

COVID STAMPS

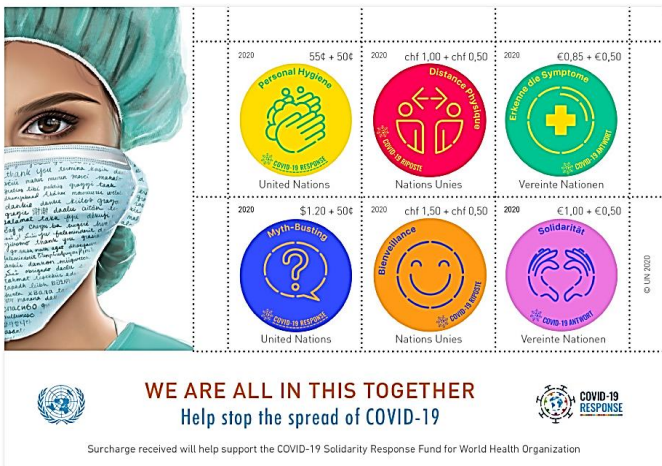
Stamp Collecting benefited from the pandemic through stamps issued by several nations and the United Nations. Iran was the first to issue a stamp in early April. Iran suffered through a severe outbreak early in the Spring.



Switzerland issued a semi-postal stamp in late Spring to raise money to battle the pandemic.

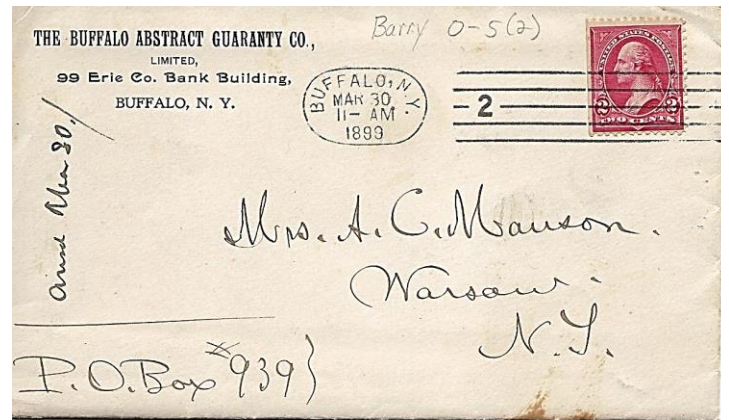


The United Nations issued a souvenir sheet.



POST OFFICE EFFICIENCY

With all the talk about USPS delays and inefficiencies, enjoy the cover shown below. It was mailed March 30, 1899 at **11 am** from the main post office in Buffalo and addressed to Warsaw, NY. It was carried by the Erie Railroad line that connected Buffalo with Warsaw. The Received cancel on the back of the cover is March 30, 1899 at **7 pm**. This was typical from an era where the mail was the only means of communication.



US DOMESTIC LETTER RATES

After reading Bob Meegan's article on his "Ordinary" Folded Stampless Cover and are interested in receiving an electronic summary of the United States Domestic Letter Rates from 1792 to 1917, feel free to request a copy from Bob via email at meegan9697@roadrunner.com



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

JANUARY 2021

Alfred Carroccia

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Buffalo Stamp Club members. 2020 is behind us with, hopefully, the toxic, divisive and pessimistic year that choked our lives and extended into our Club "bubble". As we enter 2021, the hope is that the COVID pandemic will be roped under control with the new vaccines and renewed common sense with preventative protocols established by our health professionals.

However, at this moment, we are still under the restrictions imposed by New York State. Like it or not, we need to abide by these regulations. COVID debilitates and kills, period. The Club is more concerned with the health of its members than debating rhetorical issues regarding COVID. Once restrictions are lifted and it is determined that events can take place in a safe and healthy environment, the Club will resume events.

We'll see if things improve. If they do, then a resumption of some activities may be possible in February. The Club will also review the status of our one-day BUFPEX show currently scheduled in March along with the possibility of a show in late spring or early summer and determine if those events can be held. Until then, Stay tuned and vigilant!

JANUARY CALENDAR

January Auctions/Meetings are CANCELLED!

Stay tuned for future events via newsletter, website, or direct email contact.

New Venue:

The Knights Halls, 2735 Union Road just north of William St. in Cheektowaga

Auctions begin immediately following any business and announcements beginning at 7:00 PM.

Arrive early to submit and view lots; Seller deadline to submit lots is 6:30 PM

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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MICHAEL BECHTEL



We were sorry to hear that club member Michael Bechtel passed away on November 23, 2020 under the care of Niagara Hospice. Mike retired from Delphi Harrison in 2003 and, among other interests, was a renowned drummer in the Buffalo area. He is survived by his wife, Carol. We send our condolences to Carol and his extended family.

MEMBERS MOVING

We've recently been notified by a couple members that they are moving away. Even though they are currently maintaining their membership, we will miss seeing them at our auctions, meetings, and events.

Rod Paige has moved to Manitoulin Island which is in Georgian Bay off Lake Huron to be with his daughter and her husband. They will be building a home close to Lake Manitou. (What a beautiful, albeit distant and remote, area!)

Matt McLean and his wife have moved to Florida to be closer to his daughter's family and the grandkids.

DONATIONS

We have been contacted by a number of people inquiring about the value of stamp collections that they've been meaning to "get around to". Through discussions with them, some donations to the Club have followed. So, look forward to some new material in future auctions!

