

ACROSS THE FENCE



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www.WFSCstamps.org

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

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

President's corner

By Greg Schmidt, President of WFSC



Greg Schmidt

Unfortunately there is no President's Message in this issue of *Across the Fence Post*. For reasons out of his control, Greg Schmidt was unable to provide his regular column. Please look for a message in the November issue.

— Wayne

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Reflections on a recent move

By Wayne L. Youngblood
I'm tired.

After more than 15 years in the same home in Wisconsin, my wife, Dorothy, and I headed off to St. Louis, Mo., to seek a new adventure.

As a lifelong collector, this move wasn't as easy or as carefree as it sounds. Extracting oneself from a comfortable home with plenty of [storage] space and moving to an apartment requires a great deal of decision making and paring down. I'm still not done, but I'm moved – in more ways than one.

Relocating a collector from his or her established warren takes more than just one person, and I'm particularly grateful for the help and patience of both Dorothy and my youngest son, Joe, who now claims to have sworn off stamps or anything related to them for life!

Really, how much space could they take, anyway? After all, they're just stamps. But they do. In my case, there's mostly all the "I'll get around to it someday" boxes and the library. Oh god, the library. This is a cautionary tale.

The boxes I can deal with. "Someday" has arrived and will be on my back for the next few months – at least. But the library took a bit more thought and effort. Not only are there dozens of volumes of important references, but periodicals – many of them.



Because I've needed periodicals in the past for both reference and illustration purposes I've saved them for many years. As a result, I found I had long runs of *Stamp Collector*, *Stamps*, *Linn's*, *Scott Stamp Monthly* and many different journals of different societies and specialties. I also had hundreds of auction catalogs, ranging from important name sales to a few small mail-bid companies.

To make a long story short, to be able to fly, one must release the ballast.

The first thing to go were all the periodicals, journals and auction catalogs (in all, well in excess of 3,000 pounds). These went to recycling. Why save them? There's no philatelic value to them and most everything that can be found in them is now fairly easily accessible through the American Philatelic Research Library, if necessary.

Next, stamp clubs and the Postal History Foundation in Arizona became the recipients many cartons of usable stamps and supplies that I have no time to deal with. Finally, most of those things I do not actively collect will be dusted off and disposed of in the near future.

A lesson I've learned – perhaps late – is that our hobby is a passion, and with that comes a certain amount of bulk to be sure. However, it becomes entirely too easy to indiscriminately acquire and hold materials we don't need. It's important to regularly assess what you have, why and whether you still need it. If you don't, then decide what (if any) value it has to others.

If it does have value (philatelic or sentimental), make sure loved ones know as well, so that when the time comes to find a new home it won't end up as part of the ballast of a lifetime of collecting.

Collecting is a great deal of fun. But so is no longer feeling overly burdened by unmade philatelic decisions.

New ATFP Editor Needed Urgently!

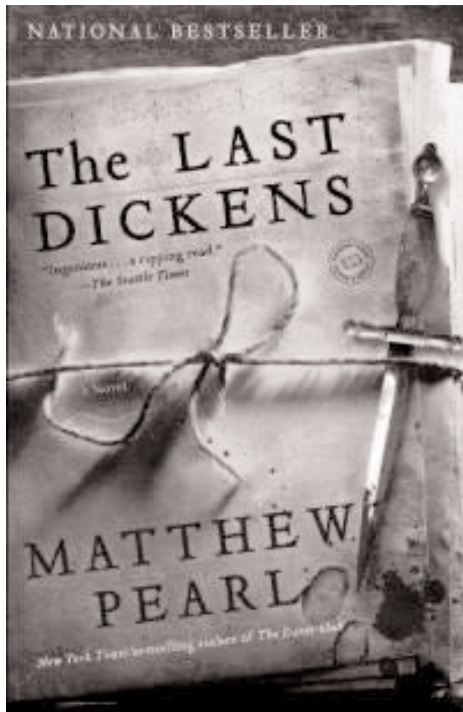
Due to the recent out-of-state move of editor Wayne Youngblood, *Across the Fence Post* urgently needs a new editor. ***If a new editor is not found soon, the ATFP schedule will continue to be seriously disrupted for the foreseeable future.*** This appointed and non-reimbursed position is an important one for the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. *ATFP* not only serves as primary mouthpiece and calendar for the WFSC, but also provides educational and entertaining material for collectors in Wisconsin and other locations.

Please consider this opportunity. It's a great way to serve our organization and build important skills as well. If you are interested in full details, please contact Editor Wayne Youngblood (wystamps@gmail.com).

A Dickens of a Mystery: Book Review

Clete Delvaux

When it was announced that tickets would be sold the next morning, a line started to form at the street door. They brought mattresses and blankets for those spending the night in the cold windy street. "By dawn the morning of the sale, the mass of people outside stretched a mile and a half along Tremont Street. Some had brought their own armchairs to sleep in."



Does this sound like the prelude to a rock and roll concert or the opening performance of a Broadway theater premiere?

