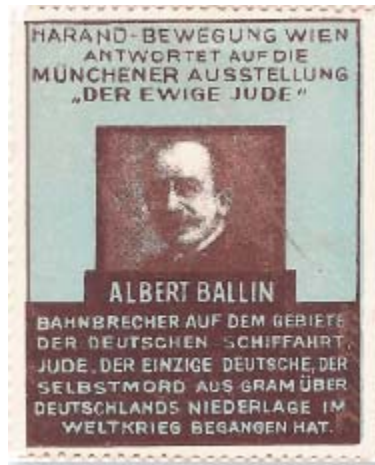
Several books have been written about Albert Ballin over the years, but the book *Albert Ballin* by Bernhard Huldermann, published in 1922 in the German language is one of the most popular.

The *Albert Ballin* appears along with several other ships on a gummed advertising label for the “Hamburg Amerika Linie” circa 1920s.

There was also a “Harand” Cinderella stamp issued circa 1937 to help combat the effect of the Nazi anti-Semitic play in Austria, “Der Ewige Jude” (The Eternal Jew) (image below). The Ballin Cinderella was part of a series of labels that spoke of famous German Jews and their contributions to German culture and business designed – all to thwart vicious Nazi propaganda.

In 1957 the German Deutsche Post issued a stamp to honor Albert Ballin and his maritime achievements. (Scott Catalog Germany 769) – see front cover.

In 2007 the German Deutsche Post created a Ballin special cancel, “The Generaldirektor der HAPAG” stamp sea post commemorative






Israeli special ship cancellation for the visit of the SS *Ariadne* to Haifa Harbor, 1959.

(Michel Catalog Mi2819, Scott Catalog 2588) depicting a poster from 1880 – Imperial German Post to Helgoland, Norderney.

On the occasion of the visit of the SS *Ariadne* to the Haifa Harbor on October 20, 1959, Israel prepared a special ship cancellation. (See image above).

References:

1. <http://english.hamburg.de/ballinstadt/>.
2. http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/14/arts/design/14muse.html?fta=y&_r=0



Buy-Sell
Stamps
Coins
Silver

CASTLE STAMP & COIN
GEORGE KUBAL
P.O. BOX 1196 • HEWITT • TX 66643
(254) 666-7755 • E-MAIL GEOKUBAL@AOL.COM

GEORGE WATKINS STAMPS

Philatelic Dealer - Worldwide & Latin America
14810 Tuttle Lane
Iola, Texas 77861-3834
Phone (936) 394-3834 Fax (936) 394-2147
gwkiller@aol.com

George H. Watkins, Jr.
Proprietor





OKPEX 2015 chairman Joe Crosby, right, presents the "End of the Trail" statue Grand Award to Jean-Jaques Tillard for his outstanding exhibit of his home country, Saint Pierre and Miquelon. He is the first foreign exhibitor to win the OKPEX Grand. Jean-Jacques also won the Single-Frame Grand Award, making him the first double winner at OKPEX.

OKPEX Sees 1st Foreign Grand Champ Take Multi-Frame, Single-Frame Awards

Jean-Jaques Tillard of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society scored a history-making double at OKPEX in June. He became the first foreign winner of the Multi-frame Grand Award at the Oklahoma World Series of Philately Show. He followed that by winning the Single-Frame Grand to become the first exhibitor to sweep both Grands at OKPEX.

Tillard's Multi-Frame winner was titled "*Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon Lapremiere serie "Groupe" et ses Differentes Usages 1892 - 1901*". He won the Single-Frame competition with *Les Entires Postaux "Pecheur" et "Goeland" a Saint-Pierre et Miquelon 1909 - 1918*.

TPA members earning exhibit medals were Ralph DeBoard (gold) and Ben Termini (gold) in the Multi-Frame Division, and Ray Cartier (gold) in the Single-Frame Division.



Everyone attending the Friday night dinner at Spencer's Bar-B-Que in Midwest City, OK near the show venue had a great time.



Members of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society gather around fellow member Jean-Jaques Tillard (center), winner of both the multi-frame and single-frame Grand awards at OKPEX 2015.

