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David Crotty From the Editor

Fake News and Alternative Facts

I have on my desk the Business Day section of the *New York Times* for November 7, 2017 with a headline titled *Media's Next Challenge: overcoming the Threat of Fake News*. I was trying to figure out how to fit that thread into *TPC*. Lloyd in his message on page 5 hit the nail on the head. Actually the real danger is that the news media hopes to get some revenue from its websites as people now buy less news on paper. But the Fake News sites attract much of the traffic and thus the advertising revenue. If the fake news is repeated enough people will start to believe it.

Exhibiting Philatelic Literature

Personally I look at Philatelic Judging as a way to improve our philatelic writing. I do not see it as a contest, at least at first blush. I have submitted my writing and editing in hopes that the judges can provide some guidance in how to do this better.

Many times the judge's comments have led me to add some feature to the journal that really made it noticeably better.

The most difficult point is usually adding enough diverse material to each issue to keep all members interested. That's hard to do. Sometimes I get only one good article.

In our last *TPC* issue Peter Thy provided a great discussion after the Chicagopex literature judges' critique. In this issue we see that Rich Drews and John Hotchner have taken the bull by the horns to rewrite the literature judging manual.

Most of us have yet to see this new manual. We hope to see it soon.

NY 2016 Donates to Philatelic Organizations

Despite some naysayers (and even I had some doubts) Thomas Fortunato announced that the New York 2016 world show last summer was a great success. Most importantly the show has donated from its proceedings at least \$250,000 to Boston 2026, the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, the Council on Postal Collectors and the APS for website upgrades.

I think a number of societies need to give these guys some awards this year.

Dave

Exhibiting Philatelic Literature, Part 1

John Hotchner & Rich Drews

Editor's Introduction

There has been some discussion about philatelic literature exhibiting and judging to be found in philatelic journals over the years. A search through the article indexes of *TPC* shows perhaps the first main article by Alan Warren in Third Quarter 2000 *TPC* presenting that a judging manual was to be discussed by the APS. Several meetings have been reported since then and several versions of a philatelic manual have been made part of the larger philatelic judging manual. However, the last issue of that manual left philatelic judging out in the cold as a thin set of pages.

John Hotcher wrote a short piece in *The Philatelic Exhibitor (TPE)* in Fall 2010 with the title “**Why Bother?**” By that time only StampShow, CHICAGOPEX and NAPEX held literature competitions. Now six years later with NAPEX likely out of the picture perhaps the “Why Bother?” statement has more weight.

In that first half page article John asked for comments. He got them. He was joined by Rich Drews as well and he published them in *TPE* Spring 2011. We think it would be a good thing to reprint these responses. Get Ready.

Why Bother?

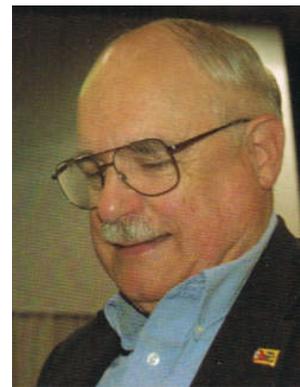
In the introductory column (Why Bother? Published in *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, Fall 2010, p. 19) I asked for your thoughts about the reason for philatelic literature exhibiting, and what you have found problematic about it in practice.

Here is a précis of the responses. Predictably, they highlight the negatives (people who are happy with what is going on seldom write to say so!), but underneath that is the recognition that literature competitions can be and often are positive experiences. They are, however, disappearing, and these are some of the reasons. We need to identify problems before we can solve them, and for that reason alone we can't dismiss the issues raised as being the complaints of people who are negative. Rather they are the complaints of people who see the potential benefit, but the process has not worked for them. If we want literature exhibiting to prosper, those who make the rules and run the shows need to pay attention.

A. “I was looking for two things when I entered my book: constructive criticism, and to give a very obscure



Rich Drews



John Hotchner

subject some exposure among collectors and dealers. Sadly, I don't believe I received either. The critique offered nothing in the way of constructive criticism, suggestions, or anything else. I suppose I would know that only if someone contacted me requesting a copy of the book. I don't know how or where the literature entries are displayed or made available to visitors at the show. I suspect dealers have little time to look at literature entries, especially if they concern subjects with which they are unfamiliar. So the answer to the second thing I was seeking remains unknown.”

B. “When I entered my book I hoped to make collectors aware of its existence. But when I went to the show, the display of the entries had no signage to let people know what was in the cases. Second, there didn't seem to be any way to view any of the entries. Further, literature awards were not acknowledged at the banquet unless the Committee happened to know an exhibitor was present. I was, but they didn't know that.”

D. “It is expensive to enter books in U.S. literature competitions. In addition to the \$25 entry fee, two copies of the book were requested (cost of the books plus about \$5 in postage by media mail, plus the cost of hand delivery to the post office because the package weighed more than 13 ounces. I was asked to donate both copies of the book to worthy philatelic libraries, but elected to have one returned to me as the APRL already has a copy, but the show committee did not tell exhibitors where the other copy would be going. The total cost approached \$75.”

E. “Exhibiting is important, but I believe it needs to be expanded to include literature which may never be exhibited competitively but is nonetheless important. If the end result is taking a beginner to the next level, attracting a new member to a society or club, enticing someone to collect something new, or introducing someone to the literature

Literature continued on Page 4

they need to organize and/or exhibit their collection, I believe in the long run, the effort may be worthwhile. In short, I think that shows could have a literature table whether they have a formal literature competition or not. I recognize that the biggest problem is not finding the literature to display as club members will have a pretty good range, but rather staffing such a table to make certain

that no one walks off with the samples.”

