

# Stamp



# Chatter

Volume 55 - Issue No. 4 w339

October - December, 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)



## In This Issue

President's Message	1
Stamp Calendar	1
Picture Gallery	2
The First Computer	3
Cover of the Month	4
The 1869 Pictorials	5
PENPEX Caboose	6
Closed Albums	7
The Pan-Pacifc	8
Other Hobby Night	9-10
New Members	10
Members' Ads	10

## President's Message

A big thank you to the members of the Sequoia Stamp Club for another quarter filled with philatelic treasures, friendship, presentations and great auctions. Our activities varied from a well-attended Summer BBQ Picnic, to a Phalen Live Auction, to presentations such as one on stamps of Peru by Henry Marquez and another about Historic Story Covers by Harold Tuchfeld, to a Members Swap Meet, and to the awesome Other Hobby Night. (Wow, stamp collectors like to collect a wide variety of other cool treasures.)



Coming up we have a New Member Reception (maybe a club first), another Phalen Live Auction, and our annual hosted dinner. A huge thank you to Tom Hayes for building a yearlong schedule of always informative and fun programs. We close out the year with the election of new officers, if you are interested in an officer position or the Governing Board, please contact myself, Kevin Kraemer, or John Corwin. This is a sure way to deepen your relationship with the club and our members. Our final meeting in December is the always popular holiday party and raffle.

And of course, we also have our fabulous PENPEX stamp show on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Volunteering to help is another fun way to get to know other members. [Click here to volunteer](#); see more PENPEX info on page 6.

Respectfully, Jay Strauss

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

- ♦ Oct 4 - 6: **WINEPEX Stamp Show, Best Western Plus hotel, Novato**
- ♦ Oct 8: Members' Live Auction, Wally Jolliff, auctioneer.
- ♦ Oct 19 & 20: **East Bay Collectors Club Show, Civic Center, Walnut Creek**
- ♦ Oct 22: **6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome).** 7 PM New Member Reception. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Oct 29: **Annual SSC Pizza Party. 6 PM to 8 PM. Location TBD.**
- ♦ Nov 2 & 3: **SACAPEX Stamp Show, Elks Lodge, Sacramento**
- ♦ Nov 12: Phalen Live Auction by Jim Giacomazzi. Nomination of officers.
- ♦ Nov 16 & 17: **Filatelic Fiesta Stamp Show, Napredak Hall, San Jose**
- ♦ Nov 26: Cover Swap. Election of officers. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Dec 7 & 8: **PENPEX Stamp Show, CAB, Redwood City**
- ♦ Dec 10: Holiday Party. Raffle Drawing. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Dec 24: No meeting. Happy Holidays. See you next year!

Meetings on the underlined dates above will be hybrid meetings using Zoom. The complete schedule can be found online at [www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar](http://www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar).

# Picture Gallery

## Picnic

July 30, 2024



Foreground: Two Past-Presidents of the club, Ed Rosen and Kristin Patterson chatting. Ed is the club's longest serving member.



Miriam Thurston looking elegant



Everybody digging in!



Eduardo Martino, Joe Coleman, Malcolm Catchatoorian, and Kjell Enander just discovered they're on camera.



Kristin Patterson visiting with Goyo and Julie Alvarez



Eddie Eggen

Jim Mosso



All picnic photos courtesy of Ken Perkins



Mike McGee



Joe Spina chatting with Ron Guaraldi



## Philatelic Santa

At left: Peter Adams spotted these color-shifted Santas on US Scott #1472.

At right: Jim Stratton used Artificial Intelligence tool ChatGPT to create this picture of Santa working on his stamp collection.

