



THE FIRST STATE PHILATELIST



The Official Newsletter of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club

Next Meeting: 5/10

The next meeting for the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6:30pm** at the **Summit Retirement Community** at 5850 Limestone Rd., Hockessin, Delaware. For our educational program: various members will give "mini-presentations" on a variety of topics. In addition to an educational program, there will also be a 50:50 drawing, and announcements, along with our regular business meeting. The Club will continue to conduct a separate Silent Auction of some recently donated philatelic material from our dearly departed member Marnie King's collections and other consignors.

March Meeting Notes

No notes were taken at the April meeting as it was our banquet and trivia event. To fill up this column, here is a little bit of other information for our reader's edification.

Area Stamp Club News

The Dover Stamp Club has announced that the 2023 Dover Stamp Show will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 425 N. Dupont Hwy., Dover, Delaware. The Club is hoping to secure 7-8 dealers for this year's show. The next meeting of the Dover Stamp Club will be on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Dover.

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Stamp (Show) of Approval DelPEX Stamp Show was Huge Hit; Good Crowd, Many Dealers

The Brandywine Valley Stamp Club's annual stamp show — DelPEX, the Delaware Philatelic Exposition, a stamp show and bourse — was held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the Nur Temple of the Shriners on Route 13 in New Castle, Delaware. The show had a surprisingly strong turnout with nearly a score of dealers and a full-parking-lot worth of cars of the attendees. Special kudos to Bob Swed and his many helpers for bringing DelPEX 2023 to fruition.

The day and the theme of this year's show was "Earth Day" — and the Club issued a cachet (cover) for the event at the entry way into the show.

The show featured many and varied exhibition items posted on stands both just inside the entranceway as well as up on the stage at the front of the venue hall.

In addition to the many dealers that were present, the United States Postal Service also had a presence with a large table set up at the front of the hall.

The business for the dealers was brisk; seats in front of dealer's tables filled up quickly, and remained so during the day. Also very popular — as always



To use a dated references, DelPEX had more attendees than Carter had Little Liver Pills. Pictured here is the brisk business and activity at this year's show.

— was the grand and glorious DelPEX Bid Board. This year the Bid Board was filled to the brim with item. This reporter can say that he counted close to 350+ posted items, along with scores of related “box” or “table” lots also posted.

Considering that there was talk earlier in the year about whether or not there would be a “DelPEX 2023,” this successful show made clear that a stamp show in Delaware is still a big draw.

World Class! DelPEX 2023 “Earth Day” Cover Provides a Visual Delight for Attendees

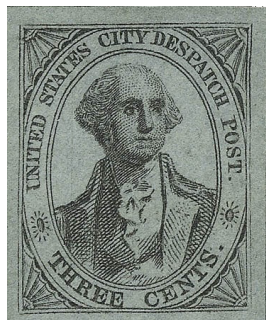


This year’s DelPEX cachet was themed around Earth Day, which was the day of the event and the theme of the show. The beautiful cover features an “Earth Day” commemorative stamp (Forever Stamp). At left is an image of Earth with a scroll across its front reading “Earth Day.”

Around the Earth’s image are the words “Make Every Day...” — with the words “Earth Day” on the scroll completing the phrase. Above the image of the Earth is the identifier “DELPEX 2023” while below is the phrase “Celebrating Earth Day.” The cover is stamped “DELPEX STATION, New Castle, DE 19720” and dated April 22, 2023.

Penny for your Thoughts Remembering the First Ten Years of Postage Stamps: 1840-1849

As noted on the right side of this page (see *Erst: 183 Years Ago*), this month marks the 183rd anniversary of the first postage stamp. While just about every philatelist worth his salt would know about the “Penny Black” — that is, the first postage stamp — less familiar might be what came next in that first decade of stamp issuance. In Great Britain, following the Penny Black, a number of additional stamps were produced. But what about in the rest of the world? What countries or regions produced stamps in those early years.



