How did cherubs make the leap from heavenly beings presented in the Bible to a symbol of love? These creatures, illustrated as chubby babies with wings, appear on the U.S. Love stamps of 1995 and 1996. The designs were taken from cherubim shown in Raphael’s 16th-century Sistine Madonna. (See representative examples Scott 2948, 2958, and booklet cover 2959 to the right.) Raphael’s depiction hardly conforms to biblical cherubim, who served as guards or attendants. This class of winged angels goes back to Genesis when God placed them with a flaming sword to guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden.

In Exodus, two cherubs of hammered gold were placed on top of the ark of the covenant, with large wings spread out as to overshadow the mercy seat from God when it was moved to Solomon’s temple. Ezekiel introduces cherubim as “living creatures” with four wings and four faces, some with animal features and feet. All in all, they appear to be formidable beings, a far cry from how the Renaissance artists began depicting them to represent innocence and love. Victorian artists later depicted them with bows and arrows to borrow from the Roman god, Cupid.

I didn’t mean for this column to be a checklist of U.S. varieties but I can’t resist when there’s an intriguing slew of those cute little chubby cherubs. Here they are:
• 1995 nondenominated (32¢) gummed Love cherub, Scott 2948
• 1995 nondenominated (32¢) imperf self-adhesive Love cherub convertible booklet, Scott 2949
• 1995 32¢ gummed Love cherub, Scott 2957
• 1995 55¢ gummed Love cherub, Scott 2958
• 1995 32¢ gummed Love cherub booklet, Scott 2959
• 1995 55¢ imperf self-adhesive Love cherub convertible booklet, Scott 2960
• 1996 32¢ self-adhesive Love cherub convertible booklet, Scott 3030

And more in the form of those blue Minnesota Diversified Industries vending machine booklets of 1996 with still more varieties not listed here:
• $4.80 32¢ gummed Love cherub MDI booklet
• $4.80 32¢ self-adhesive Love cherub MDI booklet
• $9.60 32¢ self-adhesive Love cherub MDI booklet

So much for cherubim. Have you ever wondered about seraphim?

WISCOPEX 2015 Update

CLUBS! Start planning now for your WISCOPEX ’15 Club Team exhibits. Fill a 16-page frame made up of four, four-page exhibits by encouraging members to contribute four pages on any topic, theme or collecting specialty of choice. Or, collaborate on a full frame of a single subject. Consider the circus, the theme chosen for WISCOPEX ’15. Pages will be mounted in your club frame.

Other exhibit categories offered are Champion of Champions, Open (includes display), Single-frame, Youth and Non-competitive. Frames are limited and on a first-come, first served basis. Request a prospectus and exhibit form from Exhibits Chair Rob Henak, 414-351-1519, or henak8010@sbcglobal.net.

Many exciting activities are planned for WISCOPEX ’15. See the publicity flier at the WFSC website, www.wfscestamps.org.
By Karen Weigt

Know Your WFSC Region VP - East Central Region

Darren lives in Oak Creek, Wis., and has served as a WFSC region VP since July 2012. At age 41 he is the youngest of our region VPs.

He was born and raised in Fond du Lac and is a former member of the Fond du Lac Stamp Club. He collects Fond du Lac County postal history. He also collects stamps of the Stamp Club. He collects Fond du Lac County Manuscript Cancels. “From 1996 to 1998, he served as the sole member of the WFSC’s Wisconsin Stamp Suggestion Committee.”

Darren has two exhibits on the WFSC website: "The Founding of the WFSC" and “Fond du Lac County Manuscript Cancels.”

Darren is past-president and past-treasurer of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society. Darren is past-president and past-treasurer of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society. From 1996 to 1998, he served as the sole member of the WFSC’s Wisconsin Stamp Suggestion Committee.

Darren is the current president of the Wisconsin Postal History Society and is active on the society’s online forum. In the past, he has contributed a number of articles to Badger Postal History, the WPHS’s quarterly journal. Being a history buff, he is a member of the Wisconsin History Society, the Fond du Lac County Historical Society and the Ripon Historical Society.

On the philatelic national level, he is a member of the American Philatelic Society and the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society.

