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2007 – 2008

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Articles may be submitted for publication

to: **Joe Doles, Editor**

105 Lawson Rd.,

Rochester, NY 14616-1444.

Neatly hand-written or double spaced typewritten or sent electronically to **JKD52@aol.com**.

Any originals submitted for scanning will be returned if requested.

Hinges & Tongs

ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC

P.O. Box 10206, BRIGHTON STATION
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610-0206

The RPA meets the second and fourth Thursdays, 7-9 PM, Sept.– June. Meeting at the Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Rd.

MARCH – APRIL 2008

ROPEX gets closer, and everyone is busy finalizing arrangements. It will again be at the ESL Sports Centre at MCC. We can use help on Wednesday, May 14 from 1-4 PM to help set up dealer tables and chairs. Thursday morning the frames arrive and setup will start around 9 AM until completion. Starting around 2 PM dealers and exhibitors will start to arrive until around 6 PM. Takedown is Sunday beginning at 3 PM until completed. Help will be needed for these times as well.

During the show your assistance is requested for security (walking around and keeping an eye out for things), manning the ROPEX welcoming table, selling raffle tickets to show goers, and working the youth booth. Can you spend at least 2 hours anytime Friday through Sunday to help out? A sign up sheet will be at the next 2 RPA meetings, and Frank Tritto has already started making some phone calls to the membership.

The first day ceremony is at 10:15 on Friday, May 16. The ceremony will be relatively brief, only a half-hour or so. Seating is limited to first-comers, as the room can only hold around 100 people. Doors open at 9:45, so get there early if you want a chair! The two stamps will be available for sale starting around 8:30 at the ESL Centre at the USPS booth. Follow the signs to the special entrance to get to show floor before the official 11 AM show opening.

Do you know of any youngsters interested in attending Stamp Camp on Saturday from 10-4? So far only 2 kids have signed up, and Cheryl Edgcomb can handle at least 10 more! See info on the ROPEX web site or email me for details.

Donations are still being accepted for the "You Choose" auction. We'd like philatelic or non-philatelic items to have a value of \$50 or more.

Planning to go to the ROPEX banquet? If so, get your reservations and money in to Ray Stone. Give him a call at 266-2524 for details and to make payment arrangements.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The April 24 meeting is in the basement.

NY Federation Prepares for Big Show in 2009

Did you know that 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the great voyages by Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain on the waterways that now bear their names? Back when New York City was known as "New Amsterdam" the Dutch did much to explore and populate the eastern wilderness regions of our and neighboring states.

In celebration of their work and that of Fulton's steamboat technology two hundred years later that paved the way for water bound commerce, New York State has set up Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission. This multi-faceted body is planning and coordinating community and statewide activities throughout 2009 in celebration of these anniversaries. See their web site for full details at <http://www.explore400.com>.

The Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, of which the RPA is a member, has been invited to take part by organizing a major stamp show on September 25-27 at the great Empire State Plaza just below the state capitol building in Albany. It will feature an international bourse with as many as 75 stamp dealers from throughout the U. S., Canada, Great Britain, France, and elsewhere, along with several hundred exhibit frames placing special emphasis on New York-Vermont-Connecticut-Massachusetts-Canada corridor postal history.

Heading the project is Conrad Novick, president of the Adirondack Stamp, Postcard and Ephemera Club. Well-known dealer John Nunes has been tapped to manage the bourse. Others from clubs throughout the state are being sought to head additional areas, like ceremonies and awards, organizational contact and attendance, program and handouts design, and hospitality.

This exhibition is expected to be the largest upstate event of its kind, rivaling the New York City mega shows but with an international flair. Mark your calendars and plan to stay the weekend! Albany is just a 4-hour drive down the thruway or easily reached by regular Amtrak train service.

Would you be interested in helping out? If so, contact Conrad by email at cnovick@netzero.net or see Tom Fortunato for further information.



