

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30



- P. PEDERSON -

-30-

www.wu30.org

Third Quarter 2017 Issue 197 Volume 51

How does Philatelic Writing or Editing Benefit a Dealer?

Richard A. Pederson

I have been a dealer for nine years and a full time dealer for the last three years. I specialize in U.S. stamps and worldwide covers, but also sell some worldwide using the on-line eBay® and HipStamp™ sites. I started writing for the philatelic press two years prior to becoming a dealer, authoring a number of articles for *MeKeel's and Stamps* magazine. Since becoming a dealer, I have written numerous other articles for philatelic publications including *U.S. Stamp News*, *Possessions*, *NSDA News*, *The Prexie Era*, and the *A.M.G. Courier*.

Initially, I had no objective other than to share my thoughts and knowledge about areas in which I was interested. The first time I saw something that I had written in print, it certainly felt satisfying and that feeling drove me to write more. Then, in 2010, I took on the task of editing the quarterly newsletter, *NSDA News* (see Figure 1), for the National Stamp Dealers Association and, in 2015, I became editor of the *A.M.G. Courier* (see Figure 2), the quarterly journal of the Allied Military Government Collectors' Club. Both of the editorial jobs required me to produce an editor's column, write news features, edit the work of others, and write an occasional article for publication. All the while, I continued writing for other publications.

Awhile after becoming a dealer, I discovered that not only was I getting personal satisfaction from writing, I was also reaping a number of benefits. First and foremost, I was getting my name out in front of both potential customers and people who were interested in selling collections they built or inherited. For instance,

I have had the opportunity to buy specialized collections simply because someone had seen an article I wrote pertaining to their area of specialization. Because I was a dealer, when it came time for them to sell, they contacted me to see if I was interested in purchasing their collection. If I had not written those articles, I never would have had the chance to make the purchases.

Another very positive benefit of writing and editing is that it has forced me to learn more about the areas I write and the subjects of articles I am editing. I have had to increase my knowledge of stamp separation, cancels, postal markings, postal rates, printing, paper types, stamp colors, and much more. The more I learn, the less likely it is that I will improperly describe something I have for sale. That benefits both me and my customers as it limits returns and increases the likelihood that customers will return.

Another benefit for dealers who focus much of their writing in a few areas of interest or specialization (e.g., the U.S. Presidential Series of 1938, Allied occupation stamps for Germany) is that you position yourself to be one of the "go to" dealers for that area. Not only can you increase your sales to those collectors, but you have the opportunity to build lasting relationships that often turn into friendships – something that is hard to beat.

A sampling of the articles I have written is on my website, www.pedersonstamps.com. I welcome any comments or questions regarding philatelic writing and can be reached via email at rich@pedersonstamps.com.

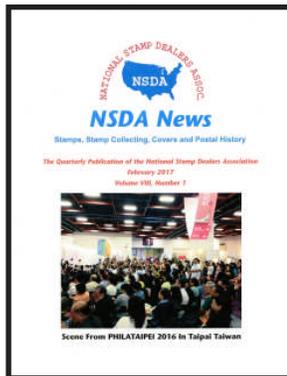


Figure 1. NSDA News

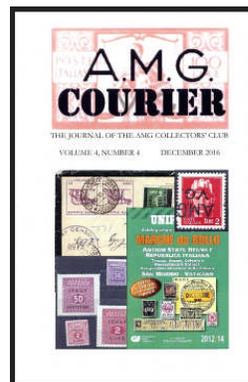


Figure 2. AMG Courier



The Philatelic Communicator

ISSN 0147-36456

Vol51 No.3 Whole No. 197 2017

www.wu30.org

David E. Crotty, Editor
P.O. Box 16115
Ludlow, KY41016-0115
decrotty@yahoo.com
859-360-0676

Thomas P. Johnston, Associate Editor
124 Bishopstone Circle
Frederick, MD 21702-5123

Writers Unit #30 publishes *The Philatelic Communicator* four times a year. A subscription to TPC is included with dues paid by members of the Unit. TPC is printed and distributed by Wilcox Printing & Publishing, Inc., Madrid, Iowa.
©2017 Writers Unit #30. Title page drawings by Peter Boylan.

Manuscripts are solicited on subjects of interest to writers, editors, and publishers of all forms of philatelic literature. All submissions for publication, without exception, are subject to being edited. Electronic submissions are preferred. Opinions expressed in *The Philatelic Communicator* are those of the authors, and not necessarily of the Writers Unit #30, its officers, editor, publisher, or agents. Letters and emails received by the editor may be printed unless labeled "Not for Publication." Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy, but validity is not guaranteed. Some product names and images may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation, without intent to infringe. All editorial matters must be handled by the editor.

