

ACROSS THE FENCE



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July-August 2012

www.WFSCstamps.org

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

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

Editor's Farewell

By Wayne L. Youngblood, editor *ATFP*



Wayne Youngblood

It's funny. Now that this is my final issue of *Across the Fence Post* as editor, I find it is a difficult thing to say goodbye. I have truly enjoyed producing the publication for the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs for the past 6½ years and will most definitely miss it. Nonetheless, I'm very excited that we have found a capable new editor in Aimee Devine, and I'm quite sure you'll enjoy watching as she molds and shapes *ATFP* into its next iteration.

Until the past few months I have taken a great deal of pride in the fact the publication has rarely been late and feel it's been a high-quality product. But that is the very reason I've had to step aside. I could no longer produce it in a timely manner and, for that matter, *ATFP* really need to be produced by a Wisconsin resident – a status I can no longer claim. Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of the past few issues.

As Aimee moves forward, please support her with your input, feedback and, of course, features and articles.

Speaking of begging for articles...

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 or even a caption for your favorite cover or philatelic item. We can help turn your item into a published piece.

Please send submissions to Editor Aimee Devine (spanishmoss72@sbglobal.net). She will provide complete contact information in the September issue.

For artwork, a 300-dpi scan is preferred, but either a photocopy or the original item will work fine. All originals will be returned after scanning.

For copy, email works best, but hand-written material will be considered.

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Meet Your New *ATFP* editor

By Wayne L. Youngblood

[Editor's note: The following is a very similar piece to one that ran in the May-June issue, but I feel it's important to get to know our new editor and learn a bit about her!]

Effective with the September 2012 issue of *Across the Fence Post*, you will have a new editor! Aimee Devine of Janesville has very graciously volunteered to take over this important position, as *ATFP* is the primarily – if not the sole – link that many collectors have with the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs.

Aimee was born and raised in Mississippi, and taught third grade there for seven years before moving to Wisconsin. In 2002, she moved to Wisconsin, got married and now has two young boys who are home-schooled.

In the philatelic arena, Aimee runs the Janesville Junior Stamp Club and developed worksheets for the American Philatelic Society's *Stamps Teach* program, as well as for the WFSC youth website. In addition, she developed a Stamp Collecting Merit Badge PowerPoint presentation, which is posted on the WFSC website, and she serves as co-editor (with MaryAnn Bowman) of the American Topical Association's online youth publication, *Topical Tidbits*, which has garnered national attention. She is a member of the Janesville Stamp Club, Madison Stamp Club, APS and ATA.

The job of editing *ATFP* is not an easy one and is entirely volunteer. Please make Aimee feel welcome and help support her as she continues to promote philately in Wisconsin on several different fronts!



Flags of our Nation First-Day Sale held in Madison

The Madison, Wis., post office is hosting a first-day-of-sale ceremony for the Wisconsin stamp included in the final set of 10 Flags of Our Nation coil issue. The event was scheduled to be held from noon to 1 p.m. Aug. 16 at the State Capitol in Madison. State government and U.S. Postal Service officials are scheduled to participate. The Badger Stamp Club (Madison) and Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs will be represented with a table and a Wisconsin first-day cover display. The ceremony is free and open to the public. Please see related story on Page 3.

Across the Fence Post

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July-August 2012

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak

The issue of chapter finances is not usually covered in this column. The use of money is a private matter, for one thing, and what's good for one stamp club might not be good for another. Larger clubs and those that sponsor shows have different needs from other clubs. Some clubs have to pay rent for their meeting places (although, if that's the case for your club, you might want to start a search for a free room somewhere). At least one club pays for liability insurance for its meetings. According to newsletters, club treasuries run from less than \$300 to more than \$10,000.

That said, we can make some general observations, starting with the basics: On a yearly basis, your income should not exceed your expenses. And remember, dues need not be

your club's only source of income. Most of your club events – stamp shows, souvenir cover sales or club auctions, for example, should be designed to turn a profit. Many clubs buy large lots from dealers and then sort out the better items to auction at meetings. The total amount gained in this case will go to the club treasury. When the auction items come from members' collections, a small percentage of the winning bid could be assigned to the club. Additionally, the buy price of donated club auction lots could go to the club.