Finally, Rich Drews has given this issue some thought and has written an essay that I will present here. Agree or disagree, it's clear that he has lots of ideas that deserve thought. As I sign off and leave the rest of this column to Rich, let me again ask for your input and reaction to the above as well as Rich's ideas. Contact points are P.O. Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125, or jmhstamp@gmail.com

Exhibiting Philatelic Literature Part 2

Rich Drews

“Why bother?” For an answer we need to understand the process of exhibiting philatelic literature from the points of view of the shows, the exhibitors, the public and the judges.

1. The shows have dropped literature exhibits for three reasons: loss of the show (MIDAPHIL), loss of money (COLOPEX) and loss of personnel (SESCAL). Sometimes dropping literature as an exhibiting category is the only way for a show to survive. With three judges at \$350 each plus a breakfast, a lunch and one or two banquet tickets per judge, plus the cost of shipping multiple boxes of entries between the judges before the show, it costs at least \$1,500- \$1,700 to run a literature competition. At \$25 per entry, a show needs 60-70 entries. It has proven very difficult to get 50 or more entries.

2. Literature exhibitors have far less incentive to enter multiple times than do philatelic exhibitors. Once a book is completed it is unlikely to be revised for several years, while a philatelic exhibit can be improved after each showing. In this day of desktop publishing, even periodicals from the smallest societies can develop and store excellent templates, the lack of which used to hold down awards. The two year time limit on handbooks, the lack of a category for single articles (the biggest loss to literature when MIDAPHIL folded), the requirement that catalogs be more than just priced or unpriced listings and the requirement that a periodical entry be comprised of the most recent complete year, all constrain the potential number of entries. Some of the bigger societies will enter all three literature competitions in a year, but most authors and editors enter once or at most twice.

3. The public has access to only one copy of each entry for most of the show. Three are submitted, but one must be used by the jury, one is put up on display in special literature frames and one is left for reading by the public if there is a quiet reading area.

4. Literature judges have a problem getting assignments. By the current APS numbers, there are about 150 judging slots per year for 100 philatelic judges. On the average a philatelic judge can expect to judge 1.5 shows per year, barely enough to keep sharp. With several of us judging 5-6 shows per year, many judges only judge once in two years or judge a local or regional show just to remain accredited. There are only nine slots per year for 22 literature judges, or one assignment every 2.5 years. This is clearly not enough to stay sharp.

There are several things that we could consider doing to improve the current situation:

1. Encourage one or two shows to experiment with a literature competition that is conducted entirely by mail with a conference call among the three judges to finalize the awards. The entries could still be on display at the show and the results published in the palmares. Written critiques could still be provided and each first responder could hold on to their entries for a couple of weeks after the show to permit follow up communication with exhibitors who have follow-up questions.

2. Do some fundraising through AAPE and/or the Writers Unit to give a \$500-\$750 subsidy to any show that would start or resume a literature competition. This might help a show such as Colopex to afford to resume their literature competition, help a show such as Sescal obtain labor for moving and shipping the heavy boxes of entries or encourage a vibrant show such as Rompex with a great library nearby to get off the fence and start up a literature competition.

3. Hold some training seminars for the literature judges to get them used to the new UEEF literature feedback and judging sheets. They took some getting used to at Stampshow in 2010.

4. Hold some seminars for literature judges on how to stay sharp when you don't get to judge literature very often. For my own sanity (what little is left), I

gather together several periodicals when I have a new full year's worth and judge them to keep in practice. Between my library, Jim Lee and the Collectors Club of Chicago, I have ample fodder. When I do receive a literature judging assignment, I may have a small head start. I then judge the first box and put it aside, wait for the second box and then judge it. A few days later I review each box and compare the results to see if I'm being consistent.

5. The APRL could build an email file of all the shows with literature competitions (easy) and all the periodicals, handbooks and catalogs as received (more difficult, but they have to be logged into the database). Then the APRL could email the lists with contact information to each show, making it easy to directly solicit entries.

6. Establish a digital category and do all the reading and judging online or create rules and training to include digital works in current competitions.

7. Add a prize to each competition for the most useful CD/DVD included within a publication.

8. Establish an online presence with selections from every entry for a show and solicit feedback from the general public as we do with our "most popular" award.

I'm sure there are many more ideas out there. Our hobby has an almost unparalleled history of producing a great body of literature. Fishing, one of my other passions, may approach it. Philately is a hobby of friends, many of whom are aging and leaving us faster than we can bring in new ones.

If we all work to improve our hobby and try to reach out for new members, the worst we can do is grow closer to our old friends. This is clearly worth the bother.

Followup

After this article was published John Hotchner and Rich Drews got together and began to work on a new version of the Literature Judging Manual. John reports that this was presented to the CANEJ board during the AmeriStamp Expo at Reno Nevada over the March 5th weekend. CANEJ approved the draft and it now goes to the APS for formatting and presentation to the board for approval in April. The literature portion of the Manual of Philatelic Judging 6th edition had been removed for the 7th edition. John further reports that the new literature judging manual will be a completely new work. It is both evolutionary and revolutionary, allowing for several new types of literature competition and new types of venue. John expects that details will be available for the next issue of *TPC*. 



Lloyd de Vries *President's Message*

And Now a Word from an Enemy of the American People

Fake News. Disputed News. Alternative Facts.

Thank goodness we in philately don't have any part of that!

Or do we?