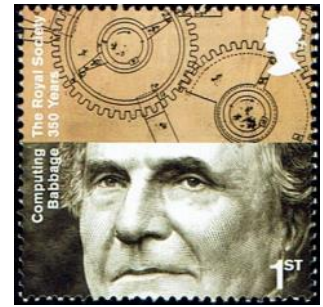


**Newsletter Staff:** Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jay Strauss; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin. The *Stamp Chatter* is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: [www.penpex.org/SSC](http://www.penpex.org/SSC)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

# The First Computer

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

In 1823, partially funded by the British government, Charles Babbage, mathematician, astronomer and economist, began working on a room-sized machine that could do calculations. He knew that doing difficult calculations by hand allowed room for human error, taking hours, sometimes weeks or months. He wanted to create a machine which would make these tasks easier. It took ten years to develop a working prototype of his Difference Engine. During this time, he also came up with his Analytical Engine which he could “program” by placing cards in an orderly fashion to arrange various computations. He could also get his machine to “store” information.



Great Britain #2751

This was the beginning of data processing, but not yet called that and not yet further established until Herman Hollerith, a member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), observed a train conductor punch individual tickets used to describe the ticket holder’s physical appearance. The ticket was called a “punch photograph” and this inspired Hollerith to design a punch-card tabulator for the U.S. Census in 1890, which would aid the Census in their count of the population.



Romania #4815

Hollerith figured out a way for his tabulator to also perform calculations and he founded a new company in 1896 called the Tabulating Machine Company which eventually would become the International Business Machine Corporation (IBM). Punch-card machines for data processing helped government entities, and when the Social Security Administration was founded in 1935, it used punch cards to store wage data for working Americans.

Good friends John Mauchly and John Adman Presper Eckert, Jr. pitched an idea to the army which agreed to provide funds for their “Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC).”

The plans behind this machine would be to calculate at faster speeds and solve more problems than using punch cards. Their machine would use electrons to do calculations. Vacuum tubes would be used as the tubes had a cathode which gave off electrons when stimulated. Twelve individuals were assigned to work on the confidential project, which began in July 1943. They would work on the first



US #3106

floor of the Moore School Building at the University of Pennsylvania. Approximately 18,000 vacuum tubes were ultimately added to ENIAC. Six educated women were chosen to program ENIAC. They were to become the first computer programmers. Preparing a program took a month or two, and setting up the program for the machine by ensuring units were put together in the proper order to solve problems, took a day or two. It was an involved process, but it was proved to be efficient, doing calculations in as fast as thirty seconds. Unfortunately, the machine was not fully ready until the fall of 1945, soon after WWII ended, and thus had not been completed in time to assist



US #3090n

the army in war efforts. When it was revealed to the public in February 1946, it was then taken apart and moved to Aberdeen, Pennsylvania, where it was programmed to perform calculations until its retirement in 1955.

I read the book ENIAC: The Triumphs and Tragedies of the World’s First Computer by Scott McCartney for information on this article.



Great Britain #1000 & #1001

## Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

Since I was watching and enjoying the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris as I wrote this article, I thought it would be interesting to look in my collection for some covers related to earlier Olympic Games. I found two items from the 1956 games in Melbourne, Australia that I thought would be worth writing about.

The 1956 Olympics were the first held in the Southern Hemisphere. Because of the reversal of seasons, the Games were celebrated in November and December. Figure 1 shows a cover with a First Day Cover cachet franked with a 7½ pence ultramarine stamp (Scott #289)

that was issued to commemorate the Games. It depicts the Olympic Torch with the Southern Cross in the background. The postmark reads "XVI OLYMPIAD, EXHIBITION BLDG, MELBORNE, VIC, AUST and is dated NOV 22, 1956, the opening day of the games. The illustration of a basketball player fits nicely into my topical collection. The U.S. basketball team, led by Bill Russell and K.C. Jones, put on the most dominant performance in Olympic history. They scored more than twice as many points as their opponents and won each of their games by at least 30 points.

