

THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIST

JOURNAL OF THE ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB



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THE ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB

WWW.ASHEVILLESTAMPCLUB.COM
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ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Robert Taylor
828-447-4699

Vice President:
Jim Haxby

Treasurer:
Stan Kumor

Secretary:
Jay Rogers

APPOINTED POSITIONS

50-50 Fundraiser: Lucille Lamy

Auctioneer: Jay Rogers

Membership: Larry Oliver

Journal Editor: Randall Chet
Email: randallchet@gmail.com

WHO TO CALL

If you cannot make a meeting, club event, presentation, or have a question or a suggestion, please contact:

Robert Taylor
828-447-4699

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Asheville Stamp Club meets at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, 1617 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC in the Blue Ridge Room of the Community Center at 1:30 pm on the third Sunday of each month. Bring stamps and covers to sell, trade, or show. There are Nickel Boxes and Envelopes of stamps with new material being added all of the time. The Club's 2017 Scott catalogs will be at the meeting; 2019 World Classics, US Specialized. As always, there will be the 50-50 Drawing and Door Prizes.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's July already...hard to believe we are half way through 2019. We continue to add new members which is very gratifying.

During our upcoming meeting on September 15th, Scott English, the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society (APS), will join us. Scott is visiting to present the Ernest A. Kehr Award to our own Don Denman:

"The award candidate is chosen by The APS Board of Directors and presented each year to the selected member. This award is presented for enduring contributions that help guarantee the future of the hobby. The honoree is recognized for a commitment to make philately attractive as a hobby to newcomers, working directly with newcomers, especially young people, or developing and administering programs aimed at recruiting newcomers."

Way to go Don!

I would also like to thank Jim Haxby for stepping back into the position of Vice President. Bob Bouvier resigned the position with his move to San Antonio, although he will still remain a member.

As a reminder, on July 27 & 28, the annual CHARPEX show will be held in Charlotte. Always a great show led by Gene Zhiss, President of The Charlotte Stamp Club.

Hope to see all of you at our July 21st meeting.

Best regards, Robert

ASC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____

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COLLECTOR DEALER (CIRCLE ONE)

I COLLECT _____

RECOMMENDED BY _____

Please print, fill out and bring to a club meeting with \$10 payable to ASC, or send to Jay Rogers, Secretary ASC, 15 Hickory Court LN, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

SMOKE SIGNALS

I'd like to thank those who have kindly sent me complimentary emails over the past few months regarding this Journal. I really appreciate the encouragement and I hope more members will begin to contribute! Gene Zhiss, President, Charlotte Philatelic Society and CHARPEX Show Chairman, sent me a kind note and a follow-up to my Dewitt Clinton article from the May-June issue:

Just a note to let you know that I enjoyed reading your recent piece about DeWitt Clinton that appeared May issue of the Asheville Stamp Club Smoky Mountain Philatelist. Shortly after I read it I was looking through a stock sheet of cigarette stamps and came across a newspaper clipping that I thought you might enjoy reading. The clipping was cut from an unidentified newspaper. It reads as follows:

"The portly, thoughtful party whose likeness has stared from nearly half a trillion cigaret (sic) tax stamps in the past 80 year was doomed last week to the obscurity that normally enshrouds defeated Presidential Candidates.

Starting June 24, the internal Revenue Service will abolish the label that publicized DeWitt Clinton, steadily, if not sensationally, for decades after his memory would have been entombed in biographical dictionaries. Since 1879, Clinton's portrait—it might have been called "Statesman in Blue"—has adorned cigaret (sic) packages. Why the distinction befell him is uncertain.

It couldn't have been due to his addiction of paper-wrapped smokes because they didn't become popular even in Europe until Turkish officers introduced them to the their allies in the Crimean War of 1854-1856, nearly 30 years after Clinton's death. The stamp was authorized in and the revenue service theorizes that Clinton may have been honored because the year marked the 50th anniversary of his pet project, the Erie Canal.

At the latest count, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing had run off 498,089,610,000 copies of the stamp, which could have made Clinton's face one of the most familiar in American history. But it didn't. A recurring program query: "Who's the man on the cigarette (sic) stamp?" likely as not stumped the contestant.