It is often said of Saint Herman of Shrub Oak (Herman "Pat" Herst) that he never let the facts stand in the way of a good story, but he is not the only one. I've occasionally stretched the truth a little while telling stories around the campfire at a stamp show. Many of our well-known writers, past and present, have let their opinions color their reporting and even their scholarly works on philately and philatelic matters. Some of these colorists are even in our Hall of Fame.

Then there are shortcuts and generally-accepted figures of speech that we all use. How many times have you read that the pane of 100 Inverted Jenny stamps was the only one printed? In fact, given the printing

method then in use, it is almost certain there were *four* such panes printed. The one purchased at the post office was the only one *found*.

Note that I said "pane." We often say "sheet" when the technical term is "pane." In talking to a non-collector, in fact, it's a pain to say "pane" and much more chic to say "sheet." (That sentence is funnier if you read it out loud; maybe not much, but a little.)

Sometimes the goal of the misinformation or inaccuracy is to "stir the pot," to provoke a reaction or even an action, or just make the reader think.

Sometimes writers really do see events differently. If you ask three eyewitnesses to describe the same auto accident, you will get three different descriptions. So, too, descriptions of almost any event.

Those of you who only write books or scholarly articles may think none of this applies to you, but some of it does: You write to "set the record straight" for future collectors or to establish your viewpoint.

Coming to the wrong conclusion or exaggerating a little to make a story more entertaining, while perhaps not adhering to the highest standards of journalism, isn't a crime, or at least it's more of a writing misdemeanor than a felony. Intentionally falsifying a story to hurt someone is a crime.

I hope none of us in the APS Writers Unit #30 does that.

-30-

Attracting and Soliciting Philatelic Articles

Steve Swain



Steve Swain

I recently had the privilege of being offered the role of Editor for *Georgia Post Roads*, the quarterly journal of the Georgia

Postal History Society. I gladly accepted. I had authored articles for the journal for a number of years and looked forward to expanding my contribution to the Society.

As with many regional philatelic journals, the editor of the Georgia journal is also responsible for the design and layout of the content. My ambitious plan was to offer a new all-color format for the journal, add columns and departments for unique postal history topics and showcase intriguing Georgia covers from Society members' (or non-members') collections.

But amid these musings, a significant discussion item with other regional journal editors echoed loud and clear: The mechanics of designing and publishing a journal (or any philatelic offering) deserves close attention; but attracting and soliciting articles and other content is a key component of efforts to offer and sustain a publication. That responsibility certainly requires different levels of attention and effort depending on the publication's purpose and potential readers (e.g., a national magazine versus a small town stamp club's newsletter). However, it seems there could be common best practices for attracting and soliciting content that apply across the board. Research revealed the following insights and recommendations.

Attracting

Attracting articles is a factor of what the publication is and should be, its "visibility" to authors. The importance of a philatelic publication's reputation can make a difference to an author who has many journals and other publications from which to choose. This reputation is somewhat dependent on the publication's visibility. Is it a national, regional or local publication? Is it accessible only when printed or viewable only online? Is it available only to paid subscribers or society members? Is it published several times a year or only annually? Are special issues offered with guest editors and well-known authors?

This is not to say that an editor should endeavor to elevate the level of the publication's importance beyond what it deserves. A realistic, somewhat limited scope and purpose may be perfectly sufficient for a local club's newsletter. But regional or national journals of postal history could be well served in their ef-

forts to attract articles by ensuring a consistent high level of originality and scholarship in published material. And this focus should be readily apparent in the publication's stated mission and purpose.

The article submission process should be as author friendly as possible. Easily understandable guidelines for the manuscript's format, image specifications and delivery options should be available, complete with the editor's contact information, both email and phone. When articles are received, communications from the editor should be prompt, friendly and collegial.

A solid, comprehensive article review process lends credibility to a publication that is attractive to reputable authors. And, this review should go well beyond mere proofing for spelling and grammar. The accuracy of presented facts, the plausibility of suggested assumptions and the legitimacy of supporting images should all be carefully reviewed and confirmed by knowledgeable reviewers.

Finally, the post publication process should include contact with authors thanking them for their submission, inquiring about their continuing research, encouraging additional submissions, offering assistance with future manuscripts and possibly providing several complimentary copies of the publication carrying their article.

Soliciting

An editor must follow a solid strategy of soliciting articles in order to ensure the continued viability of his or her publication. Hoping and waiting for submissions is typically an unsuccessful approach. Granted, several of the top rated philatelic publications enjoy the luxury of having too many submissions. But the majority of regional, society and specialty journals, club newsletters, and online offerings rarely have a decent article backlog.

The first step in successful solicitation is to identify potential authors, both previously published ones and new writers. For previously published authors, review "competitor" publications that may reveal authors with expertise and interests that would easily crossover into your publication's arena. A published work could simply adopt a modified slant that would satisfy another editor's need. Exhibitors and seminar speakers at regional and national shows may also be published authors having provided articles associated with their exhibit's content or presentation. Contact editors of other publications for information about authors who submitted articles that were not accepted.

Solicit continued on page 7

This could reveal potential sources for content in your publication.

A potentially more challenging undertaking is identifying new authors who have both the interest and capacity for offering articles. Determine potential interest by simply talking with members of societies and clubs (to which you belong or not) about their collecting pursuits. In this way, you may glean some insight into their passion for a specific stamp, cover, marking, topical area, etc. And, as noted with published authors, exhibitors and seminar speakers at regional and national shows also may be a source if they have never been published. Approach them and seek to establish an interest.

