

ACROSS THE FENCE



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Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

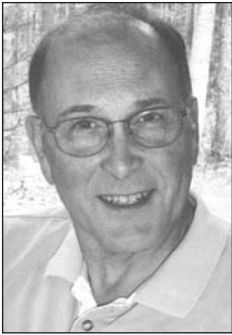
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

Three Snippets

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Three separate items gleaned from various sources recently tell the hopes and woes of the hobby:



1. At a stamp show in Milwaukee, I was told that a young girl who was interested in collecting stamps met some resistance at home. She had brought some stamps home from another show, but her mother told her it was a waste of time and threw them away.

2. A graphic in *Time* magazine looking back on the first decade of the 21st century noted that 55.1 billion stamped letters were mailed in the United States in the year 2000, whereas in 2010 the number was 29.8 billion. That's a decline of 45.9%.

3. An editorial by David G. Hall, president of Collectors Universe, in a recent issue of *Stamp Market Quarterly* reveals that he spent more than \$1 million in the last 10 years buying stamps for his collection.

However well meaning the mother may have been, I cannot help but feel that she did a grave disservice to her daughter by trying to stifle her youthful, creative impulse. I wonder, however,

how many other kids today run into the brick wall of parental indifference, to the children's detriment as well as our hobby's.

Children need guidance. If they express an interest in a wholesome, valuable hobby or some other pastime, they must be encouraged and helped as they explore.

But parents are busy today, as kids are, with many other things that demand attention. Perhaps the girl's mother was saying she didn't have time to work with her daughter on her new-found interest. It's a challenge that kids face, and we can help somewhat through youth projects.

* * *

The United States Postal Service's financial problems over the last decade have been well publicized. Because the USPS produces the things we collect – stamps, envelopes, postal cards – many collectors see its troubles rubbing off on us.

From my standpoint, however, there is little direct correlation, except the question of whether some sideline products such as souvenir pages will be continued. Fewer stamps? More "label" postage? The hobby will adapt to what it finds – and it may even be healthier if the output of the Postal Service becomes more responsive to customer demand – and by that I mean fewer issues.

* * *

Although it's obvious that David Hall collects stamps in a different strata than I do, I

found his editorial compelling. Essentially, it is a stirring defense of the expertizing and grading ("slabbing") of stamps, a commercial service that Professional Stamp Experts, a subsidiary of his company, performs.

At the same time, Hall argues that stamps are "a great collectible." They're beautiful, significant and, in some cases, rare, especially in high grade, he says. From a financial standpoint, Hall says stamps are underpriced and represent "one of the very best relative values of all of the major collectibles."

The stamp market is in an important transition period during which "certified third-party grading" is taking hold. Looking ahead, we can expect buyer confidence, new buyers, increasing dealer sales volume, but with lower margins and higher prices.

Hall also addresses the future of the hobby: "I think collectibles are a really good thing for kids. It teaches them how to set goals, how to work long-term on a project, the value of money, and it's a good way to transfer wealth to your children."

The little girl (and her mother) could benefit from that line of thinking.

Editor email address change

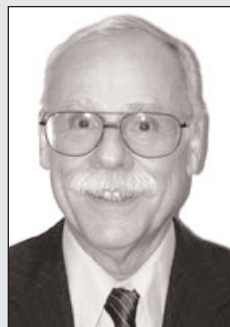
Effective immediately, please send all email correspondence (letters, features and other communication) to the editor to the following address: wystamps@gmail.com. All other contact information remains the same as that published on Page 2.

Ken Grant appointed WFSC Secretary

On Oct. 23, 2010, Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs President Maurice Wozniak appointed Ken Grant, of Baraboo, Wis., to fill a vacancy in the position of WFSC secretary. He takes over from Judy Essig, who held the office since March 2009.

Grant has been involved with the WFSC for at least the past 25 years. He has served many terms as president of the Baraboo Area Stamp Club, he's a longtime member of the Wisconsin Postal History Society and is current editor of its journal, *Badger Postal History*. He edited *Across the Fence Post* for the year 2003. He furthermore has been a member of the American Philatelic Research Library Board of Trustees since 1998.

Ken is a retired UW-Baraboo English professor. We welcome Grant to the WFSC's "official family." We also thank Judy Essig for all the time and effort she put into serving the WFSC.



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Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Conviviality is an essential ingredient in the success of any club, philatelic or not, and many of those in the **Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs** use the holiday season as an excuse to go out and eat.

The occasion takes many forms. For some, it's a pot-luck dinner. For others, it's a restaurant meal, sometimes with members subsidized in whole or in part by the club. That's a good way to use the club treasury, which can grow over time with income from club auctions, the profit (if any) from club shows and dues payments.