The classic 1842 three-cent City Despatch Post issue

The following is the chronology of that first decade of philately. This tells the story of what happened around the world in terms of stamp production from 1840 thru 1849. These are our famous firsts:

1842 yielded the second postage stamp in the world — a local issue in the United States, specifically in New York. The so-called “City Despatch Post” issue (U.S. Scott #6LB3) was a 3¢ stamp showing the head of George Washington: it was the first



Erst: 183 Years Ago

First Postage Stamp is Issued, May 1, 1840

The first postage stamp was the Penny Black (Great Britain - Scott #1) issued by the government of the United Kingdom. The Penny Black, with its profile image of Queen Victoria, was issued 183 years ago on May 1, 1840. Though it didn’t officially go on sale until May 6, there are few examples of it on cover with May 1 postmarks.

The issuance of the Penny Black was the first major step in mass communications. Mail service became affordable to every British citizen for the first time. From that day forward, any Englishman from any walk of life could correspond with any other person anywhere in England.

The postage stamp was so revolutionary that it instantly became popular with collectors. In fact, Dr. John Edward Gray of the British Museum purchased a block of Penny Blacks the very first day they went on sale with the intent of preserving them — making him the world’s first stamp collector.

In 1839, the year before the Penny Black was issued, the British postal service moved 82,000,000 pieces of mail. In 1840, the first year of the Penny Black, the mail volume more than doubled to over 169,000,000 pieces of mail. Soon, other countries would follow with their own first issues.

(excerpted, in part, from an article by Mystic Stamp Company; it is being used for educational purposes under fair use rules)

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Membership Listing

The following is the current membership list for the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club as of April 2022.

1. Greg Ajamian
2. Karl Autenrieth
3. Bud Barker
4. Christopher D Baron
5. Jim A Blaine
6. Charles Buboltz
7. David Byrkit
8. Joan Carter
9. Richard Carter
10. Joseph Ciano
11. Bill Clark
12. Jerry Clifton
13. Kenneth Dargis
14. Kevin Dawson
15. Robert M DeGezelle
16. Donald C DeWees
17. Bill DeWitt
18. John Du Verney
19. Scott English
20. John Farquhar
21. Fred Ferst
22. David Finn
23. Raul Gonzalez
24. Louis Gotlib
25. John C Graper
26. Cynthia T Hahn
27. Don Hargy
28. John Hawrylak
29. Peter Hawrylak
30. Raymond Haws Sr
31. Jess Hillard
32. Burt Hopkins
33. John Howker
34. Harry Irwin
35. Stanley E Jones
36. Ed Kelly
37. Fr James Lentini
38. Maurice Linett
39. Ron Majors
40. Keith Marsh
41. William Matalavage
42. Wally McWalter
43. Michael Mekalian
44. George L Michaels
45. Tom Molchan
46. Jeffrey Neville
47. Bert Pechhold
48. Thomas Pesikay
49. Terry Reedy
50. Joel Rind
51. Sandy Rosen
52. Robert G. Rufe
53. Bill Schultz
54. Ed Siegelson
55. Kean W. Spencer
56. Alan P Stamford
57. Robert Swed
58. Steve Tanny
59. Joel Tiriro
60. Stephen Toy
61. Thomas Trendelenburg
62. Kevin Tucker
63. Patricia Tucker
64. Ian Wellings
65. Bob Wherry
66. Jean Woods



Top left: Brazil Scott #1 (1843) was part of a series of three; **Three issues at right:** local stamps from the Cantons of Zurich, Geneva and Basel in Switzerland. **Left hand column below top to bottom:** U.S. Scott #1 from 1847; the 1d. Mauritius stamp, Scott #1 from 1847; **Right hand column below top to bottom:** From 1849: France (Scott #3), Belgium (Scott #1), and Bavaria (Scott #1) — all first stamps of their respective nations.

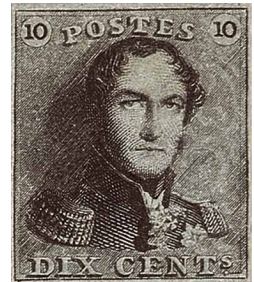


postage stamp issued in the Western Hemisphere.