Once potential authors have been identified, the solicitation process is, understandably, different for previously published authors and new writers. For published authors, enlighten them, if needed, about your publication, its purpose, history and its audience. Most importantly, explain how your publication can provide a medium as equally rewarding as the publi-

cations for which they are currently associated. Appeal to their sense of contribution by partnering with you to provide a quality offering to the philatelic community. Editors who have published an author's articles several times should keep in contact with that author encouraging follow up articles or pieces associated with new research.

Solicitation of new writers should certainly include an "Articles Welcomed" message in each issue of your publication. But more importantly, if a promising new author is identified, an editor should be proactive in helping the writer to feel comfortable in taking the first step. Offer suggestions for topics that align with their collecting interests or specialty. Ensure they understand that a lengthy, image laden article is not the only option for their contribution. Brief, but substantive, one or two page pieces are most definitely welcomed and valuable. And, importantly, offer to assist with the research and writing of their first piece. With this foundation and confidence, you may well have identified and secured a frequent contributor of quality articles for your publication. 

Questionnaire to the Editors

David Crotty

We were curious enough to ask: how do all you editors put together your journals? So we sent out a questionnaire using the APS list of philatelic editors. They gave us a listing of about 140 names, some that were wrong and all that. We sent out about 120 questionnaires. We got back 65. Actually that is a really good return. So here are some of the stats.

What amazes me is how few journals are archived and available to members. Especially strange is the lack of an article index. Both situations mean that generally the journal is lost in space after it is read by the member. I got a few comments like "don't have time to read all the journals I get." So maybe they just don't get read. A

few societies have a member trying to scan past issues. AAMS is an example. One kind soul is scanning some 1060 issues at 50 pages each. He has worked up from 1929. Fifty two years to go.

On top of that I discover that some editors don't bother to keep a copy of past issues at all. When the editor software is updated to a new version past issues are obsolete and gone-gone-gone. We know several examples of journals that do that. Even recent issues were not available and have to be scanned just like that 1929 volume. Do you have some insight about these points? Send us a letter.

We plan to present articles discussing these results in more detail in future TPC issues. 

Editor Program Used:		Image Editor	
WordPerfect	2	Photoshop	25
MS Word	17	Paintshop	4
Indesign	11	Scanner	2
MS Publisher	17	GIMP	1
QuarkXpress	6	MS PhotoEditor	1
Open Office	1	Picasa	1
Scribus	1	Irfanview	1

Publish on Paper or Digital	
Paper Only	31
Digital only (CD, Online, Email)	3
Both	27

Web Presence		Issues Per Year		Journals
Facebook	1			
Website	60			
None	2	1		1
		2		2
		3		4
Digital Storage of Journal				
On Website	21	4		39
CD available	2	6		8
Up to Date	27	12		5
Usually hold a year back				

Article Index Available 27

Reviews

Print & Electronic

Reviews in TPC are indexed at
www.wu30.org Journal page.
Searchable by Google.



The Comprehensive Listing of Artcraft Covers: Their Varieties and Values 1939-2015, 6th edition, by Martin L. Severe. 254 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, card covers, wire bound, Poppygun, Inc., Rockville MD, 2016. \$34.95 plus \$3.50 shipping from PoppyGun, Inc., PO Box 762, Rockville MD 20848-0762, or from PoppyGunInc@gmail.com.

After 20 years Marty Severe has completely updated his labor of love—now a listing of the over 15,000 varieties of the famous cachets established by Washington Stamp Exchange, later known as Washington Press. In addition to the familiar Artcraft FDCs for United States stamp issues, Severe includes those for the United Nations and several foreign countries as well as a number of special event and topical covers, all produced by the firm.

For the stamp issues the Scott catalog numbering system is used supplemented with a Severe number (SEV#) that distinguishes the many varieties. The U.S. postage stamps run from the 1939 New York World's Fair issue up to the geometric snowflakes issue of 2015, when Artcraft ended production. These are followed by the semipostal, airmail, and postal stationery items.

The SEV# includes major varieties such as changes in text or design, color, envelope size, watermark in the envelope paper, printing errors, and fake cachets. For items that have not been corroborated by the author there is a question mark, with the expecta-

tion that collectors can verify the information with an example. The listing includes those Postal Commemorative Society covers produced by Artcraft.

The first day cover listings contain the Scott catalog number, name and date of the issue, denomination of the item, the SEV#, color of the cachet, variety details (proof, paper type, shading, fake, etc.) and last a current fair market value. There are also boxes where collectors can place a check mark to identify those items that they have. As a priced catalog Severe's work provides important information for collectors and dealers.

Following the U.S. FDC listing is a miscellaneous section that identifies ceremony programs, inauguration covers, American First Day Cover Society convention covers, souvenir engravings, special event and topical covers, and maximum cards. United Nations covers for issues from New York, Geneva, and

Vienna have a section of their own. The final section covers Artcraft envelopes made for eight different countries. Canada can be problematic as there were many fakes.

Several appendices help users understand the catalog content. There is an extensive list of abbreviations, foreign cover cross references, drawings of envelope components, and listings of sponsors that have added text on the backs of the covers.

The listing entries use capital letters throughout but are easily read. The binding allows the book to open flat for study purposes, although the last few pages should be opened with caution due to the type of wire binding.

This is the definitive catalog for Artcraft cachets and Severe and his many

co-workers are commended for their efforts. However, he recognizes that additional discoveries can be made and they should be communicated to him for any future updates.

