



The Philatelic Prospector

A publication of the Sacramento Philatelic Society P O Box 13284 Sacramento, CA 95813

July 2009

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I would like to thank the members for electing me as president. I would also like to welcome the new officers and board members.

I have been having an enjoyable time greeting the new members and explaining the various aspects of our club. The new junior members are great to talk with and are very interested in learning about stamp collecting.

The amount of volunteerism of the members has made this a large and successful stamp club and I have enjoyed my association with the club. If there are any questions, concerns or ideas you may have, please feel free to discuss them with me or attend a Board of Directors meeting.

A stamp tip from the president:

Do not let your cat help you soak stamps.

-Ernie Teays
SPS President

THE ROVING REPORTER ...

We are visiting Camp Pollock. This is the local boy scout camp situated in a forested area with a clearing for the camp. The clearing is shaded by a 50 plus foot sycamore tree. The scouts are lucky to have this perfect spot on the American River and within the city.

The cub scouts are about to get even luckier as the SPS team (Bill Oliver and Fred Rickert) swing into sight.

The team came equipped with 2 twenty gallon bins of US and a smaller bin of foreign stamps. They immediately set up on 3 large picnic tables in the shade of that sycamore tree.

One criterion for the cub scout's sessions was that the cubs had to visit a museum or an exhibit. Fred fulfilled that part by bringing an exhibit with him. Two frames were set up along side the tables.

Beginning with the very first sessions (there were 9 sessions over the 3 days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) the enthusiasm of the cub scouts was amazing. It was as if each one had discovered something totally new in his life and loved the discovery!

Each session began with an introduction by Bill and a question on collecting. Though many of them collected (baseball cards, rocks, coins, etc.) almost no one collected stamps.

The sessions then turned to Fred and his two frame exhibit dealing with a brief history of stamps. The first page had a stampless cover and contents. Then attention turned to the very first stamp – the Penny Black (Great Britain #1 provided by Bill). They were asked to name the person on the stamp. Two cub scouts did so in the 9 sessions. There was a certain sense of déjà-vu when the second cub scout to name Queen Victoria later held up his card to reveal his name – Roland.

Fred then went on to explain the other pages' contents starting with the first US stamps (#1 and #2). Then from there the Prexies on to stamps from the 40's, 50's and 60's. The final pages had a pane of the Simpson's stamp. Some suggestions were made that Homer might be the next President.



Attention then turned to the bins. Stock cards were distributed to hold each cub scout's chosen stamps. And then the bins were opened. Was there a glow coming from within them? You would have thought so – as if magically, all eyes turned to the mounds of stamps. You could almost hear a splash as they dove in. The bins seemed to expand as the scouts foraged through them. Bill added two more bins to reduce the overflow.

As the session went on it became a sort of game to try to find in the bins stamps that were in the exhibit. Fred never tired of telling the story of how a member once found a \$3,500 stamp in just such a bin.

Of the nearly 180 cub scouts that attended it seemed that every one of them was excited by the new discovery. The den leaders and later on Friday's Family Day the parents joined in on the fun. One mother who homestudies her children was awed at the possibilities as teaching tools that stamps offered.

Bill and Fred showed up with business as usual on Friday (family night). While there were no sessions they did not lack for attention. Parents and cub scouts joined the hunt for the right stamp.

Fred handled club applications and the enrollment exceeded 20 (including a group of 10 – when asked if they had to call ahead of time before coming in Fred assured them that they didn't and that philatelists love surprises), with additional enrollments on the way. A few father and son enrollments were planned as something they could share.

The exhibit was on display the entire time and drew the attention of the scouts and the attending adults, several of whom took photos of their favorite pages.

"The sessions were awesome" said the camp director. Praise came from den leaders and parents. Bill and Fred also received dozens of thank you's from the cub scouts themselves. "The cub scouts enthusiasm blew us away", they said. The both agreed it was a very rewarding experience.

