

SERVICE SUSPENDED

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the US was drawn into World War II on the side of the allies. Mail delivery to both Europe and Asia were affected. Mail to Japan was suspended on December 11, 1941 and to Germany and Italy, the next day. Service would be temporarily suspended to occupied countries beginning in 1942.

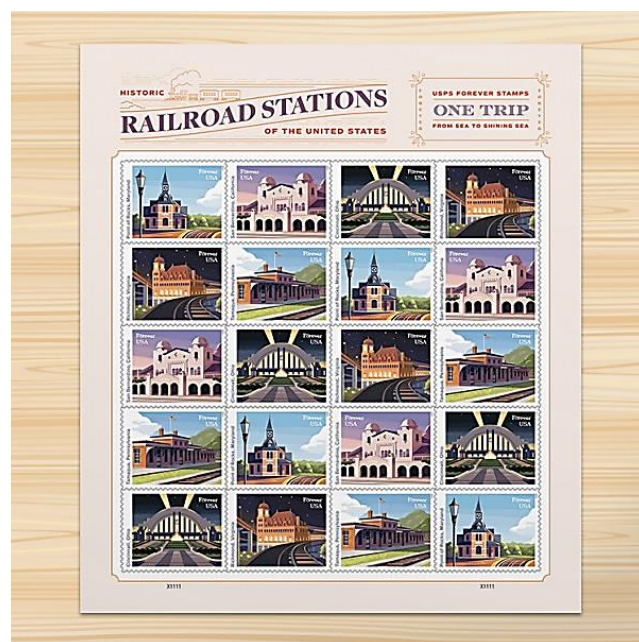


The above censored cover is franked with a 1 ½ cent Martha Washington prexie (Scott 805) and postmarked March 12, 1943. The stamp pays the international surface rate and is addressed to Switzerland. Also, the auxiliary marking makes the cover even more attractive. It is a return to sender marking with the reason that no service was available. Switzerland remained neutral during World War II. However, being in the middle of war-torn Europe prevented mail from successfully being delivered.

The reason for the “NO SERVICE AVAILABLE” marking was that some mail did make it to Switzerland, but this one didn't. What makes this cover even more interesting is that service was indeed suspended to Switzerland. Service was suspended on March 23, 1943, 11 days after this cover was postmarked!

RAILROAD STATION STAMPS

This past March the USPS issued a pane of stamps showing train stations.



Too bad the new Buffalo Amtrack station on Exchange Street was not included, it would have fit right in.



In the early 20th Century, Buffalo was the third largest rail center in the country with 15 railroads serving the city. While that is not the case today, the Buffalo Central Terminal would have made an interesting subject for this issue also. Especially with the efforts to restore it to its original glory, and the recent \$63M funding the Governor has allocated toward that effort.





BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

May 2023

Alfred Carroccia

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MAY NOTES

The Club enters the final months of the 2022-2023 Club calendar. The final order of business is the annual election of Board of Directors which takes place prior to the auction on May 11. The ballot is set with four candidates. Since the four candidates are unopposed the vote will likely be by a show of hands. Please plan to attend to take part in voting, since the newly installed directors will help with charting the direction the Club will head in the future.

There will be two Club events over the summer. The End of Summer Bourse will be held Saturday, August 19th. This year it is a single day bourse. The following Saturday will be the Club annual picnic at "The Meegan Manor", the home of Bob and Mary Meegan. Stay tuned for information regarding these events. Mark your calendars!

There will be no meeting/auction in June. So, this is the final newsletter of the Club calendar. The September newsletter will come out prior to the August Bourse. The Club wishes all its members a happy and an enjoyable summer. Keep in mind that stamp collecting is a year-long hobby. Perhaps work on that exhibit!

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thursday, May 11th: Auction/Board Elections

Saturday, August 19th: End of Summer Stamp Show and Bourse

Saturday, August 26th: Summer Picnic (Tentative)

At 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

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 Chairman: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Barb Kern (barb3706@aol.com)

Auction Assistant: Bennie Passantino

Auction Acctg: Paul Moore (paulkmoore29@gmail.com)

Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: Rick Franclemont
(rfranclemont@gmail.com)

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

Historical & Library: Al Carroccia & Casey Kielbasa

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

Heidi Rust (youdafox@hotmail.com)

IRVING H. TESMER Ph.D.