Under the New system, cigaret (sic) makers will pay taxes directly, twice a month, instead of buying stamps. And DeWitt Clinton's engraving will pass away, another victim of efficiency."



Email your articles, letters, classified ads, auction items, and comments for the Smoky Mountain Philatelist to Randall Chet: randallchet@gmail.com Deadline for the September-October 2019 issue: August 25th

NEW ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB MEMBERS

We continue to grow in 2019. We are pleased to announce three new collectors have joined recently. Total membership now stands at 80. So without ado, here are our new additions to the club:

Larry Chamberlain, Flat Rock	US Mint Classics and Back of Book
Paul Shamel	All World
Holly Kane	All World

**HAPPY
JULY 4TH!**



THE STAMP-LESS COVER REVIVAL – TO OUR MISFORTUNE

Larry Oliver

I have a number of stampless covers in my collection, although I am not an expert on them, and do not actively seek them out. It is likely, though, that I and all collectors will eventually become collectors of stampless covers. The postal world is reverting to being stamp-less.

Meters were the first incursion into the world of using stamps on mailed items. It was widely decried that this was “the end of postage stamps”. It wasn’t, of course, and now we even have an active collecting arm that focuses solely on meters.

I am much more worried about the current state of affairs. The overwhelming percentage of mail we all receive is stamp-less: from permits to USPS printed postage to Click N Ship labels and the parcel companies delivering flat mail - the core of our hobby is disappearing from use.

One could attack the entire business community, but I choose to address one aspect of it:

*Why do companies who **DEPEND** on collectors, **NOT** use postage stamps??*





The answer I have consistently received is: Time is Money. It costs personnel time to affix the stamps, and it is quicker to use a prepaid meter or a Click-N-Ship label. Or, worse yet, one of the package companies. In other words, short-term profits outweigh growth of the hobby.

I receive a lot of mail from philatelic origins: dealers, friends in the community, auction houses, and societies. Many of us get a similar amount of mail. (Not e-mail, that digital blight that overwhelms our inbox. There are no postage stamps on that.) Being a “numbers” person, I have decided to quantitate the problem, so I counted the items I have received over a three month period, and documented the means of franking them.

- **Number of philatelic mailings received: 120**
- **Number using stamps: 55 (46%)**
- If less than 1/2 of the mailings use stamps doesn't disturb you - like it did me - let me break it down to more meaningful terms for the collector.
- **Number received from auction houses: 57**
- **Number using stamps: 18 (32%)**

This number is important because the mailings include a large number of catalogs, often sent *priority mail*. The stamps are available to frank those packages and they are difficult to find used! But our auction houses beg off: Time is Money argument again.

To complete the picture, the data for dealers and philatelic societies is this:

- **Number of dealer mailings: 34**
- **Number using stamps: 23 (68%)**
- **Number of Society mailings: 29**
- **Number using stamps: 14 (48%)**

For purposes of full disclosure, there were 30 mailings from friends in philately around the world that I did not include in this analysis: the use of stamps was 97% (29/30).

There is a lack of investment in the hobby/profession of philately by the companies and organizations most concerned with it. Auction houses, dealers, and philatelic societies should be championing the use of postage stamps, not replacing them. The economical argument of short-term profits is self-destructive. We collect, study, and exhibit postage stamps and postal stationery, not FedEx labels.

If the companies upon which collectors depend, and the collectors upon which the companies depend, do not acknowledge and actively support building the “base”, we will all see our hobby and the related profession, die in our lifetime.

Anyone out there collect “Click-N-Ship” labels?



THE MANY FACES OF OUR UNIQUELY AMERICAN GODDESS

Randall Chet



Figure 1: In 1863 sculptor Thomas Crawford designed a bronze statue of a female allegorical figure largely the same as Columbia, called the Statue of Freedom. This is the figure most of us are most familiar with. From top, #573, the high-dollar value of the 1922 Fourth Bureau Issue;

Scott #989, from the 1950 National Capitol Sesquicentennial Issue;



Scott #5296, from the 2018 set of 3.

