

ACROSS THE FENCE



Vol. XXXII No. 9

November 2010

www.WFSCstamps.org

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

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

President's corner

Bourse in a box

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

When I started to collect stamps as a child, I loved approvals. The opportunity to see and touch actual stamps presented by dealers for sale, and then be able to choose which ones – if any – that I wanted to add to my little collection was compelling.

At the same time, I would buy the 3¢ commemoratives from the post office. I'd show up at the window, ask if there were any new stamps and usually buy one plate block and a single of each one. Of course, I'd check the daily mail for canceled stamps I hadn't seen.

Then I began to buy older United States stamps from mail-order dealers, but I wasn't a very big customer. Finally, one of the dealers farmed me out to a guy in Brooklyn, N.Y., who was willing to send stamps occasionally to a beginning collector (me) at what I thought were reasonable prices. I was thrilled.

Even he wearied at my paltry purchases and, apologetically, eventually placed a minimum-price requirement on my purchases.

I wasn't aware of any stamp shows or bourses in my area, but on rare trips to Milwaukee, I would stop at one of the stamp shops there.

The hobby isn't much different today, I think, but I don't see many stamps on the mail that

comes to my house, except the letters and packages from other collectors and stamp dealers and organizations. The clerks at the post office are fascinated by the old stamps on my letters, but I think they'd be reluctant to let me paw through the new issues to find the most desirable examples.

If you collect postally used current issues, considering the glut of new releases and the few stamps used on letters, you have to develop sources of stamps, perhaps an office or a company that will save its mail for you.

Collectors of older U.S. issues or foreign stamps have the same sources they have had for years. Yes, there are fewer stores, but Internet dealers and auctions more than make up for the decline.

One excellent source of stamps for collectors of all kinds is what I call a "Bourse in a Box," the so-called circuit books of stamps in many categories offered by the American Philatelic Society to individual collectors and to clubs. If you're not taking advantage of the service, you may be missing a bet.

Circuit books, which come several to a box, are approvals on a grand scale. You can choose to look at stamps from individual countries, specializations (such as years of issue, airmail, revenues, stationery and postal history) and some topical subjects, and you can select what you want – or pass on them all.

Each book is prepared and offered by fellow collectors, which can be good or bad.

For example, the descriptions are the seller's own. Even dealers can make mistakes, but I



U.S. Scott 220c, which features "caps" on the tops of both "2"s.

think collectors are more likely to err in their own favor when adding stamps to their collections or selling their extra items. I often encounter pencil notations from earlier recipients on the circuit revising the identification of some of the stamps being offered.

On the other hand, I've also found mistakes in my favor. I mentioned once before in this column – a scarce Barbados variety I found for pennies while looking through

circuit books on a visit to APS headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa.

Just the other day I found a stamp identified as a Black Jack, Scott No. 73, that clearly bore a grill. I measured it as an "F" grill, making the stamp a Scott 93, so the two stamps, while different, had about the same value.

And, in another box, I recently found a Scott No. 220c, a variety with a "cap" on both numerals, that the seller had identified as 220a. No. 220c has a value of about twice that of a 220a, which has a cap only on the left numeral.

The cost of the circuit book service, which is available to APS members, is less than \$10 a box for postage to the next person on the circuit and signature confirmation. Buyers pay the amount the seller wants plus a newly added fee to APS.

Clubs, if they hold a membership in the APS, also are entitled to larger club boxes, which all members can examine. The service greatly enhances a collector's membership in the club. It affords the collector a look at stamps he wants to see, and it can help the APS financially. Everyone wins.

WFSC member club Christmas ads

A long-standing tradition of member clubs of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs has been to run special holiday ads. We will continue this tradition in the December issue, with two options for clubs.

Individual ads may be purchased at normal ATFP rates and designed either by the club or the editor and placed in desired locations in the issue.

The second option is to be part of a larger ad with a \$10 sponsorship. Either way, all copy needs to be received by the editor prior to Nov. 17.

Information should be sent to: ATFP Christmas Ad, Editor Wayne Youngblood, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111, or emailed to youngblood@tds.net.

Inside this issue:

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Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Besides providing salient details for the next meeting, a club's newsletter also should address the interests of the membership and serve as a creative outlet for its editor.

For example, the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** newsletter always displays a long feature story on a new United States stamp written by its editor, Carol Schutta.

The newsletter of the **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., a creation of Jim Stearns, is essentially a rambling monologue that includes the minutes of the previous meeting, a health report or birthday greetings for some members, reminders on projects underway, shows being held in Michigan and Wisconsin (and even Canada!) news items from

the philatelic press and reminders such as who has volunteered to bring goodies to the next meeting. It's a printed counterpart to an Internet blog.

The Valley Philatelist newsletter of the **Outagamie Philatelic Society** occasionally contains an extra item, such as a feature urging members to "dress up a letter with vintage stamps" and a news report on the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee by the Appleton postmaster.

Newsletters shouldn't be dry and boring. They should be fun and informative – just like your club and its activities.