Deadlines for receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter: February 1 Second Quarter: June 1
Third Quarter: September 1 Fourth Quarter: December 1

APS Writers Unit #30

Lloyd de Vries, President
P.O.Box 1249, Washington Township NJ 07676-1249
stamps@pobox.com

David Crotty, Temporary Secretary-Treasurer
PO Box 16115, Ludlow, KY 41016-0115
decrotty@yahoo.com 859-462-6995

David E. Crotty, Vice President
P.O. Box 16115 Ludlow, KY 41016-0115
decrotty@yahoo.com 859-462-6995

The **Executive Committee** includes the officers, Editor, and Immediate Past President
Gene Fricks..... genefricks@comcast.net

The **WU#30 Council** includes
Ernest E. Fricks..... genefricks@comcast.net(2017)
David A. Kent..... kentdave@aol.com(2017)
Leonard Robert McMaster..... uspps.possessions@gmail.com(2017)
Dane S. Claussen..... danes.claussen@gmail.com (2015)
Daniel C. Warren, M.D..... dwarrenmd@cox.net (2015)
Ken Trettin, Assistant to Treasurer..... hogman@myomnitel.com>

Writers Unit #30 Committee Chairs are:

APS Rep: David Crotty
Awards: Robert P. Odenweller
Critique Service: Dane S. Claussen
Hall of Fame: Dane S. Claussen
Historian: Steven J. Rod
Nominating: Alan Warren
Publications: Peter Martin
Publicity: Ernest E. (Gene) Fricks
Recruiting: Lloyd de Vries
Special Events: Kenneth Trettin
USPS Representative: Peter Martin
Webmaster: Todd Ronnei
tronnei@gmail.com
WU #30 Breakfast: Lloyd de Vries



David Crotty From the Editor

Frequently Asked Questions

How Do I get *The Philatelic Communicator*?

TPC will, starting with the Winter issue in December, arrive at your email address. We contacted everyone we know either by email or US Mail about the dues. If we did not reach you please contact the Editor, David Crotty.

What are the WU30 dues?

For now regular membership is \$15 per year with email delivery. For those few who cannot use the internet dues will be \$20 for a USPS delivered Xerox copy. I think there are about six of you. We love you anyway.

When are Dues due?

Your dues notice will arrive in August (or so) at your email address for the dues for the next year (now that would be for 2018). We sent dues notices in August and thanks much to our many loyal members who paid up quickly. Thanks again and again!

I don't have an email address and I'm NOT going to get one.

Please send a letter to the Editor, David Crotty, PO Box 16115 Ludlow, KY 41016-0115 stating that you must have TPC by mail. You will receive a Xerox copy by mail four times a year for your \$20 dues.

I already paid \$20 dues for 2018, 2019 and/or later.

You will be given \$5 credit for each year applied to next dues. You may get a check refund for that amount if you ask the Treasurer, David Crotty.

Who is the Secretary Treasurer?

We are looking for a new Sec-Treas. Editor David Crotty is currently the Temporary Sec-Treas. Please send all communications to Dave.

Are you able to be our New Sec-Treas.????

We Love You! Please contact President Lloyd de Vries or Editor David Crotty.

Isn't \$15 a little high for email delivery of a journal?

Yes it is. Dave thinks this is temporary. We should try to get it down to \$10 once we see how well this new way is working. Stay tuned.

Dave



Lloyd de Vries *President's Message*

Last Mass Produced TPC

You are holding what may be a collector's item: The last mass-produced hard copy of *The Philatelic Communicator*!

Effective with the next issue, *TPC* will be distributed digitally, via email. WU#30 dues will be lowered to \$15 a year, wherever you live. For those who are unable to receive copies of this journal via email, dues will remain \$20 and we will provide a hard (Xerox) copy.

Hopefully, most of us will go electronic. Please let Dave Crotty know if you must have a USPS mailed copy. I personally feel that any writer or editor these days who doesn't do basic email and can't open a .pdf or .doc (.docx) file isn't really able to do the job. These are basic computer skills and not that hard.

This is a result of the WU#30 Council examining our finances at our annual meeting in August. We didn't have enough money at the time to pay our outstanding bills for printing and postage, and we took a number of steps to correct the imbalance between income and expenses. More on that in a moment.

Ever since I have been on the Council, we have struggled to come up with the 200-address minimum for obtaining special periodical rates. We have used dummy addresses, free samples, gift memberships, and more. It was time to face facts: there just aren't more than 200 philatelic writers and editors who want to talk with their peers about philatelic writing and editing.

And don't give me any malarkey about "it's because stamp collecting is dying." First, our group, APS Writers Unit #30, is highly specialized: there is a finite number of philatelic publications, limiting the "employment" for editors and writers.

Second, stamp collecting is transitioning, not to new gender classifications, but to the online world. The eBay stamp sections are thriving, there are more philatelic message boards (specialized and general) than ever

and more stamp and cover collecting websites than ever. Nearly every publication, philatelic or otherwise, has a website. We can move with the times, or join the dinosaurs.

The third part of the problem is universal, and not just philatelic: people just don't join organizations any more, unless there is a concrete benefit in doing so that can't be obtained elsewhere. A Pew Research survey found that membership in religious groups is down. I see PTAs and other civic organizations seeking members. And you know about stamp societies and clubs.

Now let's move on to some of that other news I promised you: we weren't doing a good job of soliciting and collecting dues. As a result, we weren't taking in much money. Thanks to Dave, that problem has been addressed, and we were able to pay the bills, and the bills for this issue. Moreover, Dave is temporarily WU#30 Secretary-Treasurer.

We are looking for a volunteer to take the position. If interested, please contact me. Email and computer skills are required, but nothing too advanced, and basic honesty and some organizational ability are necessary, too, I think. Oh, and if you say you're going to do a job, you do it. We had a problem with a Secretary-Treasurer a few years ago who talked a good show, but was never heard from again after the funds were transferred to the new bank. We did get the money back, but we never quite recovered from that, with already busy people taking on the tasks.