I would venture to guess that just about every American citizen is familiar with Lady Liberty. Most though are probably unaware that the allegorical figure of Liberty traces her roots through early nineteenth century Columbia, *Figure 1*, who encompassed all the values of our new nation; the Indian Queen or Princess, who symbolized the New World as portrayed by Europe; and further back to Ancient World, in the form of the Roman goddess Libertas¹.

The New World as depicted by the Old

Artists had long depicted a tripartite world of three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa. But at the turn of the sixteen century, the old world globe was expanded with the great new land mass that was the Americas, named after Amerigo Vespucci, whose name was feminized, as was the custom to identify places, kingdoms

and cities as female. Furthermore, the continents and many countries were often represented by allegorical female figures. In the earliest depictions of allegorical America, artists usually differentiated her from Europe and Asia by partial or complete nudity, attired with feathered headdress or skirt, and accompanied by animals of the new world. *Figure 2*. This depiction of the "Indian Princess" reflected Europe's fascination with the New World. The Indian signified an idyllic state of nature, an uncorrupted place.

As tensions between Great Britain and her American colonies grew, the Indian Princess took on a martial profile as both representation and protector of the colonists against the King and his own female protector, Britannia. English caricaturists excoriated the misdeeds of their own rulers and of England's European rivals, but they rarely depicted the American colonies as ag-



Figure 2. America, lower right, depicted partially nude in feathered headdress. George Richardson, *Iconology*, 2 vols. (London, 1776), vol. 1, plate 6. Library of Congress.

gressors. Instead, the Americans were generally seen as innocent victims of evil British ministers². While the depiction of America as the “noble savage” was popular in Europe, this was not generally how white Americans perceived themselves. Nevertheless, the idealized Indian Princess imagery continued to be used well into the nineteenth century. *Figures 3 & 4*.



AMERICA



Figure 3. Clockwise from top: An 1859 American Bank Note Co. allegorical depiction of the Indian Princess with shield and eagle;

America Presented to the Old World. Engraved by W.W. Rice, this vignette shows the presentation of Pocahontas to allegorical figures representing the Old World.

Indian Princess holding scepter symbolizing trade and agriculture, a common theme found in mid-nineteenth century engravings.

A New Goddess

Paul Revere of Boston may have been the first to depict the goddess of Liberty. In 1766, on the obelisk he created in celebration of the repeal of the Stamp Act, he used the image of Liberty with a Liberty Pole surmounted by a Liberty Cap. *Figure 5*. Another patriot leader, Thomas Paine, included her in his poem, the



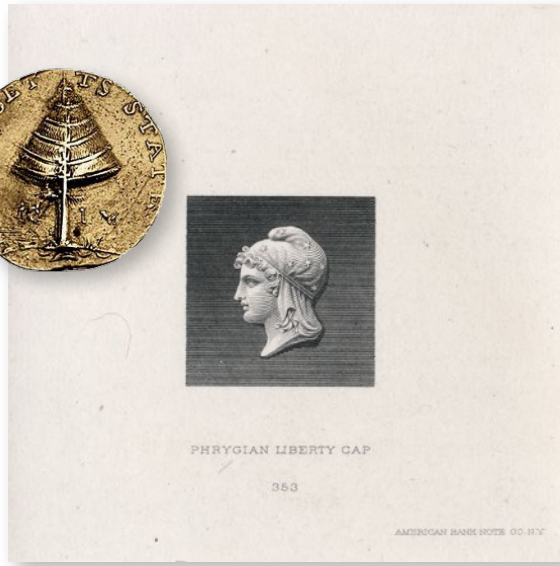
Figure 4. As late as the 1850's images of the benevolent Indian Princess were still being used, as seen on this 1858 Northern Bank of Tennessee check. This engraving dates to the 1840s and was commonly seen on obsolete bank notes. With western expansion and the elimination of Native Americans, images of the Indian Princess fell out of favor, demonstrated by the alteration of this American Bank Note Company die. Interestingly, in the upper right is an early depiction of an Americanized “Libertas”, with a cap (pileus) carried on a staff as Roman priests had done when they would bestow a cap on slaves at the ceremony of their emancipation.

Figure 5. This original 1776 Massachusetts Pine Tree copper penny, attributed to Paul Revere, was unearthed during an excavation in Boston's North End in the early 19th century. The coin features a "Sons of Liberty" flag pine tree and the goddess Liberty.



