

# Stamp



# Chatter

Volume 55 - Issue No. 3 w338

July - September, 2024

## Sequoia Stamp Club

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second and fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, at 7:00 PM.

Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 235  
San Carlos, CA 94070

Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

More info at:

[www.penpex.org/ssc](http://www.penpex.org/ssc)



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## President's Message

I hope that you are experiencing an enjoyable summer in the SF Bay Area or wherever you are living and vacationing. As usual, this year the Sequoia Stamp Club has been quite busy with informative philatelic programs, the trading/buying/selling of stamps, and the deepening of our friendships.

Our twice monthly meetings have been drawing an average of around 30 members, which places our stamp club as one of the most active in the entire country. I believe a key ingredient towards our success is the raising of members' hands when our club needs volunteers. Think about all of the volunteers filling a wide variety of roles during our annual PENPEX show each December. Once again our club showed how we work well together during the WESTPEX show in April thanks to our members who volunteered at the club promotion table outside of the main stamp dealer and exhibit room. They promoted our club, which resulted in new member applications.

Our May 28 meeting was a change in that we met at the Western Philatelic Library in Redwood City. The result of the meeting was a closer link between our club and this awesome local philatelic library which is enjoyed by most of our members. Based on feedback from the attendees, we should be able to hold a meeting at the Western Philatelic Library each year.

As I write the President's message in June, my thoughts also look forward to FUN events for our club including the annual summer picnic on July 30, and our annual pizza party later in the year. Both are FREE benefits to our members who are still paying a paltry \$3 per year membership fee. Please take the time to outreach to friends, new acquaintances, and family by inviting them to attend a meeting as a guest. Who knows, they may become our newest members.

Respectfully,

Jay Strauss  
Sequoia Stamp Club President



### Stamp Calendar: Club Meetings (in black) & Other Events (in green)

- ♦ **July 9:** "Peruvian Philately" by Henry Marquez. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **July 23:** **6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome).** 7 PM, Social Hour, Invite a Friend. Philatelic Quiz. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **July 30:** **Annual SSC Summer Picnic, 4:30 PM - 8 PM. Community Activities Building, Redwood City.**
- ♦ **Aug 13:** Phalen Live Auction. Jim Giacomazzi, auctioneer.
- ♦ **Aug 27:** Other Hobby Night. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Sep 10:** "Covers that Tell a Historical Story" by Harold Tuchfeld. Silent Auction.
- ♦ **Sep 24:** Swap Meet. Buy/sell/swap stamps with other club members.

The complete schedule can be found online at [www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar](http://www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar).

# Picture Gallery



At WESTPEX, April 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, our club was honored to share a booth with Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies. Above are Ken Entin, Jim Giacomazzi, and Jim Sauer; at right Kristin Patterson, Tom Hayes, and Bob Simoni.

On April 23<sup>th</sup>, Sulekha Chaudhuri told us about her book, "India's Special Edition Stamps, 1947 - 1980".



The Western Philatelic Library had a silent auction on April 20<sup>th</sup> of Louis Lang's stamp collection. Louis was a long-time member of Sequoia Stamp Club; he passed away in 2023.



We did something different for our May 28<sup>th</sup> club meeting. We held it at the Western Philatelic Library in Redwood City. It was Kiloware Night where members could buy stamps at 5 cents each.

*Photos courtesy of various club members.*



On April 23<sup>th</sup>, Craig Butterworth displayed his "Frame of the Month" showing some of his philatelic interests, such as perfin, state revenue stamps, and photo mosaics like this one of John Corwin composed of Machins that he's showing at right.



On June 25<sup>th</sup>, we awarded our 2024 Collector's Scholarships of \$1000 each to Josue Montoya (second from left) and Giselle Perez Apolinar (second from right) seen here with Kristin Patterson, Jim Giacomazzi, and Craig Butterworth, who are on the scholarship selection committee.

**Newsletter Staff:** Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jay Strauss; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin. The *Stamp Chatter* is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: [www.penpex.org/SSC](http://www.penpex.org/SSC) or email us at [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).



# The Empire State Building

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Due to shortage of space on Manhattan Island towards the end of the nineteenth century, the construction of new buildings began to “build up” rather than “outward.” This capability was due to the new technology of electronically powered elevators and steel-frame construction. In August 1929, New York Governor Alfred E. Smith announced plans to build a new skyscraper in midtown Manhattan at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, close to the city’s prestigious department stores such as Macy’s and Gimbels, which would scale 1,250 feet high, with about 2.7 million square feet of office space, and would enhance modern architecture. When the stock market crashed on October 29, 1929, construction of the Empire State Building was still scheduled to proceed and was aimed to be completed in eighteen months.