1843 found Brazil as the second nation, after the U.K., to issue postage stamps valid within the entire country (as opposed to a local issue). The so-called “Brazil Bulls-Eye” stamp came in three denominations (30, 60 and 90 reis), and following the U.K.’s lead, left the country’s name off the stamp.



1843-1845 saw Switzerland’s Cantons (states) of Zurich (1843, Scott #1L1, 4 centimes), Geneva (1843, Scott #2L1, 5 centimes) and Basel (1845, Scott #3L1, 2½ centimes) become the fourth, fifth, and sixth stamp issuers in the world. These stamps were



local issues, not national. Of note, these issues do indicate their regional names in their design.

1847 found the United States issuing its first national postage stamp — the famous 5¢ Benjamin Franklin issue (U.S. Scott #1). Unlike the United Kingdom and Brazil, the United States put its name (albeit in abbreviated form) on the stamp — making it the first nation to do so.



1847 yielded another stamp: Mauritius’ orange one-pence Queen Victoria definitive (of which only 15 were printed). This is the first stamp issued by neither a country nor an internal division of a country, but rather by an overseas colony. Its design is similar to the Penny Black.

1849 saw the stamp world engaged by three major players: France, Belgium and Bavaria. France’s first stamp (Scott #3, yes, not #1... long story), was the 20 centime stamp featuring the image of Ceres the goddess of agriculture (several other denominations were issued). Belgium’s first stamp was a 10 centime stamp (Scott #1) showing King Leopold; there were several other denominations issued. And ending the decade on November 1, 1849 was Bavaria’s first stamp (Scott #1), a one kreuzer issue.

That sums up the first countries and regions issuing the first postage stamps during that all-important first decade of philately (1840-1849). All issues mentioned here, like the Penny Black itself, are imperforate. Random fact: counting up all of the issues and various varieties of stamps issued between 1840-1849, the total number of stamps for that first decade is 201.

The Pre-Cancel Culture? Pre-Canceled Battleship Collecting and the Maltine Company

(This article was submitted by Club Member Stanley E. Jones, PhD)

On July 1, 1898, The War Revenue Act of 1898 took effect. The tax was enacted to pay for the Spanish-American War effort and applied to most every sale or transaction that took place from 1898-1901. To collect the tax, the government printed a set of revenue stamps. A large fraction of this set were the “Battleship Revenues” (Scott #R161-172 and #RB20-31). Both series of these stamps can be found with pre-cancels. The lower values of the Documentary stamps (#R161-172), the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps, when pre-canceled, can usually be found with Railroad or Express company pre-cancels. The pre-cancels on the Proprietary stamps (#RB20-31) offer more variety. Generally, these pre-cancels were used by patent medicine companies and pharmaceutical firms. There is a wide variety of these cancels and some of them are very distinct.



Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 15/98.
Dear Doctor:
God-Lives Oil is good, Maltine is better. Therefore a combination of the two (Maltine with God-Lives Oil) must be the most efficient reconstruction in existence. It is palatable & permanent, & a protection against serious complications from cough, colds & the grip.
Yours faithfully,
The Maltine Co.

Figure 1 (top two) promotions cards from the Maltine Company; Figure 1A (bottom) a message on one of the cards

of my collection of Maltine cancels. There is something that is far more intriguing than the pre-cancels and the lack of their mention in the Chappell and Joyce checklist. In Figure 3 are shown two stamp cancels for the Maltine Company on 5/8¢ vertical pairs that are imperforate horizontally. I found both of these stamps in the same place and wondered how they were used. Were they used as a single stamp to pay a $5/8¢ + 5/8¢ = 1\frac{1}{4}¢$ tax?