"Liberty Tree," referring to Her as "The Goddess of Liberty."³ Freedom Goddess depictions not only emerged in America during its Revolution, but a few years later in France during its own Revolution, with the female symbol of the French Republic, the Marianne, depicted wearing the Liberty Cap, now called the Phrygian cap, a symbol in the French Revolution (by which time Liberty's own cap had changed to this as well). **Figure 6.**

Figure 6. Phrygian Liberty Cap, American Bank Note Company



While the Goddess of Liberty symbolized one virtue, *Liberty*, the Goddess *Columbia* was created at the end of the eighteenth century by artists and poets to represent the *entirety* of American ideals. In 1776, Phillis Wheatley, an African-American poet and slave, became the first person to use the term *Columbia* poetically, in her address "To His Excellency George Washington.":

"Celestial choir! enthron'd in realms of light, Columbia's scenes of glorious toils I write. While freedom's cause her anxious breast alarms, She flashes dreadful in refulgent arms. See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan, And nations gaze at scenes before unknown! See the bright beams of heaven's revolving light Involved in sorrows and the veil of night!

The Goddess comes, she moves divinely fair, Olive and laurel binds Her golden hair: Wherever shines this native of the skies, Unnumber'd charms and recent graces rise.

Muse! Bow propitious while my pen relates How pour her armies through a thousand gates, As when Eolus heaven's fair face deforms, Enwrap'd in tempest and a night of storms; Astonish'd ocean feels the wild uproar, The refluent surges beat the sounding shore; Or think as leaves in Autumn's golden reign, Such, and so many, moves the warrior's train. In bright array they seek the work of war,

Where high unfurl'd the ensign waves in air. Shall I to Washington their praise recite? Enough thou know'st them in the fields of fight. Thee, first in peace and honors—we demand The grace and glory of thy martial band. Fam'd for thy valour, for thy virtues more, Hear every tongue thy guardian aid implore!

One century scarce perform'd its destined round, When Gallic powers Columbia's fury found; And so may you, whoever dares disgrace The land of freedom's heaven-defended race! Fix'd are the eyes of nations on the scales, For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails. Anon Britannia droops the pensive head, While round increase the rising hills of dead. Ah! Cruel blindness to Columbia's state! Lament thy thirst of boundless power too late.

Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side, Thy ev'ry action let the Goddess guide. A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine, With gold unfading, WASHINGTON! Be thine."