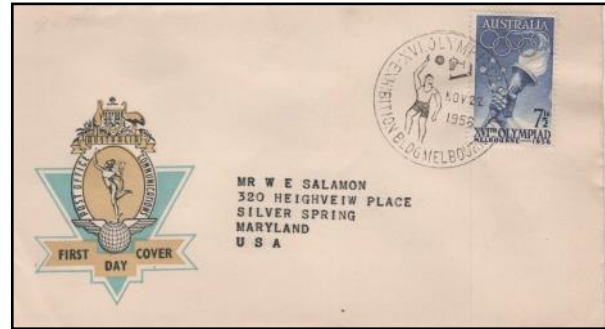


Figure 1

The remoteness of Australia and two international crises accounted for a low number of participants. Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon refused to participate in protest of the British and French invasion of Egypt to regain control of the Suez Canal. The Netherlands, Spain, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland boycotted to protest the Soviet invasion of Hungary. One of the most notable events of the games was a controversial water polo match between the Soviet Union and the defending champions, Hungary. Violence broke out between the teams during the match, resulting in numerous injuries. When a Hungarian player suffered bleeding after being punched by a Russian opponent the match was cancelled, with Hungary being declared the winner because they were in the lead. It became known as the "Blood in the Water" game and is probably the most famous water polo game in history.



Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a cover postmarked in Olympia, Greece on 2 November 1956 to commemorate the transport of the Olympic Flame from Athens to Australia on Qantas Airlines during the 1956 Olympic Games Torch Relay. The Greek stamps are cancelled with a postmark that features a runner holding the Olympic torch. The cover is addressed to a Mr. John R. Carr in Sydney, New South Wales. The left side of cover features an illustration of a flaming Olympic torch behind colored Olympic Rings with the inscription "ATHENS TO / AUSTRALIA" and "OLYMPIC / TORCH / FLIGHT". A red oval with white "QANTAS" lettering appears at base. A commemorative receiving postmark is found on the back and it is similar to the one on the first cover with the date 22 NOV 1956, but reading MAIN STADIUM and featuring an athlete throwing the shot put.

Many aspects of the Games remain the same today as in 1956 as well as some differences. The US basketball team were winners again in 2024, but the games against Serbia and France were very close. It took some amazing three-point shooting by Steph Curry to secure their gold medal. The USSR won the most medals in the 1956 Olympics (98 to 74 for the US), but Russia was banned from the 2024 Paris Olympics due to the invasion of Ukraine. Some new events had been added to the competition, such as breaking which did not even exist in 1956. Many countries have issued stamps over the years to celebrate the Olympic Games, and they are a very popular topic for collectors. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the two items from my collection, and also that like me you enjoyed watching the Games this year in Paris.

## The 1869 Pictorials: Reviled in Their Day, Coveted Ever Since

By Robert Brilliant



In March of 1869 the United States Post Office Department issued a new series of 10 postage stamps known today as the 1869 Pictorials. They were a radical departure from previous US stamps in several ways.

For starters, they were considerably smaller than previous issues and were square shaped instead of rectangular. They were the first mass produced stamps to feature the grill security feature. Several of the designs depicted scenes of transportation or allegorical eagles instead of the traditional portraits of American statesmen. And, most noticeably, the top four values of the series were printed in two colors, marking the first-time bicolor stamps were issued by the US Post Office Department.

The stamps proved immediately unpopular with the public. People didn't like the smaller size and they found the designs confusing or undignified. Many resented the fact that the most commonly used 3¢ value depicted a locomotive instead of the usual portrait of George Washington. Others complained that the gum used didn't stick to envelopes very well. Given the technology of the time the bicolor stamps were often misregistered, and the issue as a whole was poorly centered with perforations typically cutting into the stamp design. It came as no surprise that the unpopular issue was withdrawn after barely a year in use and replaced with the first of the larger "banknote" issues featuring traditional profiles of Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, and other American luminaries.

In the 150+ years since their brief appearance, the 1869 Pictorials have come to be highly prized by collectors, and recognized for their innovative qualities that advanced the art of stamp design. The engraving of the stamps, especially on the 15¢ Landing of Columbus (Scott 118, 119) and 24¢ Signing of the Declaration of Independence (Scott 120), still amazes with its detail and quality. In the vignette of the 24¢, it's possible to identify over 20 signers, all within an area measuring a scant 10 by 20 millimeters. James Smillie's engraving work has likely never been surpassed on a US stamp for its miniaturized attention to detail.

