



Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News

Everett, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM
Snohomish County PUD
2320 California Street

Edmonds, 3rd Friday, 7 PM – 9 PM
South County Senior Center
220 South Railroad Avenue

Volume 23

July/August, 2017

Number 7

Online at: <http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/> copies of these newsletters available there, too!

Everett Meeting

Wednesday, **JULY 12th**, 7:30 PM

- **Club Auction** – come sell off your wares and buy a few new ones. Assemble some auction lots now and label them with your name, catalog number, description, anything unique about the item, asking reserve price (if any), catalog price, and anything else you think could be helpful.
 - As always, feel free to bring some Show and Tell items to talk about.

Most meetings also include **show-and-tell**, along with time to **buy and sell** stamps

Combined Annual Everett/Edmonds BBQ

Wednesday, **AUGUST 9th**, 5 PM

Join us at Carol and Keith Edholm's house in Mountlake Terrace for this year's summer gathering. The club will provide the main course & beverages. Guests bring salads and desserts.
See page 2 for details.

2017 Club Officers

President:	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	stampingsteve42@hotmail.com
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Program Chairman:			
Webmaster &			http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/
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Everett 2017 meeting dates at the PUD: (2nd Wednesday of each month)
7/12, (Aug 9th BBQ), 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, (Dec dinner)

Edmonds 2017 meeting dates at the South County Senior Center: (on the 3rd - or sometimes 4th - Friday of the month)
(none-July), (Aug 9th BBQ), 9/22, 10/20, (none-Nov.), (Dec dinner)

President's Column

I had hoped to line up a philatelic vendor for a Dealer Night in July. I approached several dealers, without success. So, I am scheduling a **club auction for our July 12 meeting**. It has been only three months since the last club auction. If I line up a dealer for September, every meeting for the rest of 2017 will be programmed. If no dealer steps forward for a September Dealer Night, I will probably order a fresh batch of APS circuit books.

Our June meeting featured our third round of APS circuit books. It was probably our most disappointing selection. Many books abounded in common stamps, cataloging a quarter or a few notches higher. I find it mind-boggling that APS members, who are most likely intermediate or advanced collectors, would fill circuit books with material that the typical collector acquires in childhood.

APS charges coming and going. When books arrive, it assesses a fee which is a percentage of the retail value of their contents. When APS returns the books, it assesses two percent of the remaining catalog value. That should provide an incentive to mount only stamps likely to appeal to a buyer.

Save **Wednesday, August 9. That is the date of the club's annual barbeque** meeting. Carol and Keith Edholm have graciously offered to host the event at their Mountlake Terrace home. The Edholm's address is **4404 224th Place SW**. The barbeque fires up at **5 p.m.** As in past years, the club will provide the main course and beverages. Guests should bring salads and desserts.

Since the Sno-King Stamp News does not publish in August, this will be this newsletter's last notice of our annual August event – mark it on your calendar today.

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It turns out that the notion that most serious stamp collectors are elderly is simply a myth. It turns out that most serious collectors, myself included, fall within a demographic best described as "late middle age." The Seattle Times recently ran an essay contending that the experience of aging baby boomers compels rethinking old age.

Former parameters defining old age no longer hold, the author insists. Instead, she argued, old age is defined as being 80 or older. Anyone between the ages of 60 and 80 is experiencing "late middle age." Early middle age is, as one might expect, from 40 to 60.

Of course, if you are like me, you are most certainly resentful that late middle age is robbing you of your youth.

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In perusing treasures rescued from the now-discontinued library of the Collectors Club of Seattle, we ran across an intriguing pamphlet published in 1966 in connection with the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition (SIPEX). This pamphlet listed stamps which were forbidden to be included in SIPEX exhibits. These

prohibitions were adopted pursuant to rules established by FIP, an international association which sets rules for exhibits at major stamp shows.

Many verboten stamps were semi-postals whose surtax exceeded 50 percent of the postal value. Many of the offending issues were post-World War II Belgian charity stamps. Several pages were devoted to East Germany issues denounced as "blocked values." Some issues were forbidden as private issues, some printed as speculation, or items which circulated in philatelic markets without being issued for postal uses.