Well, no. The year is 1867 and the line of people has is waiting to buy tickets for the beginning of Charles Dickens' second American lecture tour in Boston. It is a scene from Matthew Pearl's 2009 book, *The Last Dickens*, a novel.

This well-researched historical mystery involves the search for the ending of Dickens' *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which was only half-finished when he died in 1870. Danger, intrigue and suspense – all elements of a good mystery – abound during the search on both sides of the Atlantic for the manuscript.

The backdrop for the mystery involves the publishing industry during Dickens' day, including Dickens' American publisher, Ticknor and Fields, and his London publishers.

Call for Materials

Your input to *Across the Fence Post* is urgently needed. Please consider writing a letter to the editor, a feature or even a caption for your favorite cover or philatelic item. We'd also like to see an ongoing column, such as Rob Henak's popular series on exhibiting (found on this page).

Please send submissions to Editor Wayne Youngblood (wystamps@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 4601, St. Louis, MO 63108-4601.

This allows Pearl to introduce some of the historical American authors of the time into his story. These include Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Ralph Waldo Emerson and others.

If you like mysteries with a literary flavor, you will find this book a good read.

* * *

The foregoing is a kind of introduction to the expected spate of Dickens stamps which will inundate us in 2012. That's because the year 2012 marks the bicentennial of Charles Dickens' birth. Most of my Dickens collection dates from 1970, which marked the 100th anniversary of his death.

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).

Show calendar information and their editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor AFTP, P.O. Box 4601, St. Louis MO 63108-4601. (wystamps@gmail.com) phone: 314-454-9689.

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, AFTP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarneyl@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.

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak

Before any more time passes, **Robert Mather** and members of the **American Topical Association Chapter 5**, Waukesha, must be congratulated for the excellent National Topical Stamp Show held in Milwaukee this summer. Mather was show chairman, and club members pitched in to help in various ways.

At a meeting in July, Mather formally thanked the club for paying for box lunches for a busload of people who went on an event-filled, day-long, show-ending bus trip to visit central Wisconsin attractions. The club also paid to rent youth exhibit frames for the NTSS. Together, that added up to \$275 in payments from ATA Chapter 5.

Club members contributed more than money; they stamped promotional postcards and served in many other ways at the show, which is the annual showcase of the association - founded in Milwaukee. At the club meeting, Mather singled out Wolfgang Magnus and George Streiter for their help.

Mather reported that the show might break even when all the bills and receipts are in. That's a significant accomplishment in itself. NTSS souvenirs, such as show covers, are still available for sale by visiting the organizations website: www.americantopicalassn.org, or by writing to the Central Office at American Topical Association, P.O. Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-1618.

The traveling topical show could be back in the Milwaukee area in 2017.

Also during the summer, Mather was announced as the recipient of the **Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award** for 2011. He received the award at the American

Philatelic Association Stampshow in Columbus, Ohio.

* * *

Program ideas

Badger Stamp Club, Madison, has distributed a flyer with its activities through summer 2012. Programs include *Wisconsin Cinderella Stamps* (by Ken Grant), *Collecting Wisconsin Postal History* (by John Pare), *How to Prepare a Philatelic Exhibit* (by Charles Shoemaker), *Buying and Selling on the Internet* (by Bert Hart), *Beer Stamp Revenues* (by Wallace Cleland), *Adventures in Collecting Russia 1940-65* (by Robert Knapp), *German Colonies* (by Tom Nash) and a members show-and-tell program on philatelic items related to the letter D.

Badger Stamp Club members enjoyed a printout of a page from an issue of *Pacifica*, the journal of the Pacific Island Study Circle, which featured a writeup about **Jim Cottington's** presentation to BSC on May 7 about Fiji bird definitives. It included a photo of Cottington and a group photo of BSC members.

As part of a program on identity theft by a Postal Inspection Service officer at a meeting of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society**, the presenter handed out a one-page bulletin that called the phenomenon "the fastest growing crime in America." **Bob Mather**, a member of MPS, passed a copy of the sheet along with his mailing to members of ATA Chapter 5. The information includes tips on how to protect yourself from identity theft and steps to take if you do become a victim. The information was in a perfect form to share with others. In fact, the information presented at any program should be shared with other club members through your club newsletters.

* * *

What others are doing

Charles Shoemaker has stepped back into the president's shoes at **Badger Stamp Club**, Madison, a position he has held for many years and at different times, after President **Pete Smith** announced he was moving to the Eau Claire area. With tongue in cheek, Shoemaker bemoaned he might be "president of the club / dictator for life, almost."

American Topical Association Chapter 5, Waukesha, was included as a beneficiary in the will of a deceased member, but a lawyer, who is also a member of the club, suggested that the man's family could use the money, and the club voted to waive claim to the inheritance. There are two learning points here: You can include your favorite clubs in your will; and the clubs don't have to accept the contribution if it would create a hardship for the deceased's family.

An outreach program by the ATA Chapter 5, while "small but dignified," according to a report, resulted in one new youth member for the club. Every promotion can have a positive result, even if it's just public awareness and appreciation.

