

Hinges & Tongs

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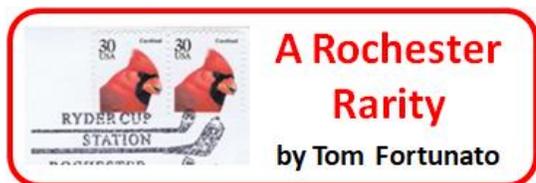
Fall, 2022



Ryder Cup postal history • RPA Club News
RPA Meeting News • Stamp Monopoly
A Transportation Series Cover • Al Parsons' auction material
Grass-pink orchid • 1922 Niagara Falls stamp

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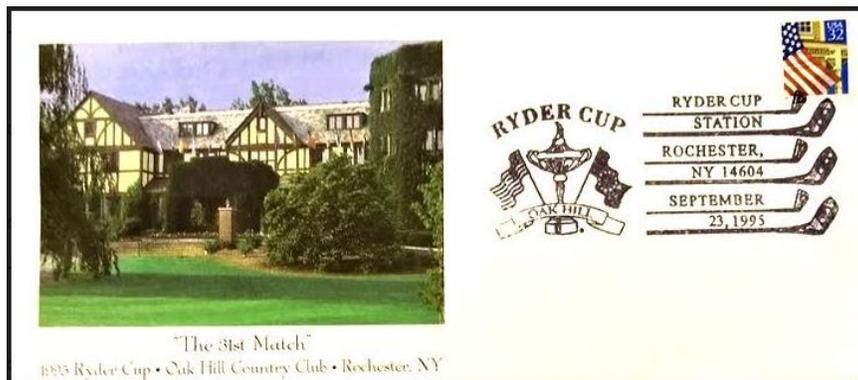


Perhaps some of you attended the 1995 Ryder Cup held on the East Course at Oak Hill Country Club here in Rochester (actually, Pittsford) September 22-24. This 31st competition pitting American versus European golfers featured twelve golfers a side enduring a combination of four-ball, foursome, and single matches over three days of play. Scotsmen Bernard Gallacher and American Lanny Wadkins were captains of their teams that featured notables Bernhard Langer, Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo for the Europeans and Phil Mickelson, Ben Crenshaw and Fred Couples for the host country. For the record, team Europe won the event for only the second time on U.S. soil with a score of 14 1/2 to 13 1/2 points.

Philatelists will remember the Rochester Post Office's stand alongside one of the holes selling a cacheted envelope souvenir featuring the Oak Hill Clubhouse and using a commemorative six-club postmark to tournament visitors (see upper right). The USPS booth was manned by philatelic clerk Bob Scherzi and others from the Jefferson Road Post Office.

What you perhaps don't know is that the Rochester Post Office presented members from both teams and dignitaries copies of the souvenir covers

continued on page 3 (see Ryder Cup)



Commemorative cachet envelope available for purchase at the 1995 Ryder Cup at Oak Hill Country Club

RPA Club News – A Look Ahead

Another stamp semester is about to begin, and as always, work has continued over the summer in preparation. Here are some of the items we'll be discussing at our first September meeting, many follow from our discussions in June.

It has been over 20 years since our yearly dues were raised from \$15 to \$20. Dues will be collected in December for the 2023 calendar year. The RPA Board will consider a possible increase by that time to better balance our finances.

Several members have been scouting out possible new club meeting venues. Our current contract with the JCC ends on December 31 and we have been told room rental and storage fees will increase in 2023, currently at \$75 per meeting and \$50 monthly, respectively. The best alternative found so far is the Irondequoit Library, but a few snags remain to be resolved on their end. No other library in Monroe County is possible due to library hours, room availability, residency requirements and other restrictions. If you know of other viable meeting facilities, contact President Jack Rosenstein (card_hall@yahoo.com).

Covid these past few years has turned our election process and schedule upside down, with the next one due by December for the 2023-2024 term. That process is dictated by our current By-laws that, while amended 20 years ago, are over 50 years old! You can read through [the current by-laws online](#) or request a printed copy.

