

Dead Countries: A series of Discovery

Part 3

By Joe Brzezowski

Very much on the point of our topic is the article that Linn's Stamp News published in May that reported Iceland will now be classified as a dead country. Iceland Post's philatelic office declared that the last new issues will be released on Oct. 29, 2020. The office said they have more than enough stamps in surplus for consumer needs and would print old issues if more were needed but that no new designs would be produced. After over 1,500 issues, the run has come to an end.

For our 3rd article on the subject, we will look at Ajman. The former Gulf sheikdom is a part of 7 areas which joined together on December 2, 1971 to form the United Arab Emirates. The smallest of the 7 Emirates that make up the country, it is just to the north of Dubai and Sharjah, sandwiched in between these and Ras-al-Khaimah. It is a beautiful area where I have had the pleasure to work several times.

Ajman has had a very turbulent past being overrun many times by other emirates, especially a very famous battle with Abu Dhabi for its port. It was also the scene of British army expeditions and raids that finally lead to the Maritime Treaty in 1820.

Ajman

Sheik Rashid bin Humaid al Naimi and Various Animals
1964



Today this area of U.A.E. is noted for its excellent port, pearls and delicious dates. The biggest economic boom has been through the tourist trade and since the world economic crisis in 2007-2008, the country has put a renewed interest in new hotels, shopping and cultural destinations to bring in expatriate workers and travelers.

One of the true joys of collecting the stamps of this small emirate is the cost and quantity. Stamps were only produced from 1964 to 1965 and of these, there are 44 regular issues, 9 air mails, 9 officials and 4 souvenir sheets. The really exciting news is that all the stamps are rather readily available. With a little searching, the total Scott catalog value for the entire area is \$75.00 for MNH and under \$35.00 for used, certainly in most collector's budgets.

The set I have chosen to show is the 1964 series showing Sheik Rashid bin Humaid al Naimi and various fish, birds and animals of his kingdom.

I hope you will look into the 7 emirates and the possibilities of collecting a few and adding a little Middle Eastern flair to your philatelic adventure.

Ajman

John F. Kennedy
1964



Next time we will look into a place not many people know about, an interesting part of modern Pakistan, Bahawalpur. Until then stay safe and happy hunting.



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

Alfred Carroccia

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WELCOME

Normally this would be a happy occasion as we typically begin a new Club year. However, as we are painfully aware, 2020 has been anything but normal. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken over our lives. Rather than us controlling it, it is controlling us. Right now, New York State has been diligent with the infection rate under the 1% threshold and Erie County slightly above. Gatherings are still capped at a minimum of 50 participants with social distancing.

On top of the uncertainty of future Club events is the sudden closing of the home of the Buffalo Stamp Club, the Leonard Post. The Club is faced with the cumbersome job of finding a new home. Most venues have not been open and finding someone who will answer your call has been next to impossible.

The Club is asking its members for input and ideas as to holding its events and finding a new home. The Club will persevere and soon return to a schedule where we all can meet.

The inner pages provide some detail regarding our search for a new venue and the requirements needed. Our objective is to get back up and running as soon as possible.

Also included are a few highlights from the Board Meeting that was held July 12, 2020.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

August 15th: Summer Picnic (POSTPONED)
Date TBA

August 28th: Auction (CANCELLED)

Autumn Stamp Festival: (POSTPONED)
Until Late Spring or Early Summer

BUFPEX (still on the calendar): March 6 & 7, 2021

Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga has **closed**. We are searching for a new venue for our meetings and shows.

Meetings will resume when venue is found.
Stay tuned.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President: Alan Davis (ddavis504@roadrunner.com)

Vice President: Dan McNess (dmcness@mac.com)

Secretary: Al Carroccia (fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Tim Carey (careystea@gmail.com)

Membership Chairman: Bob Meegan
(meegan9697@roadrunner.com)

Auction Committee Chairman: John Leszak
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Auction Manager: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Kevin Suckow

Auction Assistant: Bennie Passantino

Auction Acctg: Paul Moore (paulkmoore@verizon.net)

Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: John Vogelman
(jandmvogelman@aol.com)

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

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

Pam Kreuzer (slothlover4ever24@gmail.com),

Kelly Kreuzer (slothlover4ever24@gmail.com)

THE BUFFALO STAMP CLUB AND THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

by
Bob Meegan, Al Davis, John Leszak, and Al Carroccia

Bob Meegan joined the Buffalo Stamp Club in 1973, John Leszak in 1974, Al Davis in 1997, and Al Carroccia in 1988. All four of us cannot recall a more challenging situation affecting the club as we are now facing. The Covid-19 virus has caused us to cancel club meetings at least until October, at the earliest, and have had to cancel the summer picnic. (We hope to have a picnic in the spring of 2021). In all likelihood, we will have to postpone the Autumn Stamp Festival until late May, or early June, of 2021. And that's not all of the bad news! The Buffalo Stamp Club is looking for a new location for meetings and shows!