2015 OKPEX Awards

Multi-Frame

Grand and Gold

*Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon La
Premiere serie "Groupe" et ses
Differents Usages 1892 - 1901*

Jean-Jaques Tillard

Also

OKPEX 2015 Special Award - Best
Exhibit by a Member of France
and Colonies Philatelic Society

Reserve Grand and Gold

U.S. Departmentals, 1873 to 1884

Lester C. Lanphear III

Also, American Philatelic Society
(APS) Pre-1900 Medal Award of
Excellence, United States Stamp
Society Freedom Medal

Gold

French Guinea

Stephen Tucker

Also, The American Philatelic
Congress Book Award

*The Postal History of Tahiti
Through The First Pictorial Issue*

Ralph DeBoard

Also, The Robert T. Pollard
Memorial Award for the Best
Exhibit by a Member of the
Oklahoma City Stamp Club

*The Prince
and the Movie Goddess*

Randy L. Neil

Also, Oklahoma Philatelic Society
Award for Best Exhibit by an OPS
Member

*Tunisia World War II
to Independence, 1939 - 1956*

Norval Rasmussen

The Airships of the "Foolish Count"

S. H. Bernstein

Also, American Air Mail Society
Medal

*Revolutionary Martyrs
of the Kuomintang*

Robert Burney

Also, APS 1900-1940 Medal of Ex-
cellence, APS Research Medal

**OKLAHOMA
STAMPS**

1001 NORTH FULTON ★ TULSA, OK 74115

KIRKMCKENZIE@COX.NET

Specializing In United States Stamps.

Member APS, ASDA, TSDA



2015 OKPEX Awards (continued)

*Hitler Youth - The Generations
of Lost Innocence*

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

Also, APS 1940-1980 Medal of Excellence, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) Award for Best Plan and Headings

*Prostitute Revenues
of Rosario de Santa Fe*

Benedict A. Termini

Also,
American Revenue Association
Best Multi-Frame Exhibit

Vermeil

*The Era Of The French Colonial
Allegorical Groupe Type Saint
Pierre & Miquelon And French
Guiana*

Edward Grabowski

Also, AAPE Award of Honor Pin

*Perforated Stamps
That Paid Hawaiian Postage*

Jeffrey Erichson

Silver

Dahomey: Man Climbing A Tree

Jere Dutt

Also, AAPE Award of Honor Pin

*Towns and Villages
of Territorial Grant County*

Paul Morton

Also, U.S. Cancellation Club
Award

Silver-Bronze

*Dominican Republic -
The Red Cross Issues of 1932*

Doug Smith

Bronze

*Excerpts From The Sixty Six
Books of the Holy Bible Illustrated
by the Postage Stamps of the
World*

Robert Holbrook

Also, AAPE Novice Award

Single-Frame

Grand and Gold

*Les Entires Postaux "Pecheur" et
"Goeland" a Saint-Pierre et
Miquelon 1909 - 1918*

Jean-Jaques Tillard

Also, United Postal Stationery
Society Single Frame Award

Gold

*Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, le 2f.
Croix de Langlade de 1947*

Jean-Jaques Tillard

*Saint-Pierre et Miquelon
Vu Par La France*

Eric Resseguier

A Study Of NASA VIP Cards

Ray E. Cartier

2015 OKPEX Awards (continued)

Vermeil

*McAlester, Choctaw Nation:
An Indian Territory Crossroads*

Brady Hunt

Also, The Gordon Bleuler Award
for the Best Exhibit
of Oklahoma Postal History,
*Collectors Club of Chicago
Book Award*

*Chicago Blue - Cancellations
On The First US Postal Card*

Brady Hunt

Silver

Oh My! Weird Covers

Randy L. Neil

Also, AAPE Creativity Award Pin,
OKPEX Most Popular Exhibit
Award

Bobby Fischer Remembered

Paul Morton

Smokey Bear -

A New Mexico Native

Jenny Morton

Also, Women Exhibitors Award

*Precancels on American
Banknote Co. Postage Dues*

Ray Porter



Attendees enjoy the World Series of Philately Exhibition at OKPEX this year. Nine gold medals were awarded in the Multi-Frame competition and three in the single-frame category. – All OKPEX photos courtesy of Joe Crosby.

TPA/OPS Auction 5 Realizations

By Andrew Titley

The TPA/OPS Sale 5 was the first to have been placed online at www.TPAAuctions.com using a live bidding format. Despite some early hiccups and issues with bid registration, it became a smooth and seamless process, which will make listing and bidding online easier in the future. Rather than waiting for my email to say if you have been outbid, you have the instant results posted. I have received some vital feedback from members about the system and process which I will implement for the next sale. I was glad to see the regular bidders but also pleased to see new bidders sign up to bid with this new format.