Kudos to Bill Oliver and Fred Rickert and a thank you to VP/Board Member Ken Hilmer who stopped by on Tuesday to offer words of encouragement.

All this reporter can add is WOW!

NEW ISSUES – U.S.A.

Lighthouses of the Gulf Coast – release: July 23



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The lighthouses at Matagorda Island, TX; Sabine Pass, LA; Biloxi, MS; Sand Island in Mobile Bay, AL and Fort Jefferson, FL appear in this addition to the popular lighthouse series. The Fort Jefferson lighthouse (also known as the Garden Key Lighthouse) is located 70 miles west of Key West, FL in Dry Tortugas Park. The artwork was done by Howard Koslow of Tom's River, NJ.

These are some of the few lighthouses that remain standing because the coast is swampy, marshy and prone to erosion which makes it even more difficult for lighthouses to survive the regular onslaught of hurricanes.

Early Television Memories –release: August 11



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This sheet of stamps brings back memories of mostly black-and-white television with scenes from 20 different shows. We watched the first situation comedies, crime dramas, games shows on this new communication medium. These early childhood memories are vivid for me as I suppose they are for you.

Do you remember all these? Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet; Alfred Hitchcock Presents; Dinah Shore Show; Dragnet; Ed Sullivan Show; George Burns and Gracie Allen Show; Hopalong Cassidy; The Honeymooners; Howdy Doody; I Love Lucy; Kukla; Fran and Ollie; Lassie; Lone Ranger; Perry Mason; Phil Silvers Show; Red Skelton; Texaco Star Theater; Tonight Show (with Steve Allen); Twilight Zone and You Bet Your Life.

Hawai'i Statehood – release: August 21

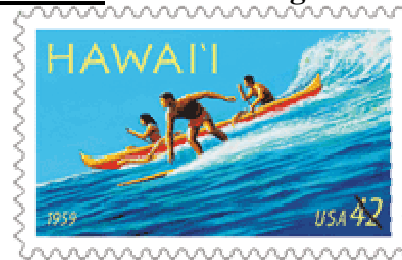


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The Hawai'i statehood 50th anniversary is commemorated by this new issue with artwork by Herb Kawaniui Kane of Captain Cook, HI. Herb has spent much of his life studying Hawaiian culture and history, including building a traditional sailing canoe himself. The picture depicts a surfer on a longboard while next to him two people paddle an outrigger canoe.

NOTES FROM THE WEB



The 1847USA Homepage found on the internet at <http://www.1847usa.com> is a great source of information on pre-1970 United States stamps. In fact, this website won a best of the web award in 2003.

Included on this website are US Stamps by Year (1847-1970); Stamp Identifiers (US Definitives 1847-1965 and US Comms 1893-1928); Back of the Book Identifiers for Airmail, Special Delivery, Postage Due, Official & Departmental, Newspaper & Periodical, Parcel Post and Special Handling stamps; a Glossary of Philatelic Terms; Washington Franklin identification worksheets; Washington Franklin Quick Charts and as if that wasn't enough there are additional Articles of Interest.

Here is an example of the beginning of the stamps listed for 1893.

Postage Stamps of the United States First Issued in 1893

Presidents: Jan. 1 to Mar. 3: Benjamin Harrison · Mar. 4 to Dec. 31: Grover Cleveland
 Postmasters General: Jan. 1 to Mar. 5: John Wanamaker · Mar. 6 to Dec. 31: Wilson S. Bissell
 Domestic Letter Rate: 2¢/oz. · Card Rate: 1¢ · Registry Fee: 8¢ · Foreign Rate: 5¢

Ordinary Postage Stamp First Issued in 1893 - No Triangles

Unwatermarked - Perforated 12 - Flat Plate - Printed By the American Bank Note Company



Eight Cent Lilac Sherman

The eight-cent stamp was issued on to meet the new registry rate which began on Jan. 1, 1893.

