

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30

—30—



www.wu30.org

Fourth Quarter 2011

Stamp News Increases Web Publishing



John Dunn

Progress Report: Stamp News Subscribers Like What They See.

In a finding that will be of particular interest to philatelic writers and publishers, six months after launching its newest publication, *Stamp News Online*, Stamp News Magazines reports that renewal rates are up for all of its publications, from a 72% renewals rate last year at this time to 82% this year. Not only that, but the length of renewals is up even more, 1.2 year renewals being the average last year and 1.6 years being the renewals this year, as an increasing number of readers now extend for two years or more.

Stamp News publisher John Dunn ascribes this renewals improvement to a number of factors, foremost being the restructuring of all of Stamp News Publishing's periodicals. "What we learned when we launched online-only *Stamp News Online*, we also applied to improve the content and format of our other magazines, and collectors like what they see."

The oldest, *Mekeel's & STAMPS Magazine (M&S)*, the merged successor to *Mekeel's Weekly* (founded in 1891) and *STAMPS Magazine* (founded in 1932), provides a full range of U.S. and worldwide articles of lasting value, from classic stamps and covers to new issues and FDCs. *M&S* is now available online as well as in print. *U.S. Stamp News (USSN)* monthly is devoted to all aspects of U.S. philately, from stampless covers and Carriers and Locals stamps to modern varieties and FDCs. *USSN*, which was founded in 1995 and acquired *U.S. Stamps & Postal History* at that time, also is available in print or online.

Dunn explained, "We have some readers who subscribe to both print and online versions of either or both magazines, but in most cases they select one or the other. While print subs are holding their own, a higher percentage of new subscribers are opting for the online versions, which cost less, arrive earlier and undamaged, and have more full color. As expected, they appeal to a new generation of stamp collectors, but the most surprising result has been the number of older print readers, even into their 80's, who

have transitioned to the online versions." The newest magazine, not only for Stamp News but also for the world of philatelic publishing, is *Stamp News Online (SNO)*. Starting with a clean slate, the Stamp News staff designed something especially suitable for online readers, with new features that call upon the vast resources of the web, traditional articles that are improved and expanded upon with web-resourced images and information, and a format that fits more with the internet browsing structure.

Looking ahead, Dunn declared, "*Stamp News Online* already is an artistic success, and now it is time to make it a financial success. Based on the feedback and the spurt in subscriptions after we put new sample editions online, we are ready to use *SNO* as the spearhead to increase circulation across the board." At present, free samples of all three publications can be accessed online. The *Stamp News Online* home page is <http://www.stampnewsonline.net/>, (not .com) and from there subscription information and the May 2011 issue can be accessed as a sample.

Mekeel's & Stamps and *U.S. Stamp News* samples and subscription information are available at <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/>. Readers who don't have web access can phone free, cell 603-424-7556, for information or send \$2.50 per sample or \$4 for both *M&S* and *USSN* to Stamp News 42 Sentry Way, Merrimack, NH 03054. ☞

The Insider Goes Fully Digital-

Editor Albert Starkweather reported to the Virtual Stamp Club on September 16, 2011:

Why the Insider Went Digital

This was a decision that was not made lightly. The possibility of going digital had been in the talking stages for some time.

With its dwindling advertising base, the *Stamp Insider* was faced with either discontinuing the publication or going digital. Neither the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies member organizations and small subscriber base nor the advertisers were willing to support the substantial increase required to continue printing and mailing the journal.

Insider continued on page 4



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David Crotty From the Editor

Philately is an odd mix because it is both a hobby and a business. Since I was never a true "businessman" I probably don't truly understand that part of it, but this applies to the publishing part of the story too. Part of it is a business.

The commercial magazines and newspapers have been experimenting with online publication as have been the many society journals. Of course it is less expensive to operate a website than to send out print material (or is it?).

There was a discussion thread on the Virtual Stamp Club (VSC) recently that asked people how they view the email editions of newspapers like *Linn's Stamp News*. Personally I do scan through the weekly edition that is emailed to me. But I often read the entire article when it shows up in the mail about a week later. It seems to be easier for me to read on paper than on the screen. I think it has something to do with the condition of my eyes more than anything else. Also, I only see half of the page on-screen which is a bit of a bother. Maybe this is just an old man talking, or it might be my low end LED monitor.

The *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin* goes to about 60% of the members by email but most of those folk still get it by mail anyway. Several who always complained about how hard it was to get the online edition finally were able to upgrade from dial-up and that changed their entire perspective. High speed is not available everywhere, and sometimes the DSL connections are almost as bad as dial-up. We need to keep this point in mind.

Then there is the issue of memberships. Many societies have declined lately. Our interview with John Dunn discusses his point of view. An economist friend, David Foot (see 1st Q issue), points out that the stamp collector base may actually be increasing. These folk get what they want online (ie eBay) and do not (as yet anyway) join societies. Perhaps this invisible majority will emerge in some unexpected way. Perhaps they will be seeking literature to help them understand what they are seeing? Will we be ready?

Finally, while on the subject of Writer's Unit #30 membership. Secretary Treasurer George Griffenhagen provides the grim facts on page 19. We have included a membership application on page 18. Each of you certainly knows several people who should be members of the WU#30. Make a copy and pass it on to them.

Dave



Kenneth Trettin *President's View*

So . . . even after editing a philatelic journal (The American Revenuer) for thirty-five years, I still find that the hardest part of the job is writing an editorial, or in this case, a president's column. Bear with me, this is a first for me. I have no cause to take up other than I have been a long time member of the WU30, I have been serving on the board and it seems to me to be my turn to step up and take this position for a while. I will act for the betterment of the society.

The major problem facing WU30 is the same as for most other philatelic organizations: declining membership. I would like to hear from the membership, especially any of you who might be considering dropping your membership; just what should the society do to keep you as a member? Please, do write; a post card, letter or email will do. Your name will be kept confidential but your ideas will be openly discussed.

So . . . An editor for over thirty-five years? What keeps me going; what are my likes and dislikes. Probably much the same as for many of you. I am totally involved in the hobby of philately; I love writing and editing—I love the language. I have found a number of sites on the internet that sort of feed this love. You may know of them, maybe not. I will bring one or two each time I write to you.

The first is <theslot.com>. The Slot is written by Bill Walsh, the copy chief for national news at the Washington Post and author of *Lapsing into a comma: A curmudgeon's guide to the many things that can go wrong in print—and how to avoid them* and *The elephants of style: a trunkload of tips on the big issues and gray areas of contemporary American English*.

I have also developed any number of dislikes. The first being incomplete references. Here we have at fault both authors who supply incomplete information and editors who put these incomplete references into print. The actual format is not that important (although you should be consistent within your publication). What is important is a reader at some time in the future should be able to easily find the source to which you are referring. Any number of how-to and style guides can provide guidance.

So . . . how's this for a first time? That bad . . . we'll talk again.



