



ROPEX 2022 • RPA Meeting News
Hinges and Tongs Wins Large Gold
Swiss Franchise Stamps • Unclaimed Mail
Local Stamp Shows this Winter • Holiday Stamps
Gomphidius glutinosus • John P. Kellas III

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Plans for 2022 by Tom Fortunato

It's hard to believe that our last ROPEX took place in 2019. That seems longer than just a few years ago. But this hiatus has given us time to reflect on the show's past and near and far-term future. Simply wishing to continue on status-quo is simply not possible.

As of this time we are still planning to hold ROPEX 2022 as scheduled May 20-21. Several items are still not finalized but here is what is going on should all work out well.

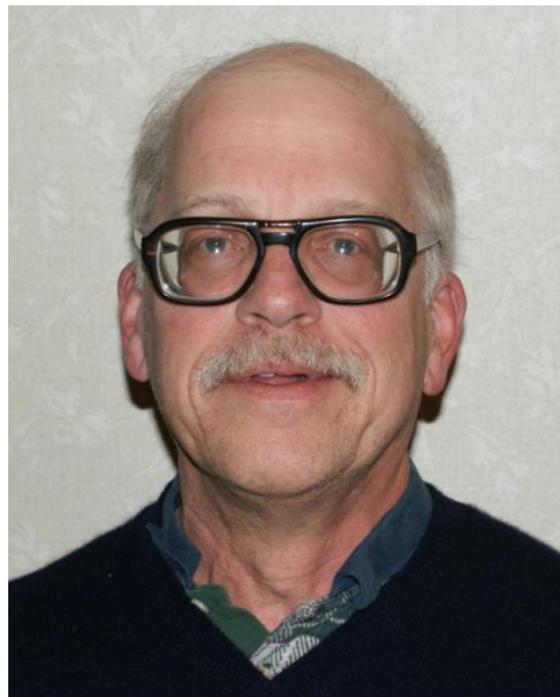
ROPEX 2022 will be held in a closed store at Greece Ridge Mall. Attendance has been slowing in Canandaigua and moving back to the greater Rochester area should help build attendance overall. Adding mall patrons to the mix can only help improve the crowd. The mall offers plenty of food options, is near six area hotels, and offers options for non-collecting family members.

Next year's ROPEX will evolve from a stamp show to a stamp, coin and collectibles (i.e. antiques) show, welcoming non-philatelic material to broaden our public and dealer appeal. Table prices will be lowered to encourage more dealers overall to participate.

We are not planning on having exhibits. As such, we will no longer be an APS World Series of Philately national show. We have too few volunteer members to do the work of recruiting and advertising for exhibits, transporting frames, setting up and taking down frames and exhibits, securing judges, receiving and returning exhibits, producing a comprehensive show program, holding an awards ceremony, etc. There are manpower and financial costs associated with each task that can be

saved by becoming a bourse. The future of our exhibit frames and the storage facility expenses associated with them will need to be discussed by the RPA membership.

We wish we could continue as we have, but awaking from our Covid hibernation has presented us with a dose of reality. Changes don't come easy. Of course we will still need plenty of help before, during and after ROPEX from the membership. But these plans will lessen the load and have the potential to better position the show's (and club's) future.



John P. Kellas III (1951-2021)

Full Obituary on Page 6

RPA Meeting News

We are back to meeting twice a month in the JCC of Greater Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue in Brighton. Buy/sell/trade runs from 7:00-7:30 followed by a formal meeting at 7:30.

If you can't attend in person, join us via a Zoom connection using the following link and login details at 7:30 PM each meeting night: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7117955142?pwd=amR3Z1Z3L0d4bkJaNHdJUjBmbjFaQT09>, Meeting ID: 711 795 5142, Passcode: 9W3Mkg Note that Zoom connections last 40 minutes. On disconnection, click the meeting link again to rejoin the meeting in progress.

Upcoming RPA meetings:

Dec 9th Program: Philatelic Strip Search
You need to attend to learn more!