At the end of each year is a listing of the stamps for that year by Scott catalog number with day of issue and quantity issued data included.

Here is an example of part of one of the stamp identifiers – specifically the US Definitives 1870-1901. This identifier design allows you to visually match up your stamp and then click on the image for identification specifics.

Regular Issues of 1870 - 1901 · Bank No

Click on any design below to get the facts about that stamp:

The Washington Franklin sections include a lot of good information on such things as printing methods and watermark types on US stamps (including printable templates of six different watermarks).

One method to distinguish between engraved and offset printing which I wasn't aware of is to place a piece of thin tin foil over the face of a stamp and then rub lightly on the tin foil. If the design of the stamp shows in the foil then the stamp was printed using the engraved method.

The reason this works is that the ink is deposited on top of the paper during the engraved printing process to produce colored areas of the stamp – typically shading is created by various widths and spacing of colored lines which corresponds to recessed areas of the printing plate.

Offset printing does not employ plates with recessed areas, so the entire stamp is smooth.

Another aspect of the Washington Franklins discussed in much detail are the flat –vs- rotary plate printings. Below are examples of templates used to distinguish the two based on comparison with an actual known stamp.



THE CLUB CIRCUIT

The club circuit will not be available at meetings from September 2 through about October 21st as Katie and John will be on a cross-country Canadian trip.

We all wish you a safe and enjoyable trip!

JUST FOR KIDS!

The stamp collecting portion of the “*Bumperland*” website found at <http://www.bumperland.com/stamps.html> has an interesting writeup on stamp selvage. “Selvage” is the extra paper around a sheet, pane or group of stamps. For many stamp issues this is ‘extra’ and used to record the plate number, printer and designer of the issue. For other issues it’s part of a mini-sheet and is used as an extra area for artwork or to enhance the presentation of the stamps themselves.

Below is the first stamp pane produced in Canada that used the paper within the pane for something other than text – the 1978 CAPEX souvenir sheet. It featured both the CAPEX logo and the Universal Postal Union logo.



There are several stamp collecting pages on “*Bob’s Rock Shop*” webpage at <http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/table.shtml>.

There is a set of pages dedicated specifically to rock an mineral stamps of the United States at http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/stamps/united_states/united_states_toc.html where the stamps are listed by Scott catalog number. The first listing is Scott #740 – I’ll let you figure out what the subject of this stamp is though... Clicking on the hyperlink on each issue displays a large high resolution image of the stamp.



There is a general “Collecting Rock Stamps” page at <http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/stamps.html> that shows examples of worldwide rock stamps. If you are interested in rock and mineral stamps, there is information on this page about joining the Gems, Minerals, and Jewelry Study Unit of the American Topical Association. Membership is only \$10 a year and includes a quarterly bulletin, Philagems International.

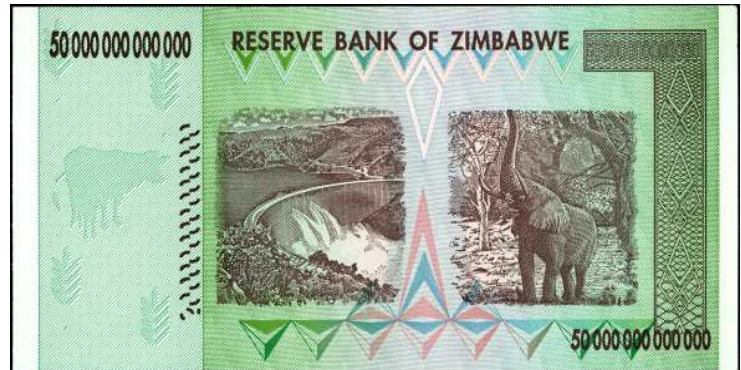
FEATURE ARTICLE THIS MONTH

Zimbabwe Trillion Dollar Notes

by Doug Elliott

I thought I'd include an article with mostly images and very little text. Why? Well, these Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe notes were actual circulating currency issued on January 16, 2009 in Zimbabwe. As near as I can tell this set of 4 notes is the highest face value set of banknotes ever issued!!! Collectible and interesting if not quite philatelic... I purchased them through a stamp discussion board on the internet for the princely sum of \$15 (including shipping from Australia).

