

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge, and enjoyment of stamp collecting.
APS



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Editor's Note

Dennis Buss

At long last we are scheduled to resume our first regular in-person SRSC meeting since March 2020 on August 2 at the Finley Center. We will be meeting in Room 1, a much larger space that should enable us to have more room to display auction and for-sale items as well as to observe safety precautions. More details will follow. In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying a pleasant summer.

Stamp Collecting: How Individualistic It Is!

Stephen Brett

Each time our Club meets, whether in person or lately by Zoom, it strikes me how individualistic each member's approach to the hobby is. One would think, given the number of things we have in common, there would be more uniformity to our collecting habits. We are a mature group of people who have been collecting for many years, middle class for the most part, living in the same section of California, pretty well educated. Yet, we all have our distinct ways and means of collecting. Perhaps the hobby's inherent flexibility, our infinite number of choices to collect in a manner compatible with our creative sense of beauty and order that makes it so appealing and enduring as a hobby. Add to that the satisfaction of building something—something reflective and defining of our personality, something of value and worthy of respect—and you have a perfect pastime. No wonder stamp collecting has topped the list in almost all decades for so long.

I want to address how us "seniors" approach the hobby and the many adaptations and adjustments we make or can make as our expertise reaches a peak but the horizon shortens.

Many of my acquaintances have moved into a life mode of simplification as far as living arrangements go. They no longer wish to wrestle with oversized properties requiring a myriad of maintenance challenges and accompanying repair and management personnel. So, they whittle down their responsibilities to a lifestyle where they can devote their time and energy to activities and things they enjoy the most and can best cope with or master. Our hobby is easily adaptable to this kind of modification. By narrowing our focus to what area or areas we really enjoy and to develop or heighten our expertise, we can enhance our enjoyment and may even reduce our frustration at the same time. Did I say frustration? Do any of us tire of maintaining albums and materials that are more of a weight and time eater, let alone expense drain? I know I feel almost obligated to areas of my worldwide collection—to keep them going. After all, some of these are "old friends." Admittedly there

may be times when we can't wait to finish up on an area of our collection in order to get back to an area we are more interested in that is, simply, more intriguing and fun. We cannot buy time. So, isn't it time to admit to ourselves (a) what is our *real* area of interest where we get the most pleasure and excitement and (b) how do we get there? I suppose we are all afraid of making a mistake in letting go of any part of our collection that we put time, energy and resources into. And then there's the nostalgia of items we've collected in our youth and the stories behind them. But, let's face it, eventually we will have to part with these now that they are impediments to our present and future ability to thoroughly enjoy ourselves. They can provide that, by the way, to someone else. That's a thought!

There's a peripheral issue we can't overlook. The fear of not getting enough compensation for stamp materials we let go of. Well, we go back to two considerations. To repeat one, we cannot buy time and what we hold onto is a distraction (or worse) from what we want to spend time on. But, of equal consideration, we can *trade* for what we wish to add depth to in our collections and whatever we can realize from areas we want to jettison, we can devote to our real passions.

In the great scheme of things, we are only a temporary curator when it comes to our collections. Like architects and builders, we build and others move into what we have built. A builder would be very, very limited if he held onto all that he has constructed. So might we, if we hold onto everything we have hinged or mounted or placed in a stock book or shoebox. Simplifying our approach to collecting is not at all a reduction in our collecting if it strengthens our specializations and enjoyment.

The Stamp Felt Around the World

Paul von Gottfried

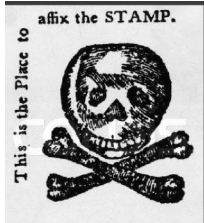
We've all heard of "the shot heard round the world." This article is about the stamp felt around the world. We go back to the pre-revolutionary war years when the Stamp Act of 1765 was imposed on the American colonies. The Stamp Act was the first internal tax levied directly on American colonists by the British Parliament. The Act imposed a tax on all paper documents used in the colonies. It came at a time when the British Empire was deeply in debt from the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) and looked to its North American colonies, including the West Indies to pay for the war. All paper documents were obliged to carry an embossed revenue stamp certifying payment of the tax.