YOUTH IN TOPICS

In case you didn't know, the American Topical Association (ATA) publishes a bi-monthly periodical called *Topical Time*. It's a great "Journal of Thematic Philately" with many interesting articles and resources for the topical collector and is one of the benefits of being a member. The Buffalo Stamp Club is a Chapter member of the ATA.

Every issue has a column titled *Youth in Topics* and always has interesting resources and suggestions for encouraging youngsters into our hobby.

Before and during the summer, details were given for a Youth One-Page Contest called "My Favorite Things". The rules were simple: create a one-page display of philatelic items such as stamps, covers, postcards, cancels and other philatelic items. Favorite things could include places, people and things focused in one area or a range of topics. Deadline was Sept. 1st and prizes of philatelic gifts would be awarded in four age groups.

So, I made a copy of the contest and gave it to my daughter for my 3 grandkids (age 10, 9 & 6). I've been successful in generating a fair amount of interest in stamps with them, and they have their binders full of stock pages of topical stamps, etc. Although they are all crafty, the only one to put together a page to enter was Kalista, the 9-year-old. Well, I was reading the Nov-Dec issue and low and behold, the contest results announced Kalista with her "Cute and Fuzzy" submission featuring cats and dogs!



(Hers was the only entry received – LOL!!)

PHILATELIC ABBREVIATIONS

Collectors today have become obsessively reliant upon colorful philatelic illustrations, whereas us older collectors relied on a series of abbreviations that have been around since stamp collecting began.

Most auction catalogs today have full color illustrations and detailed descriptions that go on and on. Old Catalogs produced before the advent of technology relied on brief descriptions as auction houses needed the space for many lots.

It is important to know these abbreviations, especially when you are filling out an auction sheet for a Buffalo Stamp Club auction!

Grading Abbreviations

VF	Very Fine, top quality & centered
F/VF	Fine to Very Fine (and in-between)
F+	Fine plus (better than Fine)
F	Fine, centered within perfs (& no faults)
just-F	Just-Fine, off centre but design still within perfs.
VG	Very Good, perfs cut design on 1 margin, some short perfs - average for many 19th century issues.

Abbreviations

Bk	Booklet
bklf	booklet
blk	block (of four, etc)
BOB	back of the book issues
C	cover
cvr	cover
cxl	cancel
F/L	folded letter
MS	matched set of PB's
M/S	Mini-sheet
PB	plate block
pce	piece [of paper]
S	Specimen
S/S	souvenir sheet
sx	Supplies
var	variety
-	complete series
//	incomplete series

Used Stamps

o	used
cds	circular date stamp
lt cds	light cds
lt cxl	light cancel
v lt cxl	very light cancel
CC	corner cancel
lt CC	light corner cancel
SON	socked-on-the-nose
CTO	cancelled to order

Mint Stamps

*	Mint
**	Mint unhinged
(*)	mint (unused) no gum
OG	original gum
NH	never hinged
VLH	very lightly hinged
LH	lightly hinged
HR	hinge remnant
HHR	heavy hinge remnant
FOG	fingerprint on gum
PA	paper adherence on gum
NPI	natural paper inclusion
DG	disturbed gum

Miscellaneous

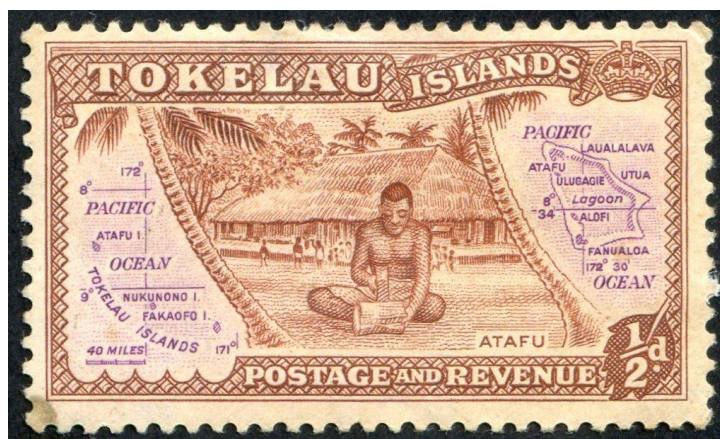
flts	faults
lg	large
marg	margin
o/w	otherwise
perf	perforation
PP	pulled perf
pr	pair
SE	straight edge
sl	slight
sm	small
SP	short perf
w/	with
w/o	without

It is helpful to learn these abbreviations when describing stamps.

TOKELAU

Tokelau is comprised of 3 atolls located northeasterly of New Zealand and directly north of the Samoan Islands which can usually be accessed by boat from there in about 24 hours.

Originally Tokelau Islands, the islands are officially a dependent territory of New Zealand and has a population of 1,500. It retains commonwealth status with the UK, and Queen Elizabeth is represented by an Administrator who is the leader. Tokelau has the smallest economy in the world, yet is a leader in renewable energy, being the first 100% solar powered nation in the world!



Scott 1

The first stamps were issued in 1948 and pictures the islands and its scenery.



Tokelau does not have an organized postal system. Mail is processed by New Zealand Post. However, there is a post office on each of the islands that collect and cancel mail.

Fun Fact – One of the atolls, Fakaofu, has swimming pigs that famously catch fish near its coral reef.