Alan Warren



Reviews continued on Page 9

Aviation and Airmail Encyclopaedia, Volume 2
J.L.C.M. Tschroots & H.H.C. Tschroots-Boer
 ISBN/AEN 978-90-818881-1-0

Volume 2 (932 pages with many full colour illustrations) deals with subjects such as airmail connections to and from the Far East (China, Hong Kong and Indo China) by KLM and Imperial Airways, Airways Clipper Services USA across the Pacific Ocean to the Philippines, undercover addresses and mail held during WW2, censorship and measures taken during the Great conflict.

Hardbound (17 x 24 centimetres) and contains information on:

- airmail by French, German (SCADTA) and Italian airlines from the Netherlands to South America
- airmail connections to Africa (e.g. French and Belgian routes to (Belgian) Congo, Imperial Airways)
- outward and return flights Dutch East Indies and Australia (KLM, Imperial Airways, Air France)
- many European air routes and airlines
- special flights Suriname and Dutch Antilles
- airmail in the Netherlands and ice post flights (including Scandinavia)
- official postal circulars (Dutch PTT)

- postal and airmail rates 1920-1945

All information in chronological order, arranged per route and year.

Price: € 55 plus the following postage:

€ 10,00 The Netherlands

€ 20,00 Europe EEC – other Europe € 27,00

€ 35,00 Overseas

Information and orders (no checks) at the authors:

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The 1st three chapters cover, Dutch mail to South America via: French airlines – 1919-1940, German airlines – 1934-1939, & Italian Airlines (LATI) – 1939-1941.

Rates are shown from/to the Netherlands for all countries on the routes. There are lists of each flight, including the pilots' names and the names & registration letters for the aircraft used.

The next section covers Europe to the USA from 1932 to 1945, including connections to trans-Pacific routes. Rates are shown from the Netherlands to various Asian countries via the USA.

The next chapter covers North Atlantic Pan American Airways "Clipper" service between 1939 and 1942, including rates between the Netherlands and the USA, and the aircraft used on each flight.

Next come North Atlantic catapult flights and the Netherlands mail connections to them.

The following chapter covers KLM services to Asia, including connections to Manchuria, China, Hong Kong, Indochina, Japan, Korea, Macao and the Philippines, including rates.

The following chapters list various airmail development by year, from 1936 to 1945, with the emphasis on The Netherlands. These sections provide a lot of information on all aspects of airmail development.

There is a short section on the Horseshoe Route operated by British Overseas Airways Corp. (BOAC) between Australia and South Africa between 1940 and 1942.

Next are "Undercovers Addresses" during World War 2, which shows lots of Dutch covers addressed to undercovers addresses.

The final section covers mail held during the War, and finally there is a Glossary, which includes translations of most Dutch terms used into English, French and German.

The book shows lots of covers, most with a Dutch connection, many photos of aircraft, and various useful tables and charts.

There is also a list of the literature and references consulted.

The Book is a companion to Volume 1, which was published in 1992, and covered mostly the period up to 1934.

The book is the result of a tremendous amount of research. There is a wealth of information in it, and even though it is in the Dutch language, it will be useful to all aerophilatelists interested in the World War 2 period, and it is easy to translate the text into English using Google Translate or a similar Internet translator.

Ken Sanford



La Posta Announces Major Postal History Book

Aspects of American Postal History

La Posta Publications Publisher Peter Martin has announced the planned release of *Aspects of American Postal History*, a major new work intended to promote the diverse field of American postal history. The hardbound, 8.5 x 11 inch, full color book will feature the “Sweet 16”—16 top authors writing about 16 different areas of American postal history. Each author is a subject matter expert in his or her area. Articles include both introductory and research articles, so there will be something for postal history veterans and novices alike.

Examples include: Patricia Kaufmann sets the record straight about Independent State mail and Confederate use of U.S. postage; John Hotchner gives an in-depth examination of auxiliary markings; Sergio Lugo discusses the many aspects of military postal history; Roland Austin provides examples of some of the rarest usages for the Liberty Series; Jesse Spector enters the world of social postal history with a philatelic exploration of American slavery; and Christine Sanders takes a century long walk through postal history on Christmas Day.

The complete list of authors and subject areas is listed below.

The book will retail for \$65 plus \$5 P&H. A pre-publication discount of \$55 plus \$5 P&H is offered for orders postmarked by March 3. The book will be released later in March. Dealer inquiries are invited.

Collectors who wish to become book supporters and have their names included in the book in a special section may send a check for \$100 and receive the book, free postage, a limited-edition numbered and signed *Aspects* bookmark and discounts on additional books.

La Posta, The Journal of American Postal History is a quarterly journal devoted to U.S. postal history. Subscriptions are \$34 per year. For further information, write: La Posta Publications, POB 6074, Fredericksburg, VA 22403 or e-mail, pmartin2525@yahoo.com

<i>Aspects of American Postal History</i>	
<u>Author</u>	<u>Subject Area</u>
Roland Austin	Liberty Series
Albert ‘Chip’ Briggs	Prexies
Charles A. Fricke	Postcards
Richard S. Hemmings	19th Century, New York
John M. Hotchner	Auxiliary Markings
Brady R. Hunt	Oklahoma Hotel Advertising
Patricia A. Kaufmann	Confederate States
William J. Keller	Highway Post Office
Kelvin Kindahl	Modern, Contract Stations
Eric Knapp	Alaska, Censorship
Sergio Lugo	Military Postal History
Ralph H. Nafziger	First Day Cover, Oregon
Charles A. Neyhart Jr.	Exposition Postal History
Paul Petosky	Town Postal History, Michigan
Christine C. Sanders	Topical Postal History, Christmas
Jesse I. Spector	Social Postal History, Slavery



WU30.org Has the Stuff

While our website, WU30.org, has all the usual introduction materials it is also an important database for our society. On the Journal page we have a complete 16 year collection of our *TPC* back to year 2000. Hope to expand that soon.

