

Hinges & Tongs

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December 2009-February 2010



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The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

Last Call for 2009-2010 Dues!

Your address label on this issue clearly states whether your dues have been paid. If not, send a check for \$20, made payable to "RPA," to our PO box address listed above. Include your name, address, phone number, and email address if you have one.

RPA Banquet a Good Time for All



Eighteen RPA members and guests attended the RPA banquet on Thursday evening, October 8 at the Morningstar Restaurant.



Displayed are various RPA awards, including individual life membership plaques for **Bob Meegan** (pictured below with RPA President **Dave Bombard**) as well as **Ada Prill**, **Bernice Smith**, and **Ann Trigg** who were unable to attend. Congratulations one and all!



Patches Still Available!



Get your RPA embroidered patch for only \$2. Available at every RPA meeting or by sending a check payable to "RPA" and SASE to the club's Post Office box.

Have you visited the RPA web site recently? It is always being updated. Take special note of our area and regional stamp show listings!

StampExpo 400 Now History



StampExpo 400 has come and gone, much to the efforts and participation of many RPA members, including [Tom Fortunato](#), Exhibits Chair and a show judge, along with members who entered 7 of the 52 exhibits shown.

Those members included:

[George DeKornfeld](#)- *The First 125 Years of Post Marks & Postal Markings of Hudson, New York* [[Vermeil](#)]; [Alice Johnson](#)- *A Multitude of Angels* [[Vermeil](#)]; [Walter Orton](#)- *Pioneer Telegraph Companies of the North East Displaying Covers and/or Telegrams* [[Silver](#)]; and *Proprietary "Battleship" Revenue Stamps of 1898 from Alpha to Omega* [[Silver](#)]; [Alan Parsons](#)- *Corning, NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Served by the Corning Post Office* [[Vermeil](#)]; and *19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung & Tioga Counties* [[Silver](#)]; [Raymond M. Stone](#)- *The 3 cent Handcar - Rochester's First Transportation Coil* [[Silver](#)]

[John Stoltz](#) was a dealer and several other members attended, including [Karen and Duncan Barber](#), [George Fekete](#), [Ada Prill](#), [Dave Robinson](#), and [Jim Sands](#). [Cheryl Edgcomb](#) ran Stamp Camp USA for kids. [Malli Hui](#) manned the UNPA counter.



RPA's October 22nd Meeting



All members were sent a postcard in late September announcing an important meeting to discuss ROPEX and other special activities the club involves itself in over the course of the year and their impact on the RPA yearly budget. As it turns out, it was one of the best attended meetings in some time!

The discussion began with an overview of the RPA budget. At a very basic level, dues from the RPA membership in 2008-9 totaled \$1485, while the church hall rental alone cost \$1504. Other expenses include things such as insurance, photocopies for H&T, mailing costs, and more. Unless we want to dip into our CDs and other monetary assets, the club must rely on additional sources of income other than club dues to balance expenses. For now that includes things like bank interest, auction fees, and donations.

We continually count on ROPEX as the major "fund raising" activity for the club year after year. Much time and effort goes into producing ROPEX with the expectation that it will make a profit to 1) "pay off" the sweat equity put into the show and 2) offset the difference between our overall club income and expenses. With a 2009 ROPEX deficit of \$900 and dimming hopes of sizable profits from future ROPEX shows, we need to consider options.

There are pros and cons to every option brought up during the meeting. Several of these have been discussed and considered by the ROPEX committee in the past and will again be revisited as every possibility is "on the table" to ensure ROPEX remains profitable.

- Charge admission
Pro- It will raise some money and help determine an actual attendance figure.

Con- May cause some collectors to skip the show not wanting to pay the charge.

Alternative- Offer an admission discount coupon in our ads, but doing so may cut into the very revenue we want to tap into

- Change from a 3 day to a 2 day show

Pro- It should reduce our facility rental bill and security costs. It should avoid the slow business day typical on Sundays.

Con- The pro-rated savings might save around \$1500-\$2000, but dealers would expect a reduction in their table fees. Even a minimal \$50 drop per table (the average ROPEX table now costs \$400) would eat that profit. Dealer turnover should also be expected, as some dealers will not participate in a 2 day rather than 3 day event.

- Get more dealers

Pro- Selling more tables increases our income.

Con- The pool of dealers continues to dwindle as more are retiring and/or moving to the Internet as a way of lowering their own costs. Some dealers also feel their "cut of the pie" diminishes by the addition of more dealers.

- Ask for a free-will donation at the door

Pro- Raise money through a non-mandatory, volunteer-only door donation

Con- The majority of attendees will not donate anything.

Informal discussions after the close of the meeting produced these suggestions:

- Try advertising the show more on the Internet.
- If an admission is charged, offer to reimburse the fee if the attendee spends a certain dollar amount among the dealers.
- If an admission is charged, make it a membership incentive and allow members to enter for free.
- Use the show more as a recruitment tool and offer a new member price break of some kind. (Note that something like this was tried back around 2004.)