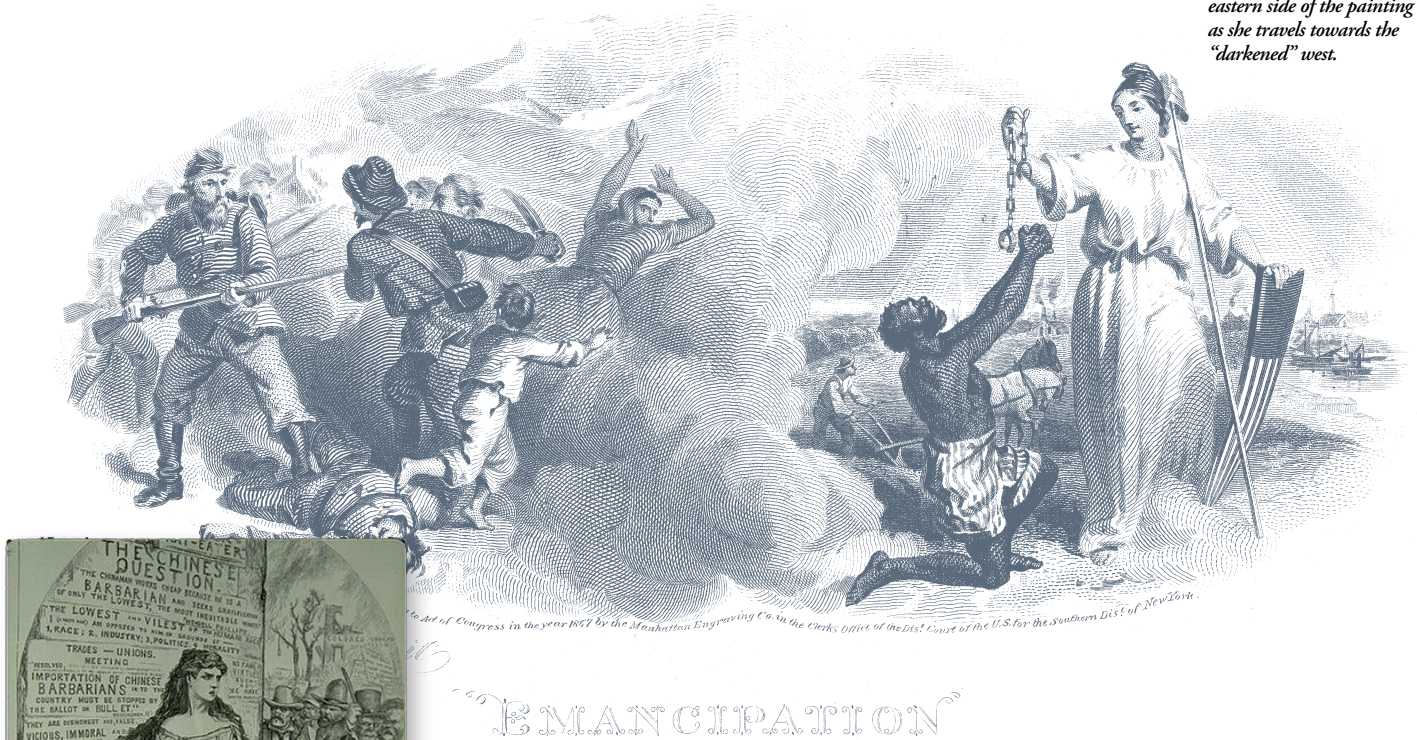


Phillis Wheatley constructed the figure of Columbia in such a way as to create a personification of America which combined both her own and the General's leading ideal traits⁴. While Lady Liberty has come to symbolize justice, liberty and the hope of an established American dream, Columbia's reputation was ever-evolving, alongside America's growth. Columbia was at times audacious, representing the pursuit of freedom, and alongside it, war and the desire for territorial expansion. She also conveyed a sense of purity and newness, often accompanied by a heavenly, if not directly religious, connotation⁵. In 1798, Joseph Hopkinson wrote lyrics for Philip Phile's 1789 inaugural "President's March" under the new title of "Hail, Columbia" therefore creating one of the unofficial national anthems of the United States until 1931, when "The Star-Spangled Banner" was named as the official national anthem.

In John Gast's painting titled *Spirit of the Frontier*, Columbia is seen guiding a settler family west, bringing enlightenment (symbolized by a school book) and modern technology (railroad and telegraph). *Figure 7*.



Figure 7. In 1872 artist John Gast painted a popular scene of people moving west that captured the view of Americans at the time. Called "Spirit of the Frontier" and widely distributed as an engraving portrayed settlers moving west, guided and protected by Columbia (who represents America and is dressed in a Roman toga to represent classical republicanism) and aided by technology (railways, telegraph), driving Native Americans and bison into obscurity. It is also important to note that Columbia is bringing the "light" as witnessed on the eastern side of the painting as she travels towards the "darkened" west.



With the coming of the Civil War, Columbia reprised her role as "Libertas", freer of slaves, as seen in this 1867 engraving of an illustration by F. O. C. Darley. *Figure 8*, above. Northern cartoonists began to depict Columbia in a more militant manner, often in armor and with a helmet reminiscent of the Goddess Minerva, the Roman goddess of trade, the arts, and strategy in war.

Columbia could also be seen standing up for the rights of disadvantaged groups. She stands up for Chinese immigrants in 1871: the caption reads "Columbia - 'Hands off, gentlemen! America means fair play for all men.'" *Figure 9*, left.

At the same time Columbia was enlisted to aid the Union cause, she was also being used by the CSA, sometimes with the very same imagery.

Figure 10, clockwise from right: an 1866 State of New York Bounty Bond, an iconic 1861 Confederate \$100 treasury note, an 1861 CSA Cent, and an original die proof engraving of Columbia (titled America), by the National Bank note Co.