WU30 Election Results

The Ballot for the election of 2011-2013 officers and 2011-2015 Council members was published in the Second Quarter 2011 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. Forty-nine ballots were received by the July 22, 2011, deadline, including two from Canada and one from France. This is the second largest number of Ballots cast in the past twenty years, exceeded only by 65 Ballots cast in the 2003 contested election. The results are:

President 2011-2013

- 48 Kenneth Trettin, #0993 (Rockford, Iowa)
- 1 Lloyd de Vries, #1503
(Washington TWP, New Jersey)

1st Vice President, 2011-2013

- 48 Lloyd de Vries, #1503
(Washington TWP, New Jersey)
- 1 Allan Warren, #0066 (Exton, Pennsylvania)

2nd Vice President, 2011-2013

- 47 David E. Crotty, #1969 (Ludlow, Kentucky)

Secretary-Treasurer 2011-2013

- 49 George Griffenhagen, #0318 (Woodbridge, Virginia)

Council 2009-2013

- 47 Dane S. Claussen, #1243 (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- 47 Foster E. Miller III, #1846 (Annapolis, Maryland)
- 49 Daniel C. Warren, M.D., #0228
(Gloucester Pt., Virginia)
- 1 Allan Warren, #0066 (Exton, Pennsylvania)

2011-12 Literature Exhibits

APS StampShow August 11-14, 2011, Columbus Ohio.

www.stamps.org/StampShow.

CHICAGOPEX November 18-20, 2011, Itasca, Illinois,

www.chicagopex.com/id12.html

NAPEX, TBD 2012.

Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

My Guidelines for Beginning Philatelic Authors



John Hotchner

There is no short course in writing skills for new contributors to philatelic publications, but those are among my favorite people to work with as part of

our task as established writers/editors is to recruit and work with the people who will one day replace us. They have to start somewhere, and with whatever writing skills they have. But it is not infrequently that I pull out whatever little hair I have left in editing their first efforts. I do not claim to be the perfect writer or editor, but I have been doing both for over 40 years, and feel competent to attempt a list of guidelines to help beginning writers to produce usable copy. I am certain that other APSWU members can add to it, and welcome your writing to our editor with additions, or contrary opinions. The list that follows is not in any special order. All items are of roughly equal importance.

Guidelines for Beginning Philatelic Authors

1. Shorter is better. This applies to sentences (simple and declarative), paragraphs (no more than ten typed lines, and preferably fewer), and articles (your objective is to convey facts or your opinion, not to write the Great American Novel). Readers will react subconsciously and negatively to large blocks of text, and may not even attempt your prose if it looks daunting.
2. Never use 50 words where 25 will do. Look up the word “bloviating”. Some authors seem to think lengthy text looks scholarly. In fact, your task is to convey precise meaning in the fewest possible words. My job as an editor is to cut out the excess, and you ought to learn the discipline of doing that on your own.
3. Editorializing – giving your personal opinions – is fine so long as it is identified as such, and not as fact. There is a world of difference between “Stamp collecting has been in decline for the last 30 years.” and “It is my opinion that
4. Check your facts. Because you remember reading it a few weeks – or years – ago does not make it so. Google makes this less onerous, as does a well-kept clipping file. But don’t say it unless you are 100% certain it is true.
5. Use spell and grammar check. They don’t eliminate most problems, but they do identify most. Even better, have your spouse or a friend read your draft.
6. Put your illustrations at the end of your text, or as an attachment. Do NOT embed them in the text. Though your ‘publisher’ program can produce wonderful integrated pages, don’t do this unless you are asked to do so.

7. Do refer to your illustrations in the text with a short description and Figure 1, Figure 2, etc. And label the illustrations so I don’t have to guess.
 8. Words have precise meanings. Make sure the ones you use mean what you intend them to mean. Don’t guess. Look up words of which you are not certain.
 9. Read your text for logical progression. First should come your premise and the assumptions you are making, then the conclusion you draw from them. And then your proof(s), and a summary.
 10. Do not repeat points. You will not need to if they are in the right place.
 11. The first time you use a phrase or name that can be abbreviated, spell it out and provide the abbreviation; e.g. “Scott Catalogue Value (SCV)”, and then use the abbreviation from that point on.
 12. Spell out one through ten, and use numbers from 11 onward.
 13. When you include the name of a resource (the name of a club, book or website), also provide the address of a contact point so that the reader can actually make contact
 14. Provide your text in double spaced draft if possible. If the editor finds it necessary to return it to you for corrections or further work, you will be better able to follow the editor’s notations.
- If you are writing a series of articles, repeat only the essential conclusions of preceding articles. Always seek to plow new ground in new articles. 

Insider continued from page 1

The Federation member clubs were notified by e-mail and telephone, as well as with the annual Federation membership invoice. Subscribers will get a refund for their remaining issues along with information on how to access the Stamp Insider.

The *Stamp Insider* will be free to everyone at its new dedicated website www.stampinsider.org. Advertisers will get click-through to their websites and e-mail addresses, as well as a rotating banner ad if they desire. Advertising rates have been reduced by 50 percent. The free online format potentially will offer advertisers a much larger customer base.

The mission of the publication will remain unchanged, to provide the best possible content to its readers and member organizations. The new site will offer the journal in two formats, pdf and a new, easy-to-use page turning program. A sample of the latter may be viewed on the new site. Organizations may request issues on CD-ROM for a nominal fee. Please contact me for information.

Albert W. Starkweather, Editor

Editor’s Note: The first on-line issue. November-December, appeared November 1.



HMS *Pinafore* or *HMS Pinafore*?

David Crotty

Some months ago there was an email exchange between a number of people. Somehow they included myself. This was long before anyone thought that I would (or even could) be editor of TPC. I think I had volunteered to take the role of associate editor by that time. In any case the discussion centered around the correct way to print the prefixes for ship names, HMS, USS, SS, etc.

Some writers reported that when they wrote for one journal the rule was to italicize the prefix. At other journals the rule was to use capitalized un-italicized text. It occurred to me that a writer should consult one of the major stylebooks and use what they use. I made a comment to that effect and the email string ended. They may have continued, for all I know, without me.

I later actually bought the *Associated Press Stylebook 2011*. This reference seemed to show that we were all wrong. With the term "italics" it states "AP does not italicize words in news stories. Italics are used in Stylebook entries to highlight examples of correct and incorrect usage." I went to the library to search other stylebooks with similar results. Many publications do not use italics, going back to the hot type era when special characters were simply not available.

It happens that when I taught high school back in the 1960's an English teacher was in my circle of friends and we also taught at the same school, McNicolas High School, in Cincinnati. I went on to graduate school, my wife and I moved to Detroit and didn't return for 35 years. On our return we received a notice that this teacher, Kathy McCabe Bollmer, was going to retire. I made it my busi-

ness to attend the party in the school library and it was as if all those former co-workers of mine had just walked into the teacher break room.

I asked Kathy about our dilemma. Her response was as follows:

"It's so exciting to get a grammar question!! So few people care these days, especially all these texting mavens. In all my years of teaching punctuation I have never had to deal with the issue you pose, and I have to say that I haven't had much success in finding an authoritative source. The best I could do was Wikipedia: Manual of Style. That source does confirm that the while the ship's name is underlined or italicized, the prefix is not. Seems odd, doesn't it?? But many grammar rules appear to be arbitrary."

Please notice that Kathy's usage of double explanation and question marks is hers, not mine. Kathy's reference was a bit hard to track down. However in Wikipedia there is an article named "Wikipedia: Naming conventions (ships)". In that article all examples of civilian and military ships have the ship name italicized but the prefix is plain capitalized text.