The next sale will be put together sometime this fall. If you have material that you wish to sell, please contact me at andrew.titley33@gmail.com. I would be glad to speak with you about selling material.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lot 3 - \$25.00 | Lot 45 - \$210.00 | Lot 110 - \$2.00 |
| Lot 5 - \$20.00 | Lot 46 - \$395.50 | Lot 117 - \$80.00 |
| Lot 6 - \$2.50 | Lot 53 - \$20.00 | Lot 120 - \$3.00 |
| Lot 7 - \$100.00 | Lot 60 - \$25.50 | Lot 121 - \$8.00 |
| Lot 11 - \$32.50 | Lot 62 - \$5.00 | Lot 122 - \$3.00 |
| Lot 15 - \$15.00 | Lot 67 - \$82.50 | Lot 123 - \$4.00 |
| Lot 18 - \$50.00 | Lot 68 - \$65.50 | Lot 130 - \$30.00 |
| Lot 19 - \$96.50 | Lot 69 - \$30.00 | Lot 140 - \$30.50 |
| Lot 20 - \$25.00 | Lot 73 - \$25.00 | Lot 141 - \$32.50 |
| Lot 21 - \$60.50 | Lot 77 - \$23.00 | Lot 144 - \$50.50 |
| Lot 22 - \$52.50 | Lot 78 - \$25.00 | Lot 145 - \$70.50 |
| Lot 24 - \$3.00 | Lot 81 - \$20.00 | Lot 146 - \$90.50 |
| Lot 29 - \$55.50 | Lot 83 - \$90.00 | Lot 148 - \$20.00 |
| Lot 35 - \$16.50 | Lot 86 - \$4.00 | Lot 149 - \$6.50 |
| Lot 36 - \$10.50 | Lot 103 - \$2.00 | Lot 151 - \$5.00 |
| Lot 39 - \$12.00 | Lot 107 - \$10.00 | |
| Lot 44 - \$95.00 | Lot 109 - \$50.50 | |

Greater Houston Stamp Show

Sponsored by the Houston Philatelic Society

September 18 - 19 - 20, 2015

Friday 10am to 6pm

Saturday 10am to 6pm

Sunday 10am to 4pm

Free Admission
Free Parking

Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy
Humble, Texas

33 Dealer Bourse
1200 Page Exhibit
U.S. Post Office

Sam Houston
Philatelics Inc.
Floor Auction
on Saturday

For More Information:
Greater Houston Stamp Show
P.O. Box 690042
Houston, TX 77269-0042
www.houstonstampclub.org



Find a list of TPA chapters and contacts, back issues of *The Texas Philatelist* from 2006, news and events, TPA auctions and other info at:

www.texasstamps.org

Friends We'll Miss

Richard Barnes, 1947-2015

Richard E. Barnes, Texas chapter director for ESPER (Ebony Society of Philatelic Events & Reflections), died on May 25, 2015, at the East Texas Medical Center in Tyler, Texas. He was 68 and a resident of Palestine, Texas.

A 20-year member of ESPER, Richard was a familiar face at all of the Texas stamp shows. His memberships included: American Philatelic Society (30 years plus), TPA, San Antonio Philatelic Association, Casey Jones Train Society, Ships Philatelic Society and the ATA's EUROPA Study Unit.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn, daughter Terrilisa Austin and her husband Mark, and grand-daughters Ryan and Riley.

Don Neal, editor of ESPER's newsletter, issued this statement:

"It goes without saying that Richard will be missed. He was a big guy, and everything good about him was big as well – big smile, big heart, big sense of humor, big stamp collector."



Richard Barnes at the ESPER society table during TEXPEX 2013.

He obtained an Associates Degree in Administrative Management from the Community College of the U.S. Air Force in 1989. After retiring from the Air Force in 1991 as a master sergeant in information management and administrative functional areas, he joined The Library of Congress, where he served until retiring in 2009.

He earned a B.S. degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland in 1997.

ESPER is APS Affiliate #239 and AFDCS Chapter #91. The group focuses on African-American philatelic topics. It is named after founder Esper G. Hayes. The ESPER website is <http://esperstamps.org>.