U.S. #3185b

The funding would come from John Jacob Raskob, a former General Motors executive and his financial backers. To meet demands for a quick completion, the contracted architectural firm, Shreve, Lab and Harman, would provide many of the items, such as windows, steel, cement and marble, and have them pre-arranged so that there would be a minimum amount of assembly at the construction site, thus saving lots of time.



St. Vincent #2741c

Photographer Lewis Wickes Hine was hired to promote positive publicity of the building. He would often climb the steel frames to take photos. However, he also captured some of the dangerous conditions for the laborers. Due to the heights they had to work on, six workers would be killed during construction. Since the nation was in the grips of the Great Depression, many had no choice but to take the hazardous risk, the long hours, and low pay, or face being unemployed. They worked thirteen-hour days, with a half-hour lunch. Pay was less than two dollars an hour and wages were paid once a week. Hard work paid off, as the building was completed in just thirteen months. Opening day would be May 1, 1931, for the world’s tallest building.

It was a slow process to attract long-term tenants during the Great Depression, but tenancy did pick up after the Second World War. The building would be upgraded throughout the years, adding air conditioning and high-speed elevators. After the New York City blackout on November 9, 1965, an emergency lighting system and recall system was added to the elevators which would safely lower the elevator to the next floor. The building went through an expensive modernization project in the 1990s, with upgrades to the fire and security systems. New window frames and windows were added. Metal detectors and x-ray scanning machines would be installed after the September 11, 2001 terrorists’ attacks on the United States.



Nevis #760



Ecuador #C80-83

This famous skyscraper can be found memorialized on U.S. and international postage stamps. My reference to this article is from John S. Berman’s book, “Portraits of America: The Empire State Building.”

## Cover(s) of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

Because 2024 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, I thought it would be appropriate to make it the subject of this month's column. The UPU was founded in 1874 and is the second oldest international organization worldwide (after the International Telecommunication Union, ITU). The UPU is now a specialized agency of the United Nations and is headquartered in Berne, Switzerland. Its purpose is to organize and improve postal service throughout the world and to ensure international collaboration in this area. Members of the UPU are Vatican City and the 193 UN members except Andorra, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. The newest member is South Sudan, which joined on October 4, 2011.<sup>1</sup>



In 1949 an idea was put forward that all members should commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with special stamps. One proposal was that an identical series of three stamps be issued to draw attention to the principle that members of the Union constituted a single postal territory. That proved to be too difficult to put into effect, so it was decided that each country should choose the design, denomination, number and printing of its stamps. Most of the stamps that were issued depicted the symbol of the UPU monument in Berne or a world united by an international postal system. During 1949 and 1950 over 500 postage stamps for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary were issued worldwide.

The United States issued an engraved set of three stamps to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The ten-cent stamp features the Post Office Department Building. The 15-cent stamp was issued on October 7, 1949, at the American Air Mail Society Convention and pictures a globe and doves, symbolic of airmail service delivering letters around the world. The third stamp pictures a Boeing *Stratocruiser* traveling over the Pacific Ocean.



The British Post Office, with the approval of King George VI, issued four stamps on October 10, 1949. In addition to the basic stamps, all four values were overprinted for use in British Postal Agencies overseas, namely Tangier, Bahrain, and Kuwait. From the British Commonwealth, there were 65 different sets involving 310 separate stamps. For color illustrations of all the UPU 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary stamps, visit Wikimedia Commons, Category: 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Postal Union on stamps.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union>

<sup>2</sup> [https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Category:75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union on stamps&filefrom=Lebanon+1949+Mi+Block+12b+souvenir+sheet+%2875th+anniversary+of+the+UPU.+Camel+post+rider.+Helicopter+mail+delivery%29.jpg#mw-category-media](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Category:75th_anniversary_of_the_Universal_Postal_Union_on_stamps&filefrom=Lebanon+1949+Mi+Block+12b+souvenir+sheet+%2875th+anniversary+of+the+UPU.+Camel+post+rider.+Helicopter+mail+delivery%29.jpg#mw-category-media)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Category:75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union on stamps&filefrom=Lebanon+1949+Mi+Block+12b+souvenir+sheet+%2875th+anniversary+of+the+UPU.+Camel+post+rider.+Helicopter+mail+delivery%29.jpg#mw-category-media](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Category:75th_anniversary_of_the_Universal_Postal_Union_on_stamps&filefrom=Lebanon+1949+Mi+Block+12b+souvenir+sheet+%2875th+anniversary+of+the+UPU.+Camel+post+rider.+Helicopter+mail+delivery%29.jpg#mw-category-media)



## Tagging Varieties

By Peter Adams

In my continuing effort to find the needle in the tagging haystack, I present three of my most recent finds. I also provide my best guess what caused these tagging varieties. These stamps are in my collection.