As Chuck Shoemaker, president of **Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, put it in a recent message to club members, "Just keep bringing in donations for club auction lots, and our expenses for room rental will not make a big dent in our treasury."

Bob Mather recruits heavily for **American Topical Society Chapter 5**, Milwaukee, during the annual Milcopex show and offers an array of benefits to new members. The annual dues include cacheted covers with each meeting announcement, door prizes, and a free holiday dinner. "Where else can you get such a deal?" Mather asks.

Sometimes dues have been waived for members of **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**, Stevens Point, because of the healthy treasury.

The **Milwaukee Philatelic Society**, for

example, regularly produces souvenir covers for sale at public events. Besides being fun, such a project can modestly enhance a club's treasury or benefit a worthwhile cause.

Northwoods Philatelic Society, Iron Mountain, Mich., plans to prepare an illustrated cover in support of the relocation of the Spring Lake Animal Shelter. The club will use the popular Adopt a Shelter Pet stamps on a cacheted envelope, which the club could prepare for about 50¢ each and sell for \$2, with proceeds going to the shelter.

The club also floated the idea of buying a laptop computer to help in the administration of the club's auctions and the purchase of the Scott catalogs on disk.

* * *

Program ideas

Richard Lauder, a member of the **Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, presented a DVD program titled *Yesteryear's Fish Creek 1903-1955*. It consisted mainly of photograph postcards and was presented in documentary style with sound and animation. He used Adobe Premier Pro to create the DVD.

A member of **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** gave a short talk on Benjamin Franklin stamps, her particular interest.

Members of the **NML Stamp Club**, Milwaukee, were challenged by the club's annual "Peep Quiz," in which they try to identify stamps that have only a small bit of their designs showing.

Clubs are Trump is continued on Page 5.

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

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*Please use stamps;
we're all collectors.*

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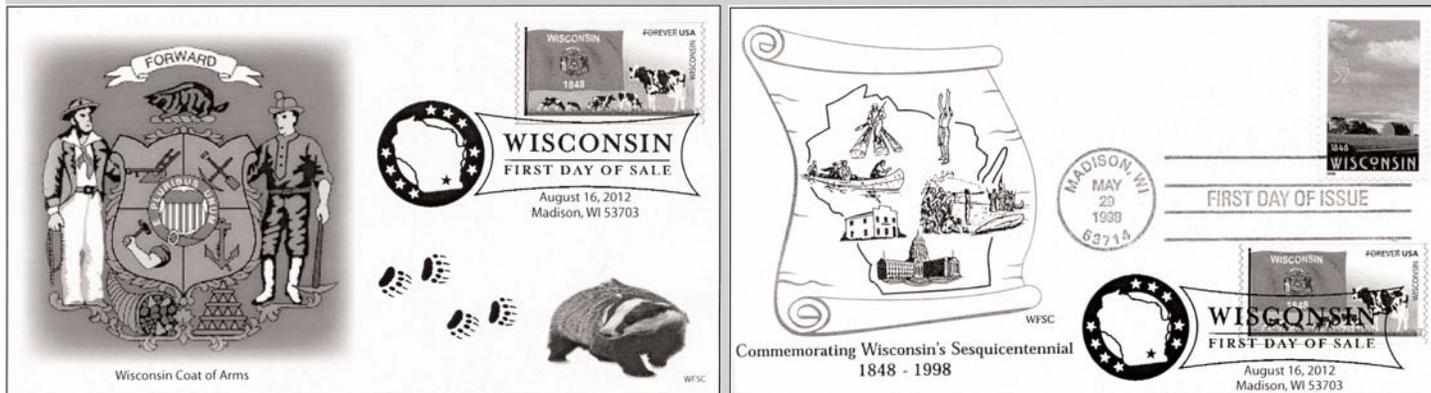
WFSC Offers Wisconsin Flags of our Nation First-Day Covers

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs will produce two covers in conjunction with the Wisconsin stamp included in the 2012 Flags of Our Nation coil issue released Aug. 13. Both will be franked with the Wisconsin stamp and canceled with the U.S. Postal Service

Wisconsin first-day-of-sale pictorial cancel. One cover depicts the Wisconsin coat of arms and a badger. The other is a dual-cancel cover with the 1998 Wisconsin Sesquicentennial first-day cancel.