NOTE: The WFSC has revitalized the Region VP Award. Does your club have an individual who has contributed outstanding service to your club or to philately in general? If so, contact your WFSC region VP to make arrangements for a visit to your club for an award presentation. (See VP contact information on the bottom of p. 2.)

WFSC Field Trip to APS StampShow

Are you interested in attending the APS StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but don’t want to drive or go by yourself? A possible solution is being explored and if there is enough interest, arrangements will be made for Wisconsinites to travel as a group. Research reveals that driving time is about 4 1/2 hours.

Possible travel options include chartering a small bus or large van, taking the ferry from Milwaukee to Michigan and then chartering a bus from the ferry to Grand Rapids, or using Amtrak.

Indicate your interest and preference by writing to MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187 or email maryann15b@mac.com. Use “Stampshow Field Trip” in the subject line of emails.

Deadline is March 15, 2015. When responding indicate the number of days you might be interested in attending the show as well as your preferred travel arrangements.

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Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please visit the website, www.wfscstamps.org.

ATFP is published monthly September through April, and every other month May through August (10 issues per year). News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and other gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy.

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Submission deadlines for editorial and advertising materials are the 1st of the month preceding month of publication (i.e. Jan. 1st for Feb. issue).

Editorial matter should be sent to: Aimée Devine, Editor, ATFP, 2111 E. Luther Road, Janesville, WI 53545. Phone: 608-758-1354 (spanishmoss72@dsbcblobal.net).

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, ATFP, 706 Lang Way, Kimberly, WI 54136. Phone: 920-687-9077 (dcarney1@newrr.com).

For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified, and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.
Arthur Menz Receives Region VP Award

Arthur Menz received the WFSC’s Region VP Award at the January meeting of the Janesville Stamp Club. John Paré, the southwest region VP, was on hand to present the award.

Art is the president of the Janesville Club, a position he’s held several times throughout the years, along with all the other club positions. He was the 25th member to join the club when it was founded in 1959.

Art settled in Janesville in 1940 and was an inspector for General Motors for 37 years. He has been married to his wife, Sylvia, for 64 years.

His interest in stamps started in 1952, when a collection of 22 boxes of philatelic material caught his eye. After purchasing it, he pulled the U.S. material out and sold the rest. He was hooked and is still actively trading and selling stamps by phone with others across the country.

His collecting interests include U.S., U.N., Israel, and Germany and he has exhibited in the Janesville Stamp Club Show and Bourse since the 1960s. He is a life member of the American Philatelic Society.

When asked if he had any advice for other collectors, he said, “Not really. Each individual has a different idea of what he likes to collect. One thing that is important, in my opinion, is the condition of the stamp on the front, not whether it’s been hinged or not.”

DANEPEX ’14 Call for Exhibits, April 1 Deadline

DANEPEX ’15 will be held Sunday, April 19, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison, Wis. The annual exhibiting competition is open to all Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs members. Exhibit classes offered are:

- Single-frame Statewide Championship
- Open Multi-frame
- Youth
- Non-competitive exhibits will be accepted pending space available.

Two WFSC certified judges will determine the exhibit awards.

Enter DANEPEX and apply judging comments to upgrade your exhibit for WISCOPEX 2015 scheduled a month later on May 16-17. To request an exhibit entry form and more details of the competition, contact Exhibits co-Chair John Paré at 608-437-5124, or by email, pare16@mhtc.net.

WFSC Issues Challenge to All Wisconsin Stamp Clubs

Stamp Teach, a relatively new program sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, needs your help in getting stamps into the classrooms. The WFSC is issuing a challenge to Wisconsin stamp clubs and collectors. Continue reading to find out about this new initiative and how you can help.

The idea, born at a Council of Philatelists meeting at the National Postal Museum, was simple enough. Through the creation of a learning or discovery center, classroom teachers would be provided with the necessary materials for their students to work independently through tasks and activity sheets using stamps as manipulatives to reinforce skills and concepts taught in core curriculum areas (reading/language arts, math, social studies, science, and the fine arts). Third through fifth grades were targeted. All materials were provided at no charge.

