

Hinges & Tongs



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Articles from members for this publication are welcomed!

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

September Meetings Well Attended

The club kicked off what we hope will be a very successful year with two well attended meetings in September. On the 12th, after a little old business and a bit of general discussion, we all shared our summer experiences. A few folks reported on attending, and enjoying, the APS show in Milwaukee, others spoke of new acquisitions or organizing their philatelic material, and still others had given their stamp collections a rest while travelling. It was a great chance for the 28 members who attended to get re-acquainted and share a few stories and laughs.

Several folks had done enough to put together a number of auction lots. The back table "overflowth" with goodies and most items had bids and even multiple bids. If you have duplicates or material you no longer wish to find space for, there may be a club member willing to pay you a little something. It's not hard: just get a club auction sheet (that will cost you a whopping 10 pennies), fill it out and put the material on the table at 7:00 PM at any meeting. If you are lucky you can sell more at the silent auction than you buy!

Our second meeting featured a presentation by George Fekete entitled "Creating Your Own Album Pages". Thirty-one members attended to hear George demonstrate the use of . OpenOffice 4.0.0 Draw (a shareware freebie) to generate high quality album pages with your own computer and printer. He demonstrated how to create an annotated page for US Scott #1 and #2 that looks just like the Scott album page. And then he showed how to modify pages for your own specific need.

But you don't have to feel badly if you missed the meeting. George's full presentation can be accessed from the meetings webpage <http://www.rpastamps.org/rpa-meetingschedule.html> And if the pdf formatted slides don't answer all your question's, George is available to help anyone develop their own album pages.



George Fekete has everyone's rapt attention with his album page making presentation.

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WE CELEBRATED A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY AT OUR SEPTEMBER 26th MEETING



Frank Tritto, 90 years young, is pictured with his Inverted Jenny cake just before 31 folks devoured it.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My fellow RPA philatelists,

Pretty impressive introduction, isn't it? I was always impressed when President Lyndon B. Johnson began his speeches with "Maaaa Fello Amuurikins." But in his day, LBJ usually reported only bad news to his countrymen & women. I here will report to you a rosy RPA picture as we begin our 101st continuous year. According to our RPA veterans, this is the longest continuous run of activity of any stamp club in America. But, I will also ask for your contribution to continue to make our association successful.

The life blood of any volunteer organization is membership contribution. We are lucky to have a core of members who routinely contribute their time and energy to make both front room and back room activities happen. But all activities need refreshing from new blood with new ideas. So, if you are not actively contributing to the RPA, let me know what you can do and I'll try to put you to work to meet our objectives.

To date, I'm happy to report that our meeting attendance is up, our meeting presentations have been first class and our meeting information exchanges have been orderly and well participated. Our members have brought our club to a senior citizen home, a Library, the Rochester Numismatic Association stamp show and the quarterly local stamp show. Several new and potentially new RPA members have been identified. Work to deliver another successful ROPEX is on-going.

Areas where I would like to see more activity and involvement include the silent auction, the Circuit book program and the youth program. Bring your ideas to the next meeting.

So, continue to enjoy and contribute to our RPA as we begin our second hundred years. See you at the next meeting.

Your President, **Rich Spinelli**

Dinner Meeting and Called Auction

On October 10th, we moved our meeting to the Morningstar Restaurant on Merchants Rd. and held a combined dinner meeting/called auction. After dinner, John Stoltz took the floor to run a called auction. Rich Spinelli and Mario Sarra acted as "runners" and Rick Case collected the "dinaro". In about an hour of spirited bidding periodically punctuated by a fair amount of laughter, John managed to call 26 lots, 16 were donated club lots and 10 were contributed by members.



We all thank Mario Sarra for contributing several bottles of his home made wine. Dave Robinson seems to be enjoying his.

The second October meeting presentation was entitled "Psycho-Philately: Adolf Hitler". The research and text was the work of Dr. Anthony Labrum. Tom Fortunato added some related images and made the presentation. The topic generated a lot of discussion, particularly amongst those with WW II memories themselves or of their parents. The presentation is available on the website.