I'm going to appoint Kathy Bollmer as our Grammar Consultant. Whenever anyone has a grammar dilemma please contact me and I will forward your story to her for corrections. She has her red pencil ready. 



Kathy Bollmer
Grammar Consultant

APS Meeting Notes at StampShow 2011

Lloyd de Vries

The meeting room was jammed. Extra chairs were brought in, and still many people were left standing. Although there were scattered seats available, they were hard to get to.

APS President Wade Saadi said the only complaint he's heard about this show is the distance from the headquarters hotel. I learned later that the show was originally scheduled for the hall next door, a little closer, but was bumped because the convention center double-booked this weekend.

After the volunteer awards were presented, Saadi asked for a show of hands of anyone in the room who had ever

volunteered for the APS, been on or is currently on the Board, or on the APS staff, and about three-fourths of those present raised their hands. "Damn good!" Saadi said.

He noted that because the APS is no longer using any donation funds for operations, it can renovate space in the American Philatelic Center without a mortgage.

Board of Vice Presidents chairman Nick Lombardi reported that the BVP had handled 15-20 cases in the past year. He cautioned that no matter how long you've known the other party in a transaction, "get it in writing." It's a hobby, we're here to enjoy ourselves." 

WU30 Breakfast at StampShow 2011



Figure 1. Past APS President Janet Klug and Joe Crosby (Oklahoma) with guest speaker James Kloetzel.

The latest WU#30 Breakfast was held in Columbus during the StampShow 2011. As usual the room was full and lively, but when asked about membership fully half of the attendees admitted they were not members of WU#30.

Figure 1 shows a portion of a table seated with Janet Klug, Joe Crosby and guest speaker James Kloetzel.

Figure 2 shows Janet Klug introducing the 2011 Hall of Fame Inductees. Robert Odenweller followed by describing the work of Kees Adema. Janet then introduced Fred Gregory, and Alan Warren talked about the work of Alfred Kugel.

In total the WU#30 Hall of Fame has been enhanced by the presence of Kees Adema of Connecticut, Fred F. Gregory of California, Alfred F. "Al" Kugel of Illinois and Jaques Minkus (1901-1996). Figure 3 is a group shot taken later with James Kloetzel, the guest speaker, Fred Gregory, Al Kugel, Almost Past President Pete Martin and Kees Adema.

Past APS President Janet Klug introduced our guest speaker James "Jim" Kloetzel (Figure 4) the editor of *The Scott Catalogues*. Jim gave an energetic speech describing in part his career at Scott, some of which was described in the 3rd Quarter issue of TPC. His first story was about the time then new editor Michael Laurence tried to change the catalog name from the British "Catalogue." Even today in the press, the entire product is a "catalog" unless the formal name "Scott Catalogue" is used.

He discussed the upcoming improvements in feature articles in the US Specialized Catalogue and that more of the catalog, including these articles, would soon be available online. He announced that eventually (soon?) the subscriber would be able to download favorite country catalogs to readers like the iPad. Jim will be semi-retired, going back to the parts of the job he really enjoys with the US and Canada catalogs.

The meeting continued with Bob Odenweller announcing and presenting the StampShow Literature awards (see page 17 for a complete listing). Figure 5 shows Peter Mar-



Figure 2. Past APS President Janet Klug introduces the Hall of Fame Inductees.



Figure 3. James Kloetzel, Fred Gregory, Al Kugel, Pete Martin, Kees Adema

tin presenting the Writers Unit #30 Literature Grand Award to HOF honoree Al Kugel who was representing the Collectors Club of Chicago.

The election of officers was announced and a full listing of election results can be found on page 3.

Now Past President Peter Martin introduced the new President Kenneth Trettin, Figure 6, as well as the other officers who were elected in July.

APS President Wade Saadi and Cheryl Ganz announced and gave out the Door Prizes.

The Youth Fellowship Program award-ees were also introduced to the breakfast group by organizer Alex Haimann, Figure 7.

Editor's Note: The editor apologizes for the quality of these photos. The only camera in the room was his own cell phone. At least we have a few photos of the events.



Figure 4. Guest Speaker James Kloetzel, Editor of Scott Catalogues.



Figure 5. HOF Honoree Al Klugel accepts the WU#30 Literature Grand Award for the Collectors Club of Chicago from President Pete Martin.



Figure 6. New President Ken Trettin takes the Podium.



Figure 7. Youth Fellowship Program organizer Alex Haimann introduced new and previous Fellowship awardees.

Writers Unit #30 (What?)



Mathew J. Bowyer

Being suspected or expected of possessing some special postal knowledge, members of our Writers

Unit #30 are often asked to speak at stamp clubs. Your next time up, here's a subject for you that attracts attention, even if used only as a lead into your main topic. Additionally, it is a needed plug for our personal club, the Writers Unit #30.

The field of philately has clubs, associations and organizations for every type of stamp and postal history study and collecting hobby imaginable. And, there are several hundred such groups, considering that aside from clubs for specific postal specialties, most every state, city and geographical area have their own local stamp clubs for the general stamp collectors.

However, there is only one group of major adherents to the art and science of postal writing. That organization is officially known as the APS Writers Unit #30. It was organized by sixteen philatelic writers in September 1967, and immediately became affiliated with the American Philatelic Society.

Typically, when an uninformed person sees or hears the #30 appended to the Writers Unit name, he or she wonders, "What's the #30 for?" Well, that's a story by itself. That unique part of our name affords the world an enlightening tidbit of philately. It all started many years ago, even unto the days of the pioneer printer Ben Franklin, back when type for printing was set by hand, letter-by-letter. Elevated in front of the typesetter would be *cases* of the alphabet, the 26 letters plus 4 symbols, thirty to the case, with the top case being the capital letters. (That's where and how the world got the designation of "Upper case" for capital letters.) Subsequently, in the course of history, when transmission of information by wire

came into being, the person doing the transmission, in accordance with standard operating procedures, would insert the symbol -30- at the end of each story or article, to show that it was the end of that story or article.

Many journalists and writers of that day, necessarily being adaptable to the changing times, soon adopted the practice of inserting the symbol -30- at the end of all their compositions and even their personal letters. Later, as society modernized, such a symbol sometimes was conceived as antiquated and fell into disuse. However, some of today's composers of the written word use the symbol -30- to, at least, let fellow writers know of their knowledge and adherence to traditions of the writing art and trade.

In the professional world of linguistics any graphic character, symbol or figure which stands for an intention or object is known as an ideogram or ideograph. Thus it is suspected that the philatelists who formed the American Philatelic Society's Writers Unit #30 exercised their knowledge of their craft by inserting the esoteric -30- in their unit's name. A more critical or severe analysis of the inserters of that -30- could say that those who formed this Unit wanted to show their knowledge of epistemology, which is, quoting Webster's dictionary, "the theory or science of knowledge which treats of its origin, validity and relation to human experience." Whatever, with us the "#30" is here to stay.

Editor's Note: A member of the Virtual Stamp Club recently asked a similar question. After being given a similar explanation he responded "so I can stop looking for the other 29 Writers Units?" Mathew Bowyer is the author of the 1972 book *They Carried the Mail A survey of Postal History & Hobbies*, which was brought back in print in 2001. He reports that he has several book manuscripts in the final stages that run the gamut from history to novellas.



