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Five New Life Members • Tribute to Mark Hull

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## RPA conducts member survey

To kick start the 2015 fall program season the RPA decided to survey its members regarding their desires for club programs, their collecting interests, and other items. At our September meetings 31 members filled out the survey. Those present at the next meeting heard some of the results. Now, for the rest of you, here are some results.

Using a scale of 1 to 5 (5 is favorable), members clearly stated that philatelic presentations were their preferred meeting program. The average score for programs involving member or guest presentations was 4.67. Annual or semi-annual called auctions and everyone-a-dealer nights were still popular but scored lower at 3.70 and 3.51 respectively. Eighteen responders (58%) listed member presentations as their preferred topic while only five listed called auction and three listed dealer night.

Our second objective with the survey was to learn what our members collect and perhaps to compile information that might help folks with common interests find each other.

Continued on page 6 (see RPA Survey)



We have now comfortably settled into our new meeting home at the Jewish Community Center on Edgewood Ave. We have a large meeting room with lots of space for silent auction material and a great set-up for presentations. If you are one of our absent members come check it out. Over 30 members did in late October.



### Obscure, Bizarre and Defunct Countries

A Presentation by Steve Eisinger

Over the course of the past couple decades, RPA Club member Steve Eisinger has assembled a rather interesting collection. He collects stamps together with coins from tiny countries and enclaves around the world. He keeps the stamps and coins together and organized geographically. In October, Steve shared his collection with us with a presentation entitled “Confusing, Obscure, Bizarre, and Defunct Countries – Their Coins and Stamps”.

Have you heard of Katanga? The southern province of the Congo Republic existed independently for only 15 months in 1960- 61, but they managed to issue 78 regular stamps (most overprints of Belgian Congo), before being resorbed.



**Katanga**

Both issued in 1961, this 1 Fr bronze coin and 8 Fr stamp carry the symbolic “cross of Katanga”

How many Guinea’s can you name, and then how many of those can you locate on a map and identify their colonial origin? Steve showed us that there were nine, and that they exist/existed on 3 different continents and as colonies of five different European empires. Five of them line up like fingers on your hand between the South American countries of Venezuela and Brazil. Locating Equatorial Guinea in West Africa can be tricky though; it is not actually on the equator.

Of course, we all know that the world, including the philatelic and numismatic inclined, welcomed a whole set of “stan” nations with the break-up of the Soviet

Continued on page 5 (see *Obscure and Bizarre*)

## President's Message



My Phellow Philatelists,

Thanks to all those members who contributed to the RPA survey a couple of meetings ago, and thanks to our Secretary, Fred Haynes, for preparing it and analyzing and sharing the results at a meeting and in this issue of H&T. The Board will do it's best to strengthen those elements of our meetings and procedures you enjoy most as well as implement those new ideas you have suggested.

Vice president Ray Stone has booked our meeting presentations through January of next year, but is looking for topics for the remainder of this season. Take the initiative and get your input and preferred presentation date to Ray.

I am pleased to announce our Cachet Contest, the rules of which are detailed to the right. The nice part of this contest is that ALL members, near and far, can participate, not just those who regularly attend meetings. Pick a stamp, used or otherwise, create your cachet, add the proper postage and send it to the address shown elsewhere. Fabulous prizes will be given to selected cachets. And, a special prize will be given to that cachet which comes from the farthest distance from Rochester.

Last but not least, we will continue with our gift exchange at our December meeting. Bring a wrapped gift of between \$5.00 and \$10.00 and you will receive a like gift in return. See you soon.

**Rich Spinelli**  
**President, Rochester Philatelic Association**

## Upcoming RPA Meetings

- Thurs. Nov. 12** Everyone a Dealer Night  
**Thurs. Dec. 10** Stamp Quiz and Christmas Party  
**Thurs. Jan. 14** "Dear Doctor Postcards"  
Tom Fortunato  
**Thurs. Jan. 28** "Surprises from the Dollar Box"  
Rich Spinelli: *All members are encouraged to bring "surprises" also.*

**Thurs. Feb. 11** Cachet Contest Results & Review

**Thurs. Feb. 25** "What I Collect" ROPEX Exhibit Night (*more details to follow*)

Meetings begin at 7 PM. The first half hour is for silent auction viewing, show and trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program begins at 7:30 PM.

We meet at the Jewish Community Center at 1200 Edgewood Ave., just north of the Erie Canal. Visit the [RPA website](#) for an updated and complete list of our programs and to view many of our past programs.

