

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

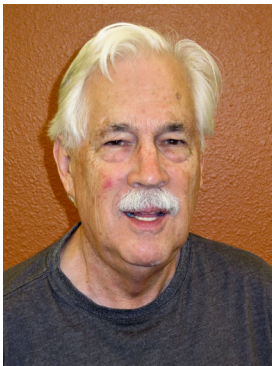
The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study, knowledge, and enjoyment of stamp collecting.
APS Chapter 1584



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Get to Know Your Club Members: Don Test, A Sixty-five Year Journey Through Philately



My introduction to stamp collecting began with a gift from my Dad of the 1930's U. S. mint 2-cent reds and with a 1948 U.S. 3-cent commemorative FDC from my uncle. Growing up in suburban Philadelphia, I regularly read dealer ads and mail auction sales listings that appeared in stamp publications. Soon, I began bidding and buying while I launched my own national mail auction sale. Business was encouraging. Little did my customers across the country know that their dealer was a 13 year-old kid whose office was the bedroom closet of his parents' home.

Attending college, teaching in Fremont, California, going to graduate school, and travelling extensively there was a break in my stamp collecting and dealing pursuits until about 1970. I moved to San Francisco and began visiting the auction houses of Richard Wolffers, Aubrey Bartlett and Chris Harmer as well as the downtown retail dealers - it was time to rejoin philately.

As a U.S. collector of 1847 issues onward I began to notice trends like the emphasis on mint stamp condition and grading as well as the growing number of investor buyers who viewed stamps as a business venture. All these factors served to push the prices of these stamps into the premier level. I then made the decision to confine my collecting to better U.S. used stamps and covers up to 1937. My collection, education, interest and pleasure all grew as a result.

By the 1980s I was living in Sonoma County – Russian River and Santa Rosa – where I patronized dealers like Ausdenmoore's in the old Rosenberg building. I was also able to meet many fellow collectors at the annual stamp show, bourse and auction held at a downtown Santa Rosa hotel.

Over the years I developed an accumulation of used definitive U.S. stamps that clearly depicted dated postmarks. This collection sparked another philatelic adventure. I designed an album sheet for each month of the year with spaces for the dates of the

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club

Membership is open to anyone interested in stamp collecting and who agrees to abide by the club By-Laws. The new member fee is \$10.00 which includes \$5.00 dues for the first year of membership. 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: 707-774-6296 or send an email to: srsc2012@yahoo.com

respective month. By carefully scrutinizing the stamps in my collection as well as new ones coming in, I have been able to reach the point where my collection now has 354 cancellation dates with just 11 to go for completion. December 25 is a tough one but I do have it on cover.

As a longtime APS member, I welcome the return of a stamp club to Santa Rosa, the largest city between San Francisco and Portland. As we grow, it has been a pleasure meeting fellow collectors on a regular basis and learning about their many collecting interests.

Don Test

A Visit to Stamp Show 2013, Milwaukee

Bob Kirk

On August 9 and 10 I visited Stamp Show 2013 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. I went because I thoroughly enjoyed the APS show last summer in Sacramento, because my wife Barbara and I had never visited Wisconsin, and because I wanted to visit cousins in the upper peninsula of Michigan, a day's drive from Milwaukee.

The Hyatt, where we stayed two nights, is connected by a "sky walk" to the huge convention center – a five minute walk. With 120 dealers and 14,000 pages of exhibits, there was lots to see. Some dealers who were present in Sacramento were absent, while Midwest dealers who weren't in Sacramento came to Milwaukee. USPS had a large booth and held first day ceremonies for Flags of All Seasons, a bobcat stamp, and an art eagle stamped envelope. Marshall Islands had a first day ceremony, as did the United Nations booth.

Our friend Kurt Schau presided over a huge area prior to his several auctions. Regency Superior also held auctions. I find stamps at dealer booths to be somewhat pricey, so I try to constrain myself before I pop open my wallet. I did, however, pick up several nice items for my George VI collection. Some items were priced in the stratosphere – the US Graf Zeppelins were \$29,000 for plate blocks of six. Not George VI – no problem.