The Philatelic Journalist

The Journal of the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philateliques

The Philatelic Journalist is publication of AIJP based in Den Hag, Netherlands printed three times a year. Despite the French society name, the journal is printed in German and English. The society began as early as 1927 and continued until the war. It was restarted in 1962. The publication has used several names over the years and carries news for writers, publishers and editors in Europe.

Issues for 2011 have included articles concerning the literature AIJP congress at IPHLA 2012 in November at

Mainz and the results of recent literature exhibitions, as well as the meeting held in Chur, Switzerland this September. It also included an article describing plagiarism issues suffered by a German government minister whose doctoral thesis did not contain the proper references. Also a recent German magazine article describing the sale of a large philatelic collection used direct quotes without proper credits. Membership is 40 Euro and can be arranged through the website www.AIJP.org.



U.S. Stamp News and Meekels & Stamps Then and Now



David Crotty

John Dunn was inducted into the Writers Unit #30 Hall of Fame in 2009. He is the publisher for *U.S. Stamp News*, and *Meekels & Stamps* as well as the new *Stamp News Online* (see cover story). I gave John a call this summer to talk about publishing today and how it has changed. He graciously gave me a rather long interview.

The history of these philatelic journals goes back to at least 1891 when Mekeel started his newsletter. *Stamps Magazine* started in 1932. In 1995 John's organization purchased *Stamps Magazine* and merged it with *Meekels*. Also in 1995 he started *US Stamp News* and merged it with *US Stamps & Postal History*.

John got into the philatelic publishing business rather suddenly and unexpectedly in 1988. He became aware that the *Mekeel's* owners wanted out and on February 18, 1988 he was able to purchase the journal. At that time he got all the past volumes of the journal and a small Apple computer. It took him two months to get to the point where he could resume the publication. He hired a consultant for a few hours who recommended the MAC (Apple Macintosh), Filemaker, Photoshop and Microsoft Word. He learned to print out pages and take them to a commercial printer. Sometimes there was a lot of actual "cut and paste."

He points out that the old *Mekeel's* articles often look fresh today and can be reprinted when they complement current events. The content of today's *Meekels and Stamps* is similar today in terms of discussions of the stamp varieties and postal history.

One Friday in 1995 he received word that *Stamps Magazine* would shut down. Negotiations proceeded through the weekend and an agreement was made on Monday. John says that the best part of that deal was that editor John Leszak came with the Magazine, who remains as the editor today.

Also in 1995 John started *US Stamp News* with John Hotchner as editor with a focus on US stamps and varieties.

Today *Meekels & Stamps* has about 5000 subscribers. *US Stamp News* has about 4500. The startup of *Stamp News Online* and the various types of print or online subscriptions available makes it difficult to pin down actual number. John says that total subscriptions for all three publications is about 15,000.

The most interesting part of the conversation started when I asked "what's different between then and now." He discussed the concept of a "trend line." In the 1950's

stamp collecting was a hobby for young and old. CIPEX in 1948 had 250,000 attending. After the war the high point was the idea that mint sheets would put the kids through college. Gradually the kids moved out and had to deal with other issues and the older folks lost interest or their eyesight got bad. It became a "declining hobby." To make things worse the media began to characterize the stamp collector as the odd relative or neighbor.

Today, however the collectors tend to be a cut above average. They are better educated with some resources. It is a smaller group that looks for something more intellectual. These people have a lot going for them and have a bit more self esteem. The stamp hobby is trying to aim toward the family and includes both the boys and the girls.

Today's *Meekel's & Stamps*, Figure 1, is seen as an article storehouse of leading experts with content of lasting value for the world and US. Not really a place for news of the day and represents the whole hobby.

US Stamp News, Figure 2, has always been dedicated to US philatelic topics.

The new *US Stamp News Online*, Figure 3, is a combination of materials that are up to date along with specialty material.

Actually all the journals are essentially online. The publisher provides a number of subscription options that include print and online delivery.



Figure 1. *Meekels & Stamps*

Figure 2. *US Stamp News*



Figure 3. *US Stamp News Online*



Alan Warren National Postal Museum Notes

The web site of the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum holds a wealth of philatelic information. In addition to the Finding Guides described in past columns, there are notices of upcoming special events, temporary exhibits, and many other resources. One of the outstanding features is the Arago system that is a wonderful teaching/learning aid. You just pick a topic and watch the information unfold.

As an example, go to this URL and learn about the famous Columbians set, considered America's first commemorative stamps. <http://arago.si.edu/flash/?slide=1&id=368&s1=6> A brief overview sets the stage for these

well known stamps issued in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago during the term that John Wanamaker served as Postmaster General.

Details found there include the derivation of the design for each stamp. Illustrative materials include imperf proofs and the stamps as issued. One can also see sheets of 100 of some of these stamps and an especially stunning item is the set of imperf die proof pairs from the Benjamin Miller Collection. The story ends with some examples of the stamps used on cover including the entire set on one envelope!



For researchers, writers, and just plain collectors, there is much to study and admire at the National Postal Museum and its web site. Avail yourself of the myriad delights that await the surfer.



Youth Fellowship Program Expands



Lloyd de Vries

There will be five members of the Youth Philatelic Leaders Fellowship this coming year, and not just one but five sponsors:

- American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors
- U.S. Philatelic Classics Society
- Central Atlantic Stamp Dealers Association (CASDA)
- Sue and Jim Dempsey of A&D Stamps
- Charles Shreve

CASDA is now defunct, and donated its \$19,000 in remaining funds to the APS, half to be used for the Fellowship for this year and next.

Here are some photos of the members of the program: Alumni, graduating members, current fellows and (in front) some runners-up who will be strong candidates for future programs). The more casual photo is from the Saturday morning APS General membership meeting, the dressier photo is from the APS Awards Dinner. Both show YPLF organizer Alex Haimann at the podium



Reviews

Print & Electronic



Norwegian Philatelic Yearbook

Filatelistisk Årbok, (Philatelic Yearbook) for the years 2003-2010, ed. Trygve Karlsen. Each book 160 pages, 5 3/4 by 8 1/4 inches, perfect bound, card covers, in Norwegian, Norsk Filatelistforbund, Oslo, Norway. \$16, \$18, or \$21 each depending on year, plus shipping, from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349 or www.jaysmith.com.

These annual volumes are quite different from the American Philatelic Congress books, the Swedish postal museum's *Posttryttaren*, and Finland postal museum's *Tabellarius*. Those three hardbound books contain original articles. The Norwegian yearbooks are annual anthologies of a selection of articles that appeared during the previous year, mostly in Norwegian philatelic journals but occasionally taken from a Norwegian national exhibition catalog. Thus a wide variety of topics is to be expected.

Some years ago the articles were simply reproduced from their sources and cut-and-pasted into the book with different typefaces. Now they are reproduced in quality versions with the original illustrations and in a consistent standard format so that the collection is more like a handbook. Several characteristics are common to each yearbook. Pictorial cancellations that were used for special events during the year are reproduced, and the new stamp issues that were released are shown in color along with data like *Norgeskatalogen* number, denomination, designer, printing method, format (sheet, booklet, etc.), and the printing firm.

