

Hinges & Tongs



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Winter, 2025

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**January is
Auction Time
for RPA**



It is highly unlikely that an inverted Jenny stamp will appear at our upcoming auction. However, now that we have your attention, here is some news of **a live, called auction at our January 22nd meeting.**

Here are the guidelines...

RPA members may enter from 1 to 5 lots, preferably each priced under a \$25 starting bid. However, he or she must include at least one additional lot with an opening bid of 1 cent. We'll have an auction form for sellers available beforehand as well as on auction night. Each item must be marked by the owner with your name and whole-number opening bid amount, plus any pertinent details. Zoom members can arrange to submit lots by contacting an attending member to bring their items to the meeting. No buyer or seller commissions will be charged by the RPA.

For those who can plan ahead, it would be great to submit your lot(s) in advance. A list of scanned or photographed items will be sent to members before the meeting, so in-person or online bidders can check their collections and plan their buys.

All items will be placed on the auction tables for viewing by 7:00 PM. Called bidding will begin at 7:30 PM. The auctioneer will briefly outline each randomly selected item for sale for members. Bidding time will be prompt and consistent with the number of articles for sale. Bids will be in dollar increments, except for the 1-cent lots. Zoom members are allowed to bid from the descriptions, but visuals will be difficult. As mentioned earlier, pre-submitted lots are best for everyone.

All attending members who sign into the roster that evening will use their attendance number as their "virtual paddle" number. Zoom bidders will be assigned ID numbers before the start of the auction. One on-site member (the auditor) must volunteer to keep a list of item winners and final bids. Attention sellers: make your starting prices realistic, as no lower starting bids will be allowed. If there is no interest in an item at its opening bid, it will be quickly removed to the unsold table. The winner of each hammered lot will be asked for their name and paddle bidding number to be recorded by the auditor.

Bring small-denomination bills and change with you! Accounts for buyers and sellers will be settled at the end of the auction. Most importantly, come prepared to have fun.

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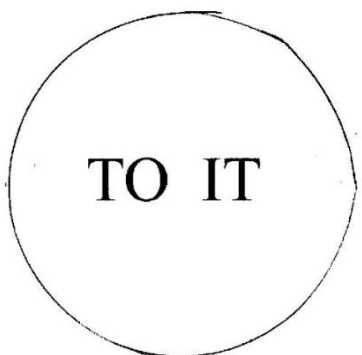
**A Good Find with a
Local Connection**
by Don Brumbaugh

While browsing through a local dealer's 19th-century US stamps at the WMPS Stamp Show in Brockport this August, I came across a Scott US #10A, the imperforate 3-cent issue of 1851. The stamp is lightly cancelled, well-centered, and all four frame lines are intact. As a bonus, the stamp was on an interesting cover.



continued on page 3 (see Local Cover)

President's Message



For those who need one, here is an "around-to-it": help yourself. Many times, we acquire material for our collecting interests and then put it aside, lying to ourselves that we will mount it later in our collections. And that 'later time' drags on, sometimes to almost forever. So, this around-to-it is yours, so you can get around to mounting your acquisitions. You will have the satisfaction of doing a small something on your 'to-do' list, and more importantly, your heirs will have an easier time handling your collection.

This message was inspired by a donation the RPA received at our last meeting, consisting of five boxes of material. I have never encountered such disorganization - perhaps the heirs just threw the material in the boxes without a systematic plan. There were some old starter albums, a couple of nicer albums, stamps on stock pages, stamps in #10 envelopes, stamps in plastic videocassette boxes, loose stamps plus some unrelated material like a large envelope containing the person's baptismal certificate, his original Social Security card (and the little brochure that came with it), Selective Service papers, and others. Obviously, the owner never got 'around-to-it' to properly mount and store his material. One of his purchases was a box lot of US coins prior to 1945, purchased in 2003 for \$ 2,495. I suspect this is where the stock sheets of used 1920 definitives and prexies came from.

Some of this material will be in our January silent auction, and the rest will be donated to the American Philatelic Society for their youth areas in stamp shows.

Cheers, Jack Rosenstein

UPCOMING RPA MEETINGS

Thursday, Dec 11 – Holiday Party, Business Meeting, and Game Night
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RSVP in advance, please
Business Meeting will be on Zoom

Thursday, Jan. 15* Modern Rarities of the A-H Alphabet Stamps 1978-1998
By John Hotchner

** Note: one week later than usual, third Tuesday*



Thursday, Jan 22 Live called auction
(see page 1 for details)

Thursday, Feb. 12 Linn's 2025 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll ([link to our webpage](#))

Thursday, Feb. 26 TBA

Thursday, March 12, 26 TBA

Thursday, April 9, 23 TBA

Thursday, May 7, 21 TBA

Thursday, June 11, 25 TBA

As you can see, our winter and spring schedule needs programs. Please consider sharing your philatelic journey with others at an upcoming meeting.

