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American Philatelic Center Resumes Operations

5/21/2021

Members and Public Welcome to Visit

The American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library announced the American Philatelic Center resumes less restrictive operations effective June 1, 2021. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf lifted most COVID health and safety restrictions effective May 31, allowing less restrictive environments for businesses in the Commonwealth.

“We’re ready to welcome our members and the public back to the American Philatelic Center,” said Scott English, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, “We’re still not completely back to pre-pandemic operations, but our doors are open, so make plans to visit.”

Available Services

The APC will operate on normal business hours between 8:30 am to 5 pm. Visitors will use Circuit Sales, Gift/Stamp Shop, Expertizing, Headsville Post Office, and the Library. Other areas of the APC will not be open to the public or members. At this time, we are not offering tours of the American Philatelic Center.

Entry Protocol

All visitors to the APC will sign in for contact tracing purposes. Each visitor will also be issued a name badge to fill out and wear during the visit.

Facemasks

Consistent with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, anyone who is not fully vaccinated will be required to wear a facemask in the building. There is no validation requirement, but we ask visitors to respect the health and safety of our staff and other visitors.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

May 2021 newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

President's Message

Hello! Are you listening? Last month I asked to hear from everybody and I heard from exactly ZERO! No joke, I need your support. I asked for your 'story' about how and why you collect. I want to weave these into a fabric of that will help others see that stamp collecting is fun and worth doing.

HELP!: I cannot run the club and show by myself. I REALLY need everyone to find their niche on the Filatelic Fiesta team. If you believe the club or show is doing the right thing, please let me know. If you would like to see the club do different things or head in a different direction, please speak up. Either way, I'd like to hear from you!

Stamps: If your expectation for joining a stamp club was access to stamps, you're in the right place. Donations continue to come in and they represent a broad spectrum of material. There are a lot of nice stamps here and you probably can find something to contribute to your collection in some way. Just make an appointment with me to visit and look through the boxes.

Thanks Jim!: We have James Steinwinder to thank for the wonderful club website. It is the primary magnet that is attracting so many donations. Between writing & composing our newsletter and creating our club and show websites, we all owe Jim a BIG thank-you for his hard work.

Meetings: Good news, we should be able to start meeting in-person again soon. The San Jose Library system is carefully opening to the public. I will keep in touch with the head librarian and let everyone know when can return. Our June meeting will still be over Zoom, but I'm hopeful we can meet in person in July. We'll have to wait and see if they require everyone to be vaccinated. Even when do meet in person, it is my plan to continue to offer the meetings over Zoom.

Member Update: Not far from our in-person meeting place is the new home of club member Bob Turkowski. The Carlton Senior Center on Branham Lane is a tiered living facility with Bob in the memory unit. Bob is in good spirits and health. He is currently focused on selling his extensive collection of British North America. He would like to visit club meetings if I can arrange the details.

Filatelic Fiesta: Our use of Napredak Hall is secured and the bourse is starting to fill in. I had hoped that A&D might return this year, but Sue Dempsey is seriously ill, so they are reluctant to commit to shows at this time. I've arranged for a block of rooms at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn. I also hope that we will have a banquet there on Saturday night. Someone needs to step-up to organize this event. I have a variety of other tasks that I need volunteers.

Regards,

Brian

Stamp Jigsaw Puzzles

June 2021

During the pandemic we've all spent a LOT more time at home. One of the most popular past times has been doing jigsaw puzzles. They are fun way to keep yourself busy while binge watching Netflix. Puzzles have the added bonus of keeping the brain challenged in a way that keeps cognitive abilities sharp. According to the Alzheimer's Association jigsaw puzzles are a prime activity to keep the brain active.

History: Jigsaw puzzles date all the way back to 1760 and were made of wood. It was common to glue a map to a piece of wood and use a small saw and cut along borders to teach geography. Ironically, jigsaws were not used to make the cuts making the name a misnomer. They continued to be made of wood until after WWII when paper product manufacturing advanced to the point that pressboard had a low enough cost and high enough quality to make it practical.