Shortly after the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Directors in July, when we established tentative dates for auctions and shows, we were advised that the Leonard Post is closing! Like many VFW Posts, the Leonard Post became another victim of a dramatically declining membership, ever-increasing costs for maintenance and utilities, and a general reduction of group activities. There have been several instances in the past when we lost our meeting venue, but we were always given a warning, and we had reasonable time to find a suitable replacement venue. This situation is dramatically different. Not only do we not have a location for meetings, auctions, or stamp shows, we do not know the availability of other venues because many potential locations are currently closed, some are difficult to contact, and some are not even accepting commitments or discussing fees due to the uncertainty of the venue's future. Also, the finances, annual budget, and the determination of the annual dues are difficult to establish because the costs for renting the venues are unknown.

The loss of our location for meetings and shows occurred during a difficult time, and we are actively seeking suggestions from the membership. Contacting potential venues can only be done by telephone or email, and their responses typically consist of requesting that we leave a message. At this time, when it is difficult to find even a temporary meeting location, the activities of the Buffalo Stamp Club are suspended until further notice. We suggest that you monitor the website (buffalostampclub.org) for updates. In the meantime, be advised of the following:

1. The collection of dues is suspended until the status, and cost, of the venue(s) for meetings and shows is determined.
2. The Summer Picnic has been cancelled. However, we are considering having a picnic in the early spring of 2021 possibly shortly after BUFPEX 2021. We anticipate that the Summer Picnic will return, as usual, in August of 2021.
3. The Autumn Stamp Festival, typically held in November, is being delayed until (probably) early June of 2021. It is highly likely that the Autumn Stamp Festival will be re-instituted in November of 2021. Depending on the results of this bourse in June, the club may continue to hold this additional one-day bourse as well at the Autumn Stamp Festival and BUFPEX.
4. The monthly bulletin will continue to be issued. The bulletin will probably be abbreviated in size, but we hope to include information regarding our search for suitable venues to hold our meetings and shows. Remember, informative philatelic articles are always welcome!
5. We are asking that the general membership relay any information or suggestions regarding possible venues for meetings and shows. Here is some information regarding the size of the rooms and furnishings provided by the Leonard Post:
 - A. **AUCTIONS** The Small Room, used for auctions, is approximately 35 feet by 43 feet, with an area of nominally 1,500 square feet. Many auctions were well attended and there was typically an overflow of participants into the Large Room. We used approximately 15 tables, each 30-inch by 8-feet, for the auction lots, head tabulation tables, and miscellaneous needs. There were up to 75 chairs occupied. The recommended size of Auction Room is 1,500 to 1,700 square feet, with 15 tables and 75 chairs available.

B. **STAMP SHOWS** The Large Room is approximately 66½ feet by 68 feet, with an area of nominally 4,500 square feet. Both rooms are used for the shows. BUFPEX is a little more crowded than the Autumn Stamp Festival due to the area occupied by exhibit frames, but it is reasonable to assume that the stamp shows will require not less than 6,000 square feet (preferably greater than 6,500 square feet) and could be as large as 8,000 square feet. (If we increase the area, John Leszak will have a powerful incentive to get more dealers to attend!) We need approximately 70 functional tables, each 30-inch by 8-feet, for the dealers and other miscellaneous functions. We should have available up to 175 to 200 chairs, depending on the number of dealers and the final layout. In the event a suitable venue for the shows can be found, and that venue does not have an adequate quantity of rectangular tables available, it is possible for the Buffalo Stamp Club to rent tables (and chairs, if necessary) for shows. However, the rental cost could be significant. For the One-day Stamp Festival(s) and BUFPEX we will require access to the hall on Friday evening for setup and, of course, the day(s) of each of the shows.

6. It is possible for the club to conduct meetings and auctions in one location and hold the Stamp Festival(s) and BUFPEX in a different location. Also, it is possible to have the meetings and auctions on a day other than Friday. There is a numismatic club that holds meetings on Tuesday.
7. The facility for the stamp show should have kitchen facilities so that food can be provided conveniently for the shows.
8. Suggestions should be sent to one, or more, of the "Search Team" indicated below. It is preferred that you send venue information via email so that we can rapidly transmit data to other board members. Also, if there is a website available for the venue, please indicate the web address.

Al Davis	Email: ddavis504@roadrunner.com	Telephone: 818-2356
Bob Meegan	Email: meegan9697@roadrunner.com	Telephone: 655-5583
Al Carroccia:	Email: fuzzy9600@verizon.net	Telephone: 674-0302
John Leszak:	Email: coverconnection@gmail.com	Telephone: 854-0222

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS from 7/12/20

- Meeting brought to order by Bob Meegan. Six members of the Board were present.
- Treasury Report: Due to the significance of the financial aspects regarding the activities of the club, and the impact of the financial effect of the Autumn Stamp Festival and BUFPEX, Tim Carey gave a highly informative presentation of the financial status of the Club and the effect of the income from the Stamp Shows.
- The Autumn Stamp Festival is to be moved to a later date (i.e. June 5, 2021)
- Nominations for Officers and Appointed positions were made and unanimously approved.
- Email Contact Information: Effort must be made to build contact information for all members in case of the cancellation of a meeting, schedule changes, or transmission of emergency information.
- Show Times: The operating times for Club Shows are to be 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday and 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Sunday.
- Other items were discussed and passed but are subject to review based on Leonard Post closing.