Barbara and I also visited Madison, home of the University of Wisconsin and the state capitol building; Mackinac Island, a lush summer resort; Sault Sainte Marie, where my cousins live; and Door County, Wisconsin, with its miles of beaches, quaint villages, and resorts. The show was well attended, principally by males age 50 to 80; all had contented smiles, I'm glad we went. Stamp Show 2013 was worth the flight from SFO.

Bay Area 2013 Stamp Show Calendar

October 26-27: East Bay Stamp Club Show, Walnut Creek
Community Center

November 2-3: SACAPEX Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 'H' St.,
Sacramento, CA

December 7-8: PENPEX Community Activities Building 1400
Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA

Queen Victoria Stamps

The following article, written by Charles Stark, is based on his presentation at our October 2013 "show and tell" session.

Great Britain's Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp issued in 1840, profiles the young Queen Victoria with the magnificent diadem that adorns her head. Her crown consists of diamonds with four Maltese crosses and four bouquets made up with roses, shamrocks, daffodils, and thistles (symbolizing England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland) along with a band of pearls. She is truly the Mona Lisa of the stamp world. Each queen to this day wears the crown on special occasions.



By the 1850s, Great Britain and several colonies used a portrait painted by Alfred Chalon in 1837 as the basis for a new Victoria stamp design. Instead of the profile view, we now see the Queen from a frontal perspective. Her splendid crown becomes even more prominent in the stamps of New Zealand, Tasmania, and several other colonies.



Developing a comprehensive collection of Queen Victoria stamps would be, no doubt, a challenge but even a modest sample of these fascinating and beautifully designed issues should prove to be a very satisfying addition to one's album.

Charles Stark

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2013 SRSC Meeting Calendar

November 5: *Estate Planning for the Stamp Collector, Stephen Olsen*

December 3: *Philatelic Quiz Night*

France and the Marianne Stamps

Unlike Great Britain and some other European countries, France has no interest whatsoever in depicting monarchs on its stamps. As a republic, France has used other symbolic representations of their national unity. Since the end of World War II, the allegorical figure of Marianne has filled this role. Starting with the 1944 Provisional Government issue, we see the first of many examples of the Marianne definitive stamp. Who is Marianne and what does she represent? Marianne appears to have come from the name Marie-Anne, which was commonly used during 18th century France. The aristocracy scorned the name because it was associated with the common people. The revolutionaries of 1789 adopted Marianne to symbolize the change in regime. Marianne became the mother who nourished and protected the children of the Republic. Marianne is often depicted wearing a Phrygian cap that has its origins in antiquity. The cap, made of soft felt-like material with a conical shape that flops to the front, was worn by the Phrygians of Anatolia (modern Turkey) who achieved their freedom from Roman slavery. They became citizens, not slaves. For France, Marianne has become a symbol of freedom and liberty. Delacroix's famous 1830 painting shows her as "Liberty at the barricades." *



There are at least 16 different French Marianne definitive stamp designs. Collectors typically classify the issues by the names of the designers: Dulac, Gandon, Muller, Luquet, Briat, etc. The most current depiction was released in 2012. Also, there have been several commemoratives that show the Marianne figure. Below are a few examples from the definitive series. As you compare the stamps, it would be interesting to speculate on what messages are conveyed through each rendition. Is she a warrior, a reflection of determination, courage, hope, a free spirit, or an object of beauty?



Collecting possibilities are numerous. One can develop a comprehensive collection of the primary catalog entries for each of the definitive sets. Using a Scott catalog would be sufficient. Or, one can develop a more specialized collection of a single issue showing the various perforation and printing varieties along with covers that demonstrate how the stamps were used in the mail. An Yvert & Tellier *Timbres de France* catalog provides the detailed information about the known varieties. Fortunately, a Marianne collection does not entail a large financial outlay with many sets cataloging less than \$20.00. Whatever your collecting interests, our hobby provides fascinating insights into the culture and history of the many stamp-issuing nations.

*See the following website for more information: http://www.abelard.org/france/marianne.php#marianne_on_stamps
For more on the Marianne issue see: <http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=32542>

Dennis Buss