Elsewhere in this issue you can review thoughts towards streamlining aspects of our club constitution in keeping with current times and the size of our organization. All of this will also be up for discussion when we meet in September.

RPA Meeting News

We are returning to meeting twice monthly in September. For the short term (this fall) we will continue to meet 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 most meeting nights:

<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:

Sept 8th **Welcome Back – Plans for the upcoming year**
– come prepared for a discussion

Sept 22nd **My Titanic Cover that Missed the Boat**
By Tom Fortunato

Oct 13th and Oct 27th TBA

Nov, 10th **V-Mail: WWII Victory Mail**
By Greg Philipson

Dec 8th TBA

As you can see we have openings for members to present this fall. Just let club officers know if you would like to share something.

An RPA Constitution Re-Write Draft Proposal

Much has changed in the 20 or so years since our Constitution was last amended. The Internet and instant electronic communication is commonplace, interest in volunteering for officer positions has diminished, and a less rigid approach in running organizations like ours is the norm. All of those factors combine in this draft. Some Articles remain the same, or have minimal wording changes. Everything is up for discussion!

Here is a summary of the proposed changes:

- eliminates the vetting process in accepting a new member

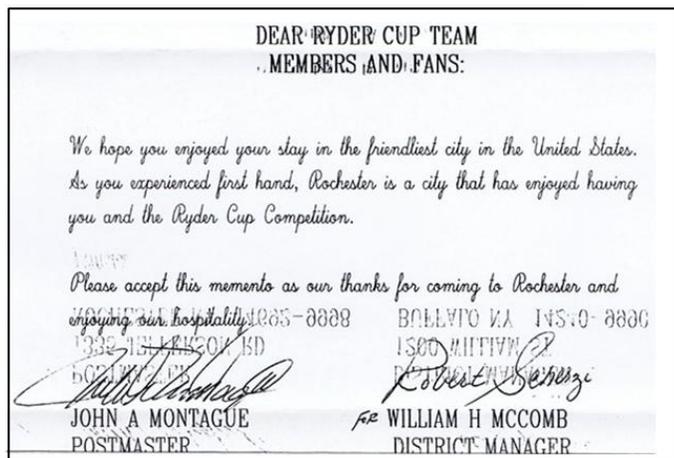
- codifies the changeover to memberships running a calendar year instead of the current July-June fiscal year
- reduces the time for a member to be in arrears for dues non-payment from 90 to 30 days before being dropped from the rolls
- reduces the current Board and elected officers from 8 (Pres, VP, Sec., Treasurer, 3 Board members and immediate past president) to 4 (President, Vice President, Officer-at Large and immediate past president). All other club positions would be appointed. It also frees those four Board members to take on additional responsibilities if interested or as needed, especially if no qualified candidates volunteer for them—i.e. the VP or Officer-at-Large could take on the current Treasurer's or Secretary's responsibilities, for example
- broadens the frequency of RPA meetings
- eliminates term limits for elected officers
- eliminates the need for a yearly election by removing the revolving Board seats and keeping elected offices to a common two year term
- specific requirements for elections are eliminated, allowing the Board and/or designees to make decisions on the best way to accept nominations and run an election
- opens the possibility for member voting by electronic means--i.e. email, via Zoom, etc.
- eliminates the ROPEX clauses and frees the Board to make decisions about future show operations and structure
- eliminates the recommendation for quarterly Board meetings and the now required annual business meeting

A full version of the proposed new RPA Constitution is not included here, but will accompany the electronic distribution of Hinges and Tongs sent to members. We hope that members will read the document and be ready to comment when we meet on September 9th.

Although the Constitution does not include a discussion of the future of ROPEX or other Stamp Show style events that RPA might organize and sponsor, that is also a topic for discussion by the general membership.