Topics: The most popular topics for jigsaw puzzles are landscapes, art, animals, famous buildings, and colleges. Obviously, an article in a stamp club newsletter will feature puzzles depicting stamps. Almost all major publishers of puzzles offer multiple designs depicting stamps. The puzzles commonly have 500, 1000, or 2000 pieces. The puzzle designs typically fall into one of three categories: an individual stamp (or sheet); organized layout of stamps; or a collage.



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Fake stamps: To create visually appealing designs, puzzle designers sometimes create faux stamps. These designs allow the puzzle to achieve the designers artist vision. The faux stamps can be difficult to spot as they can have the appearance of cancellations or postmarks. Everyone can make their own decision if they want puzzles only depicting real postage stamps or the use of faux stamps to create visually attractive puzzles.



On-line puzzles: For those who like to do things on-line and avoid amassing stuff, there are websites offering puzzles. You'll want to do these on a monitor or laptop as the quantity of pieces makes doing these on a cell phone impractical. A few include these:

- Jigsaw Planet: <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/>
 - Has over 1,000 puzzles of stamps
- The Jigsaw Puzzle.com: <https://thejigsawpuzzles.com/>
 - Lots of puzzles, but only about a dozen depicting stamps
- Daily Jigsaw Puzzles: <https://www.dailyjigsawpuzzles.net/>
 - Hundreds of puzzles, but only found a few of stamps

Spreading the Fun: Giving a gift of a jigsaw puzzle of postage stamps is a great way to get family and friends thinking about stamps. It's a way to share your hobby with others without overwhelming them into starting a collection. Working on a stamp jigsaw puzzle is a way to share my pastime with my wife who isn't interested in collecting.

Remembrance, Connection, Witness: The Making of a Holocaust Exhibit

5/14/2020

“The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem; he gathers in the scattered sons of Israel. It is he who heals the broken in spirit and binds up their wounds, he who numbers the stars one by one.” from *Number the Stars* qtd. Psalms 147: 2-4.

In 2009, Charlotte Sheer’s fifth grade students at Foxborough Regional Charter School read the best-selling children’s book *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, in which a young Danish girl helps smuggle Danish Jewish families out of German-occupied Denmark during WWII. A key line in the book, “[The Lord] gathers in the scattered sons of Israel ... he who numbers the stars one by one,” spurred a project that would span eight years and bring together thousands of people in a common goal: honoring the innocent lives destroyed by the Nazi’s reign of terror with stamps.

The students began with a goal of collecting 6 million stamps, to represent the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and then revised their goal to 11 million postage stamps. The number, reports Charlotte Sheer, “represents 6 million Jews, including 1.5 million children, and 5 million others in 21 European countries who were annihilated by Hitler’s ruthless regime in Nazi Germany.”

Charlotte Sheer’s class planned to collect the stamps as an enrichment activity. The Holocaust Stamps Project quickly became a shared project for the entire school community of kindergarten through grade 12 students – and the response was overwhelming. Volunteers in the Foxboro, Massachusetts, community donated thousands of hours of time helping to cut stamps off paper, and individuals and organizations from 48 states and 24 countries gathered and donated used postage stamps.