TEXPEX 15 Club Shoot-Out Win Puts Oklahoma City Stamp Club in the Black

By Joe Crosby

The Oklahoma City Stamp Club won the first Texas Stamp Club Shoot-Out at TEXPEX 2015 and selected the very fine US #1 5¢ issue of 1847 as our prize, arranged by Charles Deaton and generously provided by the TEXPEX Foundation.

Now that we possessed a valuable stamp, what were we going to DO with it?

Well, we decided to hold a raf-

fle at OKPEX 2015 in June and sold more than \$800 worth of tickets at \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Some of us lovers of classic U.S. stamps purchased 10-15 chances; some bought only 1. Doug Howard's name was drawn and it turned out he bought just one chance! That is one lucky collector.

OKCSC is looking forward to competing in the next Shoot-Out at TEXPEX 2016. Rumor has it that several Texas clubs are taking dead aim to make sure we don't repeat.

stampsuniversal.com Worldwide Stamps for Collectors

High quality used Australia, Brazil, Canada, CCG, Cuba, France, German States, Great Britain, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden

**U.S. and worldwide Classics, Worldwide #1s
Mint/used Czechoslovakia plus Souvenir and Mini-Sheets
Mint/ used Denmark Including Locals, Specialty Items
U.S. "Fun" Items like used B4, P# Singles, Town Cancels
Topical cross-reference lists**

*See us at most Dallas, Houston and San Antonio TSDA Bourses,
Greater Houston Stamp Show and Mid-Cities Stamp Expo*

**James D. Myers, P.O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019-8047
(972) 304-1671 • jasdmyers@earthlink.net**

TEXAS CAVE POST OFFICES

By THOMAS LERA



Figure 1. Bee Caves, Texas, CDS with target killer.

Collecting postal history can be interesting and challenging. I've found it particularly so when researching Texas post offices with caves and springs as part of their names. What follows are those I have uncovered.

| <u>CITY / TOWN / ZIP</u> | <u>DATES OF OPERATION</u> | <u>COUNTY</u> |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Bee Cave(s) (78738) | 4/19/1870 – 3/15/1915 | Travis |
| Grotto | 12/11/1901 – 1/14/1905 | Hopkins |
| Natural Bridge Caverns (78266) | 1982 – 1999 | Comal |
| San Antonio Natural Bridge Caverns Rural Station | Unknown | Comal |

Named by early settlers for a large cave of wild bees found near the site, Bee Caves (Bee caves or Bee Cave) is located at the intersection of State Highway 71 and Farm Roads 620 and 2244, 12 miles west of Austin in west central Travis County. A post office was opened in 1870, with Martin V. Lackey as postmaster. In the mid-1880s, the Bee Caves

community had a steam gristmill, cotton gin, general store, church, school, and 20 residents.

As more people arrived it was discovered that the area around Little Barton Creek and Barton Creek was home to Mexican honey bees. The bees built large, grotesque-looking nests along the banks of both creeks. Residents and travelers referred to the nests as “bee caves.” The population of Bee Caves dwindled to 10 in the 1890s, but by the early part of the 20th century it would increase to 54. In 1915, the post office at Bee Caves (Figure 1) was discontinued and mail was sent to Cedar Valley.

E. H. Payne submitted a site survey and request to establish the Grotto Post Office on Oct. 9, 1901. There is at least one known postmark from this location (Figure 2), which was on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad about three and one-half miles east of Winnsboro, and four and one-half miles to the northwest of Pickton.

Natural Bridge Caverns, the largest show cave in Texas, was discovered on March 27, 1960, by four students from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. The cavern is located off Farm Road 1863 in the hill country of Comal County, midway between New Braunfels and San Antonio. Its name was derived from the 60-foot natural limestone slab bridge that spans the amphitheater-like setting of the cavern's entrance.

