

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

*The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge,
and enjoyment of stamp collecting. APS Chapter 1584*



Vol. 1, No. 4

January 2013

Club News

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club celebrates its first anniversary. We now have 33 paid members and we hope to add more as we move into our second year. Martin Feibusch, our first president, has stepped down. We are very grateful to Martin for helping our club to get off to a successful first year. His considerable experience as a leader in various stamp organizations and clubs throughout the Bay area guided us through the process of establishing by-laws, securing affiliate status with the American Philatelic Society, and helping the officers to find ways to make our meetings enjoyable and interesting. We are especially appreciative of Martin's efforts to obtain our meeting space at his residence facility at the Lodge at Paulin Creek. We are quite fortunate to have such pleasant and comfortable surroundings to hold our meetings.

Paul Von Gottfried has been elected as our new president for 2013, Doug Iams will be our new vice president, Dennis Buss will continue as secretary and newsletter editor, while Susan Dixon will remain as our treasurer. The inimitable George Land will carry on as our auctioneer. Martin will serve as immediate past president on the club executive board. The executive board will be meeting in January to plan our program for 2013. We look forward to another informative and enjoyable year sharing our mutual interest in the world's greatest hobby!

Meet Your Club Members

Paul Von Gottfried, our new club president, shares his thoughts on how he got started as a stamp collector.



I was introduced to stamp collecting by a family friend, who was also a doctor and stamp collector. On one visit, he brought two packets of stamps and some blank album pages. My brother chose the U.S. stamps, I chose the packet of New Zealand stamps. I looked up New Zealand in the encyclopedia and was fascinated both by the faraway and exotic country and the beautiful stamps. I was hooked!

My brother soon gave up collecting stamps. I continued on through high school. I joined the local stamp club, which mentored a youth club. I became fascinated by the line engraved stamps of the British Colonies. I would spend much of my allowance and newspaper route monies on getting stamps and supplies.

During college years and beyond my stamp collection was put away in a closet. I didn't have much money to spare and I was much more involved in college life, especially when it came to young women. On a visit home, my Mom asked me to take the stamp collection with me. I joined a club where I lived and became more involved. I gradually focused on being more specialized in my collecting, but I still collected topicals in areas that interested me greatly, such as my Statue of Liberty collection.

What I like about stamp collecting is that it seems to attract intelligent people of varied backgrounds and interests. There is no wrong way to collect. Stamp collectors support each other in their interests, no matter what they are. This kind of acceptance is something the world and politicians could learn from. I know it is not as simple as this but I think the point is valid. Stamp collectors are a diverse lot, with varied interests and seemingly little prejudice. My kind of people.

I can envision myself in a care facility many years from now, surrounded by friends and family. And my stamps...

REMINDER: January is Membership Renewal Month. Dues are \$5.00 for the year. See Sue Dixon or Dennis Buss for payment.

It's Easy to Create Your Own Album

Bob Kirk



I specialize in George VI (Yes, the 'King's Speech' guy) stamps, 1936-52. My collection includes covers, multiples, cinderellas, back-of-the-book, etc. from 90 or more colonies. Fifteen years ago in London I tried to buy a George VI album; it provides spaces for every stamp issued during the reign. I couldn't find one. I had to make my own. I'm glad.

Making your own album frees you from constraints. You can add covers, blocks, anything. It will work well for all specialties. Here's what you need: a ream of 24-pound paper; a computer and printer; a 'Stamplacer,' which is a mounting guide so your stamps are level and evenly spaced (a ruler will also do); and packages of Showgard or other mounts; and a catalog for reference.

I drew a black thin border around a sample page. At top center I photocopied the royal cypher, consisting of a stylized 'GVIR' and crown. Kinko's ran off 500 for me and three-hole punched them.

I select the same simple type throughout. In 18-point type centered at the top, I write the name of the colony: 'Nyasaland Protectorate,' for example. I use 12-point type, centered, to write in the date and other information: "1 September 1945: Definitive Issue." At the bottom of the page I add the name of the printer or other pertinent information. I enclose my set in black Showgard mounts. I now have a black border for each stamp. Because I don't have to draw a box I save time, and I don't need to leave telltale empty boxes. All pages go into 3-hole binders.

I'm 100 percent satisfied with my albums. I add pages frequently. It's an easy way to create an attractive album for your own specialty.

Editor's Note: Although the 'Stamplacer' is no longer in production, it occasionally appears for sale on eBay. For more information about its use, Bob Kirk will be happy to tell you more. In the meantime, if other members use a computer to design their album pages, I will be happy to give you space in a future newsletter to describe your techniques!

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Lodge at Paulin Creek, 2375 Range Avenue, Building D, Santa Rosa. For information about Club membership call: 707- 545 - 0870 or send an email to: srsc2012@yahoo.com

A Generalist Starts to Specialize

Dennis Buss

As a long-time generalist who has been quite content with filling spaces in my worldwide classic and country albums, the idea of specializing never had much appeal to me. Perhaps the idea of collecting obscure overprint varieties seemed a bit too exotic for my less than developed philatelic interests (and checkbook). Recently I had been reading a very interesting book edited by Rodney A. Juell and Steven J. Rod entitled *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting* that corrected a few of my prejudices. In particular, I realized that one does not have to collect 19th century classics to be a specialist. Indeed, as Juell and Rod demonstrate, modern stamps provide very fertile ground for philatelic specialization. Their chapter on the 1954 Liberty series of definitive stamps provides a case in point. I was fascinated to learn how the Liberties were part of a cold war effort to promote American values. Moreover, the Liberty stamps are a specialist's dream – they are loaded with printing varieties. The stamps were printed on rotary, flat plate and Giori presses. Some received phosphorescent tagging. The coils were perforated with the same gage but with small and large hole varieties. The flat plate issues were released as both wet and dry printed. Next I discovered a major reference, the APS handbook *The Liberty Series*, written by Ken Lawrence, C. David Eeles, and Anthony S. Wawrukeiwicz. After reading it, I was hooked. Apart from the challenge of collecting copies of the various sheet, booklet, and coil varieties, I found that the really absorbing pursuit is finding covers that demonstrate the many ways in which the Liberty stamps filled a variety of postal uses. I never really understood why collectors attending stamp shows would spend hours pouring over stacks of covers at dealer tables. Now I do. Finding that elusive 1¢ George Washington pre-cancel on a non-profit bulk mail cover would really be a find! So, if you are looking for a way to revitalize your US collecting interests, I strongly recommend giving the Juell and Rod *Encyclopedia* a read. At the very least, you will learn some fascinating facts about your US stamps and, who knows, you may become the next expert on the Transportation Coils!