## RPA DESIGN A CACHET CONTEST

RPA announces a contest to test your philatelic creativity. Over the next couple months, we ask members to design a cachet and submit via mail. This is an excellent opportunity for our out of town members to participate in a club event. The rules are rather simple:

- 1) Pick a US stamp of any denomination/vintage.  
*It can be mint or used (see #4)*
- 2) Place it on a regular letter envelope No. 6 ¾
- 3) Create a cachet design that goes with your chosen stamp.  
Any method (pencil, ink, paint, blood, computer graphics, etc.) is acceptable.
- 4) Add sufficient postage for mailing if your chosen stamp is either used or less than 49 cents.
- 5) Mail to: RPA President – Rich Spinelli  
295 Raspberry Patch Drive  
Rochester, NY 14612-2875

It is really that simple.

Deadline: Postmarked before Jan. 10, 2016.

Each club member is allowed two entries.

Return address on envelope is optional, but do remember to put your name inside!

We will view all the results and award wonderful prizes at our February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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### **RS Stamp Show in Rochester**

Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup> (9:30 – 4:00 PM)

North Greece Fireman's Field, 3666 Latta Rd. (Rte 18)

Contact: Bob Steeb, 585-621-5019

[rsstamp@frontiernet.net](mailto:rsstamp@frontiernet.net)

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## Precancel Stamp Serendipity

By Charlie Adrion

It is unusual when spam=serendipity. Recently I got a spam email from Stanley Gibbons, the legendary London stamp dealer and auctioneer. They have gotten involved with online sales, having bought out Bidstart.com. They are merging operations with their own sales/auction site and the results have been receiving some bad press. Technical improvements have been made and they are asking customers to try the new site and fill out an on-line questionnaire. Always curious and always looking for precancel sources I tried them out after not visiting for many months.

I come across this stamp - priced at a mere 0.15 with \$1.50 'shipping'.



Checking the Precancel Stamp Society Town and Type catalog I discovered that West Alexander is listed with only one precancel 'style', known as a PSS-705. The PSS-705 was printed from a metal device with two lines, not bars, and smaller letters. This new precancel is known as a

PSS-623, printed from a rubber device with bars, and a distinctive combination of two different type faces. One of the exciting/fun aspects of precancel collecting is the possibility of finding an undiscovered town or type. This one has been verified new and authentic by the catalog editors. The price would be high but I am not planning on selling. It is only the third new type I have found in thirty years collecting. Serendipity!

West Alexander PA, population 604, is in Washington County, southwest of Pittsburgh.

Charlie Adrion, PSS Promotional Secretary  
[For more information about precancels visit [precancels.com](http://precancels.com) or contact me through H & T.]

**Editor's Note:** Charlie has also informed us that he has completed another state compilation of precancels. This time the lucky state is Montana. Here is a link to Charlie's 2015 publication entitled "[Montana Precancels: Catalog and Guidebook](#)" on the Precancel Society Self-Published literature page. Lots of neat stuff there for you precancel collectors, or for any precancel collector "wannabes".

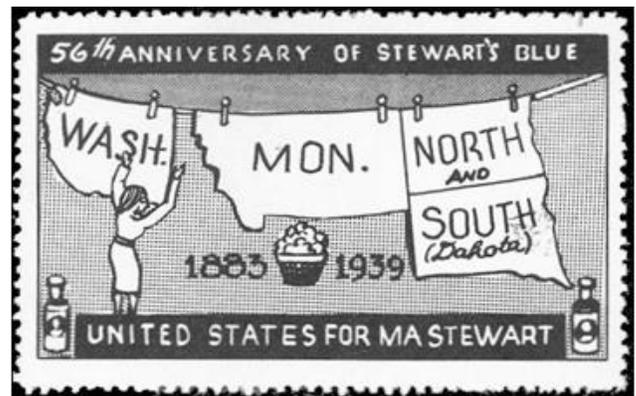
## Creativity in Advertising with Stamps

When RPA new member Gail Ellsworth was looking over her dad's stamp collection she happened upon an old newspaper article discussing a creative use of the 1939 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood Commemorative Issue for four northwest states. Take a look at the rose violet stamp below:



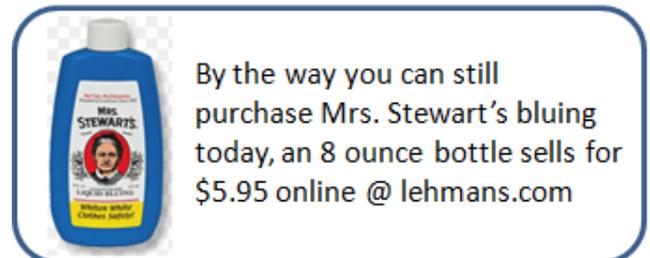
Scott # 858, issued November 2, 1939

Do the states look like clothes hanging on a clothesline? They did to the makers of a product called "Mrs. Stewart's Bluing Fabric Whitening". So, they went to work inserting some clothespins and a woman hanging clothes. They changed the date as Mrs. Stewart's Bluing was 6 years older than the states and naturally they made the states pure white to reflect the quality of the product.