A pilot program began in 2013 and another group in 2014 reached almost 2,000 teachers and 27,000 students. Since December 2014, there are currently over 1,500 teachers waiting for their applications to be processed and materials sent. Currently, there are enough resources to satisfy the needs of 400 teachers. The APS has had to close applications as the demand is now greater than the supply of stamps needed to fulfill the program’s objectives.

Each teacher receives colorful stamp posters depicting a sample of an activity from the core curriculum areas. Task cards for the learning center and a large zip-lock bag of postage stamps are also sent. Worksheets are free and downloadable from the APS website. Lesson plans are also available on the website. The materials have been sent to all 50 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico.

To meet the growing needs of the program and to target the resources better, the APS is using the first half of this year to process feedback and to campaign for financial aid and stamp donations. New lessons, activity sheets, and task cards need to be developed. The APS will resume sending out the kits during the second half of the year.

There are costs to this program—cost to mail the kits and cost of a temporary coordinator. Members of the Stamps Teach committee are seeking grant monies to help fund future programming. There are also many volunteers who put together the kits, soak and trim the stamps, and prepare the mailings.

Stamps Teach needs the help of Wisconsin collectors. Here’s how you can help. Clubs and individual collectors can make a financial donation to Stamps Teach through the APS. Equally important is the extreme need for large quantities of on- and off-paper stamps, U.S. and foreign. The WFSC realizes that it can be expensive to mail stamps to APS headquarters, so it has established the first of several drop-off sites where stamps will be collected and then sent as a single lot to the APS. The first drop-off site will be at WISCOPEX, the WFSC’s annual convention and exhibition in Fond du Lac this May. Look for the Stamps Teach donation box in the youth area.

Gretchen Moody, APS director of education requests single stamps, on or off paper (prefers that nudes be removed). On-paper stamps should be neatly trimmed with a quarter inch or so margin around the stamp. There is no need to sort the stamps because they are all mixed together to make the bags that are sent to the teachers. Cut squares of postal stationery can be included. Currently, there is a greater need for foreign on and off paper.

Consider making one of your monthly club meetings a time for your members to bring in stamps and to neatly trim those that are on paper. How many pounds of stamps will WFSC members bring to WISCOPEX and donate to Stamps Teach? Stay tuned to find out the answer!

More information about this project, including a report on the pilot program, can be found at www.stamps.org/Stamps-Teach.
By Thomas Zacharias

A 7-year-old is Introduced to Collecting

There I was, seven years old, standing at a bus stop on Sherman Blvd. in Milwaukee, Wis., waiting for a bus. It was a bright fall morning in 1949. I was nervous because I had not known the first thing about stamp collecting.

I was, at that time, taking swimming lessons one afternoon a week at the downtown YMCA. I saw a notice on the bulletin board going down to the boys’ locker room that said, “Anyone interested in stamp collecting come to a meeting Saturday morning, room 2, third floor.” So, there I was, waiting for the bus at 8:15 Saturday morning.

The gentleman that greeted me when I arrived was Art Schmitz. I only recalled all this when I read an article in the January 2015 issue of Across the Fence Post written by Art Schmitz.

After that first meeting, I was given a small stamp book of worldwide pages, some hinges, and an envelope full of stamps. I learned how to soak stamps off paper, how to determine which countries they were from, and about 100 other things one needed to know in order to get started in the greatest hobby in the world.

Art's patience and kindness toward those of us who came to the meeting each Saturday was beyond words. I learned so much from him in such a short time and my history grades in school shot up to an “A” from then on. It's because of people like Art, that I'm so involved in the Milwaukee Philatelic Society.

Promoting stamp collecting, especially to young people, is one of my main objectives in life. Thanks to Art for 58 years of my life of stamps. You opened a young boy's eyes and mind to a great hobby.

CLUBS ARE TRUMP

By Maurice D. Wozniak

For many club-members of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, their dues provide a bonus in the form of a club newsletter. Unfortunately, only six clubs produce a regular publication, but the ones we see are worth the price of club dues by themselves.