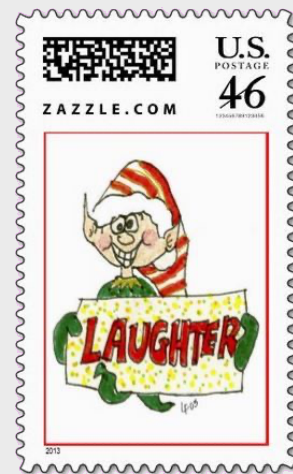
The $1\frac{1}{4}¢$ tax rate is a very common increment in the Battleship proprietary series. There is a stamp with this denomination (Scott #RB25). Yet, I have never found a $1\frac{1}{4}¢$ Battleship with the Maltine cancel on it. Could the Mal-

The most thorough and comprehensive accounting of printed pre-cancels on Battleship Proprietary Revenue Stamps was published by C. H. Chappell and Morton Dean Joyce who pursued the goal of extensively cataloging every cancel or variety that they could find. However, one of the companies that was overlooked by Chappell and Joyce is the Maltine Company (Figure 1 and Figure 1a). I’m not sure why, but this company is not listed in their checklist.

One of the limits of Chappell and Joyce is that they discriminate against stamp cancels. Were the Maltine cancels, as printed, regarded as stamp cancels by Chappell and Joyce? As you can see in Figure 2, they appear to be printed, and very ornate, as some companies chose to use this as a method for advertising their products.

In my travels, I have found a number of Battleships that are affiliated with the Maltine Company. Their pre-cancel is shown in Figure 2. However, this is not the most interesting aspect

Philatelic Funnies



The One about the Printing Error

Some postage stamp sheets were being printed, and a manager at the printing plant noticed that the stamps on one of the sheets had a printing error — the stamps on this sheet had wide margins while the rest had normal margins. The manager, absconded with the sheet of wide-margined stamps wanting to corner the market on this printing error.

The next day, he broke the sheet up into single stamps and did likewise to a sheet without the error, for comparison. He brought them to the local stamp club. He put the wide margin stamps on the left, the normal margin stamps on the right. He told the club members that this was a rare printing error, and that one day these stamps would be worth millions — and that he would sell one to any interested club member for \$1,000 each.

One of the club members was quite excited about the offer. He said, “Sounds like a good deal. But which stamps should I be purchasing from you — I mean which are the printing error issues? Are they the stamps on the left or the stamps on the right?”

The manager replied, “The ones on the left will be much more valuable than the ones on the right. Buy a wide margin!”

Brandywine Valley Stamp Club

Affiliations

APS Chapter #268
ATA Chapter #134

2022-23 Officers

PresidentBill Matalavage
Vice PresidentChris Baron
TreasurerJohn Howker
SecretaryRich Carter
Board of Directors.....Greg Ajamian,
..... Tom Pesikay,
.....Bill Clark
Newsletter EditorFr. James Lentini
Program ChairBob Swed
DELPEX Chairman.....TBA

Meetings

The club usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meeting location information will be provided, with details, in this newsletter.

Dues

Annual dues are \$15.00 (or 3 years for \$35) and are due in January. Send a check made out to BVSC to: John Howker, 513 Ridgeview Drive, Hockessin, DE 19707.

Newsletter

The First State Philatelist is the official publication of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club and is published 10 times annually. All opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and/or editor. We welcome submissions of articles for publication.

Correspondence

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Website

www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com



Figure 2: These documentary stamps are all used and stamp canceled “Maltine Co., 1898.”

tine Company have required this denomination and used the vertical pairs to pay it? Of further interest is the listing of this stamp in the Scott Catalogue. It is #RB-23a and a value is only given for an unused pair. There is no value listed for a used pair. I wonder why? The stamps in Figure 2 are clearly used and stamp canceled “Maltine Co., 1898.” Another question that I would pose concerns the horizontal imperforate nature of these two stamps. Was this an error by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing? There are several stamps in the Documentary and Proprietary Battleship series that are imperforate horizontally. Perhaps, this was a deliberate attempt to make a 1¼¢ stamp out of two 5/8¢ stamps. If it was, then having the pair imperforate between was an advantage to separation and application.



Figure 3: (atop) a single scissor cut stamp of the same issue; (above): stamp cancels for Maltine Company on 5/8 cent vertical pairs that are imperforate horizontally.

The Scott Catalog does not mention why #RB 23a exists, only that it does. When I found the two pairs of #RB 23a, I also found a single stamp that appears to be scissor cut at the top. Could this have been taken from the same sheet and used as a single 5/8¢ stamp? Perhaps, it could have been added to one of the pairs to produce 1¼¢+5/8¢=1-7/8¢ cent, another common denomination in the Battleship Proprietary series (#RB26). Notice that in Figure 2 there are no 1¼¢ or 1-7/8¢ denominations with Maltine pre-cancels. There may be no answer to these questions, but I hope that this will stimulate some discussion.