Covers are available by mail order for \$3

each. Send orders to Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton WI 53562. Include a No. 10 stamped, addressed envelope and make checks payable to the WFSC. Please indicate which cover(s) desired: "coat of arms" or "dual-cancel."



Old bundleware offers the thrill of the hunt

By Wayne L. Youngblood

Despite my deep interest in postal history, first-day covers, philatelic ephemera and all sorts of other collecting areas, I am first and foremost a stamp junkie. That's right; I love stamps – and everything having to do with sorting, soaking, typing and processing them. This dates back to my earliest days of collecting, when I'd scour the

classified ads in various publications to find the perfect unsorted mixture. Even if the mixture wasn't perfect (such as a 40-pound British mixture I once purchased that consisted almost entirely of definitives), I'd still carefully soak and sort the entire mixture into packets – and later – bundleware.



The front and back of a 2¢ Columbian bundle of 100 from the author's collection. The stamps in this one, dated April 9, 1896, have been unseen for more than 115 years!

What's bundleware? If you've never had the experience of purchasing an old-time dealer or collector lot, you may well not be familiar with the term. Bundleware usually consists of 100 of any one stamp, carefully sorted and tied into a neat little square or rectangle by thread or string. Prior to bundleware some collectors threaded their duplicate stamps with needles into "stamp snakes," which somewhat resemble a popcorn string, only with stamps. Needless to say, the stamps from these snakes have pinholes through their centers.

Bundleware to me represents the ultimate

philatelic time capsule. In many cases, bundles are simply passed on from collector to collector, never opened. My first experience came many years ago, when I bid - sight unseen - on an "old hoard of 2c Columbian bundleware." That hoard, as it turned out, was one of the best investments of my young life. It consisted of close to 2,000 bundles of 100 2¢ Columbians (nearly 20,000 in all). Each bundle was carefully tied and dated when it was bundled. Most bundles bore 1895 or 1896 notations on the back of each bottom stamp.

Each time I opened a bundle of these stamps, which at that time hadn't seen the light of day for nearly a century, it was like opening the philatelic equivalent of a fine bottle of vintage wine. Plate varieties, fancy cancels and other interesting items turned up regularly, as well as bull's-eye cancels and even unused stamps. I was hooked. However, I felt the need to use enough self-restraint to preserve some bundles, not only for my own enjoyment, but for future collectors as well. I still have a handful of unopened bundles from that lot stored carefully away for a rainy day, or when I need a lift.



This bundleware grouping contains postal stationery, postage dues a few commemoratives and lots of 1¢ and 2¢ First Bureau issues - all sealed for more than a century.



Even more recent bundleware lots, such as this one from the 1940s and 1950s, are rich with cancels and color varieties.

A few years later, I had the opportunity to buy some "stuck" bundles, meaning they were small stamp bricks. The top stamps of these bundles led me to believe they were mostly 3¢ green Large Bank Note issues of the 1870s. But when I cleaned and sorted these bundles (they were also dirty), I was pleasantly surprised by 1¢ and 3¢ 1851 issues and 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ 1869 issues!

Since then I've spent my time actively searching for old-time bundleware in auctions and dealer stocks. Such lots don't turn up frequently, but when they do, I'm interested. Sometimes I'm disappointed; mostly I'm not. When bundleware lots do turn up – even those from the 1940s and 1950s, there's usually plenty for me to find, usually in the form of bull's-eye or other unusual cancels. Also, scarce stamp varieties sometimes turn up, as do the occasional freak items, such as misperfs. Even if there aren't stamp or cancel varieties for me to play with, there frequently are shade and color varieties. If all else fails, I've still had the enjoyment of sorting stamps.

Bundleware sorting isn't for everyone. It can be tedious if you aren't into detail. But for those of us who do enjoy it (and compete for limited supplies), these miniature time capsules are a major highlight of this enjoyable hobby.

Be on the Lookout for Unusual First-Day Opportunities

By Wayne L. Youngblood

Years ago, one of my friends used to tell me that “first-day cover collectors are the craziest people.” Over the years I’ve plead guilty to that charge many times and in many different ways, frequently doing odd things to obtain unusual or unique first-day items. I say items because these first-day objects aren’t always covers.