One of the iconic notes of the Confederacy, this \$100 was part of the initial series of notes ordered by the Confederacy, through the ABNCo in New York in March, 1861. Because ABNCo was focused on producing other parts of this large order, it sublet the Treasury Note portion of the order to National Bank Note Company. This first issue comprised four denominations of interest bearing notes, the \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1,000. In order to expedite deliveries, National Bank Note Co. used pre-war vignettes exclusively, including the train in the station and America vignettes on this note. They did make some interesting modifications to the America vignette, removing and widening the bars on the shield to “de-federalize” it and removing or fading a number of the stars on the robe to make it appear less “star spangled.” Federal authorities raided the printing plants of both banknote companies on April 25, 1861, putting an end to any further shipments from either company.⁶



The Revenue Act of 1862

The Revenue Act of 1862 (July 1, 1862, Ch. 119, 12 Stat. 432), was a bill the United States Congress passed to help fund the American Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln signed the act into law on July 1, 1862. The act established the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, a department in charge of the collection of taxes, and levied excise taxes on most items consumed and traded in the United States.

The Revenue Act unleashed a torrent of security paper, including documentary and proprietary stamps, tax paid revenues, fractional currency, revenue stamped paper and newspaper stamps, some of which are depicted on this page.



Part Two: Liberty Returns

References:

1. George, Arthur, "Independence Day Mythology: Our Goddess Liberty", www.mythologymatters.wordpress.com
2. Hingham, John, "Indian Princess and Roman Goddess: The First Female Symbols of America", p. 55
3. Fox, Selena, "The Goddess of Freedom: from Libertas to Lady Liberty", www.circlesanctuary.org
4. Steele, Thomas J. "The Figure of Columbia: Phillis Wheatley plus George Washington." *The New England Quarterly* 54.2 (1981)
5. Chen, Julia, "Columbia; Allegory of America", www.obscurehistories.com/columbia
6. Heritage Auctions, T3 \$100 1861 PF-2 Cr. 3 PMG Extremely Fine 40. www.currency.ha.com

STOCKHOLMIA 2019 - A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

Bob Bouvier

I have recently returned from Stockholmia 2019 and would like to share what I experienced and learned from it.

First, I want to say that I strongly recommend the experience of attending major philatelic shows as often as possible. Some are held annually and others less often but usually at least once every ten years. Stockholmia 2019 stands out as an exceptional event. It was created to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Naturally, the RPSL had a major role in determining the scope, length, dealer complement and theme of the show in addition to the jury and celebratory events. It was remarkable if not unique. The planning for this event spanned four years and early on several venues around the world were considered. Using criteria that were only briefly explained to attendees, through a process of elimination, Stockholm, Sweden was selected.

There were several standard elements to the show: judged exhibits, a dealer bourse, and presentations on a wide range of subjects. Uniquely, there were three banquets available to attendees. The first was held in Alfred Noble's dynamite factory, now an event venue. The second, open to all and black tie, was the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP) investiture (that I did not attend). The third, also black tie, was the grand banquet in the Vasa Museum, in the shadow of the 17th-century ship of war that sank when launched, was raised not that many years ago and is displayed in the building. The banquets provided opportunities for accompanying spouses (my Leslie included) to enjoy some of the events.

Stockholmia 2019 was officially declared open by the King of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf who briefly addressed attendees in the venue's auditorium. The show actually had two royal patrons, Queen Elizabeth II, representing

The show occupied four levels in the Conference Center.





*King of Sweden,
Carl XVI Gustaf,
officially opens
Stockholmia 2019*

the “Royal” appellation in the name of the RPSL and King Carl XVI Gustaf. The show occupied four levels in the Conference Center. In planning my activities for the five days of the event I gave priority to visiting the dealer booths. I was struck by the prominence of Scandinavian dealers and limited stocks brought by all the dealers, an unfortunate circumstance. There were more than the usual numbers of booths taken by auction houses and philatelic organizations. The RPSL had a large section of the third level where one had an opportunity to speak with the society’s staff and senior leadership (and, as a Patron, come away with a box of chocolates!). The new headquarters building on Abchurch Lane was a popular subject and quite a lot of effort went into displays and description of all the functions that it will support.

