

ACROSS THE FENCE



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<http://www.WFSCstamps.org/>

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

American Philatelic Society Chapter #350

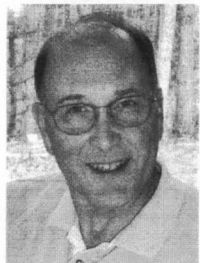
American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's Corner

On Vacation

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

A day after my wife and I returned from my latest stamp vacation, I read John L. Leszak's editor's column in *Mekeel's & Stamps* for Feb. 17, in



which he told of a friend who took two weeks off his job to lock himself away from the world and work on his stamps. When they met for lunch afterward, Leszak wrote, the friend looked somewhat disheveled but refreshed.

I understand. Three different times, I have reserved timeshare resort accommodations and spent an entire week poring through boxes and stock books of stamps. I would break only for a trip to the pool or exercise room or to fix myself a meal. I couldn't believe how the hours sped by. Sometimes, after nightfall, I would think to myself, "Maybe just one more little pile, and then I really should get to bed," and the next time I looked at the clock it was after midnight.

Early the next morning, after a bowl of cereal and orange juice, I'd start again, and play with stamps all day long.

I mention this because the season of vacations is nearly upon us, and many stamp collectors who work for a living will be planning relaxing get-aways. Those whose hobbies involve attaching expensive lures to underwater tree roots or whacking little dimpled white balls into other bodies of water or impenetrable jungles think nothing of

including these fun times in their vacations. Philatelists may want to devote at least part of their vacation to their hobby also.

The trip I referred to at the beginning of this column, for instance, included a satisfying stop at the St. Louis Stamp Expo.

A first-day ceremony for three new stamps and a major auction were attractions. (Even if you don't take part, an auction with lively floor bidding can be a fun and educational way to see how prices vary for stamps.) With ought breaking my personal bank, I found several stamps for my St. Francis of Assisi collection that I had been unable to find in dealers' stocks at Wisconsin shows. I enjoyed the exhibits, including one from a Wisconsin collector. And I renewed acquaintances with some friends.

This time, my wife stayed with me at the show or retreated to our room to read. While she is not a collector, she enjoys looking at the exhibits and likes the stamp ceremonies. At some shows, she'll share conversation with another spouse in a lunch or lounge area. Other times, she'll seek something outside the show, such as a special museum exhibit she discovered in Grand Rapids, Mich., while I

was at a Stamp show last year.

To get to that show, we included a trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Canada, and finally returned home via the new high-speed ferry across Lake Michigan.

Later this year, we're hoping to get to Washington, D.C., for the big international stamp show that starts May 27.

Besides attending stamp shows, there are other ways to incorporate your hobby into your travels. For example, you may be able to work in a visit to a stamp club. For starters, you can find the names of member clubs in the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs on page 2 of each issue of this newsletter.

When we took a family vacation in Barbados a couple of years ago, I contacted the Barbados Stamp Club some weeks ahead of time and learned that a meeting was scheduled while we were planning to be there. We heard an interesting talk on island festivals, I got some help in identifying stamps in my Barbados collection, and my wife found someone at the meeting to talk with.

Here's another idea: Look for stamp dealers in cities you pass through -- St. Louis and Branson, Mo., for example.

Or check the schedule of release dates and sites of United States stamps. If you can arrange a vacation trip to coincide with a first-day ceremony, you may find it worthwhile to stop. They're usually free and may include entertainment or an educational talk.

You get the idea. With a little extra planning, you'll be able to incorporate your hobby into your vacation, and that'll make your vacation even more fun.

Inside

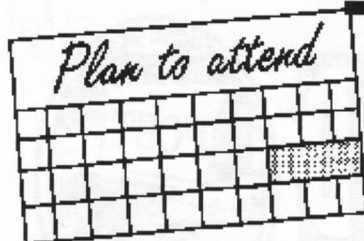
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Time to Come Alive!

THE WFSC IS 75!

Watch for further announcements



Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or event
FREE for one WFSC member-club event
 classified rates for non-members and
 all other events

April 1

DANEPEX '06

Badger Stamp Club
 Madison Turner Hall, 3001 S.
 Stoughton Rd., Madison (contact:
 John Pare, 510 Meadow View Rd.,
 #3, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 -
 608.437.5124, parel6@charter.net)

June 24-25

TRI-PEX STAMP FAIR

ATA Chapter 5 and North Shore Philatelic
 Society
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 S. 92nd St., West
 Allis (contact: Robert Henak, NPS, P.O. Box 170832,
 Milwaukee, WI 54317 - 414.351.1519,
 henak@execpc.com, www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org)