FIP banned all stamps from Panama and Paraguay issued after January 1, 1965. These two countries flooded stamp markets with issues celebrating space exploration, even though among the world's 200 nations, each ranked in the low 100s in the race for space.

The mid-1960s were the era of philatelic experimenting with black blots, a weapon deployed by philatelic purists desiring to quell the torrent of junk stamps being shipped directly from European printing houses to philatelic agents in New Jersey. Like many another crusade to enforce minimal standards of acceptable taste in American culture, it was doomed to fail.

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Linn's Stamp News proudly announced the return of Apfelbaum's Corner to its on-line presence. Another generation of Apfelbaums is carrying on in the tradition established by Herb Apfelbaum, who produced Apfelbaum's Corner during its 20-year run. Apfelbaum's Corner was kind of a blog before the Internet provided a forum for such do-it-yourself commentary. John Apfelbaum of the family's auction house will be doing the writing.

The typical Apfelbaum's Corner entry was a three- or four-paragraph musing on some current philatelic topic. He bemoaned speculators and plunges and fretted over gullible and ill-informed collectors. I rescued "The Best of Apfelbaum's Corner" from the Collectors Club library. It was disappointing. Sadly, I found the typical essay to be an exercise in banality. And, this was supposedly Apfelbaum's "best."

I found one amusing entry. Herb Apfelbaum recalled the elderly gentleman who offered his collection for sale. Asked his price, the would-be seller answered, "\$7461.82." Why so precise, Apfelbaum asked. The gentleman replied that he kept meticulous records of his philatelic purchases. His asking price equaled, to the penny, what he had spent on stamps over many years. No more, no less.

Apfelbaum's response was probably a gentle exquisition on the realities of the philatelic marketplace.

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Herb Apfelbaum recounted another transaction involving the purchase of a stamp collection build over several decades. The seller was the widow of a recently-deceased professor. As she used her husband's key to enter his stamp cave, she confided that this was the first time she had entered the room where her professor-husband whiled away the hours he spent with his collection.

Early in their marriage, the professor threatened his wife with physical violence should she enter his philatelic domain. He kept the room locked when he was not using it.

Apfelbaum purchased the collection and broke it into auction lots. Many lots were first-day covers of US stamps from the 1920s and 1930s. Many desirable issues, including zeppelins, were included. Apfelbaum was astonished when many lots sold for several times the market value of the first-day covers. It turns out many buyers discovered that many first-day envelopes contained plate blocks of the stamp on the cover.

So, the moral of the story, as Apfelbaum, saw it, is to inspect your purchases carefully. Hidden gems might emerge. As long as he was in a moralizing mood, Apfelbaum might have added a few words of reproach for the professor. When discussing the need to keep her away from his collection, he could have attempted gentle persuasion rather than threats of violence.