Did You Know

The RPA tracks the online hits to their main webpage and to the ROPEX page? We don't know who you when you visit, but we can count the hits and the locations from which they come. How many times do you think our website was opened in the last 6 months? How many countries do you think were represented? Which foreign country do you think had the most visitors?

Take a guess and then turn/scroll to page 5



I received two e-mail letters from out of town members after the first H&T of the fall season was released in August. Which gave me an idea – Let's have a letters column. If you want to communicate with your colleagues in the RPA, just send me a note and we'll simply work it into the next Hinges and Tongs.

I heard from Gordon Morison from his Maryland home. He thought newer members (like me!) might like to know the origin of this newsletter's name. Gordon wrote:

"It was either in the late '50s or early '60s when the club actually had a contest to select the name. My wife Mary suggested "Hinges and Tongs." At that time I was working at Stromberg-Carlson and a good friend of mine was one of the more creative draftsmen there. So, after the club had made the selection, I asked our draftsman for a favor--would he design the newsletter's masthead for us. He agreed and a week later he came up with the finished artwork for us to use. I took one look at it, and almost burst out laughing. He had used the general public's knowledge of what are hinges and tongs. He had drawn a huge set of tongs that the iceman used to carry a block of ice into my grandparents' house and a pair of very large decorative hinges for a barn door. I thanked him profusely, but I don't recall where we finally obtained appropriate artwork.

The logo may not have stuck, but Gordon's wife's name selection was chosen and the name has been with us for over 50 years – just about as long as George Eastman's stamp has been around.

The second letter came from sunny Florida. Dick Hall was responding to my request for ideas for the Hinges and Tongs. Dick proposed that we seek philatelic questions from our members or perhaps some that have been put to our members. From his Fort Myers Beach home Dick wrote:

"Questions and answers might be a good feature for H & T. When you get a question you cannot answer, you could have a list of experienced collectors to whom to send the question. You could

then either use the best answer or combine them into an edited version of your own. I am sure many collectors in RPA would volunteer to be on your "experts list". Questions should not be attributed so members will not have to be worried about appearing dumb with their questions. Some simple questions would be answered directly and the ones you feel are of general interest would be published in H & T. What do you think?

Well, I think it is a great idea. Submit a question and we'll find local experts to answer it.

RPA Library Exhibits

Given the response and success of placing exhibits in the Pittsford and Brighton Libraries last spring, the RPA has pulled together exhibit material and hopes place it into different libraries on a regular and rotating basis. In November, the glass display case outside the Penfield Library on Baird Avenue is home to our display. If you know of a local library that might have a suitable case or have some interesting material you think would diversify our display, please contact Fred Haynes. (fredpattyhaynes@gmail.com or 203-1733)



Penfield Library Display, November 2013

Did you know that you can now read minutes from all club and board meetings on the website? Just double click on the link below and then click on the icon next to the meeting of interest to you. Minutes are usually posted within 1-2 weeks of the event.

<http://www.rpastamps.org/rpa-meetingschedule.html>

The Membership Committee reports 50 paid members in addition to 21 life members. To those of you who have paid .. THANKS. To the rest of you, dues are only \$20, and are payable for the 2013-2014 year. Please send to Florence Wright, 33 Northumberland Rd., Rochester, NY 14618, or bring cash or check (made payable to RPA) to the November 14th meeting.

A C3a story

Contributed by Whitney McMahon

Quite a few years ago, back when ROPEX was downtown at the Holiday Inn, I made an interesting purchase. The Scott number was one everyone in stamp collecting should recognize in an instant. C3a.