Topical Thunder Collecting the First Hundred Years of Red Cross Regular Issues!

In 1963, the Red Cross celebrated its Centenary (1863-1963) and many nations issued Red Cross Centenary stamps. Since then, many more Red Cross stamps have been issued. But here’s an interesting topical theme to consider: How about collecting all Red Cross themed stamps from before 1963 (excluding back-of-the-book issues as there are a ton of Red Cross themed semi-postals and assistance stamps). So, the focus would be Red Cross commemoratives, primarily, between 1863-1962. If that sounds like



The Philippines is one of the nations that honored the Red Cross with a stamp prior to that organization's 100th anniversary, when every nation in the world seemed to do something to honor it. Pictured above Philippines #627 (1956).

a good topical collection item to you, then read on because this is your checklist for Red Cross themed stamps from year one to year 99 of that venerable organization.

Afghanistan #522-530; Argentina #955; Australia #355; Austria #1351, 1376; Belgium #442; Brazil #586-588; Bulgaria #504-511, 553-560; Canada #317; Chile #238-239, 322; China (People's Republic) #242; Costa Rica #163; Cuba #404; Czechoslovakia #1069; Dahomey #156-159; Dominican Republic #408-411; Ecuador #440-443; Ethiopia #268-272, 342-344; Germany #696; Easter Germany #177, 350-351; Greece #657-663; Haiti #361-69; Hungary #1366-1371; India #291; Iran #1132A-1132B; Iraq #173; Israel #104; Italy #779; Japan #214-217, 295-298, 554-555, 674; Korea (South) 295-296; Liechtenstein #293-296;

Manchukuo #128-129, 152; Monaco #262, 288-291; Morocco #28; Nicaragua #829-833; Pakistan #104-105; Paraguay #431-434; Philippines #627-628; Poland #868-870; Romania #1099, 1178; Russia (USSR) #1823-1824, 2110-2111; San Marino #305-307; Sweden #358-359; Switzerland #268-269; Turkey #1085-1086, 1158; United States #702, 967, 1016; Upper Volta #96; Venezuela #388; Vietnam #136-139. (158 stamps in this topic)

Crimea and Punishment

Boy Takes Down Russian President Vladimir Putin on New Ukraine Stamp

The Ukrainian postal service announced a new stamp featuring the image of a judo match taking place. In the image, a young boy is shown slamming an older man to the ground. The release commemorates the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The stamp also features some pejorative verbiage about Russian President Vladimir Putin in Cyrillic text at the bottom of the stamp.

This scene is said to be an allegorical representation of the defeat of Vladimir Putin (a black belt in judo). The image is taken from a mural in the Ukrainian town of Borodyanka painted by the British artist who goes by the name Banksy. It's unclear if Banksy authorized the use of his artwork on the new stamp.



Man Down! A new Ukrainian stamp shows a boy using judo to take down a grown man.

According to a statement issued by the Ukrainian Postal Service, all proceeds from sales of this stamp will go toward humanitarian needs, caused by the war. "We thought [this stamp] would be the best representation of what every Ukrainian feels about our enemy," said Ihor Smilianskyi, the head of Ukraine's postal service. The stamp, a semi-postal, was issued on February 24, with a print run of 1.5 million. It is denominated as first class rate (23 hryvnia, or 62¢) plus 7 hryvnia (or 19¢ in U.S. currency).

Closed Album



The Last King George VI Stamp

King George VI, who began his reign in 1937, passed from this life on February 6, 1952. It was on that day that his daughter Elizabeth acceded to the throne as Queen Elizabeth II.

