

FDC CACHET STORIES – Sequel

By Casey Kielbasa

Previously, I wrote on what it's like to attend an FDC ceremony. Now I will share with you about working this event. I compare this to setting up as a stamp dealer at a coin show. You spend more time explaining and educating. I probably worked at least 5 shows, but one story is worth repeating.

On April 11, 1987, Buffalo was to host a first day ceremony for the 10 cent Canal Boat coil stamp, part of the Transportation Series. It was to be held at the Marine Midland Tower (now HSBC). Clay Bredl, myself and Mike Griffin (the "Red Head") began to set up. The ceremony was at 10 AM but we arrived at 8 AM for the best spot. We ran into the Assistant Postmaster General for Philatelic Affairs, Gordon C. Morrison who was well known to philatelists - including me! Morrison told Clay, "Bredl, I want you to cancel all these show covers." Bredl was not happy, but agreed, saying "alright, I will cancel all the covers." This proved to be a blessing, as Clay was able to get us a steady supply of covers to sell. I believe we had four different covers to sell priced in increments of quarter and half dollar rates (50 cents, \$1.25, etc.). Before the ceremony, people asked what we had, and we sold a few covers. After the ceremony, a steady stream of customers purchased what we had. In fact, business was so good that Mike Griffin had a tough time keeping up with making change for purchases. Note, the first-class rate was 22 cents and the Canal Stamp was 10 cents. To make the rate you usually see two Canal Boat stamps and a 2-cent stamp. Also, the program for the ceremony had three Canal Boat stamps cancelled for the first day celebration. There were many covers cancelled in various cities along the Erie Canal, but it was Buffalo that had the official first day ceremony.



FDC CACHET STORIES (con't)

Around 1:30-2:00 PM Clay, with a big smile on his face, came over to us and said, "OK fellows we sold enough. Let's go home." Afterward, Clay said he received many calls inquiring where to get some of the covers. Truthfully, it really was not work and I had fun doing it.

Two quick notes: For the next event, Clay wanted to charge 35 cents, 70 cents etc. and I told him that we did not have time to make change, so he kept his prices in quarter dollar increments. Second, near the end, Clay said he did not think he was going to do a cover for a special event, and I mentioned to him that people would ask if he was doing one, that he would probably do one anyway, and that we would make a lot of money. Clay, being the artist and entrepreneur he was, did one anyway!



Official First day cancellation with 3 Canal Boat Stamps

WOMEN EXHIBITORS HISTORY

Although former BSC member Ann Triggles passed away in 2018 (see obit June 2018 newsletter), her legacy continues. She was mentioned in the March issue of the *American Philatelist*, which celebrated Women's History Month. In February 2007, 13 women exhibitors (including Ann) held a meeting at AmeriStamp Expo and formed an association called Women Exhibitors (WE) "to provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems and solutions". WE is still active today. Ann was a great topical collector & exhibitor which is why it was appropriate to re-name the Topical Trophy after her.



Picture taken in 2009 at the APS Center – Ann Triggles is standing in the last row; 5th from the right (a little behind someone's head)



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and in good health. The Coronavirus pandemic continues. Reports indicate that the curve is beginning to “flatten” with fewer cases being reported. Despite this optimistic outlook, the New York “Pause” order has been extended to May 15th. The question everyone is asking: when can the Club resume its regular schedule without jeopardizing the health and safety of its members? **At this moment, there is no answer!**

The Buffalo Stamp Club Board of Directors is continuing to monitor events and updating the membership regarding the status of future meetings. Hopefully, auctions can resume in June. Information regarding future meetings will be immediately posted at the Club website www.buffalostampclub.org. If the situation warrants, an email to members, who provided contact information, will follow together with phone calls. **Say informed!**

It cannot be stressed enough that everyone remain vigilant, practice basic hygiene (wash hands!) and adopt social distance manners. We shall persevere and before long return to normal Buffalo Stamp Club events. **Stay safe!**

MAY CALENDAR

May 1st: Auction (CANCELLED)

May 15th: Presentation (CANCELLED)

June 5th: Auction (TENTATIVE)

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)

Secretary: Al Carroccia (fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Tim Carey (careystea@gmail.com)

Membership Chairmen: Casey Kielbasa & Dan McNess
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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
(gghg53@aol.com)

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

Other Directors: Larry Cherns (katchke@hotmail.com),
Pam Kreuzer (slothlover4ever24@gmail.com),
Bennie Passantino,
Paul Moore (paulkmoore@verizon.net)

NEW MEMBER

Dan White: Hails from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Dan collects postal history, express mail, Japan, and meat on stamps.