Stamps to be Issued at ROPEX

REQUEST from Jim Bell

Grande' Ville Senior Living Facility is looking for donations of stamps, catalogs, tongs, hinges, mounts, magnifiers and stockbooks for their in house collection that the residents use for entertainment. They also have an in house coin collection as well. **Donations can be taken to Grande' Ville 555 Maiden Lane Greece, NY 14616.**

Mary Bell is looking for Disney and Bear Stamps. Mary is Jim Bell's wife. She is a new member and would like to expand her collection. She is looking for koala bear stamps, if anyone has any.

We will be hosting a First Day of Issue ceremony at ROPEX this year. The RPA's first real FDOI since 1992. This years cover and cancel were designed by RPA member Joe Doles. The cover is illustrated elsewhere in this issue. The stamps being issued are part of the Scenic American Landscapes, International Rate Stamps. The 72 cent Thirteen Mile Woods, New Hampshire will be the Canada / Mexico Airmail rate. The 94 cent St. John, US Virgin Islands will be the International Air Mail rate Doles was asked to design a cancel and cachet that would tie together. The Yellow Elder (cedar) is the Official Flower of the US Virgin Islands. The Purple Lilac is the State Flower of New Hampshire. At the time of the ROPEX show the city of Rochester, NY also celebrates its annual Lilac Festival, only a couple miles north of the show location.

How to Invest in Stamps

www.askphil.org

If you have disposable income and want it to work for you in a secure way that keeps your initial investment safe and appreciate in value, buy savings bonds, treasury bills, or some other guaranteed investment vehicle. Buy some land. Buy an annuity. Don't buy stamps and expect them to make your fortune, or even enable you to break even. Yes, it is possible to buy stamps and sell them for a profit, but it is by no means a simple or a guaranteed process.

Stamps are just pieces of paper and they have no value unless there is a willing buyer who selects them from among all the other available choices at the time that you want to sell them. As mentioned above, a stamp's value is dependent on condition, quantity available, and desirability in the current market.

No two stamps are identical, so ads that promise, or even imply, that "The U.S. Scott no. xxx is a sure bet, buy now and make money later" are simply not telling the truth. Statements like that seem to say that all the copies of Scott xxx, and especially the ones they are selling, are identical as to condition (color, faults in the paper, centering), which is impossible, and also make impossible assumptions about what the future market will be.

In the 1940's, a widespread belief in the future value of U.S. stamps in full sheets led collectors and some of the public to buy and save huge hoards of 3-cent stamps. There are so many of those stamps in existence now (in perfect condition!) that you can't sell them even at face value - dealers buy them at a discount. You may as well use them up on mail. When plate number block collecting was extremely popular in the United States, collections were selling for fantastic sums, and now the same stamps should be used for postage on letters, because collector interest peaked and then slid downhill.

For U.S. stamps, the so-called "Classic Issues" - stamps from the last century - probably are as close as you will come to blue-chip stock equivalents, but even that is not 100% true for all 19th century stamps. Stamps were printed in much smaller quantities in the last century than they are today, so there are fewer examples, which in turn influences how much collectors insist on perfect condition (you simply can't get it for certain issues), and they are always popular. But you will not be able to find these stamps at a cheap price, so any possible profit margin is fairly narrow.

Knowledge is a major part of making a profit on stamps. By knowing the marketplace and the history of the stamps, you will not be fooled by advertisements that state that a certain stamp is "rare" or "not seen often," and you will recognize a good price when you see one. No one should ever be taken in by an ad for "rare" stamps that appears in a mass market publication. Those ads cost thousands of dollars, and no seller would spend that much money on an ad when he had only a few of the products to sell! A mass-market ad means the seller has a huge pile of whatever he's selling, and you can be pretty sure that the condition of the stamps will be nothing to brag about, and they will be greatly overpriced compared to what you could probably find at any stamp show.

If you have a good memory for dates and historical events and a good visual memory, a philatelic area where it is possible to make money is in covers. There is great interest now in finding earliest known uses (EKU) of older U. S. stamps. It is only in modern times that stamps have had first day ceremonies with special postmarks for the new stamps.

