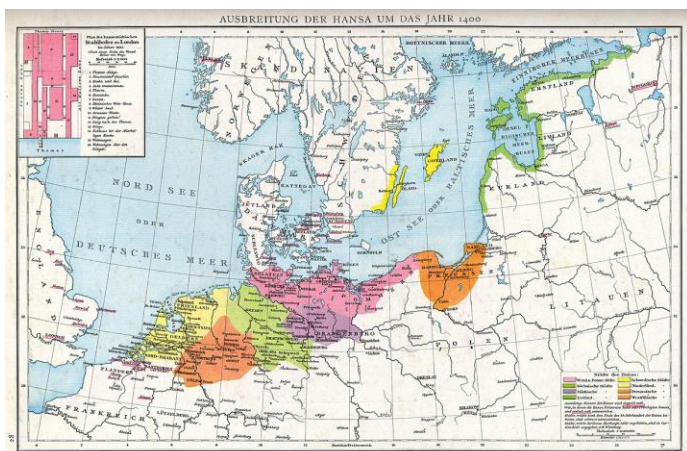


## EUROPEAN POSTAL BEGINNINGS

Contributed by Larry Reilly

The Hanseatic League, which started in northern Germany, was a guild of merchants organized to protect themselves against pirates and thieves. In time, they started a regular service of mail and message exchange with post riders that operated between the principal towns of the league only. This lasted between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century and became the model for the rest of Europe. The league was well organized throughout northern Europe. They had their own horses used exclusively for letter service. At each stop, the time of the receipt and the passing of the dispatches were written on the face of each letter. Post stations were also important economic centers. They became the central spot in the development of villages and cities throughout Europe.



Map of Hanseatic League from Wikipedia.

As in ancient times, the use of horses for the delivery of mail was a much easier and faster method, compared to foot or cart travel. Although used much earlier in Asia, the Europeans used a system they designated as post roads and the men became known as post riders. These were usually a network of regularly scheduled services run by the State or State licensed monopoly.

## EUROPEAN POSTAL BEGINNINGS (CON'T)

This system was complete with distance markers and waypoints. Unlike earlier methods, these post riders collected and delivered mail over the course of their route. They would meet other post riders along the way and easily exchange correspondence. This would allow them to cover a considerable distance and reduce cost. Although there was limited interaction with other mail services in towns, this post network was a separate entity under separate management. The main difference was ancient systems were exclusively for government or military use. Mail service on the continent changed very little from the Middle Ages through the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Next: England



Semi-postal stamp issued in 1952 by Saar, Scott B91, commemorates stamp day and shows a post rider on his horse.

Thanks Larry for this insightful series of articles.

## FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

We are still looking for a volunteer to lead a presentation at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Anyone willing to show their collection, please let us know. You have an interesting topic, country or specialty and we know that you want to share it!



# BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

[www.buffalostampclub.org](http://www.buffalostampclub.org)

JANUARY 2020

Alfred Carroccia

[Fuzzy9600@verizon.net](mailto:Fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Happy New Year to all Buffalo Stamp Club members! The Holidays are over, and we now begin 2020, the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! Hopefully everyone received that special philatelic gift for Christmas. But more importantly, that everyone shared the Holiday with friends and family.

The Club now enters the preparation time for BUFPEX. The Winter weather will allow us to concentrate on our collections. With so much time available, we can put exhibits together for BUFPEX. Don't delay. There is no excuse.

The auctions have shown that the Club has many collectors with unique, specialized collections. Perhaps you have a specialty area that will make a nice exhibit. It does not take a lot of work to prepare an exhibit. If you are not sure how to proceed, there are members who have exhibited. The Club is lucky to have an APS accredited judge who knows the art of exhibiting, our own President Bob Meegan. With all this support available, it means that you don't have to go down the exhibit path alone. Give it a shot! You may end up with your name on a trophy and learn something in the process!

## JANUARY CALENDAR

**January 10th: Auction**

**January 24th: Presentation**

**February 7th: 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 ([meeagan9697@roadrunner.com](mailto:meeagan9697@roadrunner.com))

Vice President: Alan Davis ([ddavis504@roadrunner.com](mailto:ddavis504@roadrunner.com))

Secretary: Al Carroccia ([fuzzy9600@verizon.net](mailto:fuzzy9600@verizon.net))

Treasurer: Tim Carey ([careystea@gmail.com](mailto:careystea@gmail.com))

Membership Chairmen: Casey Kielbasa & Dan McNess  
([dmcness@mac.com](mailto:dmcness@mac.com))