GEORGE GATES

George has informed the Board of Directors that he is “retiring” from the Board. As such, he will no longer coordinate the advertising and publicity of such Club events as the Autumn Stamp Festival and BUFPEX. George’s career in newspaper made him a natural for this job. He wrote press releases and sent them to both the philatelic and non-philatelic media in advance of the Club’s major events. *Linn’s* would always publish a short feature previewing both shows based on his knack for writing press releases. We are indebted to George for his service knowing he was responsible for the strong attendance at Autumn Stamp Festival and BUFPEX. **Thank you, George!** We will continue to see George at Club events.

Member **John Vogel**man has stepped in to continue the work George began. He will coordinate the publicity for the Autumn Stamp Festival and BUFPEX and pursue advertising and marketing opportunities on behalf of the Club. John is enthusiastic about the position and is working with George on a smooth transition. **Thank you, John!**

The Club is fortunate to have members like George and John where the transition into different Club tasks is smooth and seamless. Club members are encouraged to step in and help when asked. Thank you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Board of Director’s election, tentatively scheduled to be held prior to the auction on May 1st, will not be held. As the Club Constitution does not address the issue of “postponed” elections, the election will be held as the first order of business when we next meet. As previously reported, the Board of Directors comprises 12 Club members in good standing each serving three-year terms. Four members are elected each year. Club Officers are elected from the Board of Directors. It is the Board of Directors who are tasked with the job of making decisions that keep the Club running efficiently.

Class of 2020 Directors whose terms are up:

Larry Cherns

George Gates

Bob Meegan

Benito Passantino

Any Club member in good standing (your dues need to be paid!) is eligible to run for a position on the Board. The position does not involve a lot of work and compensation is meritorious with the work involved (\$0)!

As mentioned, George Gates will vacate his position as a Board member. Any member interested in running for the Board, please let Al Carroccia or Alan Davis know. With 120 members in the Club there should be no issues with recruiting new Board members. Thank you!

Dead Countries: A Series of Discovery

By Joe Brzezowski

Often defined as any area that has ceased to exist and no longer producing postage stamps, “Dead Countries” have always held a fascination in my collecting journey. Most, by definition, focus on countries, colonies, revolutionary entities or occupational forces which no longer exist.

Why are they popular and fun to collect? Dead countries have a finite number of stamps to obtain. In other words, you know the exact number of stamps needed to complete a collection. That in itself is the beauty I personally enjoy about them.

If we were to try to complete a collection of the USA, Canada, Great Britain, etc. it would be nearly impossible. Even if one had hundreds of thousands of expendable dollars, the chance of obtaining some rare stamps is not feasible, also you still have new stamps being constantly issued that need to be added.

The thrill of the hunt, the filling of spaces in an album, the excitement of completing a whole area of a territory, an occupied area, a long-ago colony or an annexed land is something very rewarding.

In the next installments I would like to discuss a few “Dead Countries” that I collect. Some I have completed and some I am working on. In these discussions, I will present a little about each area and why it is “dead” – When it issued stamps, a few Scott Catalog numbers and what has happened to the area since it was its own stamp issuing entity.

Let’s begin with an interesting one:

The Italian Socialist Republic, 1943 – 1945

In September of 1943, as the Allies were re-taking parts of Italy, the German government under Hitler captured the prison where Mussolini was being held. They released him and made him a puppet head of state of the Italian Social Republic (ISR). Although Mussolini proclaimed Rome as his capital, it was under Allied control. So, a de facto capital was set up in Salo, a small town on Lake Garda midway between Milan and Venice.

(continued)

The ISR controlled most of northern and central Italy which was mainly dependent on German troops to maintain control. The end of the ISR began on the 27th of April 1945 when Mussolini was captured and the next day executed. On May 1, 1945, the last holdouts surrendered to Italian partisans alongside the efforts of Allied forces.



Figure 1 Italian Social Republic J1 - J13

Stamps listed in Scott, show issues for 1 year – 1944. Listed are 35 regular issues, 3 special delivery, 1 authorized delivery, 13 postage due and 12 parcel post. See Figure 1 above for the set of postage dues numbers J-1 thru J-13.

Please note that many of the stamps are Italian issues overprinted to read “Repubblica Sociale Italiana” and some show the fasces.

The fasces, Figure 2, is the symbol of a bound bundle of wooden rods, sometimes including an axe with its blade emerging. It was originally a symbol of a magistrate’s power and jurisdiction. The symbol was even used in the United States on the back side of the Mercury Dime.



Fig. 2

At the end of the socialist regime and surrender of Germany, the north and central areas under ISR control returned to the Italian Republic, which is the present Italian state that we simply know as Italy.