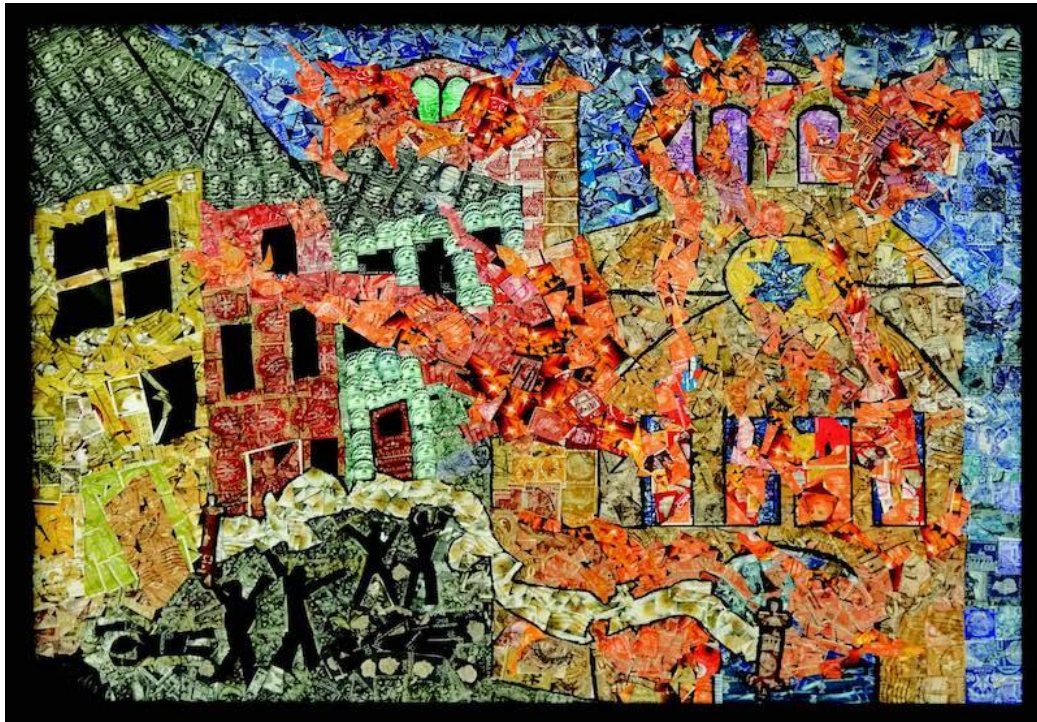
Not only did the Foxborough students collect 11 million stamps, but they also designed and created 18 (the numerals of which in Hebrew also spell *chai*, “life”) stamp art collages. The collages were paired with civics and history lessons that familiarized students with the events of the Holocaust and its impact, which spread like a wave across the world.

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Foxborough students of all ages collaborated on 18 stamp collages. Each represents a different unique story. Kristallnacht commemorates the Night of Broken Glass, an organized attack on Jews carried out on November 9, 1938. Kristallnacht is considered by many to be a trigger event for the Holocaust.



Immortal Butterfly honors the memories of those who suffered and died in the Terezin, Czechoslovakia, ghetto/concentration camp. The poem "The Butterfly" is inscribed on the collage – its poet, Pavel Friedman, did not survive the Holocaust.

In 2017, Foxborough Regional Charter School received final donations that pushed them over their 11-million stamp goal. By 2018, with their project completed and 18 collages finished, the school celebrated the accomplishment of visually representing, and honoring the memories of, the six million Jews and five million other ‘enemies of the Nazi state’ who were killed.

And now the finished Holocaust Stamps Project has found a new home at the American Philatelic Society.

A New Home — Creating an Exhibit



11 million stamps in storage from Foxborough Regional Charter School. The stamps will be displayed behind a large glass panel at the center of the exhibit.

In the fall of 2019, APS Executive Director Scott English and Chief Content Officer Thomas Loebig traveled to Massachusetts to meet the Foxborough students and Jamie Droste, who worked with Charlotte Sheer to coordinate the Holocaust Stamps Project after Sheer’s retirement. Their trip is the subject of [Scott English’s “Our Story” column from December 2019](#). When Scott and Tom returned to the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, their van was filled with nearly half of the 11 million stamps and artworks; a second trip by Building Manager Fred Fox brought the remainder back.

The American Philatelic Society formed a Holocaust Stamps Project committee, under the direction of Education director, Dr. Cathy Brachbill, which would design and put together a permanent exhibit for the Holocaust Stamps Project, preserving the successful completion of a truly unique educational initiative, honoring the students’ goal to gain a deeper understanding of acceptance, tolerance, and respect for diversity in their own daily lives, and preserving also the stories of every person who was moved to donate in support of the Project.