You will also find an article index on that page dating back to 1993. Separately we have an index of Book Reviews we have provided since 2000.

Those searching with Google for most of our reviewed books will be sent to our listing page that points to the issue in which the review appears. We find that the search works best if the title is in quotes followed by the word ‘review’.



Reviews continued on Page 11

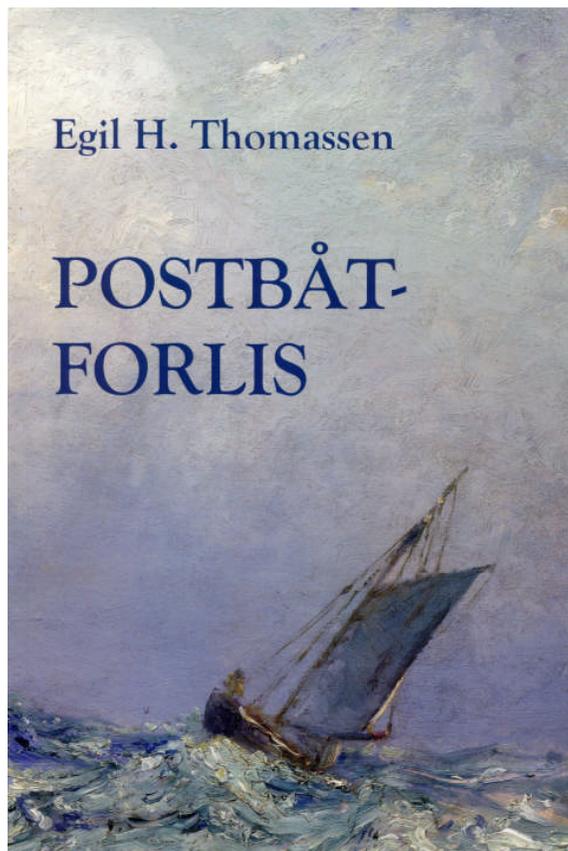
Postbåtforlis 1691-1907 (Mailboats Lost) by Egil H. Thomassen. 128 pages, 6 ¾ by 9 ¾ inches, hardbound, in Norwegian, Skanfil, Haugesund, Norway, 2016. ISBN 978-82-93535-21-9, 250 NOK (\$30) plus postage from Skanfil AS, Box 2020, Haugesund 5504, Norway, or www.skanfil.no.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, over 80 open mail boats crashed along the Norwegian coast. Mail, much of it damaged, was salvaged from half of these wrecks. Author Egil Thomassen is usually associated with aerophilately. However, in this book he now records chronologically the details of these mail boat losses.

For each event he identifies the locale, the route, and details of the tragedy. Minor incidents have a brief paragraph while major events can run one or more pages. Notes indicate if mail was lost and whether there was also loss of postal personnel or any survivors. The names of those working in the postal service that were involved with the event are mentioned.

In most cases unnamed small mail boats were involved and there has not been a central record of these tragedies until now. Practically no examples of letters are shown. Illustrations consist primarily of maps, old prints, and photos. Thomassen has thoroughly researched the events using government archives, museum records, postal history sources, knowledgeable collectors, and special libraries.

One table lists the instances where mail was salvaged showing the route, the place of departure, and the date and place where the loss occurred. A name index lists those involved with the incident, whether or not they died as a result, and whether or not they were a member of the postal service. The list includes those who were boat rowers, sailors, passengers, postal inspectors, or others together with their occupations.



Thomassen provides sources for each incident including church records and newspaper articles. This book will be especially useful for those who have “home” collections and seek to identify salvaged mail. The layout is pleasing to the eye and the illustrations bring us closer to each of these sad events.

Alan Warren

Die ausländische Hilfsvereine in Stockholm während des Ersten Weltkrieges (The Foreign Relief Societies in Stockholm during the First World War) by Burkhard Koop. 106 pages, 6 ¾ by 9 ½ inches, perfect bound, in German, self-published by the author, Oldenburg, Germany, 2016. €10 plus postage from Burkhard Koop, Ziegelhofstrasse 7, 26121 Oldenburg, Germany, or by email to burkhardkoop@t-online.de.

During the First World War several relief or aid or “benevolent” societies offered help to the families of detainees, prisoners of war, and internees. Since Sweden was neutral during the war, these organizations were based in Stockholm. The primary one was the German Relief Society whose roots in Sweden go back to the last quarter of the 19th century. Its activity increased drastically during WW I when various offices were established in Stockholm through which donations and mail were conveyed, and research was undertaken to locate civil and military personnel.

Koop’s book dwells largely on the support of Germans seeking information about POWs held in Russia. A variety of preprinted postal cards were available to relatives and a

number of these, postally used, are shown. Some of them bear censorship markings. A few covers are also illustrated from Africa, South America, and elsewhere. Some mail originated from detained ships like the German vessel *Parma* that sailed to Chile to pick up saltpeter (potassium nitrate) used to make gunpowder. Preprinted value letters were also used for remittance of funds, often bearing wax seals on the reverse.

In addition to the German aid society there were similar ones established by Austro-Hungary, Poland, and Russia in Stockholm, seeking connection to POWs held in Germany. Some used examples of their specially printed stationery are also shown. A brief mention of the Swedish Red Cross Help Committee for POWs concludes the text. A bibliography provides some of the sources used by the author.