Before about the 1940's, stamps simply were put on sale with no ceremony, and customers would buy them at the post office and use them on their mail. Collectors of EKU's are always exploring dealer stocks to find what look like ordinary letters but with telltale postmark dates that indicate usage - ideally - the day the stamp was put on sale. These covers can be worth literally thousands of dollars, and many do go unnoticed in the stock of dealers who don't have any special knowledge about this collecting specialty.

Other covers may be of special interest only because of some historical association that is evident from the sender's name, perhaps, or the postal marking. The dealer selling the cover may not have noticed anything special about it and is selling it for a modest price. You have to know the market in which to sell this type of item. However, if you find the right buyer, with the collection for which this cover is ideal, you may be able to make a very tidy profit.

Many people might buy gold coins; a much smaller market exists for stamps in general, and even smaller markets for some stamps in particular. There are much more sensible places to put money that you hope will bring you a future return, but for those who love them, stamps bring a great deal of immediate return in the form of pure enjoyment.

ROPEX 2008 Show Covers

Blanche Stuart Scott



Blanche Stuart "Betty" Scott was born April 8, 1889, in Rochester, New York where her father had a patent medicine business. Impetuous by nature, she soon attracted the attention and ire of the

local authorities. The Rochester City Council objected to a thirteen year old driving an automobile about their city. However, there was not yet a minimum age for driving; Blanche was able to continue with her motoring trips.

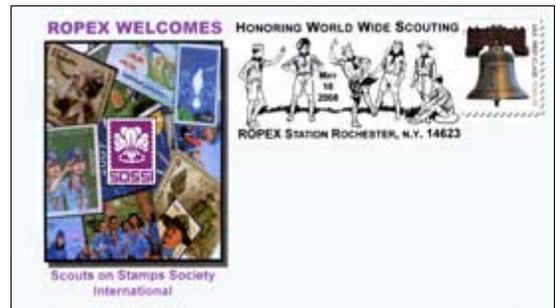
A few years later, she would again make headlines behind the wheel of a car. In 1910, after attending finishing school, Scott became one of the first women to drive an automobile cross-country, travelling from New York to San Francisco. The trip was sponsored by the Willys-Overland Company and the car dubbed "Lady Overland." At the time, there were only 218 miles of paved road outside of the cities of the United States. Scott's trip totaled over six thousand miles, zigzagging between Overland dealers. Scott was accompanied by newspaperwoman Gertrude Buffington Phillips, who did no driving but filed reports as they progressed westward. They left New York on May 16 and reached San Francisco on July 23, 1910.

The trip had given Scott a taste for adventure and publicity. After meeting the press agent for Curtiss, Scott went to Hammondsport, New York in August or September of 1910. She was accepted as Glenn H. Curtiss' first and only female student. Her first flight was on a 35 hp Curtiss pusher fitted with a governor to prevent take-off on a student's taxi down the field. However, during one of Scott's "grass-cutting" sessions, a gust of wind lifted her suddenly airborne. She achieved a true solo flight shortly thereafter.

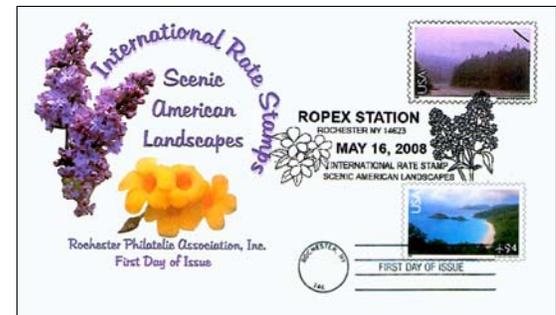
Come to the May 8th meeting and hear about this and other stories about Blanche Stuart Scott from RPA member **John Babbitt**.



A First Day Cover of Scott # C-99



This year's show covers were designed by Ada Prill and produced by Joe Doles. Cancel designs by Joe Doles and Kelly Armstrong.



FDC for the two stamps being released at ROPEX and pictorial cancel was designed by Joe Doles, RPA member.

Designs are also in the works for a souvenir card to be serviced by the purchaser and cachet covers for the first day of sale for the Minnesota Statehood stamp and the Drag-only stamp also released the same weekend.

A Letter Kelly Armstrong would like to share with the RPA membership.