So, to sum up: *The Philatelic Communicator* is going all-but-digital; we're lowering dues for most members and prospective members; especially those living outside the U.S.; we've identified and fixed the problem with the shortfall in our finances; and we're seeking a new Secretary-Treasurer.

Not bad for one column! Maybe next issue I'll take on world hunger.

-30-

Writing Priorities

Steven Zwillinger

I'm a lucky guy: I like writing and I have several opportunities to write about philately, an activity I enjoy a great deal. It used to be the case that occasionally I was confused about choosing my next writing activity when I had several options from which to choose. Sometimes I stumbled, not sure of which of several choices I should have focused on. Sometimes I made the wrong choice.

It took me a long time but I finally came up with a general hierarchy of writing to guide my decision making. I take my list of writing possibilities and sort them into the following categories.

First Tier (Responsibility)

1. Paid writing – speaks for itself;
2. Deadline obligations as a columnist. This can be either an obligation as a result of an organizational position (editor or officer of society) or an editorial position. If I, as a columnist, cannot submit material on deadline to meet the editorial calendar or the editor's requirements, I may become an ex-columnist;
3. An editor makes a special request for me to prepare something for an issue of a journal or newsletter.

These writing tasks come first. The first one is a responsibility to myself and the other two are responsibilities I have to my editors.

To myself: To the extent that others value my work and to the extent that the value is shown monetarily, I can value it no less. Plus, it is certainly gratifying to be paid for one's hobby. There are few remuneration opportunities for philatelic writing.

To editors: Any success I have as an author has in being able to write for a journal or magazine is a function of the choices an editor makes to print the material. As a columnist, I interact with my editors frequently and am responsible for upholding my part of the relationship. I write, they choose to publish what I write and the cycle repeats. If I can't uphold my end of the partnership, the cycle breaks. If that happens I cannot expect an editor to keep me as a columnist. I do not want to put a professional business relationship at risk.

Second Tier (Short term rewards)

4. Something I really want to say. This is frequently a letter to the editor or something where I have strong feelings and I want to act on the energy of the moment;
5. Monograph or special issue of a journal;
6. Joint article with a friend or friends – the exchange of ideas and perspectives is very exciting – better than I can usually do alone.

This is the Goldilocks group – not quite work (like the first group) and not quite difficult (like the last group) — but just right. These are written in areas of my interest, at my convenience and within my own timelines. This is material I write for fun and, sometimes, for maintaining a relationship with an editor or for a philatelic community within which I wish to be an active member.

Third Tier (Difficult)

7. Working on a book;
8. A new publication in which I have not published before;
9. A series of articles across several issues of a journal;
10. Something with a lot of scanning and manipulation of images.

This last category is not last because of disinterest or a perceived lack of importance, but because they are difficult. They are difficult because they require concentration and a significant commitment of time and energy.

With family and work responsibilities, as well as devoting time to other aspects of the hobby, it is difficult to find uninterrupted amounts of time to do justice to the task. I find, however, the 'extra' work usually pays off: it seems that greater efforts lead to greater rewards. These are some of the things of which I am most proud.

I make sure that I write in all three of these areas. Each is important to me and if I feel that I have gone too long without working on anything in any of these categories, I "force" myself to do something for fear that I may spend too much time on one category at the expense of another.

Note that Steve Zwillinger has been elected president of the APRL. Congrats, Steve.



WU30 StampShow Breakfast



Donna O'Keefe Houseman was our featured speaker discussing her experiences during 45 years at Amos Publishing. She wrote up her comments in *Linn's* October 2, 2017 issue with more to follow in next issue.



WU30 Hall of Fame Inductees Patricia A. Kaufmann and Donna O'Keefe Houseman .



Patricia A. Kaufmann at table with other guests.



Donna O'Keefe Houseman with other guests.



President Lloyd de Vries speaks to the group of about 64 WU30 members.



The other side of Donna O'Keefe Houseman's table.



President Lloyd de Vries Presents literature awards to Len McMaster. Len was picking up a Large Vermeil for Geoff Brewster's book, *Plating the Legislative Palace Issue of 1926*, and a Large Silver for *Introduction to Collecting U.S. Possessions Stamps and Postal History*, a special *Possessions* issue for the New York show, both published by the USPPS.



Bob Rose is given awards by Lloyd de Vries. He is the president of the New Jersey Postal History Society and was accepting the Large Vermeil for Jean Walton, Editor of the NJPH, Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society.



Next year we have a new rule. The name tag has to be visible and in focus. Sorry. We don't know who this gentleman is nor do we know the literature he provided.



President Lloyd de Vries presents Gold literature award to Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris for their work on *The Postal History Journal*.



President Lloyd de Vries presents Silver literature awards to David Crotty for his work on the *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin* and the Writer's Unit 30 *The Philatelic Communicator*.

Rules-Or Maybe Not

John M. Hotchner



John Hotchner

The craft of writing is something of an iterative learning process. The more you do the easier it becomes; a point not made by Steve Zwilling in his “A Baker’s Dozen of Things I’ve Learned About Writing” in TPC, Second Quarter 2017 (pages 6-7).