Auction Committee Chairman: John Leszak  
([coverconnection@gmail.com](mailto:coverconnection@gmail.com))

Auction Manager: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Kelly Kreuzer ([slothlover4ever24@gmail.com](mailto:slothlover4ever24@gmail.com))

Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: George Gates  
([gghg53@aol.com](mailto:gghg53@aol.com))

Bourse Chairman: John Leszak ([coverconnection@gmail.com](mailto:coverconnection@gmail.com))

Other Directors: Larry Cherns ([katchke@hotmail.com](mailto:katchke@hotmail.com)),

Pam Kreuzer ([slothlover4ever24@gmail.com](mailto:slothlover4ever24@gmail.com)),

Bennie Passantino,

Paul Moore ([paulmoore@verizon.net](mailto:paulmoore@verizon.net))

## CLUB WEBSITE

The Buffalo Stamp Club website has been redesigned thanks to Club member Tom Costelloe. The website is located at [www.buffalostampclub.org](http://www.buffalostampclub.org). The new website is easier to maneuver through and more vibrant than the former website. Vital information such as the Club calendar and current newsletters are readily accessible. Other links provide access to archived newsletters and an article on Buffalo Postal history. Tom is constantly making revisions, and there are plans for material on the history of the Buffalo Stamp Club. Also, in the works is a link to pay Club dues. Stay tuned. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see, let Tom and the Club know. Also, if you have material that would add value or enhance the website, pass it on to us and we'll incorporate it into the content. Many thanks to Tom for undertaking this project!

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



John Leszak was presented this Certificate of Appreciation by Charles Holtzman at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Johnstown (PA) Stamp Club Show on November 9, 2019. John had led a presentation about topical stamp and cover collecting, and the benefits of membership in the American Topical Association in June at which there were 42 people in attendance. Good for you John!

## JANUARY PRESENTATION

President Bob Meegan will be the presenter on January 24<sup>th</sup>. He traditionally uses this presentation to talk about exhibiting. Bob is familiar with exhibiting as he has won gold medals with his exhibits. He is also an accredited APS judge familiar with the criteria for evaluating exhibits.

The first part of Bob's presentation will deal with exhibiting tips. He will explain what to do and not to do. He will explain what he looks for when evaluating exhibits as a judge. This is important because Bob can identify all the pitfalls that plague exhibits. Armed with this knowledge, an exhibitor can go the extra step to produce a medal-winning exhibit. Bob will also give tips and a demonstration on the mounting of material for exhibits. This is important since it offers some time-saving tips.

The second part of Bob's presentation will be some interesting and humorous aspects of philately, exhibiting, and judging. Bob has been exhibiting and judging for some time and has many stories to tell! An informative handout will be given to attendees.

We look forward to Bob's presentation!



## DUES

Dues for the 2019-2020 should have been paid in September. The December 31, 2019 deadline has passed. The policy regarding dues has been previously set forth. Delinquent members need to pay current dues and the following year's dues to be reinstated and have their privileges restored.

If there is a mark in the box above, you are delinquent in your dues and are in danger of being dropped as a member of the Buffalo Stamp Club. Contact membership chairmen Casey Kielbasa or Dan McNess immediately to pay your dues.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Carol Abenschein** - Collects Airmail.

**Terry Gamble** - Collects US and British Colonies. Terry is a returning member having been a member of the Club in the past.

## BOEING 747 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On January 21, 1970 the first commercial flight of the newly christened Boeing 747 took place between New York and London. It was a magnificent event with famous personalities on the flight and the event being covered by the world's media. Also on board were 65,000 first jet flight covers to commemorate the event. It is J-1652 in the Airmail Catalogue. With the success of the first flight, the 747 entered regular service flying routes all over the world. It is slowly being retired from passenger service and is being relegated to cargo service.



"THERE'S BURIAL AND THERE'S CREMATION,  
AND, AS A STAMP COLLECTOR,  
YOU CAN ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BODY ENCAPSULATED."

## MOST BEAUTIFUL STAMP



Canada, Scott 158, issued January 29, 1929. The engraving is stunning, and the blue color is deep and rich. It has been called Canada's finest stamp. Is it the most beautiful? Let us know what your most beautiful stamp is. Maybe we can include it in the newsletter!



Each time a new flight route was introduced first flight covers were created and flown. Because of the large number of first flight covers serviced, they are readily available and inexpensive. However, from a topical perspective the first flight covers would make an interesting exhibit. Coverage can be limited to an airline and its 747 flights or a comprehensive survey of all the airlines that have flown the 747. It is not a difficult or complicated area to collect and the subject is interesting.