Commercial development of the cavern began on March 25, 1962, and it was opened to the public on July 3, 1964. During excavation of the entrance trail, arrowheads and spearheads dating from 5,000 B.C. were

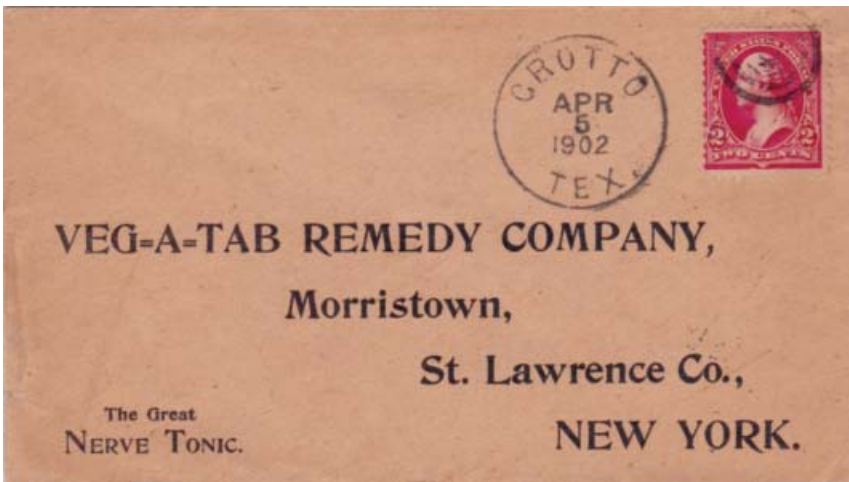


Figure 2. Grotto, Texas circular date stamp on this cover with target killer over 2¢ red stamp to Morristown, NY. The post office was less than a year old in April 1902.

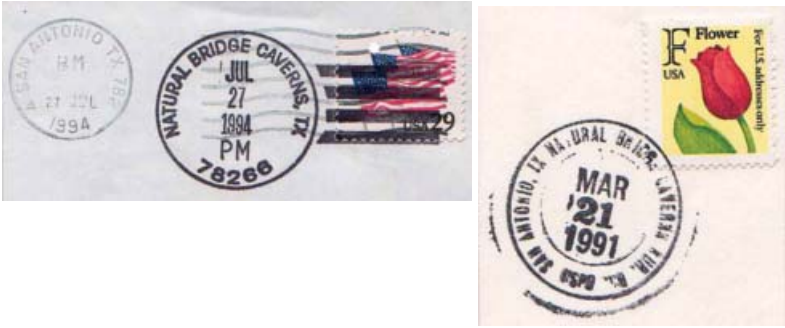


Figure 3. Left, Natural Bridge Caverns, Texas, 4-Bar killer and Right, Natural Bridge Caverns, Texas, Rural Station Double Circle.

found; just inside the entrance, jawbones of a species of grizzly bear that became extinct more than 8,000 years ago were also discovered.

San Antonio Natural Bridge Caverns Rural Station operated as a sub-station of the San Antonio Post Office (Figure 3).

Associated Cave Post Offices

There are many associated cave-related post offices. In an article to be published in the *Texas Postal History Journal*, titled “Researching Texas Postal History,” I wrote the different ways to research Texas towns with “Spring” in its name, of which there are 112. The best example is Dripping Springs Post Office (in operation from Jan. 5, 1857 to the present, with ZIP 78620).

The name “Dripping Springs” is a misnomer, as the city's springs continually flow. There are several grottos associated with the springs. The largest spring is Hamilton Pool, a natural grotto and one of Texas’ most magnificent swimming holes. It is also a discontinued post office which operated from 1907 to 1922. The pool is located in the 30-acre West Cave Preserve, which has breathtaking cave formations, waterfalls, and many deep pools.

To avoid boring you, I am not going to list all 112 Texas towns with “Spring” in the town name. However, if you are interested, the best sources for this and other listings are:

- A 2007 CD titled *United States Post Offices Volume 1-8* by Richard Helbeck, copyright *La Posta Publications*. It has a listing for each post office, county location, dates of operation and a Scarcity Index (S/I)


value which provides collectors a guide to the relative value of such postmarks. If you don't want the CD, you can order Helbock's book *United States Post Offices Vol. 2 - The Great Plains*, published in 1998 with information on ND, SD, NE, KS, OK & TX. 222p.

• *Jim Wheat's Postmasters & Post Offices of Texas 1846 – 1930* is also a great place to search beginning with county post offices. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txpost/postmasters.html>.


• *Texas Post Offices by County*. [CD-ROM]. Published and produced by John Germann and Myron Janzen. It is a listing with a map and description of each town. It also includes Greer County, which was "stolen" by Oklahoma in 1896.

I am still looking for additional examples of the Texas Cave Post Offices. Please email me at lerat@si.edu if you know of any.