In February 2009 the Zimbabwean government revalued the currency by lopping off 12 zeroes – so the next set was 1 through 100 Z\$. Foreign currency is now allowed for business transactions and very little business is done in Z\$. In total, revaluations of the Z\$ since 2004 have removed 25 zeroes from the currency. Annual inflation rates since 2002 have ranged from 132% in 2004 to an astounding 231,000,000% in 2008 – after which official inflation rates have not been published. On a monthly basis, annual inflation rates were as high as 89.7 sextillion % as of November 2008 – prices were increasing by a factor of several hundred EACH WEEK!!! The bread that was 2Z\$ last week might be 700 or 800Z\$ this week.



NATIONAL SHOWS

JUL/AUG	31-2	AMERICOVER American First Day Cover Society www.afdcs.org Boxboro, MA
AUG	6-9	APS STAMPSHOW American Philatelic Society David L Lawrence Conv. Center www.stamps.org Pittsburgh, PA
SEPT	4-6	BALPEX Baltimore Philatelic Society www.balpex.org Hunt Valley, MD
SEPT	12-13	Omaha Stamp Show Omaha Philatelic Society www.omahaphilatelicsociety.org Omaha, NE
SEPT	25-27	MILCOPEX Milwaukee Philatelic Society www.milwaukeephilatelic.org Milwaukee, WI
OCT	2-3	OKPEX Oklahoma City Stamp Club joecrosby@cox.net Oklahoma City, OK
OCT	16-18	INDYPEX Capital City Philatelic Society http://indianastampclub.org Indianapolis, IN

Only World Series of Philately shows are included

For more shows and contact details go to:

http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_ShowCalendar.htm

NEW MEMBERS

New members since the last newsletter mention are:

01889 **Gail Bartlett**
01898 **Alan Casey**
01899 **Norman Root**
01900 **Les Cooper**
01901 **Tom Mollerus**
01902 **Keith Clark**
01903 **Jan St. Martin**
01904 **Ron Sharp**
01905 **Nicolle Cooper**
01906 **Glen Wagaman**
01907 **Brandon Swanson**
01908 **Tammy Swanson**
01909 **Benjamin Wilson**
01910 **Garrett Hammack**
01911 **Nathanael Sinclair**
01912 **Joshua Cline**
01913 **Gabriel Cline**
01914 **Lexy Estep**
01915 **Ryan Berg**
01916 **Joseph Wagaman**
01917 **Jason Estep**

Total membership now totals 251.

STAMP SHOWS IN OUR AREA

JUL	25-26	NEVPEX Nevada Stamp Study Society National Bowling Stadium Reno, NV http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp
AUG	8	Strait Stamp Show Strait Stamp Society Masonic Lodge, South 5 th and Pine Sequim, WA
SEP	26-27	Apple Harvest 2009 Inland Empire Philatelic Society Hilton Garden Inn Spokane, WA www.spokanestampcollectors.org
OCT	2-4	WINEPEX 2009 Redwood Empire Collectors Club Marin Center Avenue of the Flags San Rafael, CA
OCT	9-11	SESCAL – WSP event Federated Phil. Clubs of Southern CA Radisson Hotel at LAX Los Angeles, CA www.sescal.org
OCT	24-25	East Bay Collectors Club 64th Annual Show East Bay Collectors Club Walnut Creek Comm. Center Walnut Creek, CA www.sescal.org
NOV	7-8	SACAPEX Sacramento Philatelic Society www.sacramentophilatelicsociety.org Sacramento, CA
NOV	13-15	Filatelic Fiesta 2009 San Jose Stamp Club Santa Clara Fairgrounds San Jose, CA www.filatelicfiesta.org
NOV	21-22	Stampfest 2009 Umpqua Valley Stamp Club 7 Feathers Casino Canyonville, OR

Member Advertisement

World Wide complete mint sets, souvenir sheets and FDC. The club circuit will not be here in September and October, but we will be. For information see Fred Rickert at the club or phone 916-649-0115. The stamps you need at the prices you can afford (we also trade).