Norwegian UN Peace Keeping Forces

De Norske FN-Styrkenes Posthistorie (Postal History of Norway's UN Forces) by Egil H. Thomassen. 122 pages, 8 by 11 1/2 inches, perfect bound, card covers, in Norwegian, Norwegian War and Field Post Society, Tårnåsen, Norway, 2010. \$76 postpaid to USA addresses from War and Philabooks, Gydas vej 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway.

For many years Norway has participated in the United Nations peace keeping missions. Early efforts during the Cold War involved military units or observation groups to monitor cease-fire and peace agreements. From 1989 on the UN forces monitored internal civil wars and took a more pro-active stance.

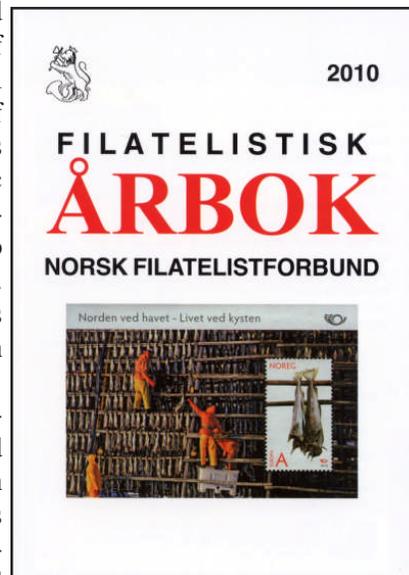
The description of each UN operation involving Norwegian support follows a simple format in this book. First the reason for establishing a peace keeping force in a specific area is explained, followed by information about the

Beginning in 2005 several of the articles appear in color but black and white is used largely throughout. The table of contents in each volume lists the article titles as they appear on numbered pages (1-160). A list of authors in alphabetical order as well as a list of journal sources helps one to find a specific article. Each article begins with the citation to its original source. Some 20-30 articles will be found in each yearbook.

Collectors of Norway material will find something of interest in each yearbook. Articles pertain to a wide variety of subjects: ship and railway mail, postal history of a town or region, boy scout cancels, mail for the blind, pre-adhesive covers, revenues, paquebot marks, military mail, topical subjects, air balloon mail, the changes to Norway postal service logos over the years, occasional articles on Denmark and Danish West Indies, *Hindenburg* crash mail, and cinderellas among myriad topics.

The sources include postal history and military postal history journals, regional or major club journals, thematic collectors journal, maritime mail magazine, exhibition catalogs, Olympic and sports collectors journal, and many others. A collection of these yearbooks provides a diverse selection of articles for general collectors as well as specialists.

Alan Warren



United Nations Security Council's resolution to provide the force. The third item is the duration of the mission (beginning and ending dates) and then a brief description of Norway's participation in terms of unit type and strength. The final section for each operation is an illustrated view of its postal history like field post markings and cachets.

The first entry is for the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB) that operated from 1947 to 1951. One of the more involved missions was the UN Emergency Force I (UNEF I) from 1956 to 1967. Some of the mail is franked with postage or meter stamps but much



of it was postage free. Details are provided on how to distinguish the various UNEF cancellation varieties. Similar treatment is presented for UNIFIL (Interim Force in Lebanon) beginning in 1978. Other UN missions with Norwegian support took place in Angola, Afghanistan, Namibia, El Salvador, Cambodia, Somalia, Croatia, Guatemala, and many more countries. The last entry in this section is the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT II).

Following the peace keeping operations are the peace enforcement missions starting with the United Nations Force in Korea (UNFK) 1950-1953. In the postal history section are covers from the Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (NORMASH). The missions continue with the Gulf War, Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Stabilization Force Operation Joint Guard/Joint Forge (SFOR), the Kosovo Force, the International

Force in East Timor, and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

There is a list of UN peace keeping operations in which Norway did not participate, and a bibliography of literature sources. Another useful listing is that of postal service circulars and announcements that mention Norwegian forces in UN peace keeping operations, with publication number, date, and title.

The text is in Norwegian but a 2-page English summary appears near the end of the book. The typeface is a sans-serif one. Covers are illustrated in color. Several photographs and maps enhance the graphic appeal of this book. For collectors of Norwegian modern postal history, as well as United Nations postal history enthusiasts, Thomassen's book will be a welcome library addition.

Alan Warren

British Sterling Issue First Day Covers

The Collectors Guide (to First Day Covers) of the Sterling Issues 1924-1970 by Tony Buckingham. 48 pages, 4 ¾ by 8 ¼ inches, soft covers, saddle-stitched, Buckingham Covers, Folkestone, Kent, U.K., 2010. £ 5.00 plus shipping from Buckingham Covers, Warren House, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF, United Kingdom.

This booklet cannot be considered a catalog as no numbers are assigned to the various stamp issues. Instead the format is to list an issue and provide values (presumably retail sales values) based on a few different known cancels and envelope types. The first entry is the British Empire Exhibition of 1924 issued April 23rd that year. The stamps were available the first day only at the exhibition and so the five special postmarks used there are described. In addition to valuing the different cancels (some are much scarcer than others) the listing includes an undefined reference to "on Harmers Display cover" and "Hand painted covers." No explanation is given as to whether the last item means contemporary hand painted or add-on cachets of some years later. The postal stationery items released for the exhibition are also listed.

The next issue is the 1925 Wembley Exhibition stamps of 1925 in two values. The author cautions against forgeries of first day covers prepared with mint stamps and "postmarks." The postal stationery for the 1925 exhibition is also listed. The next issues are for the UPU Congress in 1929 and prices shown are for FDCs of the four lower values. The high value, the £ 1, is much scarcer on first day cover, running about £ 8,000 to £ 9,000 depending on the cancellation. Covers with the complete set are also known.

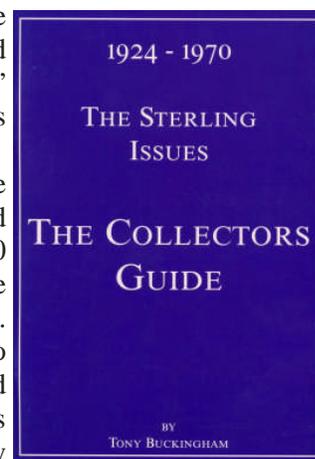
Illustrated (cacheted) covers become more prevalent in the 1930s so that the value listings include both plain envelopes and illustrated ones. The latter are much more valuable. However, there is no attempt to indicate who the

cachet producers were at the time. The 1937 Coronation stamp is known with a number of different cancellations and those on cacheted covers are worth far more than plain envelope FDCs. Over 100 different cachets are known for this issue but there is no listing of them. FDCs are also known and valued for stamps of this period that were overprinted for the Tangier and Morocco agencies.

Phosphor tagging of commemoratives began with the National Productivity set in 1962. For the next five years stamps were issued in both tagged and non-tagged versions. Hence the FDC listings for the stamps issued over this period show values for both types, and even both types on one cover. The 1964 Shakespeare Festival issue is known with several different special postmarks including an Army Field Post Office 1050 marking. The standard CDS with "First Day of Issue" was also introduced with this set.

The subsequent issues are listed chronologically and end with the November 27, 1970 Christmas set, after which the decimal issues came into use. In 1963 the GPO decided to issue its own envelopes and postmarks and such covers went against the grain of many collectors. However, privately produced cacheted covers were still made and eagerly sought after by collectors. About this time the Post Office permitted organizations to sponsor special postmarks for which a fee was paid. This increased the variety of postmarks available on the day of issue and served to attract collectors.