Thomas Lera is a life member of the TPA. He is the Winton M. Blount Research Chair, Emeritus, developed the philatelic forensic laboratory at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and has written more than 100 philatelic articles and 6 books on stamps and their history. He worked for EPA-Region 6 in Dallas and lived in Weatherford for 20 years before moving to Virginia. Now retired and living between Florida and Virginia, Tom fills the ever-brief moments between his many pursuits by being an adventurer, traveler, writer, photographer, and scientific philatelic researcher.



The British Commonwealth of Nations




We are active buyers and sellers of stamps and postal history of all areas of pre-1960 British Commonwealth, including individual items, collections and estates. Want lists from all reigns are accepted with references.



Visit our booth at most major philatelic exhibitions!

L.W. Martin Jr.

PO Box 1198 • Bellaire, Texas 77401
Phone: 713-781-6563 • Fax 713-789-9998
info@crowncolony.com • www.crowncolony.com



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 to tkoch@tx.rr.com or by regular mail to: Tom Koch, Editor, The Texas Philatelist, 1013 Springbrook Drive, DeSoto TX 75115. Much appreciation for clubs who forward reports.*

Austin Texas Stamp Club (www.stamps.org/austin-texas-stamp-club) – Two new members joined in May – **Kathleen Choe** and **Norman Minter**. In June **Jason Fay**, assisted by his daughter, **Hannah**, showed us examples of post cards and postal cards over the years, and then some of the cards he has received as a result of his participation in “Postcrossing.” Next, we all addressed postcards to each other, put stamps on them and gave them to Hannah, acting as our Postmistress. Our second meeting was cancelled due to Tropical Depression Bill. As it moved across the coastline, it appeared to be heading directly for Austin. In anticipation of severe flooding, the City of Austin closed down operations across the city, including the facility where we meet. As many Club members as possible were contacted by email or phone. As it turned out, the storm looped around Austin and focused on eastern Travis County. – *Lyle Boardman*

Collectors Club of Dallas – Our newest host, **Byron Sandfield**, brought a show-and-tell of three volumes of his collection to the May meeting. His first topic was about breast-feeding. The next one covered stamp dealer corner cards, most of which dated in the 1800s. The last volume, or as we like to call it “the last call,” was on temperance stamps (advocating drinking in moderation). Many of the breastfeeding and temperance stamps were on cover. Byron knew his subjects and brought very impressive material.” No meeting was held in June. – *Anne Benner*.

Heart of Texas Stamp Club – Our hearts were saddened to learn of the passing of **Hubert Hanke** on March 12, 2015. Hubert was a true philatelist and he loved the hobby of stamp collecting. He was truly an asset to our club when he lived in Waco. You could always depend on Hubert being present and actively participating in club activities. He published the newsletter for more than a year for the club. Hubert brought new ideas and challenged the members in their pursuit of stamp collecting. After his move he kept his membership each year in support of the club. The club’s thoughts and prayers will be with his wife **Clara** as she adjusts to her loss of Hubert. We will remember Hubert as one who loved stamp collecting and pursued it as a passion. **Tony Wayne** presented a program on TransPacific Issues, C20, C31 and C22. In 1935, **Juan Trippe**, saw the need for inter-national travel. His Pan American (PanAm) Airways fleet, referred to as flying boats, created routes circling the globe. PanAm Airways carried mail and later up to 36 passengers from San Francisco to Macao. The flights lasted until 1941, when the Pacific became a war zone. Several first flight covers were

shown to club members. In May **James Fabbre** showed his Confederate Stamp Album to members. – *Brad Schultz and James Berryhill*

Houston Philatelic Society (www.houstonstampclub.org) – The second quarter in 2015 was a very diverse one for us. It began April 6 with a very successful member's auction guided by **Ron Strawser**. Two weeks later **Jonathan Topper** made a very informative presentation on "Perforations [and Perforation Gauges] on Stamps." **Mort Levy** followed with an interesting overview of "Synagogues on Stamps." Strawser then returned to the stage, this time to challenge our philatelic know-how with his annual "Quiz Night," dividing the attendees up into groups of four and plaguing them with such devilishly hard questions as "What was the design of the very first issue of the German State of Hanover?" At the following meeting **John Germann** delivered a PowerPoint summary of "Egyptian Definitive Stamps." Then on June 15 we were victimized by the floodwaters which beset Texas; they cost us our auction (which rescheduled for July). During the quarter, two members contributed to the Society's "Outreach" program – **Greg Cain** and his wife **Lucy** held down a stamp collecting booth at the annual Houston Scout Fair. And Topper gave a talk on stamp collecting to a retirement group at Lone Star College. – *John Germann.*