I enjoyed the article, and got a few tips from his experience that will be integrated into my thought process. That said, to the extent that the article is a laundry list of Dos and Don’ts I was struck by how many of his injunctions I regularly violate. And because I think it is important to encourage new writers, not subject them to constricting Rules, I feel compelled to take issue with some of what Steve recommends.

Let’s start with #2, “**Stay focused on your subject.**” Fine, so far as it goes. I will not go off into a riff on North Borneo #12 in a story on Andorra #C1-6. But this is indeed a rule that is effective for technical articles; not one for general philatelic commentary that speaks to how people collect, why they collect, how the hobby supports such collectors and collections, etc. Though the area chosen as subject may be narrow, the writer should be free to take it wherever it goes. Steve counsels “*Resist these temptations.* Unless you’re writing a broad overview of a subject, you are most likely working with an idea that can be expressed in a topic sentence. Focus on that....” Again, fine so far as it goes, but the writer should not be barred from expansive commentary because of an artificial rule.

#3 “**Choose your title – don’t let an editor choose it for you.**” is also troublesome. Title writing is an art. I like to do it, but there are locations where I publish that do not give me that opportunity. I can suggest, but the editor rules, and in general, I am satisfied with the result. To the extent that writers reading Steve’s Rules are misled to

think they will always be able to dictate title, they may be in for a surprise.

#4 “**Try ‘bookends’ for an article.** Ideally the ending of your article echoes the beginning.” Again, generally a useful suggestion, but not everything you write lends itself to such a method. If it works, fine. If it doesn’t, also fine. The important thing is to have a strong conclusion that summarizes what you have said. It need not refer back to where you started, and spending time trying to find a way to conform to such a rule is not productive.

I could nitpick the next group, but they are generally sound, so I will forbear, and skip to #10. “**Have a reviewer.**” I am not opposed to such a concept, but I believe that the best reviewer is yourself. I believe in practicing the 24 hour method. Write one day, review the next. If you can learn to catch your own illogical thought progressions, poor grammar, imprecise word choices, you will become a better writer. A reviewer and indeed an Editor can help you to present your best self in print, but ultimately, you are the author, and you need to hone your own craft. In my view, the more philatelic output you have behind you, the less you should need a reviewer.

I do not follow nor will I follow the #11 instruction to “Include a header or footer with your name and the page number” of your article. Nice, maybe, but not a requirement, and one that adds work to the process for writers who are not computer geeks. If I submit a three or four page article, I think I can depend upon an editor to figure out the progression of the article by looking at the progression of what I have sent.

Finally, Steve’s first exit paragraph bothers me: “Philatelic writing is a subset of professional or technical communication. These types of writing address the presentation and expansion of a central idea, strengthened with details and examples.”

I agree that SOME philatelic writing is a subset of professional or technical communication. But trying to cram ALL of philatelic writing into that

Rules continued on Page 9

Rules continued from Page 8

bag can only frustrate writers who do not wish to write about technical matters; writers who wish to address hobby conundrums, pass along their experiences in the hobby, write about human interactions as a part of the hobby, and more. Yes, the product will benefit from good craft practice, but let us not confuse good writing with adherence to

rules. Rules have their place, but the skilled practitioner, knowing the rules, often makes sensible exceptions to good effect.

Sincerely,

John

Editor's Note: Please see Letters on this subject in following paragraphs.



Letters On This Topic

A Response for Steve Zwillinger

Dear Steve,

I enjoyed Steve Zwillinger's Baker's Dozen points about writing, as published in *The Philatelic Communicator* No. 196.

I agree with his explanation of point No. 3, but I have a major quibble with its boldface text: Chose your title - don't let an editor choose it for you.

In the ideal world, mostly for nonfiction but sometimes also for fiction, the author and the editor would jointly agree on the headline, or the author would defer to the editor. In some cases, the editor might have to defer to a hands-on obsessive publisher or a hands-on owner or an influential owner when there are multiple owners. Think of editor Lynch telling author Comey to call it a "matter," not an "investigation."

It does not matter (no pun intended) who actually writes the headline. The voice of the headline (who is saying it) is what matters.

The headline is always in the voice of the editor no matter who writes it. So is any subtitle, any subhead, and all cutlines (captions).

The text of an article or book, be it edited or not, be it edited heavily or lightly, is always in the voice of the bylined author, even if a pen name or a ghostwriter. Non-bylined text, however, is in the voice of the editor.

It is a matter of the hierarchy of responsibility for what is being published.

Sincerely,

Michael Schreiber

The author responds:

Michael is right: titles are an editor's responsibility. My original text was imprecise. What I wanted to say, but failed to do so, was that authors should not submit *untitled* pieces to an editor. A title, even if a draft or suggested title, communicates the author's intent to the editor. The editor can, and will as appropriate, modify the title. Based upon Michael's letter, I am making a change in my writing practice. From now on, the titles of my pieces will be prefaced with "Suggested Title".

Steven Zwillinger

P.S. (From Steve Z.) This was in Mike Schreiber's note to me: "I received *Philatelic Communicator* No. 196 as a freebie. I was a WU30 member in the late 1980s and early 1990s when I was a staffer at Linn's, where I eventually was managing editor then editor, 1998-2007."

"The WU officers ought to think about offering an online membership for free or for a token amount, say \$2 (how about \$10?), with the Communicator sent only as an emailed PDF. This would help the group "to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship.""