The special cancellations are usually shown in black and white throughout the guide and a few cacheted FDCs



are illustrated in color. The author discusses the desirability of autographed covers. He also points out that the Philatelic Bureau produced covers are unlikely to increase in value. The rarer FDCs, even in the 1940s and 1950s, are subject to forgeries so buyers must be aware of what they purchase. Another observation by the author is that covers with hand written addresses sell for 60% less. Collectors prefer unaddressed covers or ones prepared with peelable address labels.

By not properly proofreading his text or using a copy editor, the author does himself a disservice. The text pages at the end of the guide are rife with poor sentence structure and absence of punctuation. Here is just one example: "After the war special stamps were few and far between but in 1957 the GPO as it was then organised a massive operation for the Scout stamps but it was a false dawn the next issue for parliament was an overprint on a normal 4d stamp most people missed it which is why it costs up to £ 100 today."

I rest my case.

Alan Warren

Great Britain Definitive First Day Covers

The Collectors Guide to Collecting GB Definitive First Day Covers: The Pre Decimal Issues 1840-1970, Tony Buckingham. 48 pages, 5 ¾ by 8 ¼ inches, soft covers, saddle stitched, Buckingham Covers, Folkestone, Kent, U.K., 2010. £ 5.00 plus shipping from Buckingham Covers, Warren House, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF, United Kingdom.

The booklet begins with an overview of the famous Penny Black issued May 6, 1840. The problem for collectors is the existence of a number of forged covers, due in part to the availability of early date cancellers. This price list or guide assumes the appearance of a catalog with numbers assigned that are not based on Gibbons. For example the first two entries, designated FD001 and FD002, are for the Plate 1 and Plate 3 of the bantam half penny issued October 1, 1870.

In addition to definitive postage stamps, this guide includes postal stationery, such that the third and fourth entries are for the small and large formats of the half penny postal cards released the same date. Various jubilee postal cards and envelopes of 1890 are listed with illustrations of special pictorial cancels and cachets. The half penny blue green issued April 17, 1900 is also known with April 16 postmarks.

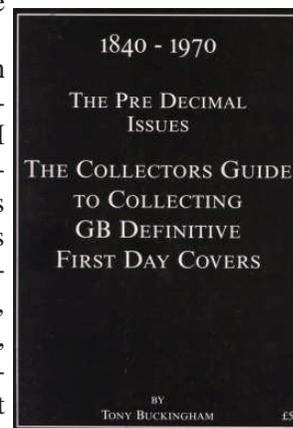
The guide continues chronologically with the 1902 King Edward VII and 1911 King George V issues. In 1912 an experimental machine was designed to accept a one penny coin followed by the sender's letter, which was imprinted to indicate postage paid. Although the device was rejected by the GPO, covers with the introductory

date of January 25 survive. The 1914 postage dues are also known on FDC and are listed.

The guide continues with the 1930s photogravure definitives, the King Edward VIII issues and the wartime Guernsey bisects and the Jersey arms definitives. The QE II stamps and postal stationery, the introduction of phosphor tagging, the regional definitives of 1964, and the 1967-69 Machins including booklets and se-tenant strips conclude the guide.

This "catalog" is similar to the Brookman price guides in the United States in that they represent retail values but serve as a structured listing (cataloging) of the issues, albeit in the latter example the Scott numbering system is used. The author needs a good copy-editor as the introductory page and sections of the booklet have run-on sentences with little or no punctuation.

Alan Warren



Canada Postal Rates

Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era In Canada 1952-2002. Volume One, Part One (2004) and Two (2004) 486 pages, \$89.95, *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era From Canada 1952-2005 Volume Two* (2006) 276 pages, \$49.95. Andrew Chung, Harry W. E. Machum, Roger F. Narbonne. 8 1/2 x 11 inches spiral bound. Adminware, Manitoba, Canada, www.adminware.ca/esg/ratebook.htm.

This set of two volumes is a compilation of virtually all postage rates for Canadian mail from 1952 through 2005. Most postage rates since that time are compiled at www.adminware.ca/checklist/chk_rate.htm. This includes downloadable copies of recent Canada Post annual rate sheets through 2011.

Volume One covers years 1952-2002 in two parts, Part One includes all postal rates within Canada except Parcels, which is covered in Part Two. Volume Two covers years 1952-2005 for all postal rates from Canada to other countries.

It is perhaps difficult to review a set of volumes that is entirely data. The data tables are clear and the sections well thought out. The authors make considerable effort to explain the details at the beginning of each chapter but these are brief and sometimes cryptic until the reader becomes experienced in the overall rate structure.

You will not find this data anywhere else.

David E. Crotty

American Philatelic Society Writers Unit # 30 Bylaws

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30, hereinafter referred to as WU#30.

Article II – Objective

The object of WU#30 is the encouragement, advancement, and exchange of information and knowledge of philatelic literature in all of its forms. This shall include the dissemination and exchange of information among WU#30 Unit members nationally and internationally; the encouragement and support of national and international philatelic literature exhibitions and assistance in judging such exhibits; the promotion of philatelic columns and articles in the nonphilatelic press; and such other activities as may further these objects.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Members. Any person shall be eligible for membership who is an author, journalist, columnist, freelance writer, editor, or publisher of philatelic information and who has completed the requirements for membership:

Active Members. Active members shall be individuals who have demonstrated an interest in philatelic literature in any of its forms. The dues for active members shall be set by the Council. Active members shall have the right to vote and to hold office. A member is in good standing if not in default in the payment of dues and against whom no charges are pending either in the WU #30 or the American Philatelic Society.

Honorary Members. Honorary members shall be individuals whose contributions to the philatelic field have been noted over a period of at least twenty years and who have made a significant impact on the advancement of philatelic knowledge. Any active member in WU#30 may nominate individuals for honorary membership. The Council shall approve the nomination by a two-thirds vote. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of membership but shall not pay dues.

Section 2. Application for membership shall be in writing using the official application form and accompanied with the proper membership dues.

Section 3. Dues shall be such sum as the Council shall determine and shall be payable annually on or before January 1. If not paid, dues are delinquent on February 1. Membership shall be forfeited if dues are not paid by March 1 or on another date selected by the Council.

Section 4. Dues for members will be from January to December. A new member may choose to join for the current year and receive all back issues of *The Philatelic Communicator* for the year. However, if a new member joins for the subsequent year, *The Philatelic Communicator* will be sent when the membership begins in the subsequent year.

Section 5. A member may resign in writing provided dues are paid in full. A member who has resigned may be reinstated by paying the current dues and submitting an application subject to approval by the Council.

Section 6. The fiscal year shall be January 1 through De-

ember 31.

Article IV – Officers and Council

Section 1. The Council shall be the governing body and it shall be responsible for the management and administration of WU#30 in all respects and for all purposes and shall have the power to conduct the business of the organization in accordance with the Bylaws. The Council shall render such assistance as may be requested by the president.

Section 2. The officers of WU#30 shall be president, first vice president, second vice president, and secretary-treasurer. The secretary-treasurer position may be split if deemed appropriate by the Council.