The appearance at a meeting of the **Northwoods Philatelic Society**, Iron Mountain, Mich., by a member who has moved to Minnesota was highlighted in a club bulletin. Clubs' primary purpose is fellowship, and folksy items like this are always appropriate.

* * *

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

WFSC Member Club Christmas ads due soon

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

Individual ads may be purchased at normal *ATFP* rates and placed in desired locations in the issue by stamp clubs. However, due to time constraints and possible transition of editors, all ad copy will have to be submitted in finished format (preferably a PDF document) and cannot be designed by the editor this year.

The second option is to be part of a larger, full-page ad with a \$10 sponsorship. Either way, all copy needs to be received by the editor prior to Nov. 14 to appear in the December issue.

Information or intent to participate should be sent to: *ATFP* Christmas Ad, Editor Wayne Youngblood, P.O. Box 4601, St. Louis MO 63108-4601, or emailed to wystamps@gmail.com.

Remember...

Please support *ATFP* advertisers. They keep your newsletter healthy. Tell 'em you saw it in *ATFP*!

Living People on U.S. Stamps Soon

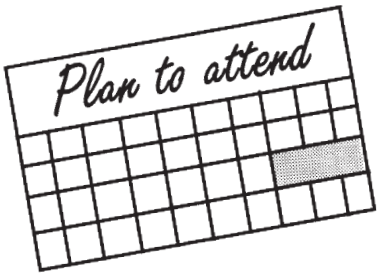
By Wayne L. Youngblood

On Sept. 26, the United States Postal Service announced that beginning in 2012 we will begin seeing living individuals on U.S. stamps. Further, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe has invited suggestions of potential honorees through social media sites Facebook and Twitter. Donahoe also made the statement that this move "keeps our program timely, relevant and contemporary," and further stated that "this change will enable us to pay tribute to individuals for their achievements while they are still alive to enjoy the honor." Really?

This complete reversal of policy is no doubt controversial to most collectors who are familiar with the so-called 10-year rule; that is, one must have been dead for at least 10 years before being eligible to appear on the U.S. postage stamp (the exception being past U.S. presidents).

Really, there is nothing legally, morally or even ethically wrong with placing living people on stamps. However, it does completely change the philosophical purpose of stamp subjects and calls into question the relevancy of the U.S. stamp program moving forward - despite Donahoe's claim this move will make stamps more relevant.

If we're busy worshipping Pop Culture and the inevitable political demands that will be made for stamp subjects, we can't possibly have room for stamps that mark historical events or honor those who have truly "stood the test of time." How do you feel?



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.

2011 WFSC show schedule*

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

Oct. 22

Sheboygan Stamp and Coin Show
Sheboygan Stamp Club
 Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St.,
 Sheboygan Falls WI
Contact: Barbara Stohl, P.O. Box 907,
 Sheboygan WI 53082 (920) 458-4883

Oct. 29-30

Tosapex '11
Wauwatosa Philatelic Society
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall 1435 So. 92nd
 St., West Allis WI, Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
 Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: John Fagan(262) 251-0617
 faganfalls@aol.com

Nov. 5

Central Wisconsin Stamp Club
Central Wisconsin Stamp Club
 St. John Episcopal Church, 320 Oak St.
 (across from the Post Office), Wisconsin
 Rapids, WI, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: J.D. Manville, 715-498-1111,
 jadeco@charter.net

Oct. 22-23

Prospect Heights, Ill.
MSDA Fall Stamp Show
Midwest Stamp Dealers Assoc.
 Comfort Inn (formerly Wingate)
 600 Milwaukee Ave.

Please use stamps; We're all collectors.

Call for WFSC Hall of Fame Nominations Due

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame, which recognizes prominent Wisconsin philatelists for their contributions to the hobby. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2011.

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 nomination(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: Darren Mueller, Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee, P.O. Box 343, Oak Creek WI 53154, or by email to darren.mueller@juno.com.

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 the chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee in one mailing.

Other major non-WFSC shows in or near Wisconsin (right):

Nov. 19

Oshkosh Stamp Bourse
Oshkosh Philatelic Society
 Elk's Club, 175 Fernau Ave., Oshkosh, WI,
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Dave Carney, 920-687-9077,
 dcarney1@new.rr.com

Other major non-WFSC shows in or near Wisconsin (right):

Remember:

ATFP Advertisers support our publication, our Federation and our hobby in general.
Please patronize them!

Nov. 18-20

Itasca, Ill.
Chicagopepx '11
Chicago Philatelic Society
 Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel, 400
 Park Blvd.

Nov. 26-27

St. Paul, Minn.
Metropex '11
Maplewood Stamp Club
 Kelly Inn, I-94 & Marion St.

Dec. 3-4

West Allis, Wis.
Frosteepex '11
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
 1435 So. 92nd St.

Dec. 10-11


Lombard, Ill.
MSDA Winter Stamp Show
Midwest Stamp Dealers Assoc.
 Lindner Conference Center, 610 E.
 Butterfield Rd.

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.





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 Mt. Horeb WI 53572 pare16@mhtc.net 04.11

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