Now it isn't everyday that one gets to take a look at this stamp, much less in a dealer's album. However, this wasn't the first invert I had a chance to see. When I went to my second stamp show I saw a 295A, the inverted 2c train. At the time I could have purchased it for a mere \$45,000.00. I was a bit short of cash and was afraid my credit card wouldn't cover it, my loss. This time my wallet was a bit thicker and after all, how many times did a real C3a become available. I asked the dealer if he was sure that he had the correct price listed and he assured me it was the correct. So now in my collection is a fine example of what a post office goof looks like.

go to page 6 for *"the rest of the story"*

STEPEX 2013

For those of you who attended STEPEX 2013 Friday the 16th and 17th of October in Big Flats, NY, you will know that RPA was well represented in the exhibit row. In fact 12 of the 15 competitive exhibits were entered by RPA members! Congratulations to RPA members for the following exhibits and awards.

19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga Counties, NY (**Alan Parsons**) - GOLD

Usages of the U.S. 1½ cent Circular Die Postal Stationary (**Stephen Suffet**) - GOLD

Star Cancels of Delaware County, NY
(**Ada Prill**) - GOLD

Uh-Oh! Mistakes in U.S. Auxiliary Markings
(**Ada Prill**) - GOLD

Macrophily of Hudson, New York, 1793-1919
(**George DeKornfeld**) - GOLD

Making Whitetail Venison Sausage
(**George DeKornfeld**) - GOLD

Everybody Must Get Stoned
(**Ellie Steeb**) - GOLD

Angels in the Judeo-Christian Era
(**Alice Johnson**) - GOLD

5¢ Circus Wagon Transportation Coil
(**Raymond Stone**) - SILVER

Coronation of George VI
(**Raymond Stone**) - BRONZE

The Imperial Eagles of Mexico, 1864-1866
(**Donald R. Dolan**) - SILVER

What's a Telephone Good For
(**Ada Prill**) - GOLD with Felicitations

The Poultry Centennial Issue of 1948: (a non-competitive exhibit entered by Chicken Little, Egg McMuffin, and Sunnyside Up, *alias Ada Prill*)

The STEPEX exhibits also included a memorial to our own Norman Wright who passed away in June of 2011. Norm's two-frame memorial exhibit was entitled "Selected Rochester (NY) Rail Mail." In addition, a single frame from one on Norman's many exhibits was displayed, entitled "Reading', (w)Riting', and Railroadin'."

If you have something you'd like to contribute to the next Hinges and Tongs, please pass it to me in any manner you wish. I can format, edit or otherwise handle anything you send. Bring it to a meeting or send it to fredpattyhaynes@gmail.com
Thanks, Fred Haynes (203-1733)

Hinges and Tongs is issued quarterly in early February, May, August, and November.

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held downstairs at the Brighton Reformed Church, 805 Blossom Road beginning at 7 PM. The first half hour is reserved for silent auction viewing, show and trade among members, and general social interaction. The night's program kicks off at about 7:30 PM. An elevator is available for handicapped members.

At press time five of our six meetings before the end of the year have a program. We are looking for program topics for the other slot and also for winter meetings in early 2014.

We have two more meetings in 2013

Thursday, Nov 14..... "Minerals on Stamps"
by Fred Haynes

Thursday, Dec 12..... "Medical Stamps"
by Steve Eisinger

We will kick off 2014 with an instructional meeting:

Thursday Jan 9 "Exhibiting Basics 1"
by Tom Fortunato

Visit the RPA website for an complete list of 2014 events and meeting topics.



A lively moment at one of our September meetings. Actually I think everyone is just waiting for Frank Tritto to cut that cake in front of him. In the middle with the orange shirt, Tom Fortunato was ready for Halloween (a month early!).

Did You Know (cont. from pg. 2)

RPA website from April 1 to Oct 1 (6 mos.)