I also know I’m not alone in this pursuit. Many collectors before my time have sought out the unusual, and *First Days*, the official journal of the American First Day Cover Society, used to have a regular feature titled “Esoterica,” which focused specifically on unusual items that have been first-day canceled. Some of the items I’ve seen in the past include a milk bottle (for the 5¢ Milk Wagon coil), telephone book covers, soup and cookie box labels, baseballs and even vehicles.

In most cases, these unusual first-day items were never intended to have a stamp – much less a first-day cancel – applied. My informal poll of first-day and other collectors tells me that most clever or tastefully done unusual items are often appreciated even by those who don’t actively collect them.

It should be noted that many of these unusual first-day items don’t have any particular premium value, but they are fun and inexpensive to create, and they can be traded or given as gifts.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to feature a few of my personal favorite odd-ball first-day items.

The item shown in Figure 1 is a special Will Rogers memorial edition of the Claremore Daily Progress, the newspaper of Rogers’ home town Claremore, Okla. The paper, dated Friday Nov. 4, 1949, was produced to complement the cele-

bration of the release of the Will Rogers commemorative stamp. The mailing wrapper, with a reduced image of the newspaper, makes a perfect cachet. A collector affixed a pair of Rogers stamps and the paper was first-day canceled and mailed to someone in Coffeyville, Kans.

Bob Jones, who was a longtime editor of Linn’s Stamp News, created the item shown in Figure 2. It is a photograph of the Alamo (that he presumably took), franked with the 9¢ Alamo stamp of the Liberty series and first-day canceled June 14, 1956, in San Antonio, Texas. Jones was known for creating a number of unusual first-day creations.

The first-day item shown in Figure 3 is quite likely my favorite. It is a 1947 personal letter on U.S. Senate letterhead, addressed to a man in my childhood home town and signed by New Mexico Sen. Dennis Chavez. I obtained the letter many years ago, never quite knowing what to do with it, nor knowing a Chavez stamp would ever be released.

When the 35¢ Dennis Chavez stamp of the Great Americans series was released April 3, 1991, it

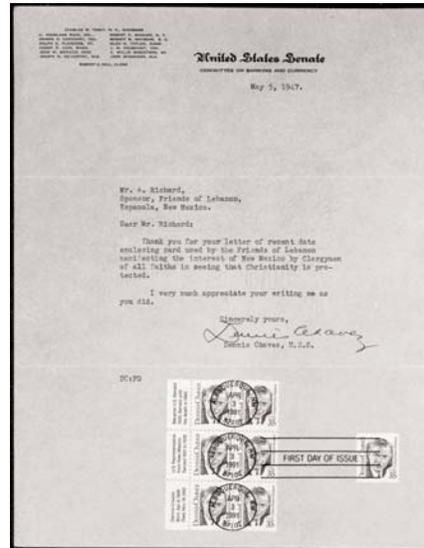


Figure 3. This 1947 letter, signed by New Mexico Sen. Dennis Chavez, has stamps affixed that picture him. They were then first-day canceled.

envelope was from business correspondence from a local theater. Each envelope had been metered when originally sent. It was a simple matter to apply the Classic Films and related stamps over the meter, leaving only the slogan: “Go out to a movie,” along with the theater corner card. In this case it was the *Gone With The Wind* stamp and two Margaret Mitchell (the author) stamps.

Another type of item you can make for future issues (which is readily available) is shown in Figure 5. The item is, I suppose, a form of maximum card. A maximum card is an item (traditionally a picture postcard) that pictures a stamp design, or a scene that was used for a stamp design, then has that stamp affixed and canceled.



Figure 4. This commercial cover from a movie theatre shows how envelopes with stamp tie-ins can be recycled to make interesting first-day covers.

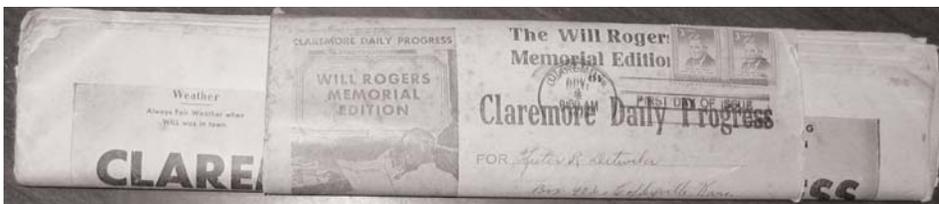


Figure 1. This special Will Rogers commemorative edition of the Claremore Daily Progress has two copies of the Will Rogers stamp affixed, canceled and mailed on the first day (Nov. 4, 1949).