Scott 1769. Figure 1 is two copies of Scott 1769 shown under normal light. Figure 2 is the stamp stamps under UV light. Notice the colors of the horses, especially in the UV version. Also notice the red ink smear at the bottom right stamp. The left stamp has a standard block tag. Notice the surface damage on the right side of the stamp (in front of the horse). That surface damage helps me identify the normal tagging. The stamp on the right is exceptional. The horse is not tagged. Either the mat was damaged, or the tagging was cut to shape. If the tagging is cut to shape, it is not documented in the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue (2018 edition).



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Scott 1001. Figure 3 is a pair of Scott 1001 under normal light. Figure 4 is the same pair under UV light. The Post Office issued this stamp before it began tagging stamps. Even so, this stamp has luminous ink on it. This is most likely because the luminous ink rubbed off of another stamp. If so, this is not a tagging variety, at least by my definition of what a tagging variety is. This stamp is presented here as a case study in what can go wrong with tagging after the stamp leaves the printing press.



Fig. 3

Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Scott 1426. Figure 5 is the stamp under normal light. Figure 6 is the stamp under UV light. The stripe on the right appears to be the result of a tagging shift. However, the entire sheet and the selvage are tagged. The stripe might be caused by - - well your guess is as good as mine.

## PENPEX 2024

Save the Date!

December 7th and 8th will be here before you know it!

Our annual stamp show will be as good as ever! Dealers, exhibits, silent auction, special cachet, etc. Start preparing your auction lots now. And as usual, we need volunteers in every area to help make the show a success. For example, just think how much fun it would be to help put up the outdoor signage!



## The 5-Cent Rose Color Error of 1917

By Robert Brilliant



Scott #505

The most spectacular non-inverted error in American philately occurred in 1917 when small quantities of the 5-cent Washington stamp, normally blue in color, were found in the rose carmine color used for the 2-cent value. How this error occurred is an interesting story involving human error and the pressures of printing large quantities of stamps to meet urgent wartime needs.

The 2-cent value – which paid the first-class letter rate – was the postal workhorse in 1917. With billions produced to meet public demand, it's hardly surprising that the plates used to print this denomination were subjected to considerable wear and tear. During a routine inspection, three defective stamp impressions were found on plate 7942, in positions 74 and 84 in the upper left pane of 100, and position 18 in the lower right pane.

To correct the problem, the sideographer (plate maker) first burnished out the defective impressions. Fresh impressions were then reentered onto the plate using the proper transfer roll. This step is where the error occurred. Instead of using the transfer roll for the 2-cent denomination, the sideographer mistakenly used the transfer roll for the 5-cent value. When printed, these three positions appear as carmine rose 5-cent stamps surrounded by normal carmine rose 2-cent stamps.

This error should have been detected when a plate proof was made to check the condition of the plate. However, due to extraordinary printing workloads caused by World War I, this step was overlooked. Plate 7942 was therefore sent to the printing press without inspection, here it was used between March 9 and April 1, 1917 to produce approximately 50,000 sheets of 400 stamps each. The sheets were quartered into panes of 100, bundled, and shipped to post offices nationwide during April. Among the 19,850,000 2-cent red stamps printed from plate 7942 were 150,000 of the 5-cent rose errors.

In May 1917 the error stamps were finally discovered by stamp collectors and the general public, much to the embarrassment of the Post Office Department which began a vigorous campaign to recall and destroy as many error sheets as possible. Still, a considerable number of errors reached the philatelic market where they sold quickly, often for exorbitant (at the time) prices.



