

MOURNING COVERS

While sorting through an accumulation of covers from a Club auction lot, two covers stood out. The black around the border of the cover identified it as a mourning cover.



The purpose of such covers was to announce a death. Other uses included notification of funeral arrangements, offering condolences and remembrances of the deceased person. Such covers were common in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the United States, the practice disappeared after the 1950's but continued in places such as Europe up to the present.

The black border along the outside edge of the envelope can vary in size. Some borders can be thin or others thick. The size of the border would indicate the relationship between the sender and the recipient, the importance of the person who died, and the amount of time between the date of death and when the cover was sent. The flaps on the rear of the covers were also outlined in black adding to the importance of the cover.



MOURNING COVERS (con't)

The black border jumps out to grab the attention of the recipient. In an age where the only communication was the mail, the recipient receiving this cover would be alerted that bad news was contained in the envelope.

Today, we live in an age where news is conveyed instantaneously through cell phones and social networking. It is difficult for our younger generation to understand how people communicated before the advancement of technology. Showing the cover to young high school students, they were amazed how people communicated through the mail and waited so long for a response. Some insisted that the cell phone was invented right after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone!



A mourning cover with Buffalo postmark!

RICK BARRETT REMINDER

Two events happening on Tuesday, June 11th during his time in town:

- Free Guided Tour of Pan American Exposition Collection at the Buffalo History Museum Resource Center, 459 Forest Ave. starting at 2:30 to 4:30 PM.
- Historical talk and fascinating stories relating to his book *Buffalo Cinderellas* at 7 PM sponsored by the Historical Assoc. of Lewiston at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 915 Oneida Street, Lewiston



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

JUNE 2019

Alfred Carroccia

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SUMMER!!

This is the final newsletter of the 2018-2019 Club year. The Club accomplished everything on the itinerary adopted by the Board of Directors last Summer. It has been a memorable year for the Club with two huge and successful shows, Autumn Stamp Festival and BUFPEX. The auctions and presentations were well attended and addressed interesting topics. The Club also had a field trip to the APS Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. The only event left on the Club calendar is the annual Club picnic in August.

The Club will be on hiatus until September. However, that does not necessarily mean a break from stamp collecting. The dog days of Summer provide ample opportunities to sort out all those lots we purchased at the Club Auctions during the year. It could also mean catching up on reading those philatelic magazines and books that we've all been meaning to get to. There are no rules in stamp collecting, so we can start and stop whenever we feel like it.

The Buffalo Stamp Club wishes all its members an enjoyable Summer!

As far as the newsletter goes, see you in September.

JUNE CALENDAR

- June 7th: Auction**
End of Season Celebration - (see page 2)
- July 12th: Board of Directors Meeting**
- August 10th: Annual Club Picnic**
- September 6th: Auction**

Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga

Auctions begin immediately following any business and announcements which starts at **7:15 PM**. Get here early enough to view auction items. Seller deadline for submitting Lots is **6:45 PM**

Presentations begin at **7 PM** in the Happy Room.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Bob Meegan (meegan9697@roadrunner.com)
Vice President: Alan Davis (ddavis504@roadrunner.com)
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Auction Committee Chairman: John Leszak (coverconnection@gmail.com)
Auction Manager: Dan Sherwood
Auction Registrar: Kelly Kreuzer (slothlover4ever24@gmail.com)
Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: George Gates (gggh53@aol.com)
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Other Directors: Larry Cherns (katchke@hotmail.com),
Candice Vogel (f.cat777@yahoo.com),
Bennie Passantino

June 7th AUCTION

The 2 auctions in May were a “tale of two cities”. The May 3rd auction had 229 lots and the May 10th auction had 97 lots. The 2nd auction may have had light attendance due to the conflict with Ropex.

No matter – We are still planning on an end-of-season celebration at the June 7th auction with **pizza and wings**. So, plan on attending our last auction and share our end of a good season at the Buffalo Stamp Club!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The annual election for Board of Directors was held prior to the Auction on May 3rd. The election was significant in that three new Board members were elected.