Auction houses were present in greater numbers than I’ve seen before and many of the great names were there: Corinphilia, Harmer, Rumsey, Feldman, Siegal, Kelleher, Stanley Gibbons, Spink, Gardner... They all had tantalizing displays of treasures they sold in the past and others coming up for sale in the near future. Catalogues were available free for the taking in most cases. I did not attend any auctions in person; there was very little in my areas of interest.

There were about 35 dealers with stock, many of them Scandinavian, but nearly all brought a limited sample supplemented in some cases with printed lists. I managed to find a few stamps to add to my collection but not as many as I expected.

There were scores of programs offered for all five days with a wide variety of subjects. I attended just one, by Karl Louis, on the technique he developed to identify repairs. He has spent over 30 years collecting thousands of images of rare items from prior sale catalogues and other sources going back decades and compares them with the present appearance of the item being examined. Repairs were obvious in the samples he showed us, some so ex-

actly done that common detection techniques would have missed them.

The number of pages in the 350 exhibits was far too large for me to examine them all. I limited myself to exhibits in my areas of interest: GB and BNA. The frames stood absolutely erect which made viewing the lower pages more difficult. Still, seeing rarities in person was satisfying to say the least. Some auction houses also exhibited classic rarities about to be sold, a rare opportunity to see them on display.



*There were three
banquets available to
attendees. The first was
held in Alfred Noble’s
dynamite factory, now
an event venue.*

The banquet at the Vasa museum was the venue for awarding medals to the best exhibits in 9 classes. Each category was defined and explained, and medals awarded according to points awarded by the judges. The grand award was determined by points awarded by the judges by category. Postal History had the most points by far and consequently the top vote getter in that category got the grand award. He was Daniel Ryterband and his exhibit was titled “A Country Divided: Effects of the American Civil War on the Mails”.

Before I close, I should mention that the organizers did a fine job in providing printed guides and catalogues. The Exhibition Catalogue was a full inch thick and printed on coated paper. The Exhibition Information and Program Guide was produced to the same standard but was mercifully thin and never left my hand the entire time I was there. Amazingly, the Palmars Guide (judging and awards) was prepared in time (again to the same production standards) to provide everyone attending the ceremony to have a copy.

SHOWS & EVENTS

• **July 6-7** Fairfax, VA
 Fairfax Stamp Festival
 Elks Lodge
 8421 Arlington Blvd (Rt. 50)
 Fairfax, VA 22301
 Sat: 9:30 - 5, Sun: 10 - 4
 Contact: Cary Cochran, 800-560-5310

• **July 27-28** Charlotte, NC
 CHARPEX 2019
 Worrell Bldg
 Central Piedmont Community College
 1228 Elizabeth Avenue
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
 Sat: 10 - 6, Sun: 10 - 4

Gene Zhiss, signup@charpex.info
 Phone: 704-553-8110
 Free admission, free parking
 Sponsored by the Charlotte Philatelic Society and the Fortnightly Stamp Club

• **August 17-18** Columbia, SC
 Summer Stamp and Postcard Expo
 Spring Valley High School
 120 Sparkleberry Lane
 Columbia, South Carolina 29223
 Sat: 10 - 5, Sun: 10 - 4
 Mark Postmus
 mapostmus@yahoo.com
 or mobile 803-309-2534

• **Sept. 7-8** Asheville NC
 Stamp & Postcard Show
 Comfort Suites Outlet Mall
 890 Brevard Road
 (next to Asheville Outlets)
 (I-26, exit 33 & NC Hwy exit 191)
 Asheville, North Carolina.
 Sat: 10 - 5, Sun: 10 - 4
 Contact: Cary Cochran,
 800-560-5310

Member Dealers: Are you interested in reaching more collectors? Time to take advantage of your free 2.5" x 2" display ad! You editor and designer can even style it for you. It's just one of the benefits available for Asheville Stamp Club members. And if you are reading this but are not yet a member, our membership application can be found on page 2 of this journal. Contact randallchet@gmail.com for your ad.

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CASE #307 – A MAJOR DOUBLE TRANSFER



An update on last month's column – 4 weeks later and STILL no decision from the PF on the possible Orangeburg coil. Hopefully an update next month for sure?