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (Arlington branch) – **Ray Cartier** has worked with the Waxahachie Chautauqua Preservation Society organizers to showcase philately with an exhibit and promotional table at their Sept. 16, 2015 show. He has been told that attendance varies between 400 and 1,000 at the show. The show's theme this year is "Chautauqua Celebrates Flight," with Apollo 13 Astronaut **Fred Haise** as the keynote speaker. Of course, this is close to Ray's passion of astrophilately, and he will display some of his award-winning material. Exhibit frames are being furnished by the Mid Cities Stamp Club. Ray intends to promote the TPA along with other aspects of philately. The event is in the Chautauqua Auditorium at Getzendaner Park in Waxahachie. See <http://www.waxahachiechautauqua.org>.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (Granbury branch) – With storm clouds gathering, so did 15 members and guests the evening of May 24. Host **David Stockbridge** welcomed all to the Bentwater Activities Center. There were a number of philatelic periodicals for members to browse as well as U. S. postage for sale at 50 percent of face, an offering that has raised about \$2,000 for the Mid-Cities treasury in the last year. And there were 1-lb. bags of U.S. and foreign stamps for sale at \$5, again to benefit the club treasury. For SHOW AND TELL, **Gene Atkinson** had some First Class envelopes that received very different treatment from the USPS. **Denny Ludlow** showed some German maximum cards of the Ameri-

Chapters in Action

can Bicentennial issues, **Daniel Kennedy** shared a recipe for soaking and cleaning stamps with baking soda, and **Bob Patterson** had a World War II censored cover from Nagoya. For the program, Atkinson discussed the wide array of stamp hinges formerly and currently available. From the generally revered Denison brand, he surveyed copycats like Dennisen and Dennis's, compared the various Fold-O-Hinges marketing efforts, and displayed two dozen different options for collectors. For audience participation he distributed 20 post office fresh one-cent stamps mounted with different hinges and stored under pressure for one month. Members carefully removed the stamps from the mounting cards and compared the results for damage to the cards and to the stamps. – *Dr. William E. Atkinson.*

San Antonio Philatelic Association (www.sastamps.org) – (From *The Philatex*) – *Philatex* editors **Dora Roberts** and **Lea Senghaas** showed members the certificate of participation from the TEXPEX 2015 Texas Shoot-Out. Members **Dr. Eric Shepherd** (Orchids), **Charles Shelby** (Occupation Stamps), **Dora Roberts** (My Favorite Countries, American Bicentennial, Christmas, etc., Statute of Liberty) **Fred Groth** (Mail from Viet Nam), **Brittany Roberts** (We Love Bambi), and Senghaas (What's Weird About Stamps?) had a great time putting together pages for the exhibit. We didn't win, but it was a good way to help introduce our club to other stamp collectors in Texas. The club saw an excellent turnout at its annual Summer Picnic held in the Fireside Room of the MacArthur Park Lutheran Church . . . New member **James Wallace** specializes in U.S., BOB, Hawaii and RPOs. – *Lea Senghaas and Dora Roberts*

Texas Precancel Club (<http://tx4.us/tpcmeetings.htm>) – In a recent TPC newsletter **Jerry Alderson** passed along this information: For those Texas collectors who search for all the different varieties that occur on Texas types, here is a tip about an unlisted variety to look for in your collection. On the Fayetteville 473 device, there is at least one position which has two periods after "Tex.." Club President **Katie Foster** explained the club's trip to the Annual Greater Rio Grande Valley Stamp Bourse in February. "Our trip to Mission had three goals: validate precancels as a collecting specialty, recruit a few new members, and sell some catalogs and precancels. I think we met the first goal but were unsuccessful in the other two." The club is gearing up for its Fall Roundup to be held at the Comfort Inn, Grapevine, Texas. The event includes a business meeting and auction. Also, several members plan to attend the annual Precancel Stamp Society Convention this year being held at Boxborough MA. – *Katie Foster*

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.

2015

**JUL 31/
AUG 1** **TSDA HOUSTON STAMP SHOW**
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West), Houston, TX 77024. Hours: Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AUG 20-23 **APS STAMPSHOW**
DeVos Place Convention Center, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Hours: Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission.