Member Advertisement

Contact James Crissey at 916-987-5881 for mint stamps at face value or used stamps for free. Both kids and older kids are welcome.

Member Advertisement

Older postage available at face value. Discounts available for purchases of \$100 or more. Contact Al Williams at 916-920-1929 or at allen.williams@comcast.net.

SPS CALENDAR

Regular meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 7 –9PM at the Easter Seal Center, 3205 Hurley Way.

Jul	1	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	8	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	15	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	22	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	29	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
Aug	5	Silent Bid Auction, no 2¢ boxes/circuit
	12	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	19	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	26	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
Sep	2	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit.
	9	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	16	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit.
	23	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit
	30	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit.
Oct	7	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit.
	14	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	21	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, no club circuit.
	28	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.

Each meeting we normally have our club circuit and penny boxes available for your shopping pleasure. There are also members who enjoy just talking about their collections or helping you with yours. You might even find a member with a similar interest as you have and you can initiate a stamp swap. Come see us – it's a lot of fun. 'Shoe Boxes' of 2¢ stamps can be taken home to search through during the week.

CURRENT USPS RATES

Domestic:

First-Class Mail Letter (1 oz) - 44¢

First-Class Mail Letter (2 oz) – 61¢

Rigid Envelope Surcharge - 20¢

Postcard - 28¢

Large Envelope (2 oz) - \$1.05

Certified Mail - \$2.80

International:

First-Class Mail Int'l Letter (1 oz)

to Canada - 75¢, Mexico - 79¢, other countries - 98¢

VISIT THE SPS WEBSITE

**Can't find your prospector?
Can't remember what is when?**

Dean Carl continues to amaze those of us who are computer challenged. Updates get done so quickly that we wonder how he does it. The SPS website at sacramentophilatelicsociety.org is where you can keep up with current activities, future events, see copies of the Prospector from the last twelve months, and explore links to other websites of interest.

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ernie Teays
Vice President	Ken Hilmer
Secretary	Keith Loder
Treasurer	John Pavalasky

Board of Directors

Joanne Berkowitz	(thru 5/2010) (Chair)
Katie Pavalasky	(thru 5/2010)
Ken Hilmer	(thru 5/2011)
Jim Stewart	(thru 5/2011)
Dean Carl	(thru 5/2012)
Harry Mueggenburg	(thru 5/2012)

Committee Chairmen

Easter Seal Show	Katie Pavalasky
Library	Ken Hilmer
Membership	Debbie Jean Hopkins
Programs	Anson Stout
Prospector	Doug Elliott
SACAPEX	Dean Carl
Website	Dean Carl

First Day Cancellation Information

All **first day cancellations** may be received after affixing stamps and sending to:

Customer Affixed Envelopes

Postmaster

_____ (*first day city*)

_____ - 9991 (5 digit ZIP + 9991)

Up to 50 FDCs may be submitted for cancellation at no cost, additional covers are charged 5¢ each. If you want them returned without addresses, you must enclose a self addressed envelope, with sufficient postage applied, to insure their return. There is no charge for this service.

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

August 19 **US First Day Covers**
Harry Mueggenburg

September 23 **My Cover Collection**
Mike Rottmiller

October 21 **Incoming Hawaii 19th Century Mail**
Ted Ashworth

November 18 **Disney Stamps**
Katie Pavalasky

Let's try for a member presentation every 3rd Wed!!!
If you have a topic or area of interest that you would like to give a short presentation on, please contact Anson Stout.