The newsletters provide sometimes-needed reminders (or nudges) regarding dates of meetings or other club activities, but they also provide the editors with a platform to include other information, education, or entertainment. Minutes of meetings, status reports of projects such as club shows, or information from previous programs all fit neatly into the pages. The more motivated the editor, the more material you might find, but it really doesn’t take much to produce a bulletin that club members will find appealing.

Bob Mather has been turning out a multipage newsletter for American Topical Association Chapter 5 in the Milwaukee area for several years, while emphasizing, “Dues may be cheap, but membership is not.” Mather hands his club mail with a current U.S. commemorative and a related cachet. For example, the January meeting notice bore a Wilt Chamberlain stamp and a portrait of the basketball player in a Los Angeles Lakers uniform.

Each mailing has minutes of the previous meeting and a promotion of the program planned for the next one – in this case a members’ show-and-tell along the theme of “Winter Fun.” Of course he also encourages foot-draggers to cough up their dues.

Finally, Mather regularly includes three sheets of fascinating philatelic miscellany.

The January edition covers the origins of airmail, Hawaii Missionary stamps, and “Philately’s Greatest Error,” the Swedish million-dollar 3-skilling-banco error of color. Once in a while we find Mather’s favorite topic, the donkey.

Technically the newsletter produced for the Badger Stamp Club (Madison), consists primarily of minutes of the previous meeting, shared with members via email. However, President Charles Shoemaker supplements that with several other mailings promoting the next club meetings, encouraging members participation in nearby shows and club activities, and other happenings in the realm of stamp collecting.

For many months, the “Ray’s Ramblings” column in the Green Bay Philatelic Society newsletter edited by Ray Perry has included an overview of U.S. stamps from the first issues to the 1950s. It was a decidedly personal look at the U.S. output, which made it most fascinating.

In fact, Perry has a folksy, conversational style that makes the reader enjoy even items such as the return to the club’s former meeting place, the newly remodeled room at the Aging and Disability Resources Center.

Perry also commented on the realization, after a club survey, that all but two of the club’s 32 members are men. He noted that half the population of Green Bay is missing out on the club’s enjoyment. And he also noted that most of the members are collecting to have fun, which he said was a good reason.

As unofficial head cheerleader (as well as president and newsletter editor) for the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Carol Schutta has helped to fill its eight-page bulletin, Milwaukee Philatelist, with a feature story on a new U.S. issue every month.

In recent months, the newsletter has placed an emphasis on meeting minutes. Schutta also wrote a homespun personal column and included a joke or two.

Paul Zientek, long-time guiding light of the Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club (Milwaukee), spices up his newsletters with copies of hobby-related cartoons, jokes, and interesting articles snipped from other publications.

Jim Stearns, bulletin editor for the Northwoods Philatelic Society, Iron Mountain, Mich., produces a one-page (front and back) newsletter heavy on the meeting minutes but with a “fellowship” emphasis.

The club always seems to have a community project underway, and Stearns does his best to keep members aware of what is needed and when. His take is always light, especially when it comes to treats and refreshments.

To fill any extra space, Stearns will summarize articles from Across the Fence Post or another philatelic source and add a final encouragement to support the hobby in some way.

Information for Clubs Are Trump is gathered from club newsletters. Please send them to Maurice D. Wozniak, 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca WI 54981.
WFSC Show Schedule

(Some dates and details may be subject to change, and there will likely be additional listings.)
List your show, bourse, auction or other event here!
Contact Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562.
Phone: 608-836-1509 (kweigt@tds.net)

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When paying for ads, please remember to make the check out to the WFSC.

Call for Materials

Your input to Across the Fence Post is not only important on a regular basis, but is also urgently needed. Please consider writing a letter to the editor, a feature article, or even a caption for your favorite cover or philatelic item.

Please send submissions to Editor Aimée Devine (spanishmoss72@sbcglobal.net) or 2111 E. Luther Rd., Janesville, WI 53545.
The Milwaukee Philatelic Society

Presents

STAMPFEST 2015

At

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
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Saturday, March 7, 2015—10 AM—5 PM

Sunday, March 8, 2015—10 AM—3 PM

Free Admission and Parking

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