Block of 12 with two 5-cent stamps  
(Scott #505) and ten 2-cent stamps  
(Scott #499)

The 5-cent rose error exists in three versions: perf 10 (Scott #467), perf 11 (Scott #505) and imperforate (Scott #485). Of these, the perf 11 is the most common and affordable. The perf 10 is considerably scarcer than perf 11 and the imperforate version is a major rarity that most collectors have never seen, let alone owned. There are even a small number of 5-cent rose stamps on cover, with indications that the users applied the stamps as 2-cent values. Postally used examples are much scarcer than mint copies.

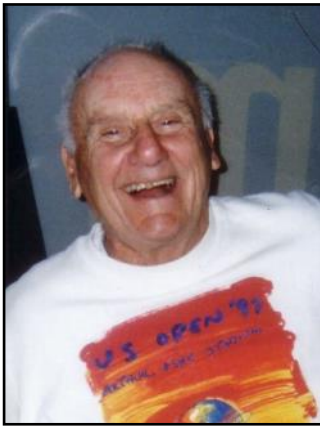
This error remains highly popular today and is a key acquisition for any 20<sup>th</sup> Century US collection. It's often collected as a single or double error surrounded by normal 2-cent stamps in a block of 9 or 12, which makes for a dramatic showpiece.

Are there any mint or used 5-cent rose errors still waiting to be discovered, either on or off cover? The chances are very small, but it never hurts to be on the lookout when sorting through 2-cent rose stamps from this era.

## Closed Albums

### Severin Morger (2/19/1928 - 4/19/2024)

By Jim Giacomazzi



Severin Morger, better known to us as Steve, died at the age of 96 at his condo in San Carlos, CA, where he and his wife Joyce had lived for many years. He was born and raised in San Francisco, CA. with heritage that traced back to Switzerland and the Alsace region of France. He is predeceased by his wife Joyce, and is survived by his son, Steven Morger, of Durham, CA, and daughter-in-law Susan.

Steve attended St. Ignatius High School in San Francisco and graduated from San Francisco State College with a degree in physical education. He was a tough, if somewhat undersized, lineman for the Gators football team. He worked as a recreation director and physical education teacher and retired after many years with the San Mateo Elementary School District. Steve enjoyed fishing trips with his son, and at one time was the number one player on the tennis ladder in San Carlos. He enjoyed hanging out with

the Red Morton Regulars at the tennis courts in Redwood City and having lunch with his buddies. He was a proud U. S. Marine veteran who had many stories to tell about his service in the Philippines after World War II.

Steve was a member of the Sequoia Stamp Club for 32 years, many of those as a Life Member, and he was also a life member of the APS, recently receiving a medallion for his 50 years of membership. Steve enjoyed attending local shows, and one of his favorite activities was trading stamps with fellow members and selling stamps at 25% of catalogue value from his infamous Red Boxes. His stamp collecting interest was worldwide stamps up to 1940. He had an extensive collection, especially British related, of which he was deservedly quite proud. But it is his service to the club that makes him stand out.

Steve served as secretary to the Sequoia Stamp Club and for many years did a fantastic job as the person in charge of the silent and live auction activities that are so popular. He was Jim Mosso's right-hand man in carrying out the PENPEX silent auction, helping to set up and supervise the room throughout the show. Steve was always willing to do whatever the club asked him to do, whether it was driving to Armadillo Willy's to pick up food for our picnic or shopping at Costco for a cake for a special occasion. In 2012, he was presented with the APS Sparkplug Award for outstanding service to the Sequoia Stamp Club.

I never met a single person who ever had anything bad to say about Steve. On behalf of the Sequoia Stamp Club, I want to express our gratitude for Steve's dedication and commitment to the club. It is due to the efforts of members like Steve that we have become one of the most successful clubs in northern California. I feel very privileged to have had Steve as a fellow club member, a stamp collecting partner, and a good friend. He will be greatly missed. Information on services will be forthcoming.

### Roy Teixeira (1947 - 2024)

By John Corwin

We just learned that Roy Teixeira passed away on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Roy joined Sequoia Stamp Club in 2016, but many of us knew him through his volunteer work at WESTPEX and the Western Philatelic Library. He knew the library inside-and-out. Any time I had a question about how to find something, I would ask Roy, and he always led me right to it. He collected stamps of Portugal (and its colonies), Norway, and Israel, but his passion was the library. Our condolences go out to his wife Sigrid. He will be missed.





# A Visit to the Collectors Club of New York

By Robert Brilliant



Collectors Club Lobby

During a vacation in April to New York City, I paid a visit to the Collectors Club of New York in their brand-new home on West 40<sup>th</sup> Street, just across from the main branch of the New York Public Library.