Sincerely,

Steve

Editor's Note: First, Michael Schreiber received that freebie *TPC* because we have been adding members of the APRL list of editors to get our list up to 200 to give us USPS Permit pricing. Well we tried that. Michael's may have been the only re-

Letters continued on Page 10

Letters continued from Page 9

sponse we ever got. Check out Lloyd's story page three.

Second, Michael Schreiber is thinking our way. There have been serious discussion of going to web delivery of *TPC*. The Result: the next issue you get will be by email. Done.



Letter on another Topic

Writer's Unit Hall of Fame member Checks In

From: Stanley M Bierman MD

Subject: Bierman bibliography

Date: July 6, 2017 at 11:20:49 AM EDT

To: Lloyd de Vries

It has been 20 years since my induction into Writer's Hall of Fame. I thought to bring up to date my philatelic publications (attachment) highlighting the wonderful history of our stamp collecting and the men and women who contributed their scholarly talents. I would note that I do not publish articles (yawn) on "Bolivian Post Paid Postmarks" or "Water Marks on the 1877 Hungarian 2c Postage" or such truly boring articles as found in leading philatelic journals that trivialize our wonderful hobby except to a handful of "enthusiasts". I believe

my writings on the **HISTORY** of the hobby are what we as philatelic writers need to focus upon. As an aside, have you listened to DVDs on Phamous Philatelic Phaces available from American Philatelic Society and heard Bob Siegel, John Fox, David Feldman, Marc Haas, Louis Grunin, Robert Dalton Harris, Herman Herst Jr., Michael Laurence, Walter Mader, Stan Piller, Stan Richman, Sherman Rogers, Charles Schreve, Scott Trepel, Raymond Weill being interviewed by Stanley Bierman???? Who are these philatelic personalities and what were (are) their contributions? ? Do you think that this approach (HISTORY AND PERSONALITIES) might be a better means to publicize our hobby? Your reply to this communication would be appreciated

Sincerely,

Stanley M Bierman MD

Editor's Notes: We thank Dr. Bierman for checking in with us. I don't think we have ever had such an event. We note that he also enclosed an eight page listing of his Philatelic Writings from 1977 through 2007 including 18 interviews with philatelic dealers.

Lloyd de Vries tells me that he asked Dr. Bierman if he has been listening to Lloyd's radio interviews? Has he?



Exhibition of Philatelic Literature
Milan, Italy, March 2018
Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies
http://expo.fsf.it/italia2018/en_index.php



Call for Papers for the Tenth Blount Postal History Symposium

November 1–2, 2018

World War I and its Immediate Aftermath
Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, D.C.

Reviews

Print & Electronic

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



Catalog of Sanitary Service Stamps, Veterinary Inspection Stamps and Tuberculinization Stamps Issued by the City of Rosario de Santa Fe, Argentina by Benedict A. Termini. 44 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, card covers, perfect bound, self-published, Fort Worth, Texas, 2017. \$20 postpaid in USA from Benedict A. Termini, 8520 Meadowbrook Drive, Fort Worth TX 76120-5204, or termini@charter.net.

On the somewhat “purple” side of philately, collectors are introduced to these infamous stamps used to control the spread of venereal disease in the city of Rosario, Argentina, during the period 1893 to 1928. Ladies of the night were required to use a booklet that recorded twice-weekly health examinations. The brothel Madam or the prostitute purchased these special stamps or Sanitarios, which were placed in the booklet after each examination.

The results of the physical exam were recorded in the booklet as Healthy, Menstruating, Sick, Under Observation, or Recovered. The Sanitario confirmed that the examination fee had been paid. Author Termini discovered new varieties and factual information that corrects earlier brief records of these stamps and extends the knowledge for collectors.

The plate layout and some plate flaws are identified along with manuscript and handstamp markings used in the booklets. The stamps carry control numbers entered in manuscript or with a printing device, and exist in several colors. The physical examination results imprinted on the stamps were manuscript at first and handstamped later. Perforation varieties of the stamps are noted.

The catalog records values using an “X” with a number like 5X or 20X. The X is equivalent currently (2017) to one United States dollar. In the future, relative values can be determined with this method. Dates are recorded when new handstamp marks were introduced.

The early issue denominations are 1- and 2-pesos. 4-peso values exist but are not known used. A few unassigned catalog numbers are held in reserve for future new discoveries.

In addition to the Sanitario stamps there are brief listings of veterinary inspection stamps and tuberculinization adhesives. The former apparently paid for inspections prior to slaughter or sale of animals. The two known tuberculosis stamps were used presumably for vaccination fees.

There are some production shortcomings with this catalog. There is no title page with a verso that reflects place and date of publication, although some of this information appears on the outside back cover. There is no table of contents. An index is not really required since the book is in straightforward catalog format. There is no formal bibliography although mention is made of the Forbin and Akerman catalogs.

The text is clear and the pages are nicely laid out with good size color illustrations. Termini’s catalog corrects and expands our knowledge of these unusual revenues, and this information is also well reflected in his 5-frame exhibit of the Sanitary Service Stamps.