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This space in the American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, will be devoted to the exhibit of Holocaust-era postal history items, many of the stamp collages by Foxborough students, and a display of the 11 million stamps. Visitors will be guided through the exhibit with the help of informational displays.



The Holocaust Exhibit planning committee meets in late February. Committee members include APS volunteer Darlene Bloom, APS staff members Dr. Cathy Brachbill, Erin Seamans, Marian Mills, Susanna Mills, Heidi Rhoades, Kathleen Edwards, Fred Fox, and Content intern Jo Chen (Penn State University)

The committee also developed a second, parallel goal: to shape the exhibit around the history of the Holocaust, using resources that are unique to the American Philatelic Society. Whereas the Holocaust Stamps Project represents remembrance, recognition, and a present-day pledge to combat intolerance, the American Philatelic Society is uniquely situated to provide evidence and education in the form of irrefutable postal history. The committee reached out to prominent Holocaust-era philatelists, including Justin Gordon, Keith Stupell, and Ken Lawrence, and drew upon philatelic exhibits, books, and articles to develop a postal history exhibit that would complement the Holocaust Stamp Project materials. The committee also worked with local Jewish leaders and historians from Penn State University to develop guidelines for the exhibit.

These two purposes for the exhibit shaped many of the committee's decisions that followed. Visitors to the American Philatelic Center after the exhibit's opening in June will witness that unfathomable tragedy as represented by the 11 million stamps that were collected by the

Foxborough Regional Charter School students. *[Editor's note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the exhibit's opening has been postponed.]* You will see a timeline of the events of the Holocaust and the spread of concentration camps and ghettos across Europe, with postal cards, information cards, and other surviving remnants of postal history connected to the dates and locations. You will bear witness to individual victims of the Nazis, many of whom would die in the concentration camps, through a single piece of paper that may be the only remaining evidence of their lives. You will also see this history carried forward into the future, through the connections forged by Foxborough students with survivors, family and friends of Holocaust victims.

ED: This was the first project recognized by the club on the club website under the 'Giving back' section on the website. The club received a very nice letter from the founder of the project in March 2017 which can be found under 'SJSC in Print' section on the website.

Newsletter Bits !

FOR SALE

2021 Scott Catalogues including U.S. Specialized. \$300.00, plus \$42.00 if shipped. Volume I available now, others as new ones are issued.

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FRAUD ALERT !

This comes from China Stamp Society. A group of users on eBay are flooding the market with many well done forgeries that could damage the market if continued. Offered by **qwert8868**, supposedly of Livermore, CA (actually of Pintung, Taiwan). Earlier they were thought to be a success username of **micormayotota**, **nikolay1111**, **mamotoscope**, and **mawh47**, as they had disappeared from U.S. eBay and had previously been offering the same sort of material. Sometime after the mailing of our March magazine **royallionstamps**, of Taichung, Taiwan, replaced **qwert8688** on U.S eBay with all the same listings formally offered by **qwert8688**. It is now known that some of these prior user names are still active on eBay in other countries. They are usernames: **micormayotota**, supposedly of Sydney, Australia; **mamotoscope**, supposedly of Melbourne, Australia; **qwert8688** supposedly of Livermore, CA; and **mawh47**, supposedly of Penang, Malaysia. REMEMBER: If it sounds to good to be true, it probably is!

Private Mailing Card Act



Item #MRS1948 – Scare 1898 Private Mailing Card.

On May 19, 1898, Congress passed the Private Mailing Card Act. The act allowed private printers to produce their own postcards with the same postage rate as government-issued cards.

The US Post Office didn't begin producing postal cards until the 1870s. Up until that time, people mailed cards with postage on them, and they were called "mailed cards." There were also picture envelopes, which may have been early inspiration for postcards. Congress passed an act in 1861 that allowed privately printed cards weighing under one ounce to be sent through the mail.