Possible cost-cutting opportunities include:

- Skip the multi-page pre-show flier and revert to a simple postcard mailing instead.

- Drop our enhanced color show program and replace it with a less expensive black and white handout.
- Reduce the already bare-bones show advertising in the philatelic and non-philatelic press.
- Continue to approach various philatelic societies to encourage them to host their national yearly meeting at ROPEX.
- Replace paid around the clock security guards with RPA volunteers

The 90 minute meeting that night flew by and we didn't even get to talk about perhaps its most vital component: YOU!

A dedicated core of about 10 members have composed the show's committee for many years. We have been fortunate that when a someone had to drop out, another was found to replace him or her. But we need "new blood" to continue ROPEX's growth. All positions need back up help, and some committee chairs are looking to retire from their post.

What can YOU help us with from among this list?

Advertising	Poster designing
Awards	Press releases
Banquet	Publicity
Bourse	Raffle
Cachet sales	Staging
Exhibits	Youth activities
Frame setup/takedown	

Yes, there will be a ROPEX in 2010, but the future is in your hands! Will you step up to the plate and volunteer?

Youth "Design A Stamp" Competition a Go



RPA member [Frank Tritto](#) has pulled all the right strings and set into motion the seemingly impossible—he has gotten the Rochester City School District to buy into the idea of holding a “Design A Stamp” competition for 6th through 12th grade students. In fact, the concept is expanding beyond the city borders and may eventually include schools in other townships, especially now that Congresswomen Louis Slaughter has found out about it.

Full details are being worked out, including the theme. Initial plans call for a variety of age brackets to be set, entrants to be received and voted on, with first, second and third place monetary awards sponsored by scholastic sources. It is hoped that an awards ceremony could be arranged during ROPEX.

Cachet Production Back?



The “Frame Fund” Committee may get back in business! The example above created by Joe Doles was presented to attendees at the RPA banquet in October.

For you newer members, back in the ‘80’s and ‘90’s a group of members designed and sold FDC and commemorative cacheted covers as a fund raising activity with proceeds earmarked to pay for new exhibit frames expected to cost \$25,000 or so. Their work was prolific and very successful, some of which can be viewed on the RPA web site today.

As it turned out, Andy Hale became the club’s angel by augmenting the fund’s coffers when it came time order the exhibit frames which we now have. Cachets continued to be produced for a while then trickled off.

The combination of national releases for all stamp issues and the availability of the “First Day of Sale” postmark at the Rochester main Post Office sparked renewed possibilities that the group may once again become active.

Are you interested in becoming part of this project? It once again has great fund raising potential for the club while showcasing the creative talents of our membership.

A meeting will be arranged before the start of the new year. Its date and time will be announced during the November or December RPA meeting and also sent out to members with email.

US Postage Rates Steady in 2010

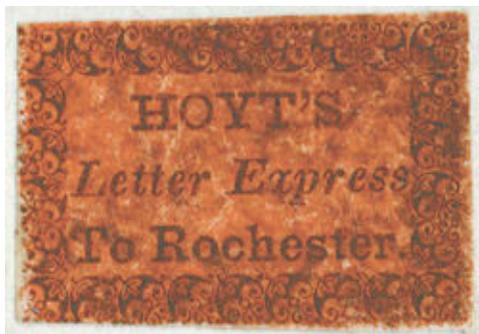
It looks like ROPEX will not host a first day or first day of sale ceremony in 2010 now that it’s pretty clear that most postage rates will remain at current levels next year.

A Linn’s Stamp News front page article from November 2 quotes an October 15 press release by Postmaster General John Potter as saying, “Simply stated, there will not be a price increase for market dominant products, including first class mail, standard mail, periodicals [and] single piece parcel post.”

The door was open a crack, however, for priority mail, express mail, and international mail rates to go up. January was the tentative release month for a new priority stamp depicting Michigan’s Mackinac Bridge as well as an express mail stamp showing California’s Bixby Creek Bridge.



Rochester's Philatelic History: Hoyt's Letter Express



Scott 85L1

Doesn't look like much, does it? But this non-denominated label is probably Rochester's most important and expensive philatelic item. It's image has been part of our web site's home page since it was redesigned over a year ago.

Hoyt's Letter Express was one of a handful of highly successful independent mail carriers that operated between 1843 and July 1845. After that time the federal government forced them out of the letter carrying business.

The example shown above was lot 1189 in Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. sale 817, The David Golden Collection of U.S. Carriers and Locals that took place November 15-17, 1999. It can be found online at: <http://www.siegelauctions.net/1999/817/yf817199.htm>. The lot's listing really says it all:

"Hoyt's Letter Express, Rochester N.Y., (5c) Black on Vermilion Glazed (85L1). Full margins except slightly in at left, paper has characteristic fibrous surface, uncanceled on small piece of cover with red ms. "2".

"VERY FINE. ONE OF NINE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF HOYT'S LETTER EXPRESS STAMP -- AMONG THE RAREST OF THE 1844 INDEPENDENT MAIL ISSUES.