Three of the values, the 2¢ (Scott 113), 3¢ (Scott 114), and 12¢ (Scott 117) depict mail transportation for the time: respectively horseback express, railroad, and trans-Atlantic steamer. The awkward gait of the horse on the 2¢ value suggests an imminent belly flop instead of a graceful gallop.

Perhaps the most majestic of the '69 Pictorials is the top 90¢ value (Scott 122) a memorial tribute to President Lincoln. This rare and magnificent stamp, with its striking red frame and black vignette, is among the most beautiful of all US classic issues. The high face value restricted its use to heavy parcels and international mail, and its rarity and eye-catching design meant that it was almost always soaked off cover by contemporary collectors. In fact, today there is but a single known example of Scott 122 on cover, the famed "Ice House" cover that went to India. It sold at auction not that long ago for \$400,000.

No accounting of the '69 Pictorials would be complete without a mention of the three inverts that appeared on the 15¢, 24¢, and 30¢ values. Among the rarest and most celebrated of all US stamp errors, these inverts, along with the Ice House cover, represent the pinnacle of 1869 collecting. Given the manual and sloppy production techniques of the time, it's surprising that not more of these inverts exist. Current census is 107 copies of the 15¢ inverted center, 91 copies of the 24¢ inverted center, and 48 copies of the 30¢ inverted flags. Perhaps there are more copies lurking out there for some lucky collector to yet discover (but don't hold your breath).

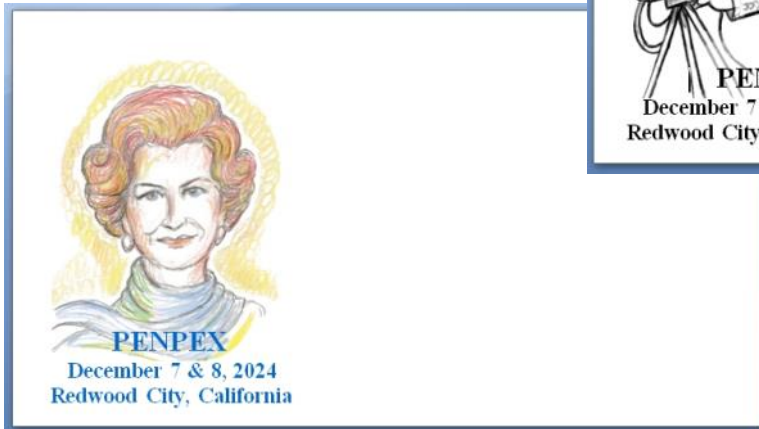
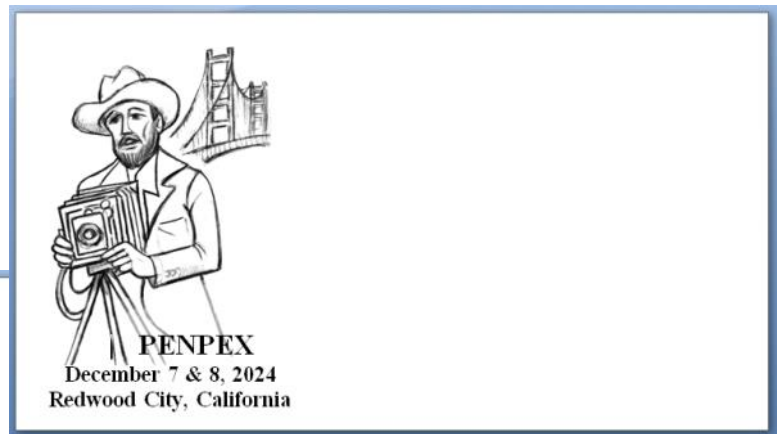
Hated then but loved today, the 1869 Pictorials are a unique and important chapter in the history of U.S. postage stamps. Their innovative designs and the public reaction they provoked offer valuable insights into the state of the American Union in the early post-Civil War era. The series has taken its rightful place, next to the Columbian and Trans-Mississippi issues, as a benchmark for measuring the completeness and quality of a U.S. Classics collection.