The president shall have general charge of the affairs of the unit. The president shall preside at all meetings, shall appoint all standing or special committees, and shall be an ex-officio member of all such committees. The secretary/treasurer with the approval of the president shall submit an annual operating budget for approval of the Council during the last quarter of the year.

The vice-presidents shall assist the president and shall perform such additional duties as may be delegated to them by the president.

The secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of all proceedings of WU#30, shall receive and process applications and publish the names of accepted members in the official publication of WU#30, shall maintain an up-to-date membership list, collect membership dues, make payments of expenses as approved by the president, and submit an annual report of activities to the Council. The secretary-treasurer shall also publish the approved budget, and a financial statement for the previous year, in the first annual issue of the official publication. In the event this position is separated into two offices, the duties will be allocated on a functional basis by the Council, and both officers will submit annual reports for their prescribed duties.

Section 3. The WU#30 Council shall consist of the officers described in Section 2; no fewer than four nor more than eight members, elected by the membership at large; the editor of the official publication of the WU#30; and the immediate past-president of WU#30.

Section 4. The president shall appoint one Council member who is also a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) as WU#30's representative to the APS. The appointment must be ratified by the Council.

Section 5. Council members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for authorized expenses.

Section 6. Qualifications. To qualify for any office, an individual must be a WU#30 member at the time of election.

Section 7. Term of Office. Officers shall serve for a two-year term or until their successors are elected. Council members shall serve for four years with one-half the Council being elected every two years. Terms shall assume office at the end of the WU#30 meeting at the APS Annual Convention.

Section 8. Duties of Officers. Officers shall perform the duties as prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by WU#30.

Section 9. Nomination and Election of Officers and Executive Committee.

Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee chairman shall be appointed by the president and ratified by the Council. The chairman may select up to two individuals to assist in the nomination process. The committee shall present one candidate for each office to be filled to the secretary-treasurer not later than the second Monday in May of each odd-numbered year.

Call for Membership Nominations. A call for nominations from the membership at large will be published in the first quarter WU#30 journal. All nominations from the membership will be sent to the chairman of the nominating committee. Any member wishing to run for an office may provide their name and a summary of their qualifications to the nominating committee chairman. No name may be placed in nomination without the consent of the nominee.

Nomination by Petition. Nominations by petition must be sent to the secretary-treasurer no later than the second Monday in May of each odd-numbered year. No fewer than ten members in good standing must sign the petition to include the individual's name for a specific office.

Elections. Elections shall be held in odd-numbered years by mail ballot of the members in good standing. The election ballot will be prepared by the secretary-treasurer and shall be distributed to the membership in WU#30's official publication not later than June 15th of each odd-numbered year. If timely distribution of the WU#30 publication does not allow for the ballots to be included, the ballots may be sent in a separate mailing. A simple majority of all the ballots returned after 30 days but no later than ten days prior to the date of the APS Annual Convention will be counted for the election. Election shall be by ballot. A plurality shall elect. In the event there is no nominee elected for an office, the president may appoint a person subject to ratification by the Council.

E. Vacancies.

If a vacancy in the office of the president occurs the first vice president shall be appointed by the Council. If the first vice president is unable to serve as president, the second vice president shall be appointed by the Council. If the second vice president is unable to serve as president, then the Council shall appoint one of the Council members.

A vacancy in any other office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Council.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings.

The WU#30 shall hold two meetings annually. One meeting shall be at the Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Society and the other shall be at the APS Winter/Spring meeting. A majority of the Council constitutes a quorum. Proxy votes are not allowed. Council members have a responsibility to cast their own votes.

Section 2. Annual Meeting.

The Council shall meet for its annual meeting at the Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Society. Reports of officers, committees, Council members, and any other business may properly come before each meeting.

Section 3. Special Meetings.

Special meetings may be called by the president with five

days notice. Such notice may be provided by e-mail, mail, fax, telephone, instant message, and/or text message. A majority of the Council constitutes a quorum. A vote by any electronic means may be authorized by the president. Proxy votes are not allowed. Council members have a responsibility to cast their own vote.

Section 4. Meeting Chairman.

The chairman of the meeting shall be the president. If the president is unavailable, the first vice president shall preside. If there are simultaneous meetings, the Council will determine the chair of each meeting.

Section 5. Activities.

WU#30 shall maintain a Philatelic Writers Hall of Fame to honor writers, editors, columnists, and publishers, living and /or deceased from any country, who have made notable contributions to the field of philatelic literature. Nominees to the Hall of Fame need not be or have been members of WU#30 or APS. Recommendations for honorees shall be prepared by a standing Hall of Fame Committee, whose chairman shall be appointed by the president, according to procedures developed by that committee and approved by the Council. The Council will be guided by the committee's recommendations in selecting the individuals to be honored. The induction of selected persons shall be held at the WU#30 Breakfast at the APS Annual Convention.

The WU#30 shall, upon request, provide assistance to the APS Judges Accreditation Committee in determining qualifications for literature judges and procedures for judging philatelic literature.

WU#30 members are encouraged to support and assist literature exhibitions at major stamp exhibitions in this country and overseas.

Article VII – Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees will consist of awards, by-laws, critique service, hall of fame, historian, literature exhibitions, nominating, outreach, publications, publicity, recruiting, special events, web, WU#30 breakfast. Committee chairmen are appointed by the president subject to ratification by the Council by a majority vote. WU#30 members can volunteer for each committee. The duties of each committee and its chair will be defined by the Council.

Section 2. The Bylaws committee chair will serve the president as parliamentarian during meetings.

Section 3. Special Committees can be created as needed to fulfill the purpose and objectives of WU#30.

Article VIII – Chapters

Section 1. WU#30 shall encourage the development of chapters at various locations. A chapter may be formed by any group of at least five WU#30 members in good standing.

Section 2. The chair of each chapter must be a member in good standing with WU#30.

Article IX – Disciplinary Procedures

Section 1. The American Philatelic Society's Code of Ethics shall be the ethical guidelines for all members of WU#30.

Section 2. The president shall appoint a committee from among the members of the Council to consider and investigate any complaint against a WU#30 member. The commit-

tee shall recommend an action, including expulsion from the Unit, to the President based on their findings.

Section 3. WU#30 members against whom disciplinary action has been taken by another philatelic society excluding the APS, to include expulsion, may or may not be disciplined by the Unit. Each case shall be considered individually and on its own merits.

Section 4. Any member who has been expelled for ethical violations by APS cannot be a member of WU#30. If APS has expelled the member for ethical violations, WU#30 does not need to investigate the violations. If the member resolves the issues with APS and is allowed to rejoin APS, they may rejoin WU#30.

Section 5. Recommendations of the investigating committee will be submitted to the President in writing. The Council will determine action by a simple majority vote within 30 days of submission of the report. Expulsion shall require a two-thirds vote of the Council. The decision of the Council will be final.

Article X – Publications

Section 1. WU#30 shall issue a quarterly publication to its membership.

Section 2. The editor of WU#30 publication shall be appointed by the president and ratified by the Council. The editor shall be responsible for the preparation and content of the publication. An honorarium, the amount of which shall be determined by the Council, may be paid to the editor.