If you can't attend a meeting 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=amR3Z1Z3L0d4bkJaNHdJU1BmbjFaQT09>

2026-2027 RPA Candidate Slate

President – Jack Rosenstein

Vice President – Larry Rausch

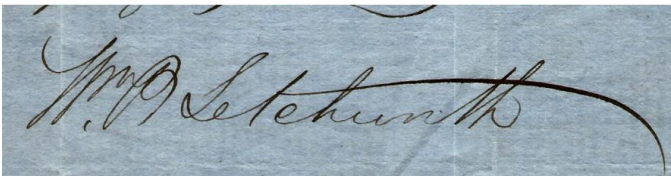
Director-At-Large – Charlie Adrion

Appointed Treasurer – Larry Rausch



The cover is addressed to Pascal Pratt, Buffalo, NY, and exhibits an Auburn, NY circular date stamp of "Jan 29". With that stamp on the cover, and attractively priced, it seemed like a good buy.

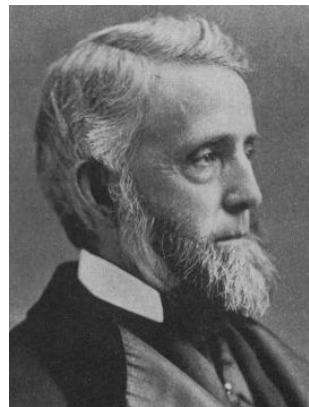
Arriving home after the stamp show, I examined the folded letter to learn about its contents. Discovering the sender's name excited me - Wm P. Letchworth!



My wife and I are frequent visitors to the gorgeous Letchworth State Park, having spent several of our anniversaries overnight at the Glen Iris Inn.

I scanned the letter and used the Photos app to enhance the contrast. The handwriting is not easy to read, but I figured out most of the text. Mr. Letchworth relates that he called upon a carriage maker, Joseph Clark, in Batavia, who might be a good business prospect.

This local connection prompted me to look further into the biography of Mr. Letchworth and his relation to Pascal Pratt. Wikipedia provides a concise biography of Mr. Letchworth. "At age 15, Letchworth



was hired as a clerk at Hayden & Holmes, a saddlery and hardware company. Letchworth succeeded at his tasks and in business in general, and by age 22 was a partner at Pratt & Letchworth, a company involved in the "malleable iron" business, with Samuel Fletcher Pratt."

So, Pratt was Letchworth's business partner. Letchworth made his considerable fortune providing saddles and carriage hardware to

continued on next page

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the transportation industry of the mid-nineteenth century. Letchworth's business success enabled him to retire at age 46 and become a philanthropist.

My new cover now resides in a clear sleeve at the front of my US stamp album, just prior to page 1, where Scott #10A would be mounted. Knowing the use of the stamp and the sender and receiver of the letter adds greatly to my enjoyment of the stamp.

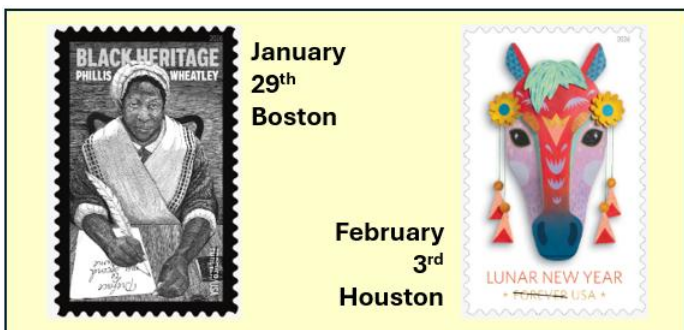
My quest to fill a space in my US stamp album led me to explore local history, learn more about a man whose legacy most Western New York inhabitants greatly appreciate for his donation of beautiful Letchworth State Park, and search for additional items of related postal history. These are the sort of experiences that make philately fun and worth sharing to entertain and inspire fellow collectors.

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One of the early 2026 United States Forever stamps will honor the 150th anniversary of Colorado's statehood. The stamp features Jagged Mountain in the San Juan National Forest south of Silverton. The stamp will be issued on January 24 with the first-day ceremony in Denver.

Other early 2026 stamps include a Black Heritage stamp featuring author Phyllis Wheatley and another honoring the Chinese Lunar New Year. 2026 will be the Year of the Horse.



The “really big show,” as Ed Sullivan used to say, is now less than six months away. Hundreds of people have been working since 2016 to make America’s next once-a-decade international philatelic exhibition a reality.

Boston 2026 World Expo takes place Saturday, May 23 to Saturday, May 30 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Entry is free for all 8 days. Over 100 organizations and specialist societies are planning conventions, meetings, and seminars, with over 175 scheduled so far. Dealers from around the world will be in attendance with items ranging from \$1 to hundreds of thousands. Exhibits will take up nearly 3,500 frames around the 350,000 sq ft center, highlighting some of the world’s stamp rarities. Postal administrations are on hand to sell their latest issues, many with postal clerks from their native countries.