You can say thanks to spouses and other family members by inviting them to share in the meal. They'll be able to meet other club members and their families and come to real-

ize that the stamp club isn't some mysterious secret society.

You don't have to limit the meal sharing to this time of year. Several clubs make a point of assigning members to bring treats to each meeting. Many have summertime picnics or cook-outs, and at least one meets regularly over Sunday brunch at a restaurant.

You don't have to discuss philately at every club meeting, but why not have a brief mention of the reason for your association? You could offer hobby-related door prizes. And you might offer a short program on Food on Stamps or some other general-interest topic.

But the important thing is to have fun. Merry Christmas and Wassail!

* * *

Program ideas

For a **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** program, MaryAnn Bowman discussed the basics of first-day cover collecting. Members were asked to bring a favorite cover to contribute to the discussion.

Badger Stamp Club, Madison, has an intriguing program scheduled for March 5, 2011: "Sven Hedin - The Silk Road Became His Paper Trail."

What others are doing

Northwoods Philatelic Society, Iron Mountain, Mich., regularly reports on new members who join the club. In the club newsletter recently, Editor Jim Stearns bade two of them welcome and promised, "We will add them to the mailing list and know that whenever they can they will be in attendance." That's a nice touch.

er they can they will be in attendance." That's a nice touch.

Outagamie Philatelic Society, Appleton, reserves space in its newsletter for members' brief ads.

Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club, West Bend, decided not to produce a souvenir cover for the 75th anniversary of the local Regner Park. However, the club was in the black with an imprinted rolled cent promotion for the same occasion.

The **Kettle Moraine Ben Franklin Club** turned a net profit of \$30 with a pizza card sale.

* * *

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

Off with her head?

Buckingham Palace is to hold urgent talks with ministers over its fears that the Queen's head could vanish from British stamps, following the Government's sale of Royal Mail.

There is no stipulation in the *Postal Services Bill*, which would privatize the service, that her image should be included on future stamps. The monarch's head has been on every stamp since the 1840 Penny Black. The Bill could result in up to 80 percent of the Royal Mail being owned by a foreign company. Leading bidders in the Royal Mail sell-off are expected to be Dutch and German operators.

British stamps are the only ones in the world with no country name – just the sovereign portrait.

Across the Fence Post Ad Rates (revised 1/06)

Type Size	Commercial Rate	Club Rate
A Full page (7 1/4"x 9 1/2")	\$42.00	\$33.75
B Half page (7 1/4" x 4 3/4")	\$26.25	\$21.00
C Large 1/4 page (4 3/4"x 6")	\$20.50	\$16.50
D Medium 1/4 page (4 3/4" x 3 3/4")	\$14.75	\$11.75
E 1/8 page (2 1/4" x 3 3/4")	\$7.50	\$6.00
F Econo Ad (2 1/4" x 2 3/4")	\$3.75	\$3.00
G Reduced Business Card (2 1/4" x 1 1/4")	\$2.75	\$2.25
H Back page (7 1/4" x 9 1/2")	\$57.75	N/A

Please make checks payable to :W.F.S.C.

Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs officers

PRESIDENT

Maurice D. Wozniak
1010 Berlin St.
Waupaca WI 54981
715-258-2025
mwoz@live.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Stollenwerk
1020 Hazelwood Court
West Bend WI 53095
Home: 262-306-0829
Cell: 262-305-1483
jsastollen@charter.net

SECRETARY

Ken Grant
kgrant@uwc.edu

TREASURER

Allen E. Vick
2090 River Estate Lane
Stoughton WI 53589
Norskelodge@aol.com

VP YOUTH DIVISION

MaryAnn Bowman
P.O. Box 1451
Waukesha WI 53187

NE REGION VP

Al Marcus
maram@tds.net
Green Bay Phil. Soc.
Northwoods Phil. Soc. (Iron Mountain)
Outagamie Phil. Soc.
Wisc. Postal Hist. Soc.

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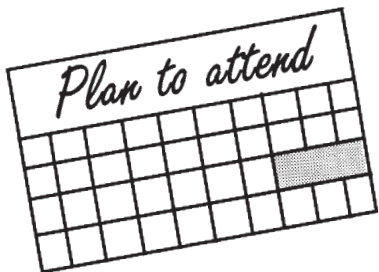
Art Schmitz
pescador@milwpc.com
Waukesha County Phil. Soc.

SE REGION VP

Art Schmitz
pescador@milwpc.com
Am. Top. Assn. (Chap. 5)
North Shore Phil. Soc. (Milw.)
Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club
Polish American Stamp Club
Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.
American Air Mail Soc. (Billy Mitchell Chapter)
Germany Phil. Soc. (Chap. 18)
Italian American Stamp Club
Milwaukee Phil. Soc.