The color scans are a little on the light side so that some of the markings are not completely discernible, nor are they explained. However, for military postal historians and postal stationery collectors seeking a fascinating niche of material, this book offers something off the beaten track.

Alan Warren

Barbara Ruth Mueller, 1925-2016

Legendary philatelic author and editor Barbara Mueller died November 17 at 91. She took over the editorship of *The News Bulletin*, journal of the Writers Unit 30 in 1981. In 1987 the journal was renamed *The Philatelic Communicator*. Barbara stepped down as editor in 1988. She was elected to the Writers Hall of Fame in 1978. For many years she also wrote the profiles of those elected to the Writers Hall of Fame.

Barbara edited the American Philatelic Congress books 1961-1962 and again 1986-1990, the *Essay-Proof Journal* 1963-1993, and the *United States Specialist* 1972-1977. She authored several well-known books including *Common Sense Philately* (1956), *United States Postage Stamps* (1958), *Precancel Primer* (1961), and *Postage Stamps and Christianity* (1964). She authored scores of articles in the periodicals she edited as well as in *Topical Time*, *Postal History Journal*, *Stamps*, (*Western*) *Stamp Collector*, *Coros Chronicle*,



Badger Postal History, *U.S. Stamps and Postal History*, *American Philatelist*, *Aero Philatelist Annals*, *Stamp Collecting*, *S.P.A. Journal*, and *France and Colonies Philatelist*.

Her contributions as author, editor, and researcher were recognized by the many honors conferred on her: the APS Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research (1956), the Alfred Lichtenstein memorial award (1981), and the Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement award (2004). She was elected to the United States Stamp Society's hall of fame in 2006 and was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2009. Beginning in 2007 the United States Stamp Society sponsored the Barbara R. Mueller award for the best article in each calendar year's issues of the *American Philatelist*.

Alan Warren

Rob Haeseler, 1941-2017

Robin "Rob" Newhall Haeseler of Bellefonte, PA, died January 16 at age 75. He was a lifelong author, editor, and postal historian. Rob obtained his degree in English at the University of Vermont and a master's in journalism at the University of California at Berkeley. He worked for many years as a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which nominated him for a Pulitzer Prize.

In 1995 he joined *Linn's Stamp News* as senior editor and held the position for ten years. He wrote hundreds of articles and the popular column, "The Artful Collector." In 2005 he was named director of administration of the American Philatelic Society, following the retirement of Frank Sente. A little over a year later the position was eliminated.

Rob was involved with APS's preparations for the

Washington 2006 international stamp exhibition, and coordinated the transfer of the Headsville Post Office exhibit with the Smithsonian Institution, which is now installed at the American Philatelic Center. He helped with the editing and documentation of Richard Winter's landmark treatise, *Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Volume I*.

Haeseler was an expert for the APS and a sales circuit book examiner. He supported the Match Factory development for the APS headquarters and also supported the American Philatelic Research Library. He served as secretary of APRL and was a trustee of the library from 2007 to 2016. He collected, exhibited, and authored a checklist and pricelist of U.S. Columbian stamped envelopes of 1893. He also collected cut squares, revenues and postal cards.



Haeseler as a young reporter and when he joined *Linn's Stamp News* in 1995. Photos thanks to *Linn's Stamp News*

Alan Warren

Edward Wilfred Baxby Proud

The *Times* (London) reported on February 7, that Edward (Ted) Proud passed away peacefully on February 6, 2017 at the age of 86. He was at his home in Heathfield, Sussex, UK surrounded by his loving wife and family.

Ted Proud was a British postal historian, philatelic writer, and philatelic dealer who, in 2008, was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The ceremony of the signature of the Roll happens at the annual Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and has honored distinguished philatelists since 1921.

Mr. Proud was most notable for a series of handbooks that covered the postal history of eighty-one of the British colonies or protectorates. Other books in his catalogue include books of airmail postal history as well as books on British and Commonwealth army postal services. These provide illustrations of at least 50,000 postal markings. Other books listed include airmail data and books on British and Commonwealth army postal services. These and other topics bring the book total to about 110 volumes.

He visited these countries during his business travels and made time to seek out what he could from the central postal offices to review and record early official documents and records. The publications contain many primary documents from postal entities that can generally not be found elsewhere and which in some cases may no longer exist in the present day.

In support of these publications he formed Proud Bailey Company, Inc. in 1961 through which he was a dealer of postal history items. He gathered reference collections of postal and ephemera materials of the philatelic areas that he studied. From these he prepared philatelic exhibits. Two of those exhibits include: *Aden: Espana 2004* Gold award and *India used in Malaya: Singapore, Court of Honor*. In 2005, Proud won the Webb Cup from the Hong Kong Study Circle for his handbook *The Postal History of Hong Kong 1841-1997*.

He was a past president of the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations and was the founder of *Postal History International* magazine in 1972. He was on the council of the Philatelic Traders Society. He was honored with an award from Italy's *Assozione Italiana di Storia Postale* for his work in promoting philately and postal history.