April 8

OUTAPEX '06

Outagamie Philatelic Society
 Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond
 St. Appleton, 10 a.m. To 5 p.m.
 (contact: Al Marcus, P.O. Box 11,
 Appleton, WI 54912 -
 920.725.0798, maram@tds.net)

September 15-17

MILCOPEX '06

Milwaukee Philatelic Society
 Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport,m
 4747 So. Howell Ave., Milwaukee (Contact: Art
 Petri, 3754 So. 67th St., Milwaukee, WI
 53220 -- 414.327.4320,
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org)

May 13

SHEBOYGAN STAMP & COIN SHOW

Sheboygan Stamp Club
 Municipal Building, 375 Buffalo St.
 Sheboygan Falls (contact: Ed
 Rautmann, P.O. Box 907, Sheboy-
 gan, WI 53082, 920.452.0054)

September 30

WAUSAPEX

Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society
 Details to be announced

June 17

25th ANNUAL SHOW AND BOURSE

Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club
 James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Ln.,
 Rhinelander, 9 a.m. To 5 p.m. (contact: Larry
 Marten, 3295 Hancock Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI
 54529 - 715.282.5636, Bill Julian
 715.277.2692)

November 4

MONROE STAMP AND POST- CARD SHOW

Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club
 United Methodist Church, 2227 4th St., Monroe, 9
 a.m. To 4 p.m. (Contact: Earl Button, 1214 Second
 St., Monroe, WI 53566 -- 608.328.2827,
 ebutton@tds.net)

WFSC Officers

PRESIDENT

Maurice D. Wozniak
 1010 Berlin St.
 Waupaca WI 54981
 715.258.2025
 Berliners2@sbccgoal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Hank Schmidt
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 920-426-2059

VP YOUTH DIVISION

MaryAnn Bowman
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 Northwoods Phil. Soc. (Iron Mt.)
 Outagamie Phil. Soc.
 Wisconsin Postal History Soc.

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 Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club
 Manitowoc Phil. Soc.
 Oshkosh Phil. Soc.
 Ripon Phil. Soc.

Sheboygan Stamp Club

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 Baraboo Stamp Club
 Janesville Stamp Club
 Monroe Stamp & Postcard Club
 Rockford Stamp Club

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 Amer. Topical Assoc. (Chptr. 5)
 Belle City Stamp Club
 Kenosha Stamp & Cover Club
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 Northwestern Mutual Stamp Club
 Polish American Stamp Club
 Wauwatosa Phil. Soc.

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Amer. Air Mail Soc. (Billy
 Mitchell Chptr.)
 Germany Phil. Soc. (Chptr. 18)
 Italian American Stamp Club
 Milwaukee Phil. Soc.

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 Chippewa Valley Stamp Club
 Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club
 (Rhinelander)
 Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Soc.

ACROSS THE FENCE POST is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and life member of the APS since 1953. For WFSC membership information, contact the Central Office.



ATFP is published monthly Sept.-Apr.; bimonthly May-Aug. News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and gratis original articles related to philately are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but reserves the right to make minor editing changes to conform with our style sheet. Material not carrying an individual copyright notice may be reproduced only by not-for-profit organizations, provided the author(s) and publication receive credit for any reprinted material. Unless explicitly stated by an officer in conjunction with official WFSC business, opinions expressed by individual authors are not necessarily endorsed by the WFSC.

Submission deadlines are for the month preceding month of publication as follows: advertising—1st of the month; editorial matter—1st of the month. Send show calendar information to WFSC Secretary Karen Weigt (see "WFSC Officers" listing for address). Send all other editorial matter and listings to: Ted Gifford, Editor, ATFP, 206 Ritscher St., Beloit, WI 53511 — phone 608-363-8665, tedg40@tds.net. Send ads to: Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, ATFP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055 — phone 920-687-9077, dcarney1@new.rr.com. For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), see the May/June 2005 issue of ATFP, or request a copy from the advertising manager.

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

Several philatelic clubs find that stamp lots gathered for them by friendly dealers serve a two-pronged purpose -- they give members an interest in coming to meetings to see what's offered, and they provide money for the club treasury, even when the individual stamps in the lots are sold at bargain prices.

The **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**, Stevens Point and Port Edwards, reported that it had made nearly \$300 profit from an auction and sales, and expected another \$150 from a subsequent auction.

During a recent search by members of the **Rockford Stamp Club** through a lot, "we sold almost enough to pay for the lot and there are still over 90% of the stamps left," the Rockford Stamp Notes bulletin boasted. Prices were reduced to 5 cents each for the latest stamp search through the lot.