* * *

Program ideas

The Oshkosh Philatelic Society, which meets twice a month in spaces provided by a nursing home in the city, provided members with a complete list of programs from fall through next summer. They are largely generated from members' collecting interests, such as military postal history, back-of-the-book and wine stamps, but also include dealer nights, at which dealer-members provide stamps for sale, a slide show on stamp collecting and open discussions.

Alice Archie gave a program at a **Milwaukee Philatelic Society** meeting on the basics of stamp collecting. She included a list of abbreviations used in the hobby.

A challenge in the continuing one-page-exhibit competition at **Waukesha County Philatelic Society** was "Things that go together."

Richard Favish, a member of **American**

Topical Association Chapter 5, Waukesha, gave a presentation on the collecting of ceremonial programs and first-day ceremonies he has attended. He gave each member at the meeting a copy of the program for this year's Negro Baseball first-day ceremony. At the club's youth meeting earlier in the evening, Favish presented each youth with a ceremony program in a first-day cover with all five Sunday Funnies stamps – and each youth member got a Vince Lombardi stamp program from 1997 in Green Bay.

* * *

What others are doing

Michele Basal took over as president of **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich. Tom Pleyte is vice president, Mark Pleyte treasurer and Jim Stearns secretary.

Don Thurwatcher was elected president of the **Oshkosh Philatelic Society**. Other officers are Cathy Lenke, vice president; Bill Hodge, secretary; and Dave Carney, treasurer.

Rob Henak, who is trying to develop a history of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society**, provided accounts in the club newsletter stories in *Mekeel's* magazine from 1899 on the founding of MPS.

The rejuvenated **North Shore Philatelic Society**, Fox Point, is holding meetings about once a quarter at restaurants in the area.

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

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.

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Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please contact the Central Office.

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

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Unless explicitly stated by an officer in conjunction with official WFSC business, opinions expressed by the editor or individual authors are not necessarily endorsed by the WFSC.

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

All show calendar information, along with all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. (youngblood@tds.net) phone: 715-467-4416.

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, AFTP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney@new.rr.com) phone: 920-687-9077. For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.

Exhibiting 101: The Title Page

Robert R. Henak

Regardless whether you exhibit thematics, postal history or postcards, your title page could be the most important page of your exhibit. Yet far too many exhibitors simply dash off the title page without a second thought.

The title page is not simply a piece of paper containing nothing but the title of the exhibit. Rather, as Randy Neil explains in his *Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook* (3rd Ed.) at 129-30, the title page is best used to explain the exhibit's significance and to "draw a clear, easily-understood roadmap for the judge." The well-done title page also can note particularly important items in the exhibit, or new discoveries or research by the exhibitor. Depending on how well these purposes are fulfilled, the title page can have a major impact on the ultimate award level at both local and national exhibitions.

Given the importance of the title page, it often is the first page written and the last one finalized. It is quite common for an exhibitor to revise the title page multiple times during the process of designing and mounting the exhibit.

Much like the introductory paragraph to an essay, the title page should define as exactly as possible what the exhibit will show. A judge or member of the public reading the title page should be able to understand both the scope and content of the exhibit, expecting neither more nor less than the exhibit ultimately delivers.

Indeed, the title itself should define the scope of the exhibit. If the title suggests a broader or narrower scope than the exhibit delivers, the award level will suffer accordingly. Using "Shakespeare" as a title suggests that the exhibit will cover Shakespeare's life, sonnets and the impact of his works, as well as his

plays. One would expect "Shakespeare's Comedies," on the other hand, to be limited to the creation, plot, staging and impact of that subset of his plays.

A well-designed title page also will summarize the story of your exhibit. Remember, a quality exhibit has a beginning, a middle and a logical ending. The title page will help explain why your story starts where it does, how the exhibit develops that story and why you have chosen the particular ending. This can be done in words or outline form. Although a plan or outline of the exhibit is required for thematic exhibits, either can be useful in other types of exhibits as well, especially where the exhibit is long and the story complex.

Finally, the title page can explain the exhibit's significance or highlight important items. Why should anyone care about the postal history of some small Iowa county that did not even exist until shortly before the Civil War? Perhaps because the postal development of that county reflects or represents the similar development of any number of similar counties throughout the Midwest. Why should we care about hoot owls? Maybe because of their impact on the broader environment and sustainability of a given ecosystem. The judge or others viewing the exhibit may not know if you do not tell them and may not be willing to wait until the second row of the third frame to find out.

As for important items, some exhibitors choose to identify the most important items or groups of items right up front on the title page. While not required, such a tactic reduces the risk that the judge and other viewers will miss your best material. Indeed, exhibitors often place one of the very best items on the title page

as a kind of teaser of things to come.

Of course, there is no rule that you must place a philatelic item on the title page. Anything that draws the viewer into the exhibit's story can be placed on the title page, be it a map, a photograph, a picture postcard or – as with a transformational exhibit from the 1980s called *Gold Fever* – a real gold nugget.

In the end, the importance of your title page rests in two factors. First, the title page often is your best – and usually only – chance to catch the attention of the viewing public. Especially where there are a number of exhibits to see, a boring, uninformative title page or uncreative title will lose the audience to your story no matter how impressive the philatelic material actually shown in the rest of the exhibit.