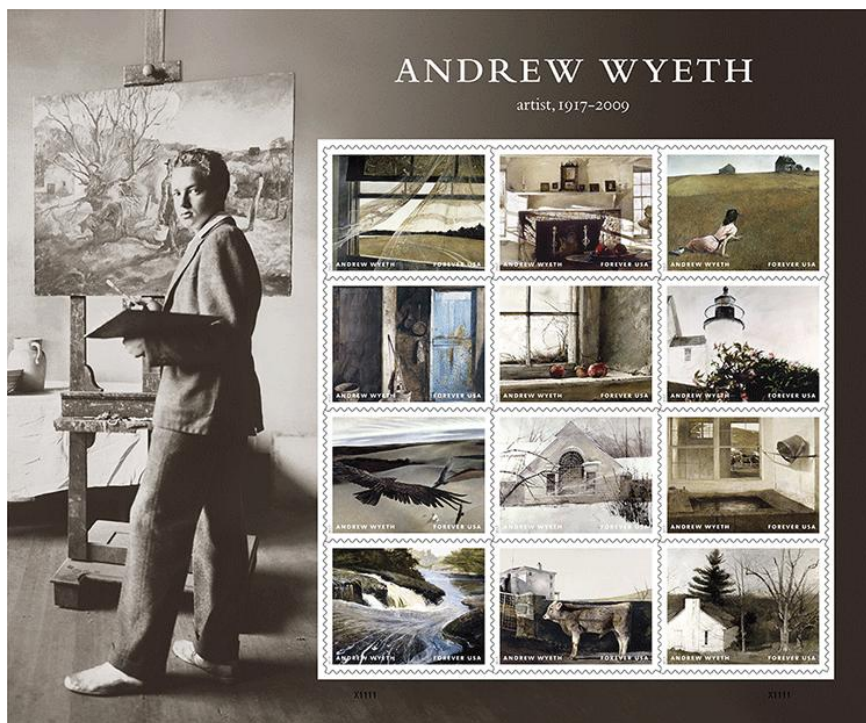
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The philatelic world has been rocked by news of financial calamities which brought one venerable stamp firm to ruin and threaten another. After devastating financial losses, the Stanley Gibbons firm is looking for a buyer. What is truly baffling is the floundering of the Regency-Superior auction house. It is in bankruptcy. Creditors have seized its assets. Auction lots have been delivered to high bidders.

Meanwhile, consignors have not been paid. The firm is currently without assets to pay collectors who consigned their holdings to the firm. When bankruptcy proceedings resolve some years from now, consignors may have to settle for cents on the dollar. What went wrong? Firm insiders blame the ill health of a principal.

USPS - New Issues for July and August 2017

July 12 **Andrew Wyeth**
CHADDS FORD, PA



July 15 **Disney Villains**
ANAHEIM, CA (D23 Expo 2017)



July 26 **Sharks**
NEWPORT, KY



August 3 **Protect Pollinators**
RICHMOND, VA. (APS StampShow)



August 11 **Azulillo (Stamped Card)**
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO (Americover 2017)



August 16
Flowers from the Garden
SIOUX FALLS, SD



Jack R. Congrove
Seattle Philatelic Exhibition
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6/6/2017

SEAPEX 2017 to celebrate Camp Lewis anniversary

The Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (SEAPEX), an American Philatelic Society (APS) World Series of Philately (WSP) exhibition, will take place on 8–10 September 2017, at the Tukwila Community Center located just north of the SeaTac Airport at 12424 42nd Avenue South, Tukwila, Washington.

This year SEAPEX is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the opening of Camp Lewis, Washington. This camp was constructed in 1917 over a period of merely two months to support training of US soldiers to fight in World War I. Today it is the largest U.S. military base west of the Rocky Mountains. The show will offer special pictorial postmarks and cover cachets to commemorate this installation and the military units assigned there.

The show hours are 10 AM to 6 PM Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM Saturday, and 10 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Parking and admission are free.

The show will feature 30 stamp dealers and 180 frames of competitive exhibits. The Grand Award winners for the one-frame and multi-frame exhibits will be eligible to compete at the APS Champion of Champions competitions against winners from other national WSP shows next year in Birmingham, Alabama, and Columbus, Ohio.

Members of the philatelic jury are: John Hotchner (chairman), Tim Bartshe, Charles Verge, Ken Trettin, and Steve Schumann. Steve McGill will serve as an apprentice.

The China Stamp Society, Society for Hungarian Philately, and Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania will hold conventions at the show.

The event will also host free activities for youth and educators throughout the weekend. Starting at 10 AM on Saturday, the show will hold a full-day Boy Scout stamp collecting merit badge seminar.

Experts will be available to provide free stamp evaluations, or what to do with that old stamp collection. The United Nations Postal Administration will be on hand to sell current postal items.

The show hotel is the Residence Inn South Seattle/Tukwila at 16201 West Valley Highway, Seattle. The show rate for a studio suite is \$114. Contact the hotel at (425) 226-5500.

Visit the website (<http://www.seapexshow.org>) for exhibit prospectus and application, event schedule, exhibit listing, links to the hotel, and other details. Also visit us on Facebook: Seapex: Seattle Philatelic Exhibition.