What others are doing

After the deaths of two members recently, the **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club** voted to purchase and donate philatelic reference works representing their collecting interests to the Stevens Point Library -- a British Empire book and "United States Stamps 1927-32." The action provides a fitting and long-lasting memorial to deceased stamp collectors.

At CWSC meetings, members discussed Rattlesnake Island Local Post covers and purchases made during a trip to Great Britain.

The **Green Bay Philatelic Society** hosted "a kind of stamp camp for juniors" at the Green Bay Central Library.

Along with a member's talk on the History of Appleton's Post Offices, the **Outagamie Philatelic Society** had the Appleton postmaster as a guest at a club meeting, according to the club newsletter.

The Open Album bulletin of the **NML Stamp Club** features clippings and excerpts from news items that collectors may find interesting.

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

Cover Listing

DANEPEX '06 Show Cover (Madison, Wis. Sesquicentennial) -- April 1
Cachet depicts drawings of Madison, Wisconsin's first building (1856 log cabin) and a 2006 cityscape. Cancel features Wisconsin's Capitol Building dome and fireworks. \$2 ea. Include #10 SASE. Dave Dyer, 5602 Hammersley Rd., Madison, WI 53711 (*Badger Stamp Club*)

WFSC Announcements IN RECOGNITION OF OUR DONORS

Thank-you to the Chippewa Valley Stamp Club, Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club, and the Wauwatosa Philatelic Society. These three groups included a monetary donation to the WFSC along with their annual dues payment.

News Release

WFSC Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, the nation's oldest regional confederation for the philatelic hobby, will celebrate its 75th anniversary at stamp shows held this year.

Delegates from nine stamp-collecting clubs formed the nation's first successful federation during a meeting in Fond du Lac, Wis., on March 19, 1932, and established principles that continue to guide the organization. Today, the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs consists of 30 clubs in cities within the state and even across state lines in Illinois and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The clubs are listed on Page 2 of this Across the Fence Post newsletter.

The Wisconsin Association of Philatelic Societies was the name chosen for the landmark organization. Its name changed to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs in 1935.

Objectives of the federation are to acquire and disseminate a knowledge of philately; encourage individuals and organizations to locate and preserve postal records and materials for future reference and research; promote and encourage the study of history, geography, and human cultures through philatelic knowledge and research; encourage, sponsor, and introduce the educational aspects of philately among young people; foster and help organize other stamp clubs in and near the state of Wisconsin; cultivate a feeling of mutual friendship and fraternity among philatelists; and assist the members of the WFSC in acquiring and disposing of stamps by gift, purchase or in any other legitimate way.

The objectives are achieved by the sharing of ideas, pooling of talent and equipment, doing things that individual clubs alone cannot do, providing centralized services and speaking in a unified voice on behalf of an identifiable constituency.

Among the services of the WFSC are the following:

- "Across the Fence Post," the bulletin of the federation, published 10 times a year, which includes a calendar of club shows and offers a sharing of program ideas

- An internet website, www.WFSCstamps.org

- The annual WISCOPEX stamp show, at which delegates from member-clubs convene and collectors have a chance to exhibit their collections in an awards competition

- "Blue Book" guide to staging a stamp show to help clubs

- A program to develop judges for adult and youth exhibits

- A philatelic trivia quiz in which clubs compete for philatelic prizes while learning about the hobby

- Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame, which honors a maximum of three individuals per year for special achievement in philately

- Dealer Recognition Award annually

- Speakers Bureau of experienced collectors ready to share their hobby

- Vice presidents dedicated to youth and clubs in seven geographic regions

- Publicity and promotion of member clubs and the stamp-collecting hobby at a national level, including the suggestion of Wisconsin subjects for consideration in the program of the United States Postal Service

Organized philately in Wisconsin dates to the founding of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society in November 1899. (The world's first postage stamp was issued in Great Britain more than a half-century before -- in 1840. The United States began issuing postage stamps in 1847.)

A second club, the Appleton Philatelic Society, was not formed until 29 years later, in November 1928.

After the Fond du Lac Philatelic Society was founded in 1929, it sent delegations to other communities to encourage the formation of stamp clubs. With their assistance, clubs formed in Green Bay, Oshkosh, Ripon, Sheboygan, Madison and Waupun.

Nine philatelic organizations existed in Wisconsin when Vernon S. Kaub of Fond du Lac, the "Father of the Federation," asked the clubs to send delegates to his club's exhibition to organize an all-state club.

At a dinner, Kaub urged the delegates to organize. "We want a constitution and officers who will do things. All the rest can be done when the time demands action," he said.