Hello Jay, (*Bigalke*)

I am a cachet maker and run a weekly ad in Linn's want ad section. I am writing to you about the commemorative cancel for the Hashknife Pony Express. Maybe you can share this with the Linn's readers. Back on March 5, 2007, Les Winick wrote a very interesting article in his column, The Insider. It was all about a reenactment of the Hashknife Pony Express, and 2008 would mark it's 50th run. The riders carry mail for a 3 day journey, covering 230 miles. People could send letters to be delivered by Pony Express and it was suggested not to send anything until the end of 2007. Well, being a cachet maker, this was an opportunity I could not pass up. I saved Mr. Winick's great article.

In late December, I made up ten covers with a western cachet, applied a stamp and removable return address label. I also enclosed a polite note and asked that their cachet be applied on the back of my envelope, and please return my covers inside the clear plastic sleeve that I sent with the covers. The attachment to this email shows one of the ten covers.



All ten have the Hashknife inked right on top of my artwork. The covers were sent loose in no protective sleeve or envelope. All have the auto cancel bar on the bottom and a few are ripped such as this one. All 10 are worthless. The postal cancel and rubber cachet are great, but in the condition these are in I don't even want them in my own collection, much less offering them to my customers.

Most of the commemorative cancels I apply for (shown in your column) are returned in great shape. The USPS has some great dedicated folks who really care. Too bad the postal folks in Holbrook, AZ don't understand customer service.

Thanks
Kelly

“Instead of putting your old stamps on an envelope to mail consider donating it to a charity”

Robert A. DeLena, CFP, half-jested, as he spoke on how charitable donations can benefit both the giver and the charity. “Each time you buy doughnuts and coffee for an official meeting of our Rochester Philatelic Association you are making a charitable donation that can be deducted from your taxes,” said DeLena, a certified financial planner who specializes in taxes and estate planning.

Speaking to about 30 members on at our February 28th meeting, Mr. DeLena noted that deductions were allowed not only for our own club but any other charitable organizations that the IRS has granted 501(c) 3 status. “We often miss significant deductions because we are unaware of what the IRS will allow.” All charitable donations are tax deductible on your income taxes on Schedule A. These include:

- * All volunteer out of pocket expenses
- * Any miles you traveled in your car (at 14 cents a mile) to perform services for the charity,
- * The cost of food and lodging if you are representing your charitable organization in an out of town event.

Other deductions often overlooked include:

- * Appraisal fees for donated property – if you are gifting a non-cash item like stamps the appraisal fee can be deducted not as a charitable item, but as a miscellaneous itemized deduction (subject to 2% of your adjusted gross income) on your Schedule A.
- * Donating appreciated property especially if you have owned the asset for more than one year, you can deduct the full market value and not just what you paid for it. This allows you the deduction and you get the added benefit of not having to pay a capital gains tax if you sold the property. Not for dealers. For collectors only

Mr. DeLena stated that the IRS is tightening regulations and you should substantiate all your costs. You should be able to prove the expense by a canceled check with bank records containing the charity name, donation amount, and date, or a detailed receipt from the charity. “Make sure you write on the back of your receipt for the doughnuts,” he said, “the date, who attended, and the specific reason for meeting.” Mr. DeLena, who recently moved from Florida and joined our club, has offices at 3678 Main Street in Piffard, New York He can be reached at 585-474-3405.

APRIL 10	APRIL 24	MAY 8	MAY 16-18	MAY 22	JUNE 12
ROPEX WORK NIGHT	BOB LAMB Post Offices Around The World	JOHN BABBITT Blanche Stuart (C-99)	ROPEX Set up ALL DAY Thursday 15TH	ANN TRIGGLE Hooker Stamps	Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers

ROPEX 2008 Rochester National Stamp Exhibition

An APS "World Series of Philately" Event

Friday, May 16 - Sunday, May 18



Featuring national conventions of the
American Helvetia Philatelic Society

(<http://www.swiss-stamps.org/>)

and the

Scouts on Stamps Society International

(<http://www.sossi.org/index.shtml>)



Hinges & Tongs

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