Alan Warren

Reviews continued on Page 12

For All Your Printing Needs
**WILCOX
PRINTING**
AND PUBLISHING, INC.
102 S. Main St. | Madrid, IA 50156
(515) 795-2730 | info@wilcoxprinting.com
www.wilcoxprinting.com

Prexie Era Postal History and Stamp Production 1938-1962, Louis Fiset, ed. 284 pages, 8 ¼ by 11 inches, card covers, perfect binding, American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte PA, 2017. ISBN 978-0-933580-81-7, \$39 to APS members (\$43 for non-members) plus \$2 shipping within USA, from American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823-1367 or www.stamps.org.

The 1938 Fifth Bureau issue or the Presidential Series, better known as the Prexies to generations of collectors, has captured the attention of many in the philatelic community. The more serious students of these stamps have yielded countless articles, several books, and numerous exhibits - testaments to the popularity of this set of definitives.

Editor Louis Fiset has drawn together nine authors to compile this new book. "New" may not be the best term as portions of some of these articles have appeared in various journals. However, there is much new material, and new finds of the uses of these stamps continue to come to light, to the joy of those who collect this material. As might be expected from the book's title, readers will find more than just Prexie issues as they were often used in combination with other contemporary stamps. Given that the period under review is nearly 25 years, commemoratives, and especially airmail stamps also play important roles in these articles.

The production aspect is described by Albert "Chip" Briggs using the 3-cent Jefferson stamp, from design through die proofs, plate numbers, electric eye markings, and anomalies like EFOs during the printing of the various formats of sheets, coils, and booklet panes. Briggs follows production with a chapter on uses of the stamp with fascinating origins, destinations, illustrated mail, bisect use, certificate of mailing, crash mail, and many classes of mail service.

Bill DiPaolo tackles the production of the coil format showing splices, paste-ups, leader strips, and paper and perforation problems. He also follows his coil production discourse with a chapter on postal history of this format with some stunning examples. Bob Hohertz focuses on second, third, and fourth class uses of the Prexies in three chapters. Again, the variety of examples seen with services like registered, insured, special delivery, air mail, COD, and others reveals a very rich field for collectors.

The Transport Air Mail stamps are considered brethren of the Prexies during the 1940s. Joseph Bock launches into a study of uses of the 50-cent value. The 1940s also brought about unusual mailing conditions due to

World War II. Dann Mayo contributes an extensive discussion of postal censorship prior to Pearl Harbor, civilian censorship during the war, and post WWII censorship under events of occupation and unrest during the late 1940s and 1950s.

Military censorship during the Prexie era is explored by Collyer Church with examples of how the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard handled their mails. A separate chapter by Ralph Nafziger studies civilian censorship on United States first day covers in the Prexie era. Editor Louis Fiset contributes a chapter on the effects of the closure of the Mediterranean air space for air mail routes in 1940.

Another article by Fiset details the resumption of mail service to Europe in the 1944-1948 period. He provides a useful table of the dates for the resumption of postcard, letter, air mail, registered, and special delivery services, not only to European countries but many Asian ones as well.

The book ends with two chapters by veteran Prexie collector Stephen Suffet. The first one dwells on the twilight of the Prexie era, i.e. their use after the Liberty series began to appear in 1954. Suffet shows mixed use of both series of stamps, use of Prexies for postage due, the introduction of certified mail, air mail to Pitcairn Island, the \$5 value on registered mail, and use on a QSL card and other unusual examples.

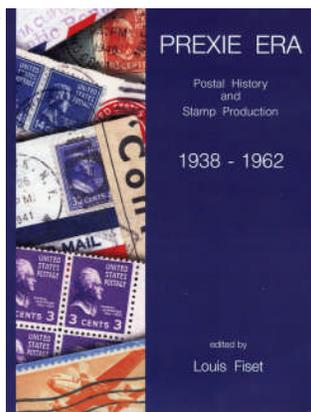
Suffet's final contribution is an illustrated essay on suggestions for collecting and exhibiting the Prexies. Ideas include solo use, multiples of the same denomination on cover, single service like air mail or registered mail uses, and the precancels among others.

This book teaches readers not only about the Prexies but also about United States postal history in general during the 1940s and 1950s. The Presidential Series, considered "modern" in many respects, offers many possibilities for collectors to focus their efforts to acquire and exhibit specialized aspects of postal history of the mid-20th century.

The cover illustrations are generously large. The many different authors bring together a variety of viewpoints and expertise to help the reader understand the popularity and the challenges that this series of stamps, and its contemporaries, have to offer. An extensive bibliography of books and articles will lead collectors into many related avenues for further study.

Caution: Librarians should catalog the book using the title on the title page instead of that on the front cover, which has different phrasing. **Note:** our proofer went with the cover phrasing, AND he likes the Oxford comma.

Alan Warren



The Pictorial Story of Walt Disney's First Superstar: Mickey Mouse, Volume One by Edward Bergen. 52 pages, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, card covers, Event Horizon Press, 2016 (printed on demand). ISBN 978 1532743849, \$15.95 from Amazon.com.

First day cover exhibitors will recognize both author Edward Bergen's name and the book's title. His exhibits of Mickey Mouse material have won gold medals and been honored with "most popular exhibit" awards.

In this book he looks at the Mickey Mouse phenomenon using paper and postal artifacts from his own collections. He begins with Mickey's introduction to the public in the 1928 cartoon movie *Steamboat Willie*. Disney quickly recognized the appeal of the little mouse as a corporate symbol, and the necessity of copyrighting and licensing the image that rapidly began to appear on post cards, in advertisements and other print media, and on all types of novelties and apparel.