CENTRAL REGION VP

Mike Lenard
mjlenard@aol.com
Central Wisc. Stamp Club
Chippewa Valley Stamp Club
Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club (Rhineland)
Wisconsin Valley Phil. Soc.



Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or other event here!
 Calendar listings are free for one WFSC member-club event per year. Classified advertising rates apply for all non-members and other events appearing in this section.

2010-2011 WFSC show schedule*

*Some dates and details may be subject to change, and there will likely be additional listings.

Feb. 13, 2011

**Annual Exhibition and Bourse
 Janesville Stamp Club**
 Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Pl.
 Janesville
Contact: Gary Wentworth - 608-756-1380, wnstamps@aol.com

March 19, 2011

Baypex '11
Green Bay Philatelic Society
 St. Matthew Catholic Church,
 Multipurpose Rm., 2575 So. Webster
 Ave. (parking in rear), Green Bay
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Ray D. Perry, 920-469-8925,
fiveperrys@athenet.net

May 14, 2011

Outapex '11
Outagamie Philatelic Society
 VFW Post, 501 N. Richmond St.,
 Appleton, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus, 920-725-0798
allan.marym@hotmail.com

**Other major
 non-WFSC shows
 near Wisconsin
 (below):**

March 5-6, 2011

Stampfest '11
Milwaukee Philatelic Society
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis
 Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Carol Schutta, 10250 W.
 Sharon Ln., #5, Milwaukee, WI 53225
 414-464-6994
harryncarolschutta@gmail.com

April 2-3, 2011

Wisopex '11
**(Annual Convention and Philatelic
 Exhibition of the WFSC), hosted by:
 Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**
 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, 1001 Amber
 Ave., Stevens Point
Contact: Larry Glenzer - 715-341-6767,
mcdillauto@att.net

April 17, 2011

Danepex '11
Badger Stamp Club
 Crowne Plaza Hotel
 4402 E. Washington Ave. (across from
 East Towne Mall), Madison
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Bob Voss, P.O. Box 35,
 McFarland, WI 53558 - 608-838-1033
lestamps@charter.net

Jan. 15-16, 2011

**West Allis, WI
 Polarpex '11**
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So.
 92nd St., West Allis



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Obituary: Randall Sherman

Well-known Chicago-area collector Randall Sherman died suddenly Oct. 26, 2010. He was 56. Among his other philatelic involvements, Sherman was president of the Chicagoland chapter of the American First Day Cover Society, secretary and newsletter editor of the Chicago Philatelic Society and was recognized in 2007 with the CPS Saul Newbury award for contributions to Chicagoland philately. He also was president of SCC Chicago Chapter 4. He had just joined American Topical Association Chapter 5, Milwaukee, at this year's Milcopex, and was a longtime supporter of the WFSC as well. His many philatelic interests included first-day covers and used Scandinavia, with a focus on modern issues. Of his many exhibits, two were Nordic country related – one on Scandinavian-themed first-day covers and one on Scandinavian souvenir sheets and mini-sheets.



With his background in journalism, Randy prepared publicity for both the Complex and Chicagopex annual shows. He used cable-access TV to promote these and other area philatelic events. His diversified interests included editing the newsletter of Chapter 311 (Des Plaines, Ill.) of the Vietnam Veterans of America for many years, and he served various offices in the Illinois Committee for Honest Government. Funeral Services were held Oct. 29, 2010, in Skokie, IL. Memorials may be made to: Vietnam Veterans Association, Illinois Committee for Honest Government or Congregation Ezras Israel.

The Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc

Presents



STAMPFEST 2011

at

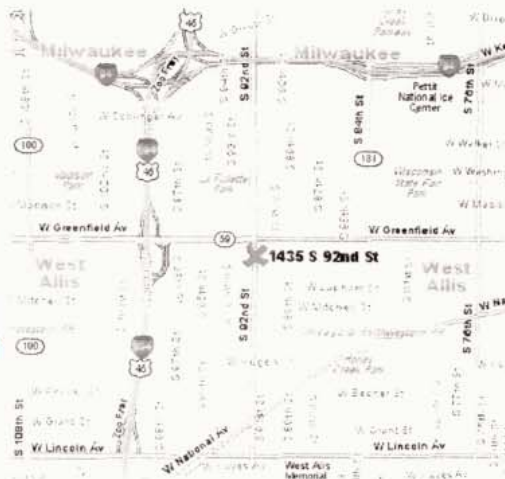
**St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 S. 92nd Street
West Allis, Wisconsin**

**Saturday, March 5, 2011-10 AM—5 PM
Sunday, March 6, 2011- 10 AM—4PM**

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For information Contact:
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harryncarolschutta@gmail.com

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Dealers are to contact
Carol Schutta
10250 W Sharon Ln #5
Milwaukee, WI 53225
414-464-6994

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