



Hinges & Tongs

Fall 2026 Issue

In this issue:

Blue Mauritius, Join LASO, Newest Life Member,
Plating Scott 11 & 12, USS PA Cover,
Timber Strike 1935, Reflections of Editors Old/New

Copyright, 2026 - Rochester Philatelic Association

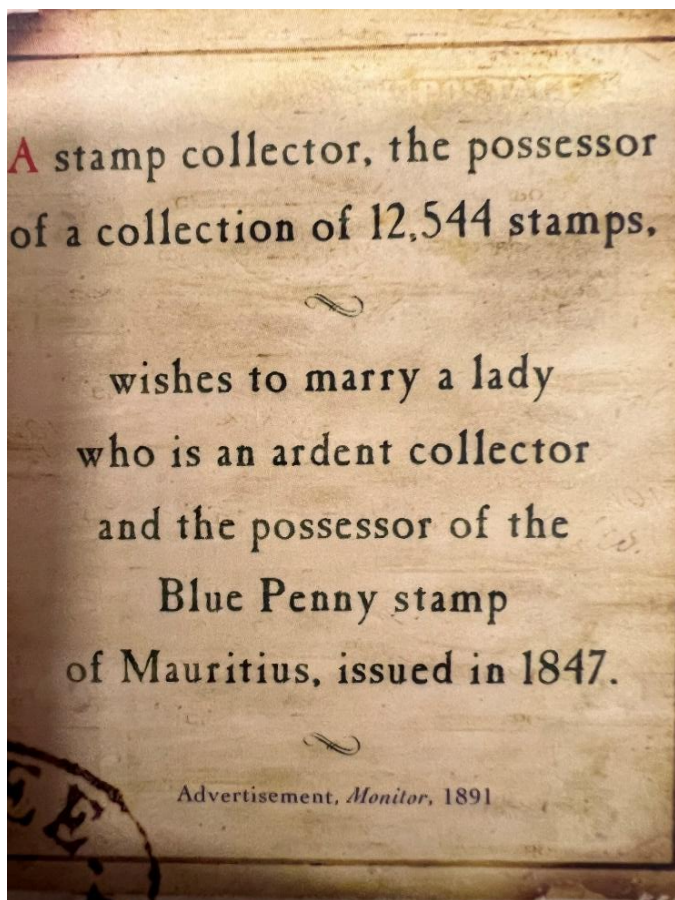
New Editor: Roy Michael Roush (michael01@alumni.iu.edu)

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

The Quest for the Blue Mauritius: *Need for a Stamp or a Spouse?*

On my bookshelf is "Blue Mauritius" by Helen Morgan, Historian and Archivist. It is a wonderfully researched and written volume.

On the back sleeve is a copy of an advertisement from *Monitor* - 1891, from a "Stamp Collector" wishing to be a future owner of a "Blue Mauritius."



Our members reading it may raise a smile or even a chuckle....

Michael Butterfield, New Zealand (RPA member 2025-06)

Join LASO!

Would you be interested in joining a free online stamp group? Learning About Stamps Online (LASO) has live Zoom presentations on the third Tuesday each month at 8 PM Eastern covering a wide variety of stamp topics.

Beginners through advanced collectors are welcome to learn from one other in this fun forum.

Check out their extensive web site at <https://learningaboutstamps.org> and consider joining!

Congratulate our Newest Life Member

Dr. William Brorein, Jr., joined the RPA in 2001 and has earned life membership in the group for being with us for 25 continuous years.

Congratulations! Who's next? Two current members will join the LM ranks in 2027!



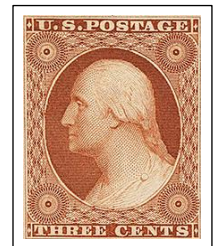
UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sept 10..	Welcome back from our Summer Break
Thursday, Sept 24..	Seal Mail- 2026 by Florence Wright
Thursday, Oct 8.....	The US Parcel Post System (January 1, 1913): An extension of the postal system and the birth of a beautiful series of short-lived stamps by Mike Savka
Thursday, Oct 22....	New York State PAID 3--1851 by Larry Rausch
Thursday, Nov 12...	TBA
Thursday, Dec 10...	Business Meeting, Holiday Party and Christmas in Philately 2026 by Tom Fortunato

As you can see, we still have one meeting opening in November for a presentation, and the entire 2027 winter and spring schedule is wide open. What would you like to present? Email Tom Fortunato at stampmf@gmail.com with your questions or be put on the schedule.