"According to research by Elliott Perry, David Hoyt was an agent of Pomeroy & Co. before and after he operated his short-lived letter express in July and August 1844. Hoyt's letter express was not connected to the railroad, but

instead utilized Genesee Valley canal boats to bring mail between Rochester and Danville, New York. As advertised in the Rochester Advertiser (Jul. 27-Aug. 31, 1844), Hoyt's Letter Express made intermediate stops at Mt. Morris, Cuylerville, Geneseo, Spenser's Basin, Piffordina, Avon and Scottsville. Hoyt connected with Pomeroy's Letter Express and through Pomeroy's with Boyd's for local New York City delivery.

"Only nine stamps are recorded, including four singles on covers, a pair on cover front, an uncanceled stamp and two stamps on pieces (one of which is offered here). Three of the single stamps (including one "Lettcr" error) are used on covers in conjunction with Pomeroy's Letter Express Blue stamp (one to New York City with a Boyd's date stamp). The fourth single on cover has a manuscript Pomeroy's marking. The pair, of which one stamp is the "Lettcr" error, is used on a cover-front in combination with a Pomeroy's pair and Boyd's date stamp. The uncanceled single was offered in the Caspary sale, as was the piece offered here. Another single on piece is shown in a photo from the Costales files.

"Ex Caspary and Lilly."

It sold for \$14,500, a far cry from its 1910 value of \$25 as mentioned in "The Wonderland of Stamps" by William Dwight Burroughs.

Upcoming Area Shows

Jan 3 **Rochester** RS Stamp Show
Eagles Club, 1200 Buffalo Rd (Rt. 33), Gates.
Hours: 10-4. Bourse.

Contact: John Nunes, (518)399-8395.
Email: Nunesnook@aol.com

Jan 23 **St. Catharines** 61st CATHEX Show
Sponsored by the St. Catharines Stamp Club.
Grantham Lion's Club, 732 Niagara St.
Hours: 10-5. 12-14 Dealers, club circuits,
lunch counter. Bourse.

Email: stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

Web Site:

<http://home.cogeco.ca/~stampclub/home.htm>

Tentative New US Stamp Releases



January

44c Year of the Tiger stamp/souvenir sheet
44c Olympic Winter Games
Priority Mail Stamp- Mackinac Bridge
Express Mail stamp- Bixby Creek Bridge

February

44c Distinguished Sailors (William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy and Doris Miller), Washington, D.C.

Next RPA Meetings

Thursday, Dec 10 What are Christmas Seals? by Florence Wright
Thursday, Jan 14.....TBA
Thursday, Feb 11.....TBA
Thursday, Mar 10.....TBA
Thursday, Mar 25.....TBA

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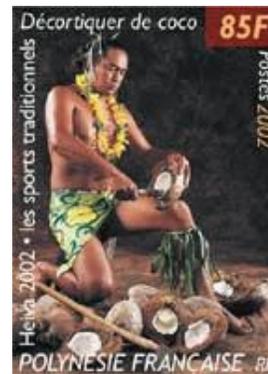
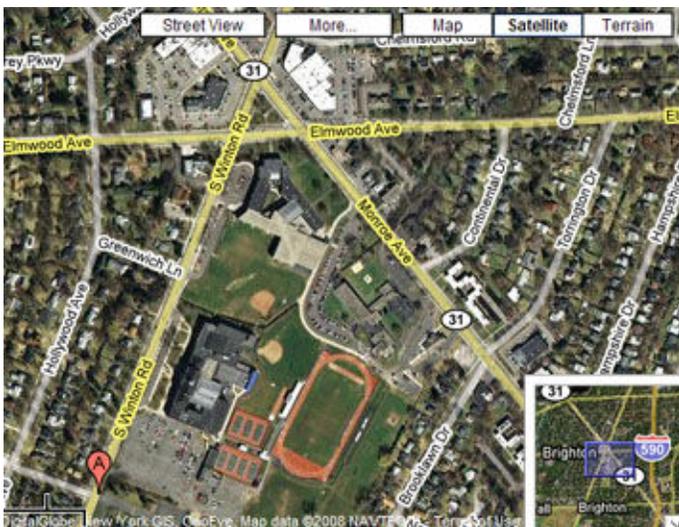
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Article submissions always welcome! Contact Tom by email or phone.

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RPA Meetings are at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church
1200 Winton Rd South, just south of Brighton High School



French Polynesia's
Sport of Coconut
Pulp Peeling

A copra professional activity, it becomes a sport when it is necessary to extract and put away the nut pulp in a minimum of time. The quantities are variable: fifty for female teams, a hundred and fifty for men and sixty for competitors on their own. Times are therefore also different: from 7 to 9 minutes for women, from 5 to 7 minutes for men and from 6 to 7 minutes for competitors on their own. An axe (to'i or opahi), an adze (pa'aro ha'ari) and jute bags (pute tore) are the only authorized tools to open the coconuts, peel the pulp and put it away in bags. The competitors from the Tuamotu and the Leeward Islands are the best at it. *Issued June 27, 2002*

From: Office des Postes et Telecommunications
de Polynesie Française