# PENPEX CABOOSE

PENPEX is just over 2 months away; December 7 & 8, 2024. We have a dozen dealers confirmed and are waiting on a couple more. The Flea Market already has many mini-collections, duplicate stamps, and other philatelic material priced to sell. Also, the much anticipated PENPEX Silent Auction will close on Sunday at 2 pm (NEW TIME). The auction always has great items. You can download the [seller form and lot form](#) from the PENPEX website. Contact Joe Coleman, 650-575-3000, if you have questions about the selling your material in the auction.

Exhibits are a big part of PENPEX. If you are interested in exhibiting, contact Exhibits Chair, Tom Hayes at 510-289-3288 or download an [exhibit entry form](#) from the PENPEX website and fill it out. There is NO cost!

Our own in-house artist, Miriam Thurston, created two show cachets. Saturday's cachet will celebrate Ansel Adams and be franked with the new Adams Forever stamps. The Sunday show



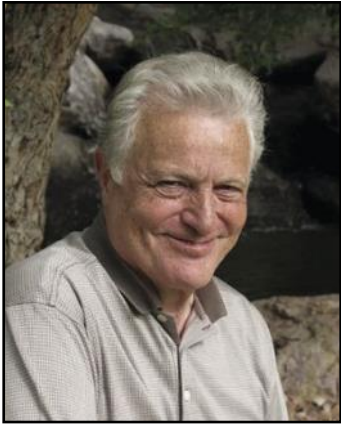
cachet will honor Betty Ford for her work for Equal Rights. These covers will be franked with the new Ford Forever stamp. Both cachets will have a unique USPS cancel that will tie the stamp theme with the show. Price is just \$2.

PENPEX will hold a Banquet Party on Saturday night at Harry's Hofbrau. Everyone is welcome to join us. We will reveal the Grand and Reserve Grand exhibit winners but will not announce every exhibit and their award level. This will leave more time for people to socialize with other stamp collectors in a fun and relaxing environment. PENPEX will provide the dessert and attendees pay for what they order at Harry's. We hope all PENPEX attendees, exhibitors, and Sequoia Stamp Club members will attend as the food is tasty and reasonably priced. Their Prime Rib is the talk of the town. Seating is limited in the Banquet Room, so reserve a seat by emailing [PENPEXRedwoodCity@yahoo.com](mailto:PENPEXRedwoodCity@yahoo.com).

The Welcome Table will be run by Chip Harrison, and Goyo Alvarez will be running the Youth Area with his family. PENPEX happens because of many, great volunteers. But we are always looking for people to join the PENPEX team. Please talk with PENPEX Chair, Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643 about where you can help before, during, or after the show or [sign-up on the online form](#). We look forward to seeing you at the show.

## Closed Albums

### Ed Rodriguez (July 27, 1936 - June 30, 2024)



Edward John Rodriguez passed away on June 30, 2024. Ed was born in Madrid, Spain, on July 27, 1936. His family escaped the Spanish Civil War to the United States. They lived in Pennsylvania, Florida, and Texas before settling in San Mateo, California. Ed graduated from San Mateo High School and then attained an Economics degree from College of Notre Dame in Belmont. He was active in the Sea Scouts and served in the US Naval Reserves as a submariner. He worked his entire 35-year career at Pacific Telephone and Telegraph as a Telecommunications Engineer until he retired in 1984.

Ed married his wife, Sue, in 1958; they shared a 60-year marriage until Sue's death in 2018. They had three daughters Laura, Christine, and Linda. Ed and Sue enjoyed traveling, and he helped her create Custom Travel Consultants in Woodside in 1982. He is survived by his daughters, a brother, a sister, eight grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. A celebration of Ed's life was held on July 15, 2024.

Ed was very civic minded. He belonged to the Kiwanis and Elks clubs and served as a member of the Belmont County Water District, the Belmont City Council, Belmont Finance Commission as well being a two-time mayor of Belmont.