Jan 13th Program: Everyone a Dealer Night
Bring items to sell or trade, bring \$ to buy

Jan 27th Program: Rochester Trivia With Advertising Covers
Presenter: Tom Fortunato

Feb 10th Program: 2021 Linn's U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll

Feb 24th Program: TBA

March 10th, March 24th Program: TBA

Hinges and Tongs
wins Large Gold

"Hinges & Tongs" was entered into the latest 2021 APS Chapter newsletter competition, now renamed the Star Route Awards. Several of the past few editions were sent in to be critiqued. We are happy to report that the publication won the highest award possible from the judges, a Large Gold, a level achieved by only 6 of the 28 stamp club newsletters who entered. Congratulations, Fred, and to all who have contributed to its content. The judge's comments:

- A beautifully produced newsletter with really interesting articles. Many of the articles were short, one page or less, but they provided good

entertainment. The editor knows how to handle graphics and other technical aspects of newsletter production. The only area that was missing on our grading rubric was some sort of greeting by Club (Association) leadership. In this Association that may not be a major need. They need to make the decision if this is necessary. One sad aspect of this newsletter was the information on the passing of members. It seems like in every issue someone was listed as deceased. The newsletter did tasteful handling of the information on deceased members. These were not just the small obit notice you find in some newsletters but well written pieces by people who knew the deceased.

- The table of contents on the title page is nice. Touching tributes to members. Enjoyed rounded headings in color. Nice/good use of space. Appreciated references in articles. Wow! 900 Rochester Advertising covers posted to the website, a great resource for all. Thank you for your submission.



Editor's Comment: I must admit that I did not even know that Hinges and Tongs had been submitted to this competition or, for that matter, that there even was such a thing! But I do know that this would not have been possible with the continual submittal of interesting, diverse, and high quality articles from all of you. This issue is no different. It is fun to put Hinges and Tongs together each quarter when all I need to do is compile it and format material into the newsletter. Everyone who spends time with their stamps has stories to tell others. Continue to let me hear them so they can be shared with others.

Collecting Swiss Franchise Stamps by Chas Adrion



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

*"In philately, a **franchise stamp** or **frank stamp** is a stamp given to an individual or organization to enable them to send mail without charge. Typical recipients include charities, refugees and soldiers on active service (military franchise stamps)."*

Switzerland began issuing franchise stamps in 1911. The first Swiss franchise stamps are quite similar in design to the Swiss postage due stamps showing snow covered mountains behind a Swiss national cross surrounded by ornate vegetation. However they are all overprinted at the top center of the stamp with a black number identifying the recipient of the free postage. The Swiss franchise stamps were issued to literally hundreds of organizations.

The German-language *Zumstein Specialized Catalog of Swiss Postage Stamps* contains a multipage listing of the control numbers, the names of the organizations and the years the stamps were used. The Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog lists four basic sets of franchise stamps for Switzerland. S1-S6 were issued from 1911-1921 and are overprinted with small serif numbers on olive green and red stamps. Denominations are 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20 centimes.



Switzerland S1-S6 franchise stamps with a small black control number overprinted on the top of the stamp.

A second set issued in 1926 consisted of only the 5, 10, and 20 centime values with slightly larger control numbers. In 1927 Switzerland re-issued printed this design, but used a brighter green color together with the larger control numbers.



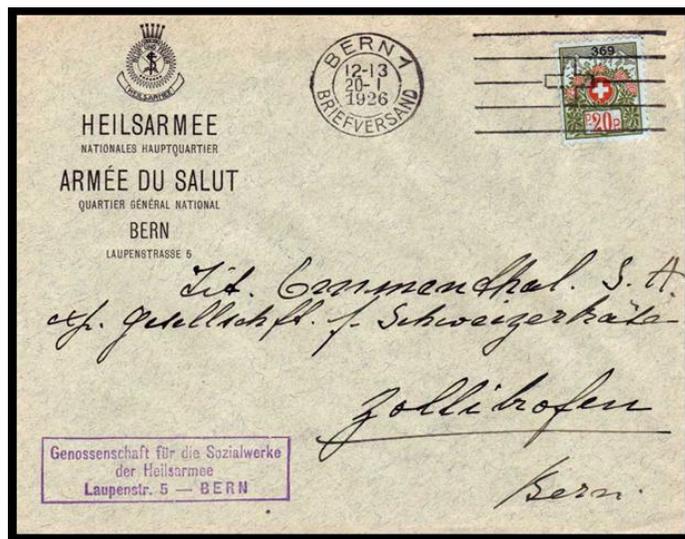
S10-S12 franchise stamps with a deeper green color.

Switzerland issued a fourth and final set of franchise stamps in 1935 which depicted portraits of a nurse (5c), a nun (10c), and J. H. Durant (20c). Durant was a Swiss humanitarian and is credited as a co-founder of the Red Cross. In 1901, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first Swiss to receive that honor.