Item #MRS1948 – The pictorial side of this classic postcard pictures "The Terrace" in New York City's Central Park and a message written by the sender.

Then on June 8, 1872, Congress passed another act approving the US Post Office to produce its own postal cards. The first of these was issued on May 1, 1873, with one side for the message and the other side for the recipient's address. By this new act, the Post Office's cards were the only ones allowed to have the words "Postal Card" printed on them. Additionally, privately-printed cards were more expensive – 2¢ compared to the Post Office's 1¢ cards.



US #5550-53 – The current postcard rate stamps – 36¢ Barns, issued in January 2021. Then on May 19, 1898, Congress passed the Private Mailing Card Act. This new act allowed private companies to produce their own postcards that could be mailed at the same price as government cards – 1¢. The private cards were required to include the statement "Private Mailing Card, Authorized by Act of Congress of May 19, 1898." Messages couldn't be written on the address side – in fact the address side usually had the phrase "This side is exclusively for the address." Many of these cards also included "Postal Card – Carte Postale" – which meant they were able to be mailed internationally.

In 1901, the Postmaster General amended some of the 1898 act's provisions. From that time on, the cards could read "Post Card" instead of "Private Mailing Card." Additionally, the cards no longer needed to cite the 1898 Mailing Card Act.

Another significant change came in 1907. That year the Universal Postal Union declared that all member nations' postal cards could have messages on the left half of the address side. The US Post Office made this change to its postal cards and permitted private card manufacturers to do the same on their postcards. This era is often considered the "Golden Age of Postcards" because of the rapid increase in their popularity.

First Native American Day



US #565 – 1923 stamp picturing Hollow Horn Bear. One of the first recorded celebrations of Native American Day was held on May 13, 1916, in New York. Other states adopted similar days before the first national celebrations were held in 1976. Today, Native

American Heritage Day is held in November, which is also American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

Calls for increased recognition began in the early 1900s. One of the leading proponents was Dr. Arthur Caswell Parker, a relative of Brigadier General Ely S. Parker, who had been secretary to Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War and the first American Indian Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Dr. Parker had founded several organizations dedicated to American Indian rights and was a leading advocate for them to get US citizenship.



US #1734 is the smallest US postage stamp. Another contributor to the cause was Reverend Red Fox James. In 1914 he made a 4,000-mile journey on horseback to the White House to request the president establish an "Indian Day." He made another trip the

following year, going state-to-state pursuing support from governors. In December 1915, he presented the White House with a petition supported by 24 governors.

On September 18, 1915, Arapaho minister Reverend Sherman Coolidge issued a proclamation declaring the second Saturday in May as "American Indian Day." The following year, New York became the first state to issue a formal designation of American Indian Day. They set the second Saturday in May, falling on May 13 in 1916, as American Indian Day.



US #972 was issued for the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, and

Seminole Indian tribes in Oklahoma.

In the years to come, several other states adopted the fourth Friday in September as American Indian Day. And in 1924, Congress passed the Citizenship Act, which granted citizenship to all US-born American Indians. The act was later expanded to include Alaska Natives.



US # 3072-76 pictures five American Indian dances.

Additional state days were proclaimed over the years. Then in 1976, President Gerald Ford established a Native American Awareness Week in October. Since then, America's presidents and Congress have designated a day, a week, or a month each year to honor American Indians and Alaska Natives.



US #C70 pictures a Tlingit Totem.

In 1977, the United Nations declared the first Indigenous Peoples Day during the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas. In 1989, South Dakota established 1990 as the Year of Reconciliation for

Native Americans and changed Columbus Day to Native American Day. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush declared the Year of the American Indian. That year also marked some of the first celebrations of Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday in October (in place of Columbus Day). Two years later the United Nations designated August 9 as the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

In 2009, Congress passed legislation that established the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. November is also American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

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