The following were elected members of the Board of Directors with a three-year term expiring in 2022:

Al Carroccia
Pam Kreuzer
Dan McNess
Paul Moore

It is refreshing to see three new faces on the Board. They bring new ideas to move the Club into the future.

Once again, the Club thanks the following Board members for their past service:

Dan Sherwood
Candy Vogel
Bill Witschard

Remember, any Club member can help with planning, organizing and participating in all Club activities. If you have an idea or want to help, speak up! It has been said many times that more hands mean less work!

MAY PRESENTATION



On May 10th Irv Tesmer gave his annual presentation before an enthusiastic group. This time Irv focused on United States Revenues beginning with an introductory talk on the purpose of revenue stamps and the collection of various taxes.

Irv passed around examples from his extensive collection of Revenues which he began collecting in 1932! He also showed the group numerous scarce items. During Irv’s many years of collecting, you’re going to see unique and rare items. As always, an interesting and informative discussion.

Thanks Irv!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Club will hold its annual Board of Directors meeting on Friday, July 12th at the Leonard Post. The meeting will begin after 7 PM, but those who would like to enjoy dinner (Dutch treat) before the meeting are asked to be there by 6 PM.

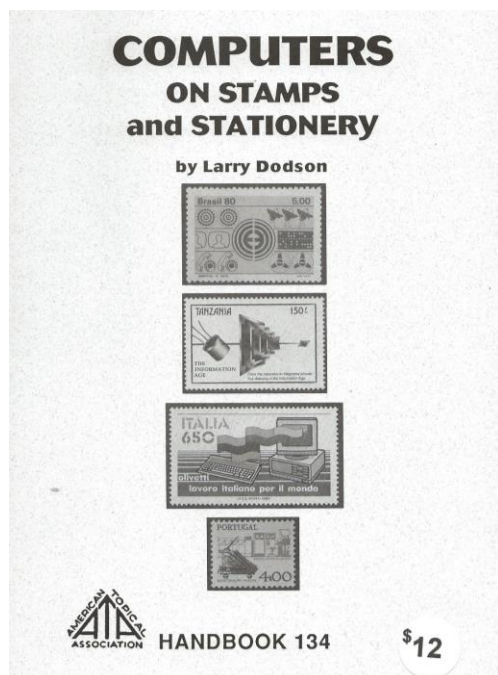
It is at this meeting that the Officers of the Club are elected, the Club calendar finalized, BUFPEX themes and reports are discussed. Even though Board Members vote on matters that come before it, Club members can weigh in with ideas and suggestions. Perhaps attending will persuade you to run for the Board. See you there!

ATA HANDBOOKS

John Leszak has obtained a donation of handbooks published by the American Topical Association. The donation is from Vera Felts who is the Executive Director of the ATA. The box contains handbooks covering a variety of ATA topics. The handbooks are useful as both a reference and a check list of stamps and covers for the topic being covered.

The box will be available at the auction on June 7th and, if any are left, at the picnic in August.

The Club thanks Vera and John for coordinating the donation.



ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC

The Annual Club Picnic for Club Members and their guests is tentatively scheduled for August 10th at *Meegan Manor*, the home of President Bob Meegan and his wife, Mary. Hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and soda are provided by the Club. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass and chairs, if possible.

Around 2 PM an auction will be conducted in Bob's backyard. After the auction, we will again fire up the grill for a second round!

The picnic is a splendid opportunity for our spouses to come out and meet other Club members and their spouses. The conversation is not always philatelic! Bob will also offer tours of his home!

Stay tuned for information regarding the picnic in a Summer mailing!

BOB'S INNOVATIVE EXHIBIT

Bob Meegan was featured in *The Philatelic Exhibitor* 1st Qtr 2019 issue for his "innovative and eye-catching way to show No. 10 envelopes".

The question was, "Should long envelopes ever be placed at an angle...?" As Patricia Walker responds: "Bob's point was to show rates; the page title is simple and to the point: Rate Progression. The covers show a single, 4 times (Underpaid), 4 times correctly paid, 7 times & 9 times the rate – each of the rate explanations is in the same place – underneath and to the left of the angled cover – very easy to judge. And the frankings stand out – which they might not with a different page arrangement."



Well done, Bob – Point Made!