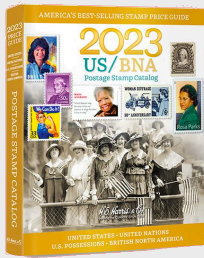
However, on February 19, 1952 — 13 days after King George's death, Australia issued one final stamp picturing King George VI. It was in the odd denomination (one of the oddest denominations ever) of one shilling one-half pence. Many people refer to this as the George VI Memorial Issue — after all, the stamp designed features a dark coloring encircling a simple image of the monarch's face.

In fact, however, this was not a memorial issue. As a matter of fact, this was a planned release. The planned issuance of this stamp had been announced in the January 1952 issue of Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly. In that issue a column on upcoming issues noted:

"More stamps with odd half-pennies (necessitated by the recent increases in Australian postal rates) are being prepared, including 4-1/2d., 6-1/2d. and 1 shilling 0-1/2d. values."

So, while this 1952 stamp (Australia - Scott #247) was the late King George VI's last issue, it was not intended or meant in any way to be considered as a memorial issue.

Philatelic Books Top 15



Based on the [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) sales chart for last week of April 2023.

- #1 **US/BNA Postage Stamp Catalog 2023** (H.E.Harris)
- #2 **US/BNA Postage Stamp Catalog 2022** (H.E. Harris)
- #3 **First Stamp Album for Beginners** (Robert Obojski)
- #4 **Collecting Stamps** (Jerry Haydock)
- #5 **Stamp Inventory Log Book** (Reddy and Glen Works)
- #6 **My First Stamp Collecting Book for Kids** (Carrigleagh Books)
- #7 **Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting** (Rodney Juell)
- #8 **Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 2022 (v.3)** (Scott Publ. Inc)
- #9 **Scott Specialized Catalogues of United States Stamps & Covers 2021** (Scott Publ. Inc)
- #10 **Scott Pocket Stamp Catalogue 2023** (Amos Media)
- #11 **First Class: America's Marvelous Mid-Century Stamps**
- #12 **Scott Specialized Catalogues of United States Stamps & Covers 2023** (Scott Publ. Inc)
- #13 **The Philatelic Book of Secrets** (Bruce McDonald)
- #14 **A Stamp for Every Country - A Postage Stamp Album** (John C. Knudsen)
- #15 **Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 2023 (v.1)** (Scott Publishing Inc)

Get with the Program! An Author, An Indian Chief, and Twenty Animals Top USPS May Stamp Program

Three new issues will highlight the United States Postal Service's new issue offerings for May 2023, as follows: a Tomie dePaola (children's book author) commemorative stamp, a Chief Standing Bear (tribal leader) commemorative stamp, and a 20-stamp set of endangered species definitives. Here are details on these new issues:

On Friday, May 5, 2023: Tomie dePaola. One (63¢) forever commemorative stamp, issued in a pane of 20. Thomas Anthony "Tomie" dePaola (1934-2020) was an American writer and illustrator who created more than 260 children's books, the most famous of which is "Strega Nona." He received the Children's Literature Legacy Award for his lifetime contribution to American children's literature in 2011.



- **Ordering Information:** USPS item No. 483604 (pane), 483616 (FDC at \$1.18), 483621 (color postmark FDC at \$2.03), 483606 (press sheet with die cuts at \$113.40), 483608 (press sheet without die cuts at \$113.40). **First Day of Issue ceremony:** 11:00am at Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash Street, Manchester, New Hampshire.



On Friday, May 12, 2023: Chief Standing Bear. Single (63¢) forever commemorative stamp, issued in pane of 20. Chief Standing Bear (1829-1908) was a Ponca tribal chief and Native American civil rights leader who successfully argued in U.S. District Court in 1879 in Omaha that Native Americans are "persons within the meaning of the law" and have the right of habeas corpus, thus becoming the first Native American judicially granted civil rights under American law.

- **Ordering Information:** USPS item No. 483704 (pane), 483716 (FDC at \$1.18), 483721 (color postmark FDC at \$2.03), 483706 (press sheet with die cuts at \$113.40), 483708 (press sheet without die cuts at \$113.40). **First Day of Issue ceremony:** 11:00am at Centennial Mall, at Chief Standing Bear Statue between P & Q Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska.