AUG 28-29 **TSDA DALLAS STAMP SHOW**
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho, Richardson, TX 75080. Hours: Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

TSDA 2015 STAMP FAIRS

DALLAS ● Richardson Civic Center
411 W. Arapaho Road (Richardson)

Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Apr. 10-11, Jun. 26-27, Aug. 28-29, Dec. 4-5

HOUSTON ● Crown Plaza Hotel
7611 Katy Fwy. (IH-10 West)

Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Jan. 30-31, May 29-30, Jul. 31-Aug. 1, Nov. 6-7

SAN ANTONIO ● Norris Conference Center
4522 Fredericksburg Road

Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Feb. 7-8, May 2-3, Jul 11-12, Oct. 18-19



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

Calendar of Events (Continued)

SEP 18-20 GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW

Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pwky., Humble, TX 77338. Hours: Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

SEP 25-26 TEXAS PRECANCEL CLUB FALL ROUNDUP

Friday and Saturday meeting, Comfort Inn, 301 Capitol St. Grapevine, TX 76051.

OCT 18-19 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. Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NOV 6-7 TSDA HOUSTON STAMP SHOW

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West), Houston, TX 77024. Hours: Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NOV 13-14 MID-CITIES STAMP EXPO

Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX. Hours: Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

DEC 4-5 TSDA DALLAS STAMP SHOW

Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho, Richardson, TX 75080. Hours: Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



www.topperstamps.com

**Military • Airmails • Prexies
Advertising • Machine Cancels**

Send Me Your "Want List"
[jonathan @ topperstamps.com](mailto:jonathan@topperstamps.com)

Postal History
USA • Texas • Foreign



Membership Report

CLASSIFIED EMPORIUM

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY Apr. 5, 2015 - July 18, 2015

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Membership, Apr. 5, 2015..... | 397 |
| New Member..... | 1 |
| Reinstated..... | 1 |
| Deceased..... | -1 |
| Drop - Nonpayment of Dues..... | -1 |
| Membership, July 18, 2015..... | 397 |
| Life Chapters..... | 10 |
| Life Members..... | 85 |
| Regular Chapters/Units..... | 10 |
| Regular Members..... | 292 |

For Sale

AFDCS Chap. 56 First Day Cover of the Stars and Stripes presort standard coil stamps issued on 3/27/2015 at TEXPEX 2015 show. Send \$3.00 cash or check per cover and LSASE to D.A. Lux, PO Box 1831, Allen TX 75013. (63-3).

TEXPEX 2015 Show Covers and First Day Covers for the Presorted Standard Stars and Stripes stamps issued at the show. \$3.00 each plus SASE to Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005.

Wanted

NEW MEMBER

5146 Pennington, Jay J. - Sugar Land, TX

REINSTATED

5096 Green, Septima - Fort Worth, TX

DECEASED

5023 Barnes, Richard - Palestine, TX

DROP - NON PAYMENT OF DUES

5132 Mills, Bobby - Arlington, TX

SUSTAINING

4841 Villar, Dr. Santos Luis

PUBLICATION FUND - SILVER-BRONZE

4841 Villar, Dr. Santos Luis

Brooklyn Bridge Wanted: Collector is looking for unusual FDCs and also postal usage (domestic and international) of the 1983 Brooklyn Bridge stamp (Sc. No. 2041). Contact D.A. Lux, PO Box 1831, Allen TX 75013 or dalux2041@gmail.com or 972-390-2192. (64-1).

The TPA seeks a Secretary-Treasurer to begin March, 2016. Transitional help from current Secretary-Treasurer Lyle Boardman. Contact Boardman at lcb@att.net, 512-282-4150 or write to 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, Texas 78739-3005.

HAVE MORE FUN! COLLECT PRECANCELS TEXAS PRECANCEL CLUB



**Ya'll come to our Fall Roundup!
Friday-Saturday, September 25-26, 2015**

Comfort Inn

301 Capital St., Grapevine, Texas 78051

VISIT our AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE

<http://tx4.us/tpcmeetings.htm>

*For more information: John C. Foster
retsoftware@hotmail.com or call (512) 346 8253*

GRADEDSTAMPS.COM

**BUY - SELL
UNITED STATES STAMPS**



Steve Crippe Inc.

PO Box 25477 Dallas, TX 75225

Phone: 214.458.0641

info@gradedstamps.com