An article in the August 2026 issue of *The Chronicle of U.S. Classic Postal Issues* is about a recent machine learning tool available at no cost designed to specifically identify U.S. Scott #10s and #11s plate positions directly at stampplating.com or through the Classic Society website at USPCS.org.

As you probably learned when collecting the 3¢ U.S. imperforate stamp of 1851-1857 (Scott 10, 10A, 11, 11A), practically every plate position has a unique dimension due to the creation and maintenance of the 13 plates that printed them over the years. Well, computer intelligence has led to the creation of PlateAI, a free machine-learning tool to help identify those we are unsure of. The program runs in any modern web browser. There is also nothing to install.



If you plan to use it, scan the stamp you want to identify and drag it to the browser window, or use the upload button to load the stamp scan. The tool will walk you through the rest.

The Chronicle article is 16 pages long and much of it discusses how the computer program works and also the breadth of variability of the plates, which were touched up and, in some cases, altered, yielding some rare versions of the #10s and #11s. I'll bring the Chronicle and make a couple of copies of the article to our first meeting in September. —Charles Eagle

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

But riots in the streets may cause a delay!!

Kelly Armstrong, an RPA life member, provided the following to show they may be some exceptions to the USPS Rule. This cover, sent from the *USS Pennsylvania*¹, was delayed due to a civil disturbance in Washington State in 1935. The endorsement indicates that the delay was due to riots led by the Timber Workers.



USS Pennsylvania, hull number BB-38, was the lead ship of the Pennsylvania class of super-dreadnought battleships built for the United States Navy in the 1910s. The Pennsylvanians were part of the standard-type battleship series, and marked an incremental improvement over the preceding Nevada class, carrying an extra pair of 14-inch (356 mm) guns for a total of twelve guns. Named for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, she was laid down at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in October 1913, was launched in March 1915, and was commissioned in June 1916. Equipped with an oil-burning propulsion system, Pennsylvania was not sent to European waters during World War I, since the necessary fuel oil was not as readily available as coal. Instead, she remained in American waters and took part in training exercises and in 1918 escorted President Woodrow Wilson to France to take part in peace negotiations.



Timber Strike of 1935

by Steven Beda

The 1935 Timber Workers strike is one of the most important events in the labor history of the Northwest. At the height of the Depression, loggers and sawyers along the Pacific Coast laid down their tools and walked away from their mills in an effort to gain a wage increase, shorter work week, and union recognition. Over 30,000 timber workers would eventually join the strike and effectively shut down every major logging and milling operation from Eureka, California to Bellingham, Washington.

Like many industrial conflicts of the 1930s, the timber workers' strike was rooted in economic turmoil and ascendant radical politics of the Depression Era. A decline in the national demand for lumber caused by a precipitous fall in home building led to the low wages and harsh working conditions that prefigured the strike. Meanwhile, the Communist Party, motivated by Popular Front policies, increasingly moved into mainstream labor organizations and, for the first time, prompted the American Federation of labor to take seriously the cause of woodworker unionism with the founding of the Sawmill and Timber Workers' Union (STWU). A vast strike wave in 1934 also helped set the stage for the timber workers' strike and, in particular, the famed 1934 Pacific Coast longshoremen's strike had proven to many woodworkers that the economic imbalances created by the Depression could be corrected with mass working-class action.

The timber workers' strike began in the late spring of 1935 when the STWU called for a wage increase, shorter work week, and most importantly, union recognition and a region-wide collective bargaining agreement. On May 6th, with no response from employers, the STWU led timber workers across the region out on strike and across the Northwest loggers and sawyers began filling picket lines.



The Timber Worker newspaper was developed by workers in Aberdeen, Washington in the midst of the 1935 strike. It served as a voice for timberworkers and sought to counteract the negative bias of Seattle's established media.

The strike quickly turned violent. In an effort to reopen their mills and logging operations, employers imported scabs who were attacked by strikers. In response, sawmill owners, municipalities, and state governments mobilized security guards, police forces, and the National Guard against the strikers and attacked pickets and marches with barrages of bullets and tear gas. Before it was over, three strikers would be killed and scores more injured and hospitalized.