In justifying the tax, Parliament used the Old French phrase *Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense* "shamed be whoever thinks bad of it." It is as if the British anticipated that there would be opposition to the paper tax. Printed materials included legal documents, magazines, playing cards, newspapers and many other types of paper were subject to the tax. One point of contention was that it had to be paid in British currency, not in colonial paper money.

The purpose of the tax was to pay for British military troops stationed in the American colonies after the French and Indian War, as it was called on this side of the Atlantic. The colonists never feared a French invasion and they contended that they had already paid their share of the war expenses. The colonists suggested that it was actually a

matter of British patronage to fund surplus British officers and career soldiers who should be paid by the British government in London. The argument that the soldiers were there to protect the colonists, many of whom were sympathetic to the French cause, was viewed as dubious. The billeting of British soldiers in cities like Boston and New York was widely opposed.



The unpopularity of the tax was widespread. A majority felt it was a violation of their rights as Englishmen to be taxed without their consent, consent that only the colonial legislative assemblies could grant. Their slogan was “No taxation without representation.” Soon thereafter, the colonists responded with a symbol of their own featuring a skull and crossbones that became a rallying cry along with the phrase “No taxation without representation.”

Colonial assemblies sent petitions and protests. The Stamp Act Congress was held in New York City and was the first significant colony-wide response to the British tax and was addressed to both the Parliament and the King.

Opposition to the Stamp Act was not limited to the colonies. British manufacturers and merchants pressured Parliament because their exports to the colonies were threatened by boycotts. The Stamp Act was repealed in March of 1766 as a matter of expedience, but Parliament affirmed its power to legislate for the colonies “in all cases whatsoever” by also passing the Declaratory Act. A series of new taxes and regulations were created, likewise vehemently opposed by the Americans.

The Stamp Act episode was instrumental in enabling the colonial resistance that led to the American Revolution in 1775. The Act played a major role in defining the 27 colonial grievances that were clearly stated within the text of the indictment of King George III section of the United States Declaration of Independence.

The Stamp Act of 1764 galvanized the American colonial opposition to King George III and Parliament. Additional actions by Parliament and King further stimulated resistance to British rule and omnipotence. The Stamp Act and the subsequent response was the first organized effort to rally citizens to independence. One could say that the Stamp Act, with its accompanying revenue tax stamp, was the impetus to eventual colonial independence from Great Britain.

Amazing Stamp Stories #9: More than the Longest Stamp Series!

Stephen Brett

This installment of Amazing Stamp Stories surprised even its author. It began with a goal of discovering and acknowledging the largest postal set or series in the world. In doing so, my search revealed an unsung stamp set that deserves much more attention from U.S. stamp collectors.



Although not the largest stamp set in the world, it is the largest series of American definitive stamps issued by the United States Postal Service. Known as *The Great American Series*, the first of sixty-three face-different issues appeared on December 27, 1980. It depicts a portrait of Dorothy Dix (Scott 1844) on a 1-cent stamp. Compared to what you are about to read, and no dissing intended, Ms. Dix was celebrated as a social reformer and humanitarian dedicated to the cause of improving the treatment of

the medically insane during the mid 1800s. The series was dedicated to recognizing American political and military leaders, educators, humanitarians, along with literary, and civil rights figures. The last stamp in the series was issued in July 1999 depicting Congressman Justin Morrill in a 55 cents denomination (Scott 2941). Morrill sponsored legislation (1862) that established publically supported land grant colleges in each state of the union.



What caught my attention as being out of the ordinary was the commemoration of several Indian chiefs in this series: Red Cloud (Scott 2175); Sitting Bull (Scott 2183); Crazy Horse (Scott 1855) and Sequoyah (Scott 1859).

This reminded me of another dignified and formal portrayal of a native American chief which is a favorite in any U.S. collection, the fourteen-cent deep blue (Scott 565) from the Fourth Bureau definitive series issued on May 1, 1923 (Flat Plate printing, Perf. 11). Its current catalogue value is approximately \$9.00 mint and \$2.00 used. The stamp was issued in Muskogee, Oklahoma and Washington D.C. Yet, and perhaps it is a sign of prior times and native American status in the early 20's, this iconic stamp portrait only deserved a generic description as an unnamed *American Indian*. That's all. But, here's the rest of the story.