Here is the result of the ad campaign's creativity.

The newspaper article Gail's dad had saved was dated November 27, 1939, less than 4 weeks after the stamp was issued. They were quick!



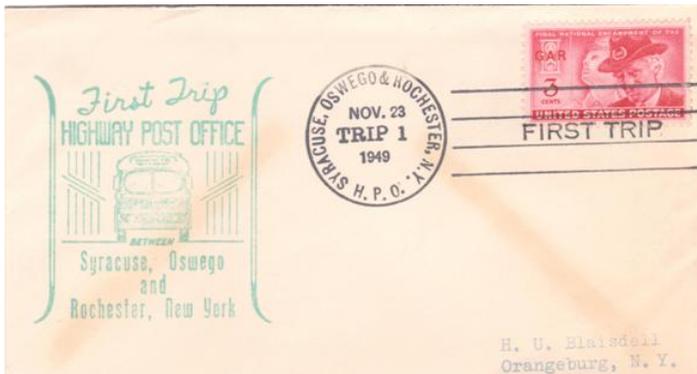
By the way you can still purchase Mrs. Stewart's bluing today, an 8 ounce bottle sells for \$5.95 online @ [lehmans.com](http://lehmans.com)



## Highway Post Office (HPO)

By Larry Rausch

On February 10, 1941 the Post Office Department established its Highway Post Office (HPO) with the inaugural trip between Washington DC and Harrisonburg Virginia. During the history of the HPO, a total of 410 routes operated throughout the United States using the buses shown above. The routes were an average of 150 miles in length and serviced an average of 25 Post Offices during their route.



This cover was postmarked on November 23, 1949 during the first trip on the route between Syracuse to Oswego and on to Rochester, NY, a journey covering approximately 140 miles.



Here are a few more samples of the postmark on HPOs.

After 33 years, the last HPO trip occurred on June 30, 1974 between Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio ending the era of using buses to pick up, sort, postmark and distribute mail. For more HPO information, contact the Mobile Post Office Society. A good reference's on both RPO's and HPO's is *The Railway Mail Clerk and the Highway Post Office* by H. K. Culbreth. The Mobile Post Office Society also has a US Highway Post Office Cover Catalog.



## Washington 2006

An RPA Presentation  
by John Babbitt

As we prepare for the once a decade World Philatelic Exhibition next spring in New York City, John Babbitt joined us at a dinner meeting to review the last such event in 2006 in Washington D.C.



After a dinner of chicken french or grilled pork chops at the Morningstar, John Babbitt, in green, entertained us with slides and memories of Washington 2016.

John dipped into his photographic archive and put together a program highlighting the venue, the first day issues, the philatelic exhibits, and more. John reported that 225,000 stamp collectors and other visitors attended the eight day event. They bought stamps from over 220 dealers and postal administrations and viewed over 3800 frames of competitive exhibits. Over 60 countries held first day ceremonies and cover purchase was brisk. Ray Stone brought his extensive collection from the event and laid them across two restaurant tables. Will New York City 2016 be even better?



The 40 stamp Wonders of America set was issued during the 2006 show creating a multitude of first day cover opportunities with the colorful commemoratives.

## Obscure and Bizarre (cont. from pg. 1)

Union in 1991. Many are land locked, some are rich in natural resources, but all started issuing colorful stamps and coins as soon as they could fire up their printing and minting machines.



**Do you know these countries? Can you spell them? What are their capital cities?**

Have you ever heard of Transnistria? Lying along the border between the current countries of Moldova and Ukraine, this partly recognized breakaway territory has actually issued stamps twice. Under occupation during World War II the Romanian government issued special Transnistria stamps for internal use. Then, after declaring independence in 1990, the postal authorities in the capital of Tiraspol printed stamps which they still do today. They are only valid for internal use and as the country is not recognized, its stamps are not either.

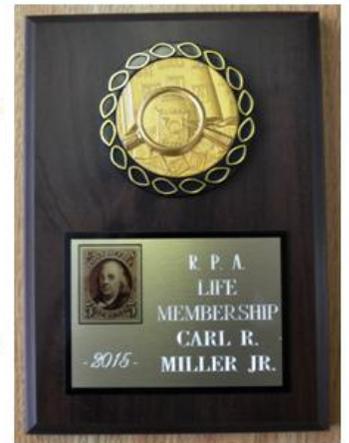


**Recognize these stamps?** Steve told us all about North Ingermandland. If you did not come and learn with us, you have to look up where it is !