On Friday, May 19, 2023: Endangered Species. Twenty (63¢) forever commemorative stamps, pane of 20. Images of 20 endangered animal species found within the 50 states and U.S. territories. The animals shown are: the Laysan teal, black-footed ferret, Roanoke logperch, thick-billed parrot, candy darter, Florida panther, masked bobwhite quail, Key Largo cotton mouse, Lower Keys marsh rabbit, Wyoming toad, Vancouver Island marmot, golden-cheeked warbler, Guam Micronesian kingfisher, San Francisco garter snake, Mexican gray wolf, Attwater's prairie chicken, Nashville crayfish, piping plover, desert bighorn sheep and Mississippi sandhill crane.



- **Ordering Information:** USPS item No. 483804 (pane), 483816 (set of 20 FDCs at \$23.60), 483821 (color postmark set of 20 FDCs at \$40.60), 483806 (press sheet with die cuts at \$50.40), 483808 (press sheet without die cuts at \$50.40). **No First Day of Issue ceremony announced.**

Shop 'til You Drop: Upcoming Stamp Shows

There are three upcoming stamp shows that are not too far from the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club's home turf in Wilmington, Delaware: all three May shows are in New Jersey; to wit:

May 13, 2023 (Saturday)

What: Colts Neck Stamp, Coin and Card Expo
When: 9:00am-3:00pm
Where: Colts Neck Triple Crown Room
 50 Conover Rd, Colts Neck, New Jersey
Who: Colts Neck Fire Company #2, sponsor
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 99 miles (1 hr. 56 mins.)

May 13, 2023 (Saturday)

What: Spring Stamp, Cover, Postcard, Collectible Show
When: 9:30am-4:00pm
Where: Community Recreation Center,
 1232 Main Ave., Washington, New Jersey
Who: Clifton Stamp Society, sponsor
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 127 miles (2 hrs.)

May 21, 2023 (Sunday)

What: Third Sunday Monthly Stamp Bourse
When: 8:00am-4:00pm
Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,
 690 Route 46 East, Fairfield, New Jersey
Who: Stampman / Sugar Plum Philatelics, sponsor
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 133 miles (2 hr. 8 mins)

Video Pick:

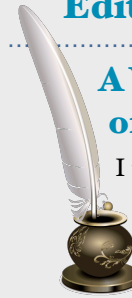
From Heligoland to Hyderabad: Top 10 Dead Countries to Collect

So many former countries and colonies to collect... so many options. Hyderabad anyone? How about Fernando Poo? What about Bophuthatswana? Sounds mysterious, odd, or just plain unknown to you? Well, fear not, the video below will tell you all about these former nations, areas, polities and colonies — and their stamps. To view the video: click below, or go to the following link: stampaware.weebly.com/videos.



Editor's Corner:

A Writer Ahead of his Time



I was reading an article in an old stamp magazine from the early 1960s. The writer asserted that some countries were beginning to produce a glut of stamps. He noted that if the trend didn't stop, we would soon see countries producing mass quantities of stamps not actually intended for postal use, but aimed at stamp collectors.

My goodness, he was ahead of his time. My own world-wide collection stops in the early-1980s for just that reason. It is to try to avoid the glut of nonsensical stamps that were produced for no demonstrable postal purpose, but rather just for philatelic sales.

An example of this expansive production is Canada. Canada's stamps from 1851 to 1951, 100 years, in a recent Stanley Gibbon's Catalogue, takes up a mere two pages. The next 50 years, 1951 to 2001, takes up 21 pages (a 950% increase).

Is a stamp a postage stamp just because it is printed? St. Vincent and the Grenadines have a population of just over 100,000, yet in the year 2001, for example, it issued over 350 different stamps. These stamps were mostly on topics that had nothing to do with the island of St. Vincent, like the Norwegian Royal Wedding, a series on Dale Earnhardt (NASCAR), the Madrid Stamp Exhibition, and Owls.

To echo the point of that 1960s article I read, this is what happens to philately when national postal services lack temperance and restraint in what they produce. Here's to hoping that the future of stamp production is moderated, thus making what is collected have significance and quality rather than random topics and quantity.

Philatelically yours,
Fr. James Lentini
Newsletter Editor