This was an engraved stamp portrait of no ordinary Indian or man. This was Hollow Horn Bear. A Brule Lakota leader who fought in many of the battles of the Sioux Great Plains Wars including the Battle of Little Big Horn. He was a key speaker and negotiator for the Sioux making multiple trips to Washington, D.C.

Hollow Horn Bear was born in modern Sheridan County, Nebraska. Named for his grandfather, he was one of seven sons of Chief Iron Shell. His mother was Wants Everything. After a skirmish with the Brule Sioux Indians in 1855, an Army Lieutenant found a child alone on the battlefield. He was captured along with his mother and brought to Fort Laramie, until they were released in October 1855. The child was Hollow Horn Bear, the son of Iron Shell. He became a great orator. He was present at the inaugurations of Teddy Roosevelt and President Woodrow Wilson.

So, what is so amazing about this unnamed 14-cent stamp showing an Indian? Simply this: the same image of Chief Hollow Horn Bear also appears on the 1899 U.S. \$5 dollar bill and a 1970 \$10 Military Payment Certificate.

Isn't it the time for the U.S. Post Office to make amends and re-issue this 14 cent stamp with the following inscription: Hollow Horn Bear (Matihehlogego), Chief of the Sicangu Lakota (Brule); Warrior, Diplomatic Statesman, and Orator. Wouldn't we all be amazed?



Ask Phil

Dear Phil,

I am overwhelmed by thousands of duplicates from the Soviet bloc, the Trucial States, various countries I consider undesirable, as well as bags of used U.S. on paper. My wife insists I clear some room out of the closet. Any suggestions?

Overwhelmed by Dups

Dear Overwhelmed,

There are a number of uses for your unwanted duplicates. You can donate them to a worthy cause such as Stamps For The Wounded in Virginia, a worthy program that assists vets. There are many other justifiable programs, many in your area. The Sacramento Stamp Club, in conjunction with the Easter Seals Society, provides funds for the local Easter Seals program through their annual bourse and sale. Their 2-cent tables are a big hit. Actually, they might take your unwanted dups.

You can use the unwanted stamps for insulation in your walls. Just rent a device utilized by insulation companies that blow insulation into walls. You can use them as kindling at Christmas to make a cheery, colorful fire.

Phil (Paul von Gottfried)

My Favorite Stamps

Dennis Buss



A few years ago I was looking for stamps that reflected the Art Deco movement in graphic design. The Art Deco style first appeared in the 1920s in France and became very popular during the 1930s until it faded in influence with the onset of World War II. Art Deco represented a distinct break from the earlier Art Nouveau style with its elaborate floral motifs and sinuous organic designs. Art Deco embraced the machine age by employing sleek lines, sharp edges, and innovative font styles that convey a sense of modernity, motion and speed. Especially in Europe, postal authorities invited Art Deco artists to design postage stamps that reflected the style. Among the most visually appealing stamps I discovered was this Finland set released on February 28, 1935 (Scott 207-209). The set has a catalogue value of \$18.00 mint, not hinged and \$5.50 used.

According to the Scott Catalogue and Wikipedia, the stamps commemorate the centennial of the publication of the 19th century *Kalevala*, the Finnish national epic poem that tells the story of the creation of the Earth. The 1¼ Marka red stamp shows bards reciting the poem. The 2 Marka black shows the Goddess Louhi as an eagle seizing the magic mill and the 2½ Marka blue depicts the epic character Kulervo.

Stamp Exhibitions

WESTPEX 2021 will convene on Friday, July 30 and end on Sunday, August 1 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel. The show features outstanding exhibits along with 75 stamp dealers throughout the world. Meetings and seminars are scheduled by various philatelic societies and organizations. WESTPEX has always been the foremost yearly philatelic attraction for collectors living in the Bay Area.

In the meantime, for those who want to get a jump on the stamp show circuit you might to check out the **2021 Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25 at the National Bowling Center, 300 N. Center Street in Reno. Dealers from across the United States will be present along with interesting exhibits. For more information call 775-232-4760 or go to the website at www.renostamp.org



SRSC

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm at the Finley Community Center, 2060 W. College Road, in Santa Rosa. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Following a discussion of club business matters, the meetings feature a philatelic presentation and a member auction. **Regular group meetings are scheduled to resume on August 3, 2021.** For information about the club visit our website at <http://www.santarosastampclub.org/home.html>

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