He joined Sequoia Stamp Club in 2001; he collected worldwide stamps up to 1984. He was very active in the club serving as president from 2003 to 2006 and again in 2010. The picture at right shows him passing the presidential gavel to Jim Giacomazzi in January 2007.



### Marvin Ray (September 17, 1931 - July 3, 2024)

Marvin was born in the Philippines on September 17, 1931. He came to the US as a boy along with his mother Jovita, two brothers Leopold and Randy, and his stepfather William Ray at the end of World War II. They settled in San Francisco, and Marvin attended Mission High School where he was in the R.O.T.C. He later joined the National Guard.

He met his wife Nenita (known to many as Lina) in San Francisco; they were married for 64 years and had four daughters, Gloria, Nancy, Patty, and Kathy. As a young father, he excelled as a commercial lighting salesman, and later he became a successful lighting executive. Marvin and Lina were long-time residents of San Mateo. He later moved to Castro Valley where he passed away on July 3, 2024, at age 92.

He was an avid collector of US stamps and joined Sequoia Stamp Club in 2016. In addition to collecting stamps, Marvin enjoyed taking trips to casinos in Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas, playing chess, studying World War II history, following the San Francisco Giants and 49ers sports teams, listening to all kinds of music, watching movies, playing video poker, and doing word puzzles. He was the family historian and archivist.

Marvin is survived by his four daughters, brother Randy, seven grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, and a great great grandson.



# The Pan-Pacifcs: Glorious Mementos from a Glorious Exposition

By Robert Brilliant

On February 20, 1915, the Pan-Pacific International Exposition opened in San Francisco. This opulent world's fair and exposition was staged to celebrate two significant events: the opening of the Panama Canal after years of arduous work and the rebirth of San Francisco following a devastating earthquake and fire that leveled the city nine years earlier. The exposition featured exhibitions on technology, agriculture, art, and global culture, drawing over 18 million visitors between opening day and its closing on December 4, 1915.

To celebrate this momentous event, the U.S. Post Office department issued a special set of commemorative stamps that have since become known in the philatelic world as the "Pan-Pacifcs." Issued in 1913 (in perf 12) and 1914 (in perf 10) the series consists of 4 denominations: 1-cent, 2-cent, 5-cent, and 10-cent stamps. The stamps featured images of discovery and achievement that complemented the spirit of the exposition.



The stamps are as follows:

1¢ green (Scott 397, 401) featuring a portrait of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the Spanish explorer who was the first European to set sight of the Pacific Ocean from the New World. The stamp's design symbolized the bridging of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans that the Panama Canal would come to represent.

2¢ carmine red (Scott 398, 402) featuring an image of the Pedro Miguel Locks on the Panama Canal. This and the other locks along the Canal were the greatest civil engineering feats of their time. The stamp is also found in a very rare lake shade variety (Scott 398b).

5¢ blue (Scott 399, 403) is an image familiar to everyone living in this part of the world: the Golden Gate of San Francisco Bay, but without the Golden Gate Bridge, which wasn't built until 20 years later.

10¢ yellow (Scott 400) and 10¢ orange (Scott 400A, 404). This stamp depicts the "discovery" of San Francisco Bay by the Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portola. The actual location is now a part of the Sweeney Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Pacifica. The stamp was originally issued in a bright yellow color that obscured the stamp's value and the fine detail of the engraving. To correct these problems, the 10¢ was reissued in a deep orange that proved easier to see (Scott 400A, 404).

After receiving complaints from post offices around the country about the brittle nature of the perf 12 gauge, the series was reissued in 1914 in a more robust perf 10. The perf 10 stamps were in production for only 13 months and most collectors at the time were unaware of their existence. As a result, the perf 10 set (Scott 401-404) is considerably rarer and more valuable than its perf 12 counterparts. In fact, Scott 404 in mint condition is the most valuable regularly issued 20<sup>th</sup> century US commemorative stamp.