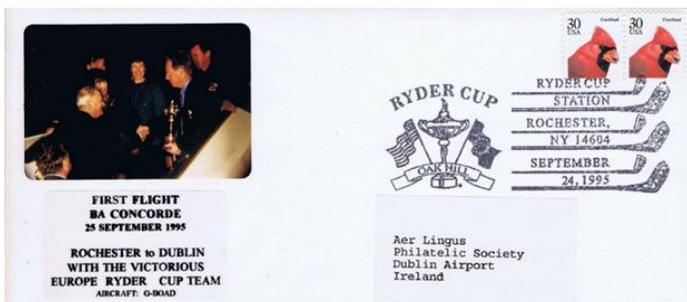
Ryder Cup (continued from Page 1)

with a letter inside dated the day after the tournament ended, Monday, September 25.



A cropped version of the letter inserted into the souvenir covers provided to team members bears the signatures of Postmaster John Montague and Robert Scherzi. The copy machine offset is due to aging.

Someone in the European group was definitely planning ahead, creating philatelic souvenirs of his or her own to commemorate the victory, starting with 70 #10 envelopes just bearing the September 24 final day postmark. These were carried on board the British Airways Concord supersonic jet when it left Rochester Monday evening, arriving in Dublin the morning of September 26 when the envelopes received a back stamp. A photo cachet, label inscription and mailing label was added later.



European Ryder Cup team cachet version of the envelope with a celebratory cachet and a reverse marking postmark dated September 26, 1995.



No 5 of 70 Covers carried

This flight cover, the USPS letter and a European team victory photo (below) were offered on eBay a few months ago for \$250. There were no takers.



By the way, the tournament was a huge success for the Rochester community. The PGA did exceedingly well, reportedly raking in \$27.5 million in ticket sales, TV licensing fees, merchandise and corporate hospitality.

Rochester hosts the PGA Championship this coming May 15-21, 2023, also at Oak Hill Country Club.

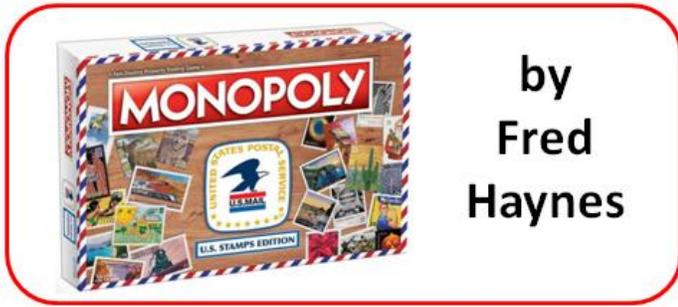
The Alan Parsons Collection

As reported in the previous Hinges and Tongs, Al Parsons' collection of US Coils and Private Vending Machine Coils will be up for auction at the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento August 25-28th.

The August 8, 2022 issue of Linn's carried the following note:

The Alan Parsons Collection covers virtually all facets of Unites States philately. However four areas were of particular interest to Mr. Parsons, Coil Stamps, Vending and Affixing Machine Perfs, First Day Covers, and the President Harding Issue. Of these areas, the Parsons Collection includes some of the finest material to come to market in several decades. In addition, several United States General Issue rarities are included.

Al was a member of RPA from his home in Elmira, New York and was a regular exhibitor at ROPEX. Al passed away in 2021 and RPA paid tribute to him in [the Feb-May, 2021 edition of Hinges and Tongs.](#)



by
Fred
Haynes

The board game Monopoly has been around for more than 80 years since its release by Parker Brothers in 1935. I'd be willing to bet that almost all who read this article have acquired motels and railroads and been to jail while playing the family game. But it took until earlier this year for Hasbro (who acquired Parker Brothers in 1991) to release a philatelic version of the iconic game.

The game has a simple name: Monopoly®: U.S. Stamps Edition. Players are allowed to buy, sell and trade the most memorable stamps in U.S. history, or so the Amazon ad claims. The objective of the game remains the same as the original: bankrupt your opponents. What fun!

At a distance the board looks similar and you can still go to jail in one corner and collect \$200 of USPS sonic-eagle printed money at the opposite corner. But instead of buying properties and building motels that collect rent, players purchase "memorable" U.S. stamps and build post offices. Others who land on these owned properties must pay mortgages to the owner based upon the number of post offices on the property. After building 4 post offices, the next step is to convert your postal facility into a "distribution center". The mortgage on that is a hefty \$2000.