Switzerland S13-S15 with black control overprints.

Covers with these stamps are much harder to find than the stamps themselves. Here is one from the Salvation Army with a December 1926 postmark and using the larger control numbered stamp, S9.



The cover photo is from the Salvation Army website. The stamps are from my collection.

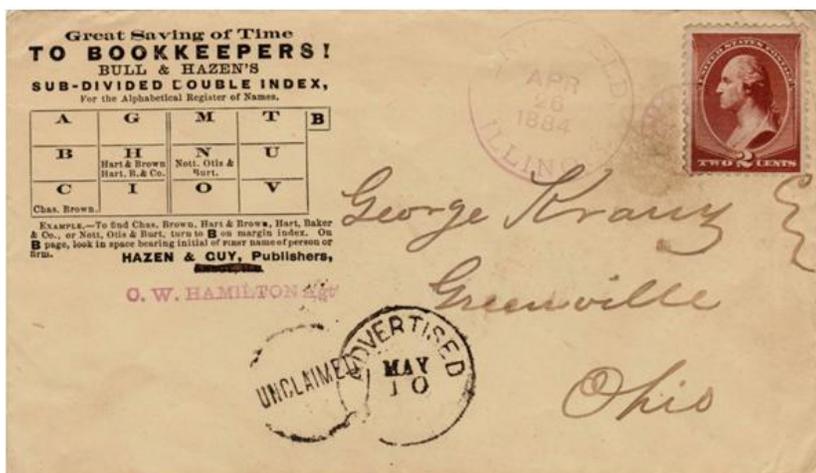
I collect the off-cover stamps and I am always looking to buy or trade for my collection

Chas Adrion (cadrion@rochester.rr.com)

Undelivered, Advertised, and Unclaimed Mail by Larry Rausch



At one time, postmasters were required to advertise in a newspaper in an attempt to induce the addressee to claim their undelivered mail. Initially, a four cent fee was levied to the addressee to cover this cost, reduced to two cents, and finally in 1851 to one cent. Some postmasters elected to post handwritten lists on their doors rather than advertise. If the cover remained unclaimed, it was forwarded to the dead letter office.



This 1884 undelivered cover mailed from Brimfield, IL addressed to Greenville, OH has both advertised and unclaimed circular postal handstamps.

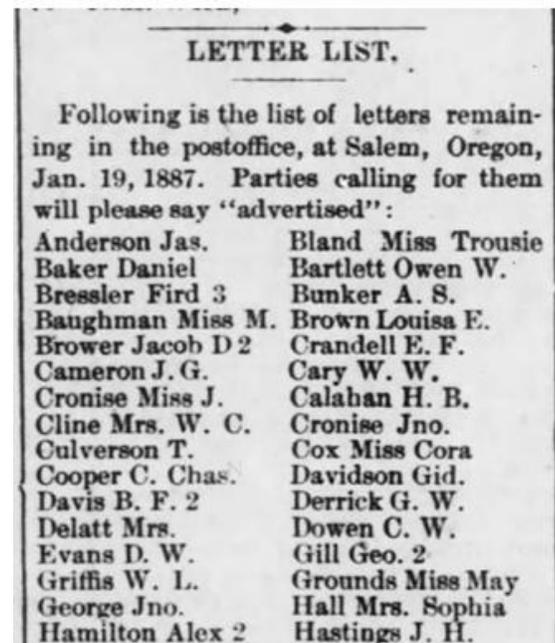
Post Office regulations as early as 1798 provided the rules to handle these undeliverable letters. The rules and charges and practicing procedures changed during the 19th century, but the requirement that the postal service had to advertise unclaimed letters was in place until the second decade of the 20th century.

Upcoming Local Stamps Shows - for more listings and more detail visit our [webpage](#)

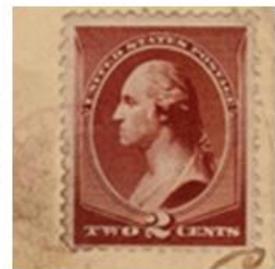
Jan 29th St. Catharines, ON 73rd CATHEX Show
--- St. Catharines Stamp Club. - Grantham Lion's Club, 732 Niagara St. ([map](#)) Hours: 10-5.
Website: <https://stcatharinesstampclub.ca/cathex/>
Contact: Stuart Keeley, stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca

Feb 20th Hilton Stamp Show -Western Monroe Philatelic Society. Hilton Exempts Club, 135 South Avenue. ([map](#)) Hours 10-4. 5 dealers. Bourse.
Contact: Dave Bombard, 585-352-6955, dbombar1@rochester.rr.com

Hinges & Tongs



A partial listing of the unclaimed letters advertised in January, 1887 in a Salem, Oregon newspaper.