Boston is about 400 miles away from Rochester. That’s an 8-hour drive, a 10-hour train ride, or a 90-minute plane trip. The city offers much for stamp collectors and visitors of all ages, especially families. The convention center is within two miles of most of the city’s main attractions, easily accessible by public transportation. There are a dozen hotels within walking distance of the show, with many, many more at reasonable accommodation rates farther afield. Vacation, anyone?

The Boston 2026 website has full show details (<https://boston2026.org/>). Many RPA members are planning to be there! How about you?

By Tom Fortunato

Boston 2026 Public Relations Director

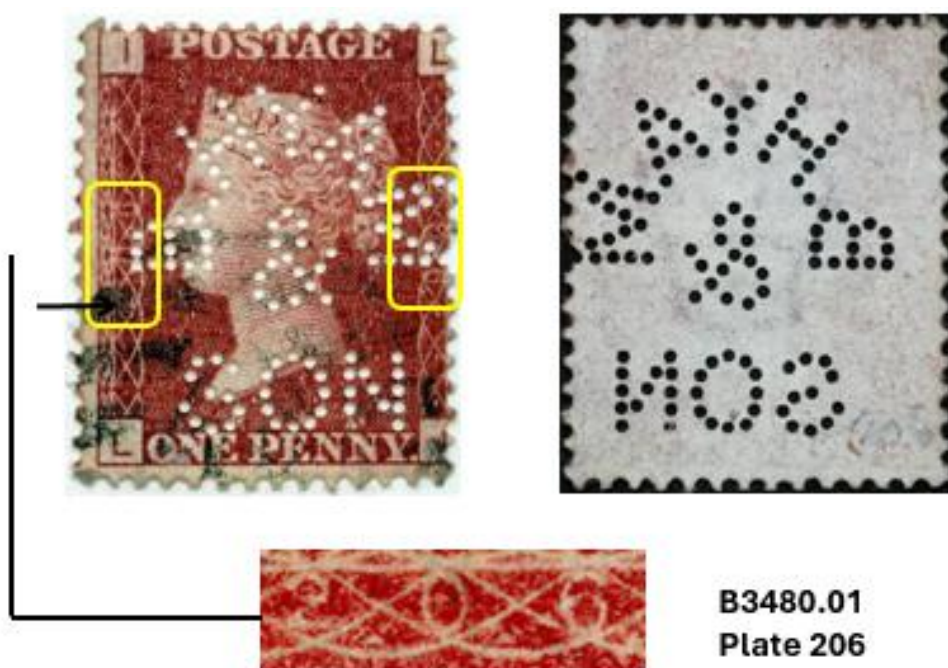


Great Britian Penny Red Four Corner Perfin by Larry Rausch



Perfins (short for perforated initials) are stamps that have been perforated with designs, initials, or numerals by private businesses and governmental agencies to discourage theft and misuse. Perfins were invented and first introduced on the Penny Red stamp. We have found 1300 different perfin designs on the Penny Red (1868-1880). Perfins are still used on current stamps, although in much reduced numbers.

Each Penny Red stamp has the plate number on both the right and left sides.



The above Penny Red Perfin example is **B3480.01**. The number is assigned as the register number in the **Great Britain Perfin Index**. The technical specification for the perfins follows: date of usage, Manufacturer of the Perfin die, number of pins, the company that used this Perfin, the type of business, and the Post office cancellations on this Perfin.

Dates	1875 - 1885
Usage	May 24th 1881 – September 26th 1882
Manufacturer	Unknown
Pins	14,12,7,10,17/16/11,12,13
User	Benjamin Hyam & Son Ltd, 56 Cannon St, London EC. Factories: Saracen's Head Yard, Aldegate, London E, 4 Queen Street, Colchester & 5 Lower Baxter St, Bury St Edmunds
Business	Wholesale & Export Clothiers
Cancellations	London Chief Office

Brighton, New York Ellipse Star

by Larry Rausch



Type 312

I just completed a study of the Ellipse Star Killer Cancellation. This 25-page study was published in **THE NEWS**, the quarterly Journal of **The US Cancellation Club**. The study detailed 59 different stars.

Shown here is an Ellipse Star postmarked cover from **Brighton, NY**, the only Ellipse Star found in Monroe County. An additional 24 towns of New York State and 238 towns in the United States are found with Ellipse Stars. The Brighton post office operated from 1817, closing when Rochester annexed Brighton in 1905.



To show the diversity of Ellipse Stars, a portion of the Ellipse Star chart is shown below. The thirteen Brighton covers in my Ellipse Star database are all dated from March 1886 to May 1894, representing the time usage of this Killer.

2 TOP BARS

#204C star up	#205	#206 star up dot	#206A star up dot	#206B star up dot	#207 2-3-2	#208 2-3-2
2-3-2 Date out	2-3-2 killer	2-3-2	Full date out	2-3-2 Time out	2 dot star killer	Black dot killer
Milford B PA	3 towns	10 towns	2-3-2 Rose Hill, NY	Williamstown MA	McLean IL	Eshbach PA

3 TOP BARS

#301 star up	#302 star down	#303 star up	#304 star up	#305 star down	#306 star down	#307 star up