Second, with very limited exceptions, the title page alone, from among all the pages of your exhibit, goes to the judges before the show. The title page, sometimes joined by the plan page in thematic exhibits and a synopsis page (to be discussed in a later article but which is not actually part of the exhibit), is the only page of your exhibit that the judges must read. Again, a boring or pedestrian title page will lead the jury to expect more at the frames, while a well-done title page will leave the judges enthusiastic to see the rest of the exhibit.

At the next show you attend, take the time to read several of the title pages of the exhibits presented. Indeed, reviewing other exhibits is a great way to get new ideas for your own exhibits, regardless of the level of the show and the overall quality of the exhibits. See what you like about them and what you decide just does not work for you. Then feel free to incorporate the ideas you like into your own exhibit.

Hall of Fame Nominations Due

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame, which recognizes prominent Wisconsin philatelists for their contributions to the hobby. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 31, 2010.

Qualifications required of nominees are: (1) Contributions of a purely local club nature shall not be the sole reason for selection to the Hall of Fame; and (2) A deceased philatelist may not be nominated or considered for selection until three years after his/her death.

Send your nominations(s), together with a statement identifying the nominee, a short philatelic biography and the reasons why that person should be selected for the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame to Karen Weigt, Chair, Hall of Fame Committee, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562-4339 or kweigt@tds.net.

Only WFSC member clubs may submit nominations, and each nomination must be seconded by two other member clubs. The nominating club is responsible for making arrangements with the seconding clubs to provide those seconds. The nomination and seconds should be sent to chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee in one mailing.

Letter... Chilean Miners stamp coming soon?

Just out of curiosity, am I the only one wondering if, when and who's going to issue a stamp commemorating the miracle of the rescue of the 33 Chilean miners?

— Art Schmitz
via email

Art, you're definitely not the only one wondering this.

In fact, there already have been several different custom-printed stamps, including the one illustrated nearby, created by zazzle.com



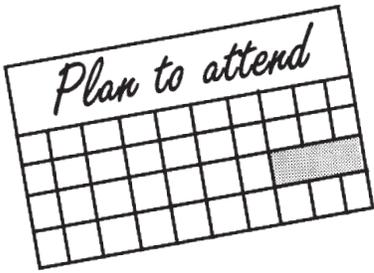
to honor the rescue. Several of these designs can be ordered by anyone visiting the website.

I'd also be willing to bet that Chile will release a stamp or souvenir sheet within the next few months, although it has not been announced

I'm sure the usual gang of suspects also will release loads of stamps and sets in the coming months, but Zazzle appears to be the first.

— Wayne

**Share your interests
with fellow
Wisconsin collectors
Write about
a favorite item
for the next ATFP!**



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.

Nov. 6, 2010
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club
 Plover Village Hall, 2400 Post Rd., Plover, WI, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: J.D. Manville, P.O. Box 845, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715) 498-1111

Nov. 20, 2010
Oshkosh Stamp Bourse
Oshkosh Philatelic Society
 Elk's Club, 175 Fernau St., Oshkosh, WI, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus—920-725-0798, allan.marym@hotmail.com

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 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

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

April 2-3, 2011
Wiscopex '11
 (Annual Convention and Philatelic Exhibition of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs), 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

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 (right):

Nov. 19-21, 2010
 Itasca, Ill.
Chicagopex '10
Chicago Philatelic Society
 Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel
 400 Park Blvd.

Nov. 26-27, 2010
Countryside-LaGrange, IL
Supex '10, Brookfield Stamp Club,
 International Engineers Union Hall, 6200 Joliet Rd., LaGrange

Nov. 27-28, 2010
 St. Paul, MN
METROPEX '10, Maplewood Stamp Club,
 Kelly Inn, I-94 & Marion St., St. Paul

Dec. 4-5, 2010
 West Allis, WI
Frosteepex '10
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis

Dec. 11-12, 2010
 Prospect Heights, IL
MSDA Winter Stamp Show
Midwest Stamp Dealers Assoc.
 Lindner Conference Center, 610 E. Butterfield Rd.

Jan. 15-16, 2011
 West Allis, WI
Polarpex '11
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis

U.S. 1c Large Bank Note Scott 156
 I'm cleaning out the stamp room again (still!)
While they last: (I have several)
 A fault-free, F-VF example, with virtually complete OG. There is a bit of paper adhered, so this cannot be considered NH. However, unused OG price is \$275; No-gum examples sell for \$95. **OG: \$50 (or, small fits, \$20) No Gum: \$15, postpaid!**

Wayne Youngblood, P.O. Box 111 Scandinavia WI 54977-0111
youngblood@tds.net
 Always buying, selling and accepting consignments for Regency-Superior Auctions. 06.10

Attend a show near you soon!


I collect the Wisconsin Statehood issue ...and I need your help
Wanted: FDCs, first-day ephemera, USPOD Announcements, errors, color varieties, usages, event covers or anything else that might enhance an exhibit.

John Pare
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 Mt. Horeb WI 53572 pare16@mhtc.net 04.11

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