Figure 2. A personal photograph of the Alamo became a special first-day keepsake with the addition of the 9¢ Alamo stamp and a first-day cancel.

became clear to me the letter cried out for a first-day cancel.

To make the letter more interesting, I chose to use the selvage that gave biographical information about Chavez so that even someone not familiar with Chavez or the stamp would have no trouble seeing the connection.

Since stamp subjects must be dead at least 10 years before they are depicted on a stamp it’s very difficult to obtain their autographs on first-day items. How many first-day items have you seen that are signed by the person that is honored on the stamp?

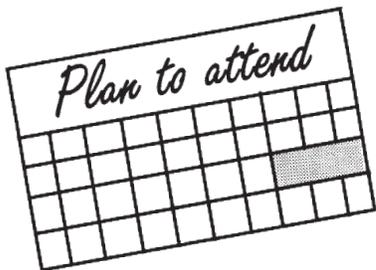
The Figure 4 cover is one of several I made for the 1990 Classic Films stamps. The window

Beginning in 1989, with that year’s Christmas stamps, the USPS began reproducing full-color stamp designs on most booklet covers. This was done once before, during the early 1970s, but was discontinued after a short time. Since then, I have been affixing pictured stamps to booklet covers and having them first-day canceled. Booklet covers for most issues are not difficult to acquire and have canceled. They make what I feel is a very attractive collectible.

Keep your eyes open and see if you can create esoteric first-day items. The examples mentioned here are just a few of the countless ideas you can pursue.



Figure 6. Since 1989, USPS has pictured many stamp designs on its booklet covers. These make nice first-day items.



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.

2012 WFSC show schedule*

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



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Aug. 4

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Contact: Dean Marin
 9030 Blumstein Rd., Woodruff WI 54568
 (715) 356-9453

Oct. 20

Cenwispex 2012

Central Wisconsin Stamp Club
 Holiday Inn Convention Center,
 1001 Amber Ave., Stevens Point, Wis.
Contact: J.D. Manville, P.O. Boc 845,
 Stevens Point WI 54481 (715) 498-1111
Email: jadeco@charter.net

Other major non-WFSC shows in or near Wisconsin

July 20-22

Crystal, MN
Minnesota Stamp Expo, Maplewood Stamp Club, Twin City Phil. Soc., Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club, Minn. Stamp Dealers Assoc..
 Crystal Community Center 4800 N. Douglas Dr. North

Aug. 4-5

Niles, Ill.
NSDA Show
 T. Kurzinski (815) 262-9117, House of White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Clubs are Trump, continued from Page 2.

What others are doing

Darryl Rupprecht was elected president and Dave Burrows vice president of the **Green Bay Philatelic Society**. Ray Perry and Kirk Becker were re-elected secretary and treasurer.

Officers of the **NML Stamp Club**, Milwaukee, are Paul Zientek, president; Rhonda Schumacher, vice

president; and Brian Liedtke, secretary-treasurer.

Nancy Warner of **Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, proposed and organized a club stamp/cover trading program to allow for an organized approach for trading at meetings. Want and trade lists, trade items and sign-out and return forms will be available at a designated table, and she will staff the table on a regular basis.

In response to an inquiry from the public on how to donate a stamp collection, a member of the Wauwatosa Philatelic Society suggested it would be helpful if the club had ready information on how to value stamp collections and where to find buyers - or willing recipients of donations.

* * *

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

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MILCOPEX 2012

Wednesday/Thursday, September 19/20, 2012

APS Pre-show Course "100 Ways to Collect Germany"

Friday, September 21, 2012 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

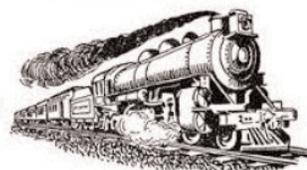
Saturday, September 22, 2012 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 23, 2012 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



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American Airmail Society
Mobile Post Office Society
Wisconsin Postal History Society
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club
American Philatelic Society
Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

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