Founded in 1896, the Collectors Club is one of the oldest existing philatelic societies in the United States. Its stated purpose is "to further the study of philately, promote the hobby and provide a social, educational, and non-commercial setting for the enthusiastic enjoyment of our common passion." Among its founding members were the famed philatelist John Luff and John Walter Scott of Scott catalog fame. Later members included such philatelic luminaries as Alfred F. Lichtenstein, Theodore Steinway, Alfred Caspary, Col. Ned Green, Harry Lindquist, and honorary member President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For many years the Club was headquartered in an elegant townhouse on 35<sup>th</sup> Street that in 1979 was designated a New York City historical landmark. However, that location had become cramped and was sorely lacking in 21<sup>st</sup> century amenities, hence a relocation last year to a modern and spacious new home at 58 West 40<sup>th</sup> Street, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

Upon arrival I was warmly greeted by Club secretary and librarian Andrea Matura, who graciously gave me the full tour. The spacious lobby area, overlooking Bryant Park, was complemented by a presentation/meeting room complete with a large video monitor and Internet/Zoom connectivity.



High-tech meeting/presentation room with large video screen.

The real highlight of the tour was the philatelic research library, said to contain over 150,000 books, catalogs, periodicals, and related items. One can easily see the enormous value of this extensive archive for doing serious and in-depth philatelic research. Everything seems very well shelved and organized, and I could envision what a comfortable environment this would be for researchers to work in.

If you're visiting New York City, I would recommend a visit to the Collectors Club. You'll feel most welcome and will be impressed, as I was, with the physical facility and the library. Check out their website <https://www.collectorsclub.org/> for information on membership and events.



Some of the stacks in the Research Library.



Librarian Andrea Matura at the space-saving rolling racks. Boxes contain auction catalogs going back to the 1940s.



## Go to Camp By MiriamST



**When you go to Camp,  
don't forget to bring your book of Stamps.**

**When you hike, find a Ramp  
that is not too Damp  
and not too Cramped.**

**When it's dark, use your Lamp  
to view your Stamps.**

**Be a Champ (not a Tramp) and  
tightly Clamp onto your book of Stamps.**

## New Members

**Steve Frumkin** joined the club on April 9<sup>th</sup>. He lives in Beaverton, Oregon. On a trip to the Bay Area, he gave an interesting presentation to the club on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, "Selling Your Collection at Auction".

**Geoff Purkis** also joined the club on April 9<sup>th</sup>. He collects Great Britain, Germany, DDR, France, and other things that interest him.

Welcome, Steve and Geoff!

## Members' Advertisements

**For Sale:** 1,000 Different Foreign Stamps in envelopes of 100. Put together circa 1965. \$40.00, check or money order.

Phil Holck  
1317 Anza Way  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-447-5120

**FOR SALE**  
**Scott 2024 Catalogues Vol. 1 – 6**

**Vol. 1, 2, & 3 available now.**

**Vol. 4 – 6 as the 2025 Catalogues are published**

**\$350.00**

**Jim Sauer 408.445.2694 [hjamesauer@yahoo.com](mailto:hjamesauer@yahoo.com)**

Hello, SSC members, my name is Vivek Chopra, and I've been a member of the club for a few years. I have recently joined David Feldman International Auctions as their West Coast Representative, and I'd like to tell you about the firm.

David Feldman Auctions have been world leaders in stamp auctions for several decades, and they have specialized in rarities (including the post office Mauritius and the British Guiana 1-cent magenta stamps to name two) as well as many large, specialized collections of worldwide and commonwealth stamps. They were also responsible for creating the impressive online Museum of Philately, <https://www.museumofphilately.com/>.

They are looking to expand in the US market; hence they appointed me as their West Coast Representative. If you are looking for an honest auction house to sell your beloved collections, David Feldman is the place. They are thorough professionals, and I have consigned many of my items to them over the past few years. For more info, see their website [www.davidfeldman.com](http://www.davidfeldman.com) or contact me:

Vivek Chopra  
email: [v.s.chopra@gmail.com](mailto:v.s.chopra@gmail.com) or [vivek.chopra@davidfeldman.com](mailto:vivek.chopra@davidfeldman.com)  
phone: 510-495-5893



**WANTED:** Articles for the *Stamp Chatter* newsletter. Suggested length is about 500 words with two or three pictures. Any topic related to stamp collecting or would be enjoyed by stamp collectors. Submit your articles to [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).

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