The section "Mickey as Everyman" describes how the little critter helped soothe a public that had been battered, first by the stock market crash, followed by the Great Depression. He appeared in song lyrics, on post cards, on Hallmark greeting cards, not only here but in many countries around the world. Mickey was even seen in unglamorous (by today's standards) scenes, smoking cigars and guzzling wine. Mil-

lions of Mickey Mouse watches were sold the world over.

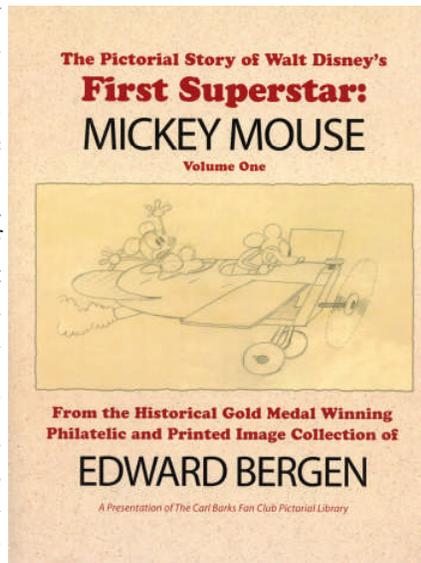
"Mickey as Cultural Icon" soon had him alongside Hollywood's greatest stars, in postmarks and cachets, on Japanese New Year's cards, and both Mickey and Minnie were portrayed on Art Cover Exchange (ACE) envelopes in the early 1930s. A 1930 postal card announced meetings in Everett, Washington, of what is likely one of the first Mickey Mouse Clubs.

In 1935 the *Mickey Mouse Magazine* was introduced, capturing the attention of both children and adults. A one-year subscription of 12 monthly issues cost but \$1. The author supplements the text with illustrations of front covers and inside pages of the magazine as well as letters to subscribers from the publisher Kay Kamen.

No sooner than WWII was under way, Mickey and Minnie began to adorn V-Mail and post cards. These Disney picture post cards mailed during the war are rather scarce, particularly when bearing censorship markings. The author shows examples mailed from Finland, Germany, French Africa, England, and Poland.

With this first volume in a planned series, author and exhibitor Ed Bergen has whetted our appetites. We look forward to seeing more postal as well as non-philatelic imagery of Mickey Mouse and his cohorts.

Alan Warren



Solomon H. Koved, 1922-2017

Writers Hall of Fame honoree Sol Koved died August 23, 2017 in Lantana, Florida, at age 95. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1990.

He edited *First Days*, journal of the American First Day Cover Society, for thirty years from 1960 to 1990 during which time it expanded from six issues per year to eight, and from 32 pages to about 148 pages per issue.

Sol also served as AFDCS Executive Director from 1986 to 1990. He received the society's Distinguished Service Award in 1975 and was awarded Honorary Life Membership #10 in 1985.

Koved edited *The United States Specialist* for the Bureau Issues Association, now the United States Stamp Society, from 1978 to 1981. He served in the United States Army's European Theatre during World War II. With a degree in chemistry from City College of



New York he joined Montrose Chemical Company in 1943 where he held various positions including production chemist, pilot plant operator, and assistant plant manager. He left the firm in 1971.

Sol took extension courses in industrial wastewater treatment, loss prevention control, industrial safety, pollution control, and toxicology. He worked in the environmental field and nuclear energy industry. He edited and published a six volume emergency preparedness and response manual.

Sol is survived by his brother Fred and sons Lance Koved and Alex Wisch together with five grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Beth Israel Memorial Chapel in Boynton Beach, FL, August 27, followed by entombment at the Eternal Light memorial gardens in Boynton Beach.

Alan Warren

APS StampShow Literature Palmares

Grand and Large Gold

American Air Mail Catalogue, 7th Edition, Vol. 3

American Air Mail Society

Reserve Grand and Large Gold

Rossica, The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately

Nikolai Sorokin/ Rossica

Reserve Grand and Gold

A History of Postal Service in Hanover, New Hampshire since 1761

Terence Hines

and also Postal History Award

Catalogs

Gold

United States Telephone Stamps Franks Coupons

William L. Rink

and also APS Research Award

Large Silver

Catalog of Sanitary Service Stamps, Veterinary

Inspections Stamps and Tuberculinization

Stamps Issued by the City of Rosario de Santa Fe, Argentina

Benedict A. Termini, M.D.