Total visitors in 6 months –2116

Unique visitors in 6 months* - 1557

Number of Countries last 2 months -- 15

Country with most hits - France (17)

Country with second most - Russia (6)

*Unique visitor = first time in period

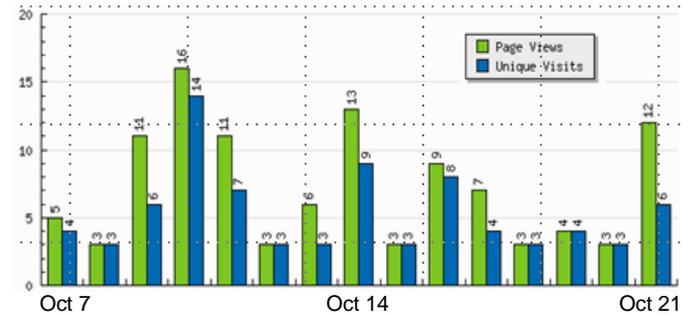
ROPEX webpage -March 1 to June 1 (3 mos.)
(period preceding show)

Total visitors – 1641

Unique visitors - 1266

And here is a graph depicting the daily visitation for the 14 day period from October 7th to Oct 21st.

Notice we have multiple unique visitors on a daily basis.



USPCS 1847 Cover Census By Mark Scheuer

Collectors worldwide are invited to view and use the census of US 1847 Issue stamps, Scott #1 and #2, on cover hosted by the US Philatelic Classics Society. Over 14,700 covers are listed along with over 1665 not listed in Thomas Alexander's published work (USPCS, 2001). A user's guide is provided to assist in using the search tool to find a single cover or an entire correspondence. The census can be found at

<http://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/censuses/>.

Recently posted is a census of Postmaster Provisional stamps on cover, as well as all off cover examples of the Brattleboro, Millbury, and New Haven stamps. Here are found 1260 listings, about 90% illustrated, of these rare issues. Recent lot descriptions and prices realized make these censuses useful to both buyers and philatelic researchers alike. The censuses are administered by Mark Scheuer, member of the USPCS, APS, and the Rochester Philatelic Association.

If you collect these issues and have better scans or updated information, please submit them to the census administrator using the email link on the site. All submissions are fully credited.

Editor's note: see the Nov-Dec issue of Stamp Insider to read Mark's comprehensive report on the USPCS 1847 cover census

New US Issues for the Holidays



You can't eat these Gingerbread houses, heck you can't even lick them, but you can mail your Holiday Greetings with them! They were released on November 6th. Sally Andersen-Bruce photographed the houses, created by baker Teresa Layman. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps. I can't seem to find out who got to eat them.

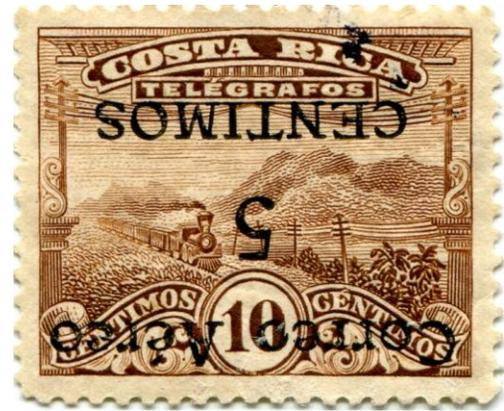
There are (or will be) several other Holiday stamps available. Here are three:



Release dates
 Wreath – Oct 24 (Global)
 Hanukkah – Nov 19
 Kwanzaa – Dec 1

The rest of the C3a story (cont. from pg. 4)

According to Norm Wright's book on train stamps (Did you really think I had an airplane on the stamp??), my Costa Rica C3a might not be real. The stamp is also not listed in the current *Scott*TM catalog, but it is listed and priced in the *Minkus & Sanabria* catalogues; 200 copies of this error are known, with no known copies postally used, & all were at one time in collector hands. *Scott* now carries a notation, "The existence of genuine inverted or double surcharges of #C3-C5 is in doubt."



So, is it real or fake? Most likely it's not real, however I still enjoy having it in my collection.

Did you get your Made in America sheet of Forever stamps on its release date of August 3rd? There are a number of interesting topical stamps in the set.