Section 3. The preparation and publishing of handbooks and guidelines for philatelic writing is authorized and subject to the approval of the Council.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of *The*

Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures shall govern WU#30 in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the WU#30 may adopt. If *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* does not address the issue, then the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be consulted.

Article XII – Amendment

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended either by the Council or by mail ballot of the membership.

A. Amendments by the Council shall require a two-thirds favorable vote of the entire Council.

B. Amendments by the membership shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing and published in the WU#30 publication at least one month prior to the meeting.

Section 2. An amendment may be proposed by any ten members by submitting the proposed amendment in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer and President at least sixty days before its presentation to the Council or to the membership for voting.

Section 3. All amendments, whether adopted by the Council or the membership, shall be published in the next WU#30 publication following their adoption.

Article XIII – Dissolution of WU#30

Sectionals. In the event, WU#30 is dissolved, all its corporate assets remaining after liabilities have been settled shall be donated to the American Philatelic Research Library, in accordance with the Provisions of Article XII of the Articles of Incorporation.

Approved July 27, 2011

Peter Martin President



Bylaws Changes



Peter Martin

The previous pages of this issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* list the WU30 bylaws revision produced by our parliamentarian with input from George and myself.

While most of the changes just bring us into the 21st century, there are three more significant items that I bring to your attention:

1. The maximum size of the Council was dropped from 11 to 8.

Reason: We have had six at large council members for most of our history and this has worked well. While there may be reasons to increase the size in the future, more than eight would make the Council unwieldy.

2. VP-East and VP-West were replaced by First VP and Second VP.

Reason: There is really no reason for the geographic distribution of VPs. Also, having a first and second VP

makes for clear succession in case the president has to step down.

3. The Executive Committee (Officers, editor and past president) in the old bylaws was eliminated.

Reason: WU30 has not functioned with an executive council for at least 15 years, probably longer. The EC (6 members) and the full Council (11-12 members) were really overlapping in most functions and would have required additional meetings and administration that we just haven't needed. With Internet communication and meetings at the two major APS shows we have been able to accomplish everything as a group and everyone has stayed informed and involved. With the formalization of duties within the committee structure, it is important that everyone stays informed about WU30 activities so they can make reasoned judgments and votes.

These provisions were voted and approved on July 27, 2011



APS StampShow Literature Palmares

August 11-14, 2011 • Columbus, Ohio

Grand and Gold

Ten-Cent 1869 Covers, A Postal Historical Survey

Michael Laurence, Collectors Club of Chicago

Reserve Grand and Gold

Detained, Interned, Incarcerated, U.S. Enemy Noncombatant Mail in World War II

Louis Fiset

also

American Philatelic Society Research Medal

Penny Post

Larry Lyons

Philatelic Books, Compendiums, Handbooks, Monographs Gold

United States Postal Card Catalog 2010

Lewis E. Bussey

Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies 1920-1945

Robert E. Picirilli

Mexico's Denver Printing of 1914

RMPL

Sicilia 1859 Comparative Plates of Stamps

Vaccari Srl

Vermeil

The Classic Postage Stamps of Bokhara

Wolfgang Baldus

Trinidad, A Philatelic History to 1913

Peter Ford

Opinions VIII

Larry Lyons

The Congress Book 2010

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APS Writers Unit #30 Membership Application

Send To:

George B. Griffenhagen, Secretary-Treasurer
12226 Cathedral Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192-2232

Full Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State & ZIP + 4: _____

Check applicable classifications. List philatelic credits giving as complete information as possible.

Author: published books, handbooks, brochures

Editor: publication(s) and organizational affiliation(s)

Columnist: name and location of publication

Freelance writer: (occasional) publications in which published, nature of material submitted

Regular writer: staff member/worker, longer articles not columns — identify category and name of publication

The appropriate membership fee is enclosed (specify calendar year below).

Signature: _____ Date: _____ For Year: _____

Dues per calendar year	
U.S. ZIP Code Addresses	\$20.00
Canada and Mexico	\$22.50
Overseas Addresses.....	\$25.00

Payment must be made in U.S. Funds by check or postal money order payable, net in U.S. funds through a U.S. bank to APS Writers Unit #30.

For Office Use Only:

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report

October 28, 2011

Annual Report

The Writers Unit #30 continues its efforts to maintain a stable membership base. Happily, from 2005 through 2009, membership remained fairly constant at 210 total members. The number of new members inducted annually compensated for those who resigned, were dropped, or died. But in 2010 we experienced a drop in membership, possibly because of the 2010 increase in membership dues. Eighteen cancelled their membership or were dropped for non-payment of dues. With only two new members added to the roster in 2009-2010, the total membership had dropped to 206 by August 15, 2010.

Unfortunately this drop in membership was even worse in 2011, largely associated with those who were unhappy by the departure of Albert Starkweather as editor. Twenty-three more cancelled their membership or were dropped for non-payment of dues. Fortunately during 2010-2011 we inducted ten new members, but as of August 14, 2011, total membership had dropped to 190, with 175 residing in the U.S. This is 25 below the 200 required for the less expensive U.S. indicia mailing.

If we could get the U.S. membership back to 200, we would reduce the annual decline in the treasury. However, if we are unable to increase the membership base, the WU#30 treasury could be depleted within a few years. I promise to do everything in my power to implement the recommendations of the officers and Council to increase the membership by at least 25 during my last two years as your Secretary-Treasurer, a position from which I will be forced to retire after 18 years of service to WU#30. George Griffenhagen

New Members

1987 Fred F. Gregory, P.O. Box 1175, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274. <ffgregory@earthlink.net>. Freelance Writer: *Western Express* (Western Cover Society); *Chronicle* (Collectors Club Philatelist).

1988 Alfred F. Kugel, 502 York Road, Hinsdale, IL 60521-3587. Editor: *Chicago Philatelic Society Bulletin*; Columnist: "President's Column," *CPS Bulletin*; and *MPHS Bulletin* (Military Postal History Society).

1989 Raymond H. Murphy, Jr., 1993 76th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702-4837. Editor: St. Petersburg Stamp Club Newsletter; Free Lance: British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

Membership Reinstated

1560 Peter Rexford, 3 Conway Lane, St. Louis, MO 63124.

Change of Address

1926 William R. Schultz, 1135 Merrifield Drive, Hershey's Mill, West Chester, PA 19380.

About Writers Unit #30

Purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

Join Us Today

Membership includes a subscription to the *Philatelic Communicator*. Membership applications received by October 1 will be recorded as members for that calendar year and will receive all four quarterly issues of the *Philatelic Communicator* for that year. Applications received after October 1 will be recorded as members for the following calendar year.

A membership application may be downloaded from the Writers Unit #30 website at <www.wu30.org>. Existing members are encouraged to download this form and give it to potential members encouraging them to join.

Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses	\$20.00
Canada and Mexico.	\$22.50
All Other Address	\$25.00

Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. This will also save WU#30 several dollars because the USPS charges us when they have to send us an address correction, and we still have to pay the postage for re-shipping the issue to the member.

George Griffenhagen
WU#30 Secretary-Treasurer
12226 Cathedral Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192-2232
ggriffenhagen@gmail.com
Telephone: 703-966-1739

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Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 immediate past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Note that Dr. Claussen has moved. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen, 2101 Naco Court, Las Vegas, NV 89102. Email: dsclaussen@hotmail.com.