The Pan-Pacifcs rank among the most beautiful of U.S. 20<sup>th</sup> century commemoratives. Their bright colors and bold designs speak to the optimism and progressive attitudes that pervaded America in the early years of the 20th century, just prior to the impending disaster of World War I. They make for a beautiful album page and are another important benchmark of completion for serious U.S. collectors.

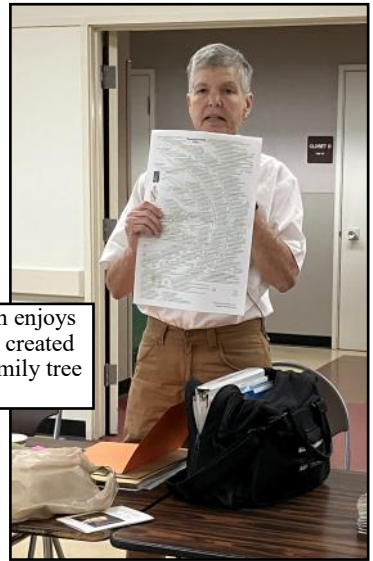


# Other Hobby Night

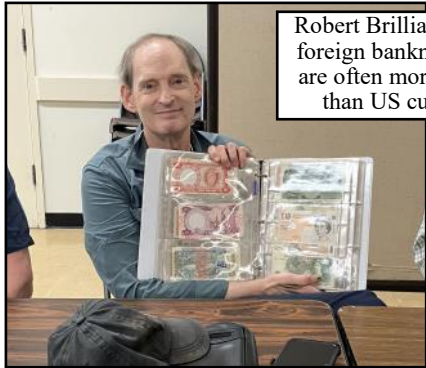
SSC members have other hobbies beyond stamp collecting. On August 27<sup>th</sup> they had an opportunity to talk about them.



Craig Butterworth collects hand tools including large ones like the bolt cutter he's holding, plus the big wrenches, large chisel, and long screw driver on the table.



Kristin Patterson enjoys genealogy. She created this extensive family tree chart.



Robert Brilliant collects foreign banknotes; they are often more colorful than US currency.



Julie Alvarez enjoys working with Legos. She and her son, Goyo, once assembled a map with 11,000 pieces.



John Corwin talked about the Thurn & Taxis board game that he played recently.



Malcolm Catchatoorian is a sports fan. He likes the 49ers, Giants, Olympics, and other sporting events such as Cricket. He showed many items from his "man cave".



Peter Adams is a musician. He played one of his own compositions on this cello-like instrument called a bass viola da gamba.

Kevin Kraemer collects fossils. He showed us some very old ones including one over 500 million years old.



Upper left photo courtesy of Kristin Patterson. All others courtesy of Craig Butterworth.

## Other Hobby Night Continued



Geoff Purkis collects postcards. He's showing some old Germans cards here.



Patrick Ford showed us some items from his Star Trek collection.



Greg Cykman collects 45 RPM records.



Miriam Thurston enjoys art in its many forms. Her recent interest is in writing poetry. She read a few of her poems to us.



Joe Spina displayed a few of the Homies figurines from his collection.

All photos on this page courtesy of Craig Butterworth.

## New Members

**Steven Morger** joined the club in July. He is the son of Steve Morger, who was a long-time club member who passed away in April. He wants to learn how to handle his father's collection.

**Lyle Okamoto** also joined the club in July. He collects coins, but he is also interested in US airmail stamps and early Great Britain stamps.

**Tony Sutharojana** and **Gary Fusco** joined the club in August. They are friends and want to learn more about stamp collecting. Tony has a worldwide collection, but he's especially interested in Thailand stamps. Gary collects Italian stamps.

## Members' Advertisements

### FOR SALE

Scott 2024 Catalogues  
All 6 volumes available now!  
\$350.00

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

### 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 a topic that would be enjoyed by stamp collectors. Submit your articles to [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).

Sequoia Stamp Club members may submit advertisements for no charge. Full details are available at <https://www.penpex.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rules-for-Classified-Ads.pdf>