This "Wisconsin Idea" in philately -- a spirit of fraternalism and cooperation and officers who serve as guides in an all-absorbing and all-embracing hobby -- has proved to be long-lasting. For 75 years, the WFSC has served as a resource for help and support to its membership, and it has found its principles emulated in other states. The Wisconsin federation remains one of the largest and most active in the hobby, and many of its members have achieved national distinction.

Letters to the Editor

A Response to WFSC President Maurice Wozniak's Column of March 2006

Mr Ted Gifford,
Editor, ATPF,
206 Ritsher St.,
Beloit, WI 53511

Dear Sir,

In the March 2006 issue of *Across the Fence Post*, Maurice Wozniak wrote in his President's Corner column about the exhibit that a friend of his had put together some years ago. According to Wozniak's account, this exhibit had just three stamps and text asking viewers to tell the exhibitor if they knew anything about the stamps because he had been unable to identify them by using standard stamp catalogs. Wozniak

goes further and criticizes the exhibit because it had not followed the strict rules of stamp exhibition, because it had a meagre three stamps, and finally, because it lacked any sort of scholarly research to back it up.

Maurice Wozniak has done his friend a great disservice, and it is all the more grievous because he did not have the consideration to consult his friend before he put together his column, at least to verify the facts. *And he is entirely wrong on all the facts.*

How do I know this? I know this because I was that exhibitor. Here are the facts:

The exhibit in question was an imperforate block of four carmine stamps (not three, as Wozniak claims) that were an essay for the Four Anna East India Postage Issue (1866-1880) during Queen Victoria's reign. It is actually an error because instead of the legend East India Postage in the banner at the top, these four stamps say *West India Postage*. I had text in the exhibit that identified the stamps, contrary to Wozniak's claim. I also had a page of material on the exhaustive research that I had done on this essay. I had consulted four sources: Jal Cooper, *Stamps of India*, 3rd Edition, Bombay, 1968, p 83; Robson Lowe, *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Stamps, Vol II: The Empire in Asia*, 1st Edition, London, 1951, pp 177-178; Stanley Gibbons, *British Commonwealth Catalogue, Part I*, London, 1998; and lastly, *Scott's Classic Specialized Catalog, 1840-1940*, Sidney, OH, 2000. I also emailed one of the officers of the India Study Circle in London to request information about this error block of four essay, and he wrote back saying that I had looked at all of the available sources, and that although he knew of the essay, he was not aware of the error. In fact, he sent me a xerox copy of the relevant pages from Jal Cooper's book by post.

Once again, contrary to Wozniak's claim, the research I had done on this issue was exhaustive, at least to the extent of my abilities. It is also noteworthy that none of the sources I consulted, except Robson Lowe, mentions the "West India Postage" essay, and Lowe simply mentions plate proofs for this essay in passing, without any further discussion about its being an error. He also has an image of the essay (Fig 27c on p 177). I concluded my write-up with a request for any additional information a viewer might have on this error block of four essay, since so little was known about

it. Contrary to the impression that Wozniak's account must surely leave, the text wasn't simply a request for help, and his statement that I had been unable to identify the stamps is totally false. My reason for this exhibit was that the error block of four essay was something of a mystery. I had thought that in a small stamp club's local exhibition such an exhibit might be appropriate, and my fellow club members had encouraged me to place it in the exhibition.

What is most galling is the final part of Wozniak's column, when he fails to practice what he preaches. After having lectured us all about the ineptitude of this hapless exhibitor who failed to follow the strict rules of stamp exhibiting, he goes on to tell the surely incredulous reader (at least I, for one, am incredulous) that he planned to exhibit *two* stamps at the stamp club's exhibition. I ask you *two* stamps? One in point of fact, two less than those in his friend's exhibit? After all those paragraphs about frame after frame of stamps and scholarly research? I will leave the reader of my account to judge for themselves how appropriate this venture is. He says it will help the hobby, and that he might "eventually follow the rules for exhibits" in his next venture. How self-serving of Mr Wozniak to employ such double standards!

And, my dear reader, I actually saw this exhibit today at the CENWISPEX show in Stevens Point. As Wozniak himself tells us, they are Royal Cipher labels from 1800. *They aren't even postage stamps*. And Wozniak announces in his column that he did this because he thought people might find it interesting. Notice that when he was deriding my exhibit of a few years ago, he did not have the courtesy to extend this line of reasoning to my stamps, which he described as "crummy".

Personally, I am aghast at such a column from the President of the WFSC. I should think that an apology and a retraction would be very much in order.

Sincerely,

Dr P Sudevan
1408 Strongs Ave., Apt 402
Stevens Point WI 54481-2958

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May	14-15	6-7
August	27-28	19-20
December	3-4	2-3

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