Yes there are still railroads on the board. At the center of each side of the board, the traditional railroad positions are occupied by stamps from the 1999 Famous Trains set, such as the Congressional or the Super Chief. Do you remember Chance and



An example of the property cards from the U.S. Stamps Edition of Monopoly.

Community Chest? Well, those are replaced by **Special Delivery** and **Rain, Heat & Snow** which can reward or detour your trip around the board.

And finally, you get to select a USPS-inspired token to navigate your way around the board, choosing from **Mail Truck**, **Mail Box**, **Package**, **Post Card**, **Coil of Stamps**, or **USPS Eagle**.



Which token would you chose?

The side of the box says it is for players 8 years old and up. How about that, we all qualify!



Part of one side of the newest Monopoly Game Board.

A Wild Orchid in Wayne County
by Fred Haynes

Paul Brach and I like to venture out to find flowers and fungi that match stamps in our topical collections, particularly wild orchids. In mid-July we sought out the grass-pink orchid (*Calopogon tuberosus*) in Zurich Bog in Wayne County. We found and photographed many of them (see photos at the bottom of this page..

Both Canada and the United States have featured that orchid on recent stamps. Canada was first, featuring the pink beauty on a 2010 \$1.70 denomination stamp. The United States waited another decade before releasing its version, including the grass-pink orchid in its booklet set of wild orchid forever stamps. That set was released on February 21st, 2021 in Coral Gables, FL. Ten orchid stamps were included in the booklet and were also available in coil rolls of 3000 or 10,000.



The official First Day cover featuring the *Calopogon tuberosus* orchid.

We got a bonus also, with the horned bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*) in bloom, a look alike to the one on a Thailand stamp although technically that one is a different species.



Scott #2360



Scott #5454

Zurich Bog, Arcadia, Wayne County, New York.

A carnivorous bog/fen flowering plant

July 15, 2022



horned bladderwort
Utricularia cornuta



The southeast Asia equivalent (*Utricularia bifida*) on a Thailand stamp



Paul Brach



***Calopogon tuberosus* at Zurich Bog, July 15th**

Photos by Fred Haynes

58 cents - The hard way



by
Larry Rausch



It was interesting to receive the envelope at the bottom of this page from an EBAY dealer. The cover prompted me to determine if this met postal codes-- **it does not meet the code**. The mailing standard of the United States Service Domestic Mail Manual: "Section 1.7 Stamps must be affixed in the upper right corner of the address side of the mail cover. Any stamp partly concealed by an overlapping stamp may not be counted as postage." According to Matt Ludeman of Texas, a USA stamp regulation guru, this regulation is regularly ignored.

The cover uses 1986-87 Transportation series USA Coil stamps with 48 one cent (Scott 2225) 1880's Omnibus stamps, and 5 two cent (Scott 2226) 1870's Locomotive stamps cancelled with a hand stamp 17 times at Hornell, NY 14843.

You never know what you will find when you open up the mailbox.

Editor's note: Perhaps, this is a perfect place to remind folks that the US postal rate for first class postage (the so-called "forever" rate) went up to 60 cents on July 10th. Where would this dealer put another two more 1 cent stamps?

100 Years Ago this November



Does anyone look at their United States stamp collection and reflect on what stamps looked like 100 years ago and what was being commemorated? From 1922-1925, the USPS issued a series of 25 "regular" stamps with denominations ranging from 1/2 cent to \$5.

Most honor past US presidents or other notable patriots, but the higher values depict important US landmarks. Later this fall, the green 25 cent will reach its 100th birthday. The stamp depicting Niagara Falls was issued on November 11th, 1922.

Although it is 100 years old, and a high value for its date of issue, this stamp is not unaffordable. The mint block of four plate block I grabbed from the internet was for sale for \$25 and a used copy catalogs less than a dollar. There is a varietal with a plate scratch over the lower portion of the falls that is worth several hundred dollars.