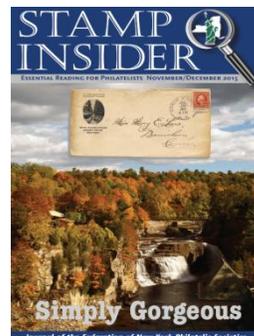
By the end of Steve's whirlwind tour of obscure, bizarre and confusing lands, we had been introduced, re-acquainted or otherwise stimulated by seeing the stamps and coins of more than 50 countries. Who knows of the connection between Nobel Prize winning physicist and philatelist Richard Feynman and Tanna Tuva? Steve told us we saw only a small portion of his "bizarre" collection. You can still see his talk if you missed the RPA event. He will be presenting the same talk to the Rochester Numismatic Association at 7:30 on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Eisenhart Auditorium on East Ave. Or, you can [see his slides](#) on the RPA meetings webpage.

*Hinges & Tongs*

Twenty-five years is a full quarter of a century. It is also how much time it takes to be awarded life membership in the prestigious Rochester Philatelic Association. And this year, the club welcomed a record five members to that distinguished group of philatelists. Carl Miller, Florence Wright, Alice Johnson, Paul Brach, and Dave Phillips all received this lifetime honor and this plaque for their quarter of a century of stamp collecting with the RPA.



**COMING ISSUE:** How many of these pets have you had during your life? In early 2016, you can have them all. The USPS has not yet set a date for the release of this set of 20 Forever Pets stamps..



## STAMP INSIDER Nov-Dec Issue

New York club news  
Info on 2016 World Show  
Much more

[Link to online pdf](#)

## RPA Member Mark Hull

By Florence Wright

Our stamp club lost a long-time member in July. Mark Hull, who joined RPA while he was a student at Madison High School in 1948, died July 29, just nine days after his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Mark Hull (1931-2015)

In addition to his stamp collecting interests, Mark had a life-long love of learning and was a connoisseur of great food. He possessed a photographic memory and a brilliant mind. His knowledge of history and his ability to remember people and events constantly amazed family, friends and everyone he met as the result of his gregarious nature. Mark was an accomplished pianist who loved classical music, had a passion for the English Language and also spoke French and German.

At RPA meetings where there might be a piano in the room, it was not unusual for Mark to sit down and play – from memory – some classical music.

His stamp and other activities were severely curtailed in recent years due to a debilitating accident at his home. However, he was able to attend the RPA 100<sup>th</sup> dinner event in 2013, when member Ada Prill recalled, "We sat at a table with the self-styled 'shy and retiring' (in fact anything but) Mark Hull, who is always fun and who joined RPA in 1948."

Past RPA member Gordon Morison, now a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland writes "I remember Mark well from more than a half century

ago when we both were members of the Rochester Philatelic Association. He was an avid collector and contributed to many events that were sponsored in the 1950s and 1960s. I know he will be missed by those who knew him, but there are fewer and fewer his age remaining.

A stirring tribute to Mark was written on the guestbook of NewComer's website.

<http://www.newcomerrochester.com/obituary/106409/Mark-D-Hull/Rochester-New%20York>.

Several RPA members attended his graveside service on August 6, 2015 at White Haven Memorial Park in Pittsford.

### RPA Survey (cont. from pg 1)

Our first question on collecting interest strove to determine whether our club was dominated by US or worldwide collectors and mint or used. We should have known! We pretty much all collect anything! Here is a summary:

#### Do you collect US.?

Yes – 26    No – 3  
Mint – 20    Used – 18  
Covers – 12    FDC – 7

#### Do you collect worldwide?

Yes – 22    No – 4  
Mint – 9    Used – 14  
Covers – 5    FDC – 3

Some U.S. specialties were listed (revenue-3, precancels-2, postal history-2, Franklins, auxiliary markings, transportation coils, perfins, cachets, Lincoln). Worldwide collectors listed 24 countries or regions. Those receiving more than one mention were Vatican-3, Germany-3, Europe-3, Canada-2, and Scandanavia-2. It may warrant a quick note that US collectors favored mint condition over used by 20-18, while more worldwide collectors checked used by 14-9.

Twelve responders called themselves topical collectors, but as you can imagine there was limited agreement among them as to topic. Twenty-nine topics were mentioned, but only three received multiple mention: trains-3, minerals-2, and cats-2.

We asked how many RPA members were considering attending the World Stamp Show next May-June in NYC. Seven responded in the affirmative, and six more checked maybe while 14 checked no. Expense was the top reason given; complex logistics was also noted in multiple survey responses.

Finally, we learned that 18 members would like us to add meetings in the summer, perhaps with one meeting per month. Several suggested a picnic for one of those meetings. Everyone seems very satisfied with our new meeting location.

The club will use this information as it plans ahead into 2016.

### Need a new thematic topic?