Reconstructed postmark from the cover featured in this article.

For further reading: the [US Philatelic Classic Society magazine](#) (The Chronicle) is available to search free. Six articles on undelivered mail written by James W Milgram, MD are available in issues number 228, 231, 233, 234, 242, and 259.

Mar 6th Mississauga, ON Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show - Troyak Club. John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Road. ([map](#)) Hours: 9-4. 30 Dealers. Admission \$5. Free parking.
Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com/>

Mar 12-13th Cheektowaga BUFPEX Sponsored by the Buffalo Stamp Club. Knights Justin Hall, 2735 Union Road (just north of William Street). ([map](#)) Hours: 10-4, 10-3. Contact: Tim Carey, careystea@gmail.com

Do you have your Christmas and holiday stamps yet?



The USPS has given you plenty of opportunity to purchase them early. The booklet of Santa stamps was issued back on October 7th. The USPS followed that with a booklet of frolicking otters on October 12th. Each set carries four different designs. Previous year Kwanzaa and Hanukkah stamps are also available as is the Global Poinsettia stamp issued in 2018, but now with a rate of \$1.30.



Gomphidius glutinosus
by Fred Haynes

On November 1st, Paul Brach and I stumbled upon this magnificent example of a *Gomphidius glutinosus* (common name – slimecap) while on a fungi excursion to Bare Hill Unique Area east of Canandaigua Lake. He was growing all by himself in his purple splendor under a group of conifers (mostly white pine, Norway spruce and red cedar) and he graciously allowed me to take his picture.

Once home, I found there are two philatelic items I would like to obtain. In 1989 Bhutan issued a set of twelve mushroom stamps. The 3nu stamp depicts a slimecap. Sierra Leone did likewise in a set of mushrooms issued in 2020. However, purists may choose to disdain this issue. Although authorized by the Sierra Leone postal service this stamp was not sold in the country and was only distributed as a novelty item by the country's philatelic agency.

John P. Kellas III

November 15, 1951
- November 9, 2021



Lifetime RPA member and current Club Secretary John Perry Kellas III passed away on November 9th, just a few days before his 70th birthday. John joined RPA in 1975 and almost immediately started a lifetime of service to the organization becoming the club's corresponding secretary in 1977, a role he filled for over a decade. He served as Vice President several times and also as President in 1989, 2000, and 2001. For the past three years, John returned to his roots, serving as RPA club secretary.

But John's interest went beyond the philatelic world. With a degree in Biology and after studies in Forestry at Syracuse University, he served as a Park Ranger at Grand Canyon National Park. When he returned to western New York, John became active in the local YMCA and dedicated much of his time to the Y's Camp Gorham in Adirondack Park. He was also active with the Genesee Region Orchid Society and a member of the Adirondack League Club for 26 years.

By Kelly Armstrong

When I heard the shocking and sad news about John, it was hard for me to comprehend. I have known John for several decades.. He was a kind and thoughtful man. He was a delight to do business with and his knowledge base was extraordinary on many topics. It was John who found some undocumented and unknown Hobby Shop naval covers in an estate sale. I bought them from him for my collection and thanked him many times after. John had many interests. He was a national park ranger in his early years, and shared his experiences at RPA meetings. John was always cheerful and an all round pleasant individual. I will miss him greatly.

By Jim Laughlin

John was a great mentor to me as I started to collect stamps some thirty years ago. I remember with great fondness the hours I spent looking through the three cent stamp bin at McCloud Stamps and Coins shop. John would count my stamps and tell me things about many of them as he counted. It is hard to think he has left us so soon.



1978 John Kellas with Mayor Tom Ryan. We are not sure who is receiving an award. John was RPA Corresponding Secretary at the time.



ROPEX 2018 John Kellas with John Stoltz working at the McCloud Stamps and Covers booth.



ROPEX 2019: John Kellas helps some young stamp enthusiasts add to their collection. John sure liked his orange cap.