In July, most employers agreed to modest wage increases and a shorter work week but refused to concede the issue of union recognition. With the escalating violence, most timber workers voted to return to work in July. Even if strikers were only partially successful in getting their demands met, the strike nevertheless had important and long-term consequences. The strike had catapulted radicals and Communists to the forefront of timber worker union politics, thus ensuring that cultures of radicalism would live on in Northwestern timber unions. More importantly, as the first region-wide action of loggers and sawmill workers in the Depression, the strike created a shared sense of purpose and a regional identity among timber workers that would greatly contribute to the founding of the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) in 1937. In time, the IWA would rise to become the largest and one of the most powerful unions of the West Coast CIO and help shape the political and social landscape of the Pacific Northwest throughout the remainder of the 1930s and through the 1940s.

Reflections of an Editor by Fred Haynes

2026-2027 Officers

President- Jack Rosenstein
Vice President/Treasurer- Larry Rausch
Director at Large- Charlie Adrion
RPA, P.O. Box 10206 Brighton Station,
Rochester, NY 14610-0206.
Meetings at the Village at Unity-Village
Square Community Room, 1477 Long
Pond Road on the Unity Hospital
campus in Greece.

In the spring of 2013, when I accepted the role of editor for *Hinges and Tongs*, I am certain I did not expect to carry that torch for almost 13 years. But here we are in 2026, more than 50 issues later (51 actually, but who is counting). I have enjoyed the role immensely, working with countless members to publish their articles along with the club's news. Along the journey, I have met many wonderful collectors and learned a great deal about philately, all good and all personally rewarding. It is always hard to move on from something you have enjoyed doing, but as our interests and time commitments change, we all must acknowledge that the

prudent thing to do is to move along too. I am not leaving Rochester and will remain an RPA member, but I am not actively working with stamps at this point, and I have not attended many meetings this past year. The club will be better served by someone who is actively involved with the hobby and the organization.

I want to thank all who have provided input to *Hinges and Tongs* over the past 12-plus years (and there are many). I hope you are all equally willing to help the next editor by submitting timely and interesting news for him to include in future issues. Editing is so much easier when content is available. In fact, without the help of others, the job is virtually not possible.

Changes are often a good time to reflect on the past. For me, that meant looking back at my first issue in the summer of 2013, when the most recent ROPEX (a joint event with the American Topical Association) was reviewed, and a survey of members was reported. Even more interesting was looking back at the monumental issue that preceded my tenure. Tom Fortunato was the previous editor, and his last issue was entitled “Special Centennial Edition – March/May 2013.

If you are a new member of the club (or even an older member like me), you might want to get a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and take a peek at this epic 15-page historic issue. It starts with a full review of RPA's gala centennial celebration attended by 48 members and 32 guests at the Locust Hill Club Country Club, complete with pictures of all who attended. You can also learn about the rich history of our club in articles by Tom, Don Grover, and Gordon Morison (who would move on from Rochester to serve as the country's Assistant Postmaster General from 1971-1992). Our own Rich Spinelli was one of the keynote speakers, and he wrote up his oral presentation entitled “The Psychology of Collecting”. Summaries of the past like this article often end with a look ahead. I could do so also, but Tom's final two paragraphs in the aforementioned 2013 issue of *Hinges and Tongs* seem as appropriate now as they did in 2013. At that time, he wrote:

“Ok, we've taken a look at our past and present, but what's in store for the future? These remain trying times for our hobby. The very use of stamps themselves is in danger of going the way of the dinosaurs with a reduction in letter writing and the emergence of printable postage. Most club memberships around the country are dwindling. The amount of free time we all have to spend on leisure activities seems on the decline as well. But I'd like to believe there will continue to be a core of curious people interested in learning from philately's many lessons—history, culture, geography—and take pleasure in the pride and accomplishment our treasure hunting brings us.”

Upcoming New Issues by the USPS

Following are the issues to be released for the balance of 2026:

September 12	US Coast Guard Academy
September 18	Winter Wreath (Global Forever)
September 19	Christmas Cookies
September 23	Kwanzaa
September 25	Squirrels & Chipmunks
September 29	Hanukah
October 2	Madonna & Child
October 6	Fentanyl (Semi-postal)
October ??	Diwali

Reflections of the New Editor Roy Michael Roush

Greetings! I am new to the RPA, but have been collecting stamps since 1966, when my mother got me interested with the Indiana Sesquicentennial issue [Scott No. 1308]. I worked through the Statesman albums and graduated to US plate-blocks. I make my own album pages and have dabbled with making my own cachets to have serviced with the FDOI and special occasion cancellations. And now that I am retired, I enjoy attending FDOI ceremonies across the country. I've even taken family members and friends to these events.

I hope that I can fill Fred Haynes' shoes and will strive to make this newsletter informational and entertaining for you. Help from you in the future with articles for inclusion will be greatly appreciated.