Proud Bailey Company became a major dealer and was sold to Stanley Gibbons in 1987. Proud continued on the board of that company. Subsequently Proud formed The

International Postal Museum with the associated website www.internationapostalmuseum.com. The copyrights to his books were deeded to the Museum along with images of his ephemera collection and some of his cover collection. Perhaps most significant is the collection of British "Air Charts" which show the travels of British, US and other airlines over British territories between 1934 and 1948. Another notable set of documents is the *Official Foreign Air Mail Guide* from the USPO, 1940-1944 which lists routes and rates for most countries during World War II. Many other primary documents are also included. Approximately 4300 items are available on the website. Items

on the website are generally available for download after an annual membership of £5. Some books are downloadable free, and hard copy books are generally priced at £9.99 and up. We note that since Proud's passing this online Museum has announced it will cut back on acceptance of subscriptions. The administration has not responded to inquiries about this.

While Mr. Proud's presentation of primary material is well appreciated, his efforts did not escape controversy. Some disagree with his analysis in some cases. An example of note is the Intercontinental Airmails, a three volume set: Volume 1 Transatlantic and Pacific, Volume 2 Asia and Australasia, and Volume 3 Africa, a total of 2583 pages of air route data and ephemera. There is a transatlantic section for Pan American Airways operations between Brazil and Africa for which no data was known at the time. Mr. Proud estimated (in italics)

what flights he could identify from covers. One reviewer's comments on those 50 pages were so scathing that I personally called Mr. Proud to ask if perhaps these two had enacted a deal that went sour. Mr. Proud noted that he had never known the man. This reviewer continued to write about one article a month for the next two years, always mentioning this section of Volume 2. In time I was lucky enough to find a 400 page file of Pan American Airways trip summaries that filled in many of the gaps in our knowledge of those operations. This data I shared for his Volume 2 second edition. This activity did not go unnoticed by this reviewer who blessed me with his vitriol as well.

Edward (Ted) Proud was a most knowledgeable scholar of postal history and a true gentleman. I and those around me who have worked with him very much appreciate the body of knowledge that he leaves for us. As one postal history editor noted on learning of his passing: "A tall tree falling in our forest."

David Crotty



Edward (Ted) Proud.
Photo from one of his books

Charles A. Fricke 1921-2017

Charles Fricke died February 14, 2017, at the age of 95. He had been living in a retirement/nursing facility near Philadelphia. Fricke received the Charles J. Peterson Philatelic Literature Life Achievement Award last year.

He researched early postal cards of the United States including plating studies and published his definitive findings in several volumes. He was past president of the United Postal Stationery Society and a member of its editorial board. Fricke was named an honorary life member of UPSS in 1969 and received the APS Luff award for distinguished philatelic research in 1981. In 1989 Fricke was elected to the Writers Hall of Fame.

Charles authored hundreds of articles, focusing primarily on postcards and postal cards. Many of these are in the hands of philatelic editors and are yet to be published. Most likely we will continue to see his by-line for some years to come.



Charles A. Fricke

Alan Warren

Richard M. Hanchett 1938-2017

Nepal collector Richard Hanchett of Warwick, Rhode Island, died February 2, 2017 at age 79. He began collecting stamps as a 10-year old but returned to the hobby in serious fashion in 1985. After traveling to India and Nepal he joined the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle as a Life Member.

In 2001 Richard was named editor of *Postal Himal*, the study circle's quarterly journal, and held that position until his passing. A little later he also began collecting Portugal and its colonies, and served two years as interim editor of *Portu-Info*, journal of the International Society for Portuguese Philately. He then served as chairman of the board of



Richard M. Hanchett

directors of ISPP. In addition to editing these two journals he was also editor for many years of *The Bay Phil*, the newsletter of the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library in California.

Richard loved to travel and went around the world seven times. He often attended international philatelic exhibitions. He worked as a civil engineer and then a software engineer. He was employed by Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) and then by Electric Boat where he worked on submarine computer systems for 20 years. He is survived by his wife Patricia, a sister, and children and grandchildren.

Alan Warren





Secretary-Treasurer's Report

2027 Kenneth E. Perkins, 3204 E Laurel Creek Rd, Belmont, CA 94002. Freelance writer for Sequoia Stamp Club newsletter.

2028 Bob Ross, % W. W. Ross, Box 1661, Kodiak, AK 99615-1661. Editor The Ration Board (Society of Ration Token Collectors).

2029 Norman Shachat, 382 Tall Meadow Lane, Yardley, PA 19067. Editor Pennsylvania Postal Historian; freelance writer.

Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

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

Secretary Report 2017 Q1

Our thanks goes to all members who have paid their dues through 2017 or even later. However, if the line above your name in the mailing block indicates that your membership expired 2015 or 2016 your dues are unpaid and you are receiving this issue as a reminder that they are unpaid.

We would also encourage donations to the society beyond your annual dues. Even if your dues are paid for 2017 or beyond such a donation is encouraged. We thank all who pay their dues from this notice and who make contributions in advance.

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 so they can join.

New Members

2025 Wayne Youngblood, 05 Forest Glen Cir, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578. Author, columnist, editor, publisher. Youngblood INK, LLC.

2026 William V. Kriebel, 1923 Manning St, Philadelphia, PA 19103-5728. Editor Bulls Eyes and Souvenir Card Journal; book author; freelance writer.

Ken Trettin
WU#30 Secretary-Treasurer
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2016 Literature and Web Exhibits

NAPEX, This show has announce that it will not hold a Literature exhibit until further notice.

APS CAC Website Competition, June 2017,
www.stamps.org/cac/

APS StampShow August 3-6, 2017, Richmond, VA,
www.stamps.org/StampShow

CHICAGOPEX November, 2017, Itasca, IL,
www.chicagopex.com/

APS CAC Newsletter Competition, January 2018 en-
 trance deadline. www.stamps.org/cac/

Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 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. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danesc Claussen@gmail.com.

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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.