Columns

Silver

Stamp in-Sites

Steve Swain

Electronic

Large Vermeil

The Officials of South Africa

Bob Hisey and Ian Matheson

Vermeil

The Canadian Aerophilatelist

Chris Hargreaves and Paul Balcaen

Bronze

*Clifford C. Gilmond -Connecticut Cachetmaker-
A Philatelic Biography*

Joseph P. Connolly with Sean P. Connolly

Handbooks

Gold

The Congress Book 2016

Kenneth Trettin

Large Vermeil

Plating the Legislative Palace Issue of 1926

United States Possessions Philatelic Society

*The Springfield Facsimiles of Confederate
Postage Stamps*

Steven M. Roth, Francis J. Crown, Jr. &

Patricia A. Kaufmann

Large Silver

*Introduction to Collecting U.S. Possessions' Stamps and
Postal History (World Stamp Show Special Issue,
May 28- June 4, 2016)*

United States Possessions Philatelic Society

Philatelic Society Journals & Periodicals

Gold

First Days

Albert Starkweather

India Post, Volume 50

Max Smith

Mexicana

Michael D. Roberts

Postal History Journal

Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris

The Penny Post

Larry Lyons

Large Vermeil

North Carolina Postal Historian

North Carolina Postal History Society

NJPH, Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society

Jean R. Walton

Vermeil

Florida Postal History Journal

Florida Postal History Society

Forerunners

Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa

Mourning Notes

Elmer Cleary, Editor

Japanese Philately

Ron Casey

State Revenue News

Dave Wrisley

The Cuban Philatelist

Cuban Philatelic Society of America

The Czechoslovak Specialist

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Large Silver

A.M.G. Courier

A.M.G. Collectors Club

Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. 68

David Crotty

Postal History

Claire Scott

Silver

Europa Study Unit Bulletin

Dana Roper

Georgia Post Roads

Steve Swain, Editor

The Philatelic Communicator, Vol 50

David Crotty

Yule Log

Christine Sanders

Non-Competitive

Prexie Era: Postal History and Stamp Production

Louis Fiset, Editor

'Fake Town' Spanish-American War Postal History

Steve Swain

A Bittersweet Family Postal History

Steve Swain

Philatelic Literature Jury

Peter P. McCann (Florida) - Chief Judge

Nancy Clark (Massachusetts)

Peter Martin (Virginia)

William DiPaolo (Florida) - Apprentice



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

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

2030 Robert L. Conley, 52 Vista Ridge, Glenburn ME 04401-1829. Editor, *State Revenue Society News*.

2031 Albert J. (AJ) Valente, 69 Lily LN, #111, West Lebanon NH 03784. Author Rag Paper manufacturing in the US 1801–1900; freelance writer *The American Philatelist*.

2032 Scott English, 216 Amberleigh Lane, Bellefonte PA 16823-8479. Columnist, *The American Philatelist*.

2033 Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora CO 80015. Author, Glossary of Philatelic Terminology Czech/Slovak to English and English to Czech/Slovak (1, 2, 3 editions); Editor, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*.

Bill DiPaolo, 7110 Marston Court, University Park FL 34201. Contributor, Prexie Era Stamp Production and Postal History; Freelance writer, *LaPosta*, U.S. Stamps.

Membership Dues

Please note that starting year 2018 TPC will be distributed by email. Those who have paid for 2018 and beyond by the old rates will be given a credit for the future. The membership dues for each calendar year are:

Web Delivery email..... \$15.00
USPS delivery Xerox Copy..... \$20.00

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. We will soon have PayPal available but not yet.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of letter and email address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

David Crotty
Temporary WU#30 Secretary-Treasurer
PO Box 16115
Ludlow, KY 41016-0115
USA
decrotty@yahoo.com
859 462-6995

APS Writers Unit #30
 David Crotty
 PO Box 16115
 Ludlow, KY 41016-0115
Return Service Requested
Dated Mail - Please Rush

<p>PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID MADRID, IA 50156 PERMIT NO. 10</p>

Articles

How does Philatelic Writing or Editing Benefit a Dealer?Richard A Pederson	1
Writing Priorities.....Steven Zwilling	4
WU30 StampShow Breakfast.....	5
Rules-Or Maybe Not.....John M. Hotchner	8
Letters on This Topic.....	9
A Response for Steven Zwilling...Michael Schreiber	9
The author responds.....Steven Zwilling	9
Letter on another topic:	10
Writer's Unit Hall of Fame Member Checks In	10
.....Stanley M Bierman MD	
<i>Obituary: Solomon H. Koved, 1922-2017...Alan Warren</i>	13

Departments

Frequently Asked Questions (Dues).....David Crotty	2
Last Mass Produced TPC.....Lloyd de Vries	3
Book Reviews	11
<i>Catalog of Sanitary Service Stamps, Veterinary In- spection Stamps and Tuberculinization Stamps Issued by the City of Rosario de Santa Fe, Argentina</i>	11
.....Benedict A. Termini	
<i>Prexie Era Stamp Production and Postal History 1938- 1962, ed.</i>	12
.....Louis Fiset	
<i>The Pictorial Story of Walt Disney's First Superstar: Mickey Mouse, Volume One.....</i>	13
.....Edward Bergen	
APS StampShow Literature Palmares.....APS	14

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: danes.claussen@gmail.com.

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.

2017 Literature and Web Exhibits

CHICAGOPEX November 17, 2017, Itasca, IL,
www.chicagopex.com/
APS CAC Newsletter Competition, January 15, 2018
 entrance deadline. www.stamps.org/cac/
APS CAC Website Competition, Summer 2018
<https://stamps.org/Club-Benefits> (under Chapter Con-
 tests)
APS StampShow August 9-12, 2018, Columbus, OH
www.stamps.org

Society Secretary Treasurer Needed

The Writers Unit #30 needs a new Secretary Treasurer. Light computer skills needed including MS Word and MS Excel. Please contact President Lloyd de Vries. Must manage a small bank account.