Hello everyone – Today I wanted to highlight one of my white whales. I am always on the lookout for this and unfortunately have NEVER found one. This is a US Scott# 307 with a major double transfer. The numerals on the side, WEBSTER, and POSTAGE all have major doubling visible.

An absolutely beautiful variety and quite RARE! Be on the lookout.

If anyone finds one of these in their holdings and are willing to trade it I would be happy to find something that will make your month.

Happy Hunting - Scott

STAMPS – WANTED, FOR SALE OR TRADE

Wanted! WWII US patriotic covers - especially with cachets that are “politically incorrect”, humorous, or feature women. Top prices paid - which ain't much, frankly! Larry Oliver stamper707@gmail.com

Wanted! US First Issue Revenues. Large accumulations as I am looking for shades, paper types and cancellations. randallchet@gmail.com

Wanted! Philatelic Literature related to US revenues, especially any back issues of the American Revenuer, and Weekly Philatelic Gossip 1936 - 1957. Also any general periodicals 1880 - 1950. randallchet@gmail.com

For Sale! US Proprietary Die Stamps (Match & Medicines), first-third issue revenues, albums and pages. Visit MatchandMedicine.com

Wanted! I am currently on a tear to find images of Columbia (see my article starting on page 6 of this issue). These can be on post cards, stocks, checks, or? What might you have? randallchet@gmail.com

If you are a member of the ASC and have something of interest to list, feel free to email your classified ad to randallchet@gmail.com. As space allows, I'll do my best to include it in the next issues of the Smoky Mountain Philatelist.



WARNING! A FLEA MARKET IS NOT WHERE YOU WANT TO BUY STAMPS

Robert Taylor

Seems like each appraisal I have performed lately has been extremely interesting and also pretty hilarious. On Wednesday, May 29th, I was invited by a young attorney and his secretary who reside in Hickory, NC to appraise a client's "valuable" stamp collection. Normally, calls from attorneys are rewarding so I was looking forward to our meeting.

I arrived at the law firm at 10:00 AM to meet everyone including the clients. To protect the innocent I will call the clients Rufus and Gomer. We sat across from each other in this beautiful board room. After greetings, I ALWAYS ask clients "where did you obtain the stamp material". Gomer's answer was that he has a booth at a local flea market and that he bought the stamps from a man who approached his table.

Rule #1: If you are going to purchase an item from someone at a flea market, you better have some knowledge about the item. Gomer then proceeds to open his bag and out comes the biggest load of mug ugly mostly U.S. stamps I have EVER seen! For minutes, they kept talking about their great find and how valuable they were. Rufus also chimes in, "I have spent weeks researching these stamps on the internet". Which leads to...

Rule #2: Do not try to use information on the internet about an item if you know nothing about that type of item. Then Rufus shows a me cell phone photo that I eventually determined to be a Scott #463 Washington 2 cent carmine Perf 10. Internet's offer price was \$37,000 and there were at least a dozen on the table, all used, sitting in front of me. As I slowly bit my lip to stop from laughing, I could see large dollar signs in both Gomer's and Rufus's eyes.

They continued to lay out this ugly mass of used stamps, plus some no-gum 3 and 6 cent commemoratives and at least 20 glassines containing completely stuck blocks of modern 1990's postage.

When I had composed myself somewhat, I told them they had little to no value in this mass of stamps. Then I said, "why do you think the original seller sought you out at the flea market"? Obviously because he could not sell them anywhere else. Secondly, it's not a crime to list a used two cent Washington stamp on the internet for \$37,000. Maybe the internet seller was hoping you or someone else would offer him or her a \$5,000 counteroffer. Hey, everyone has a dream you know.

This meeting went on for 90 minutes—80 more minutes than it should have. Finally, Rufus and Gomer realized their dreams of retiring early just disappeared.

I told them to use whatever mint stamps there were (I'm hoping they understood what a "mint" stamp was) as postage on letters.

Finally the meeting ended and we parted ways. I'm still not sure what the attorney's role was in this meeting. Maybe he was on retainer by Rufus and Gomer?

As Mike McDonald said in 1890, "*there is a sucker born every minute*".

Happy Collecting! — Robert