The Club is saddened to learn Irv Tesmer passed away on April 10, 2023. Lorraine, his wife, passed away on March 16, 2023. Both Irv and Lorraine attended all Club events. Irv was recently elevated to honorary membership of the Club. Irv was an active participant in Club presentations on topics covering Buffalo and Western New York postal history and Revenues. As most Club members know, Irv and Club member Dave Przepiora wrote a book covering Buffalo postal history, *Postal History of Buffalo, New York, 1805-1905*.

Most Club members are not aware that Irv was an expert in the geology of Western New York. He wrote two books covering the geological history of Erie County and Cattaraugus County. Irv was also a professor at Buffalo State College (now University).

John Tesmer wrote about Irv's last day:
Early on Easter Monday, my Dad, Irv Tesmer passed away in his sleep. On Sunday, he had a good day, going to the chapel at Father Bakers for Easter service, having visits from both his kids, talking with his sister on the phone, and getting a call from a former student. He listened to some opera on his I-pod, and as always watched some news to keep informed. I hope I'm as lucky to go out on my final day.

IRVING H. TESMER Ph.D. (continued)

John Tesmer wrote about Irv's last day (con't):

Dad's love of stamp collecting was there right up to the end, too. In previous visits, he reminded me of some items he had squirreled away in the house, and discussed what he was thinking of picking up next to extend his revenue collection. Even though I actively collect stamps, I'm overwhelmed by the legacy of his collection.

Please pass on to the Club my thanks for the friendship that they showed dad (and me when I was a member so many years ago) over the years, and their common interest that extended beyond stamps.

The Club was fortunate to have a person of Irv's caliber as a member. Irv's membership in the Club spanned more than 50 years, as did his membership in APS. His dedication to the Club included serving on the Board of Directors with terms as Vice President and President. The Club learned from Irv's many presentations and the knowledge that he was so eager to share. He and Lorraine were a wonderful couple. We will greatly miss them both!!

RICHARD E. CROPP

The Club was also saddened to learn that long-time member, Richard Cropp, passed away Saturday, April 29th. Richard was active in the Club in the 1990's when he was on the Board and served as Vice President and then President for several years. He was made an Honorary Member after a stroke impaired his ability to stay active. We were notified of his passing by his daughter, Laura Mudd. One thing we were unaware of was that his wife, Pam, passed away last year on April 2, 2022. Our condolences go out to Laura and the rest of the family.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The election for Board of Directors will be held prior to the auction on May 11th. The following members are on the ballot:

Mike Donohue

Deborah Grande

Bob Meegan

Bennie Passantino

Since there will be no opposition, the vote will likely be by a show of hands. Thanks to Mike and Debbie for stepping up and contributing to the Club's well-being.

There is a meeting for the new Board of Directors scheduled for Thursday, July 20th in the Knights Hall Conference Room. The meeting of business will start at 7 PM.

APRIL PRESENTATION



The April Presentation was a "Show and Tell". Six members attended. Alan Davis showed Japanese covers and talked about the history of the Griffins Mills Church, in which he is a member, and the Griffins Mills post office which was in operation from 1827 to 1894. Bob Meegan talked about his rate study exhibit and showed some unique covers. Tim Carey asked those present for help in identifying private vending stamps. Paul Moore showed early Buffalo advertising covers.

RPO MOURNING COVER

Due to unexpected issues, I was not able to attend BUFPEX and enter my exhibit showing mourning covers. I obtained some scare covers which would have possibly scored some points with the judges.



The above cover is a scare Roland Park & St. Helena RPO cover from Maryland. It is also a mourning cover. Both caught my eye when I saw this in a mail bid and purchased it for \$18.

The cover contained an enclosure. Instead of a death notice it looks like a sympathy card. Curiously, both the envelope and the card have the characteristic black border. It is an interesting addition to my exhibit, if I ever finish it!

BOB MEEGAN EXHIBITS

The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society has requested to have Bob's 10-frame Award-Winning Exhibits to be included on their website – Congratulations Bob!

- **United States Domestic Letter Rates from the Act of 1792 to October 1, 1883, and**
- **The United States Large Bank Note Issues Move The Mail**