



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

December 2023

Alfred Carroccia

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DECEMBER NOTES

The Autumn Stamp Festival concludes a busy first half of the Buffalo Stamp Club calendar which began in mid-August. The Club enters the Holiday break meeting only once in December. On December 7th, the Club will hold its Holiday Social after the auction. The Club will not meet until January 11 when the Club begins preparations for BUFPEX.

President Alan Davis devoted a significant amount of time in his remarks at the November 9th auction discussing the future of stamp collecting. The future is introducing the hobby to people, particularly kids. Adults are more apt to stick to stamp collecting, but kids lose interest, especially when a lot of information is thrown to them.

The key is to let kids have fun with stamps. That is the purpose of the Kids Corner at Club bourses. While we “more mature” collectors might despise cheap topical stamps, kids find them interesting. We need to let kids be kids and allow them to enjoy stamp collecting without imposing restrictions. Specializing will come later. Kids are the future of our hobby.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thursday, December 7th: Meeting/Auction

Followed by our *Holiday Social*

Thursday, January 11th: Meeting/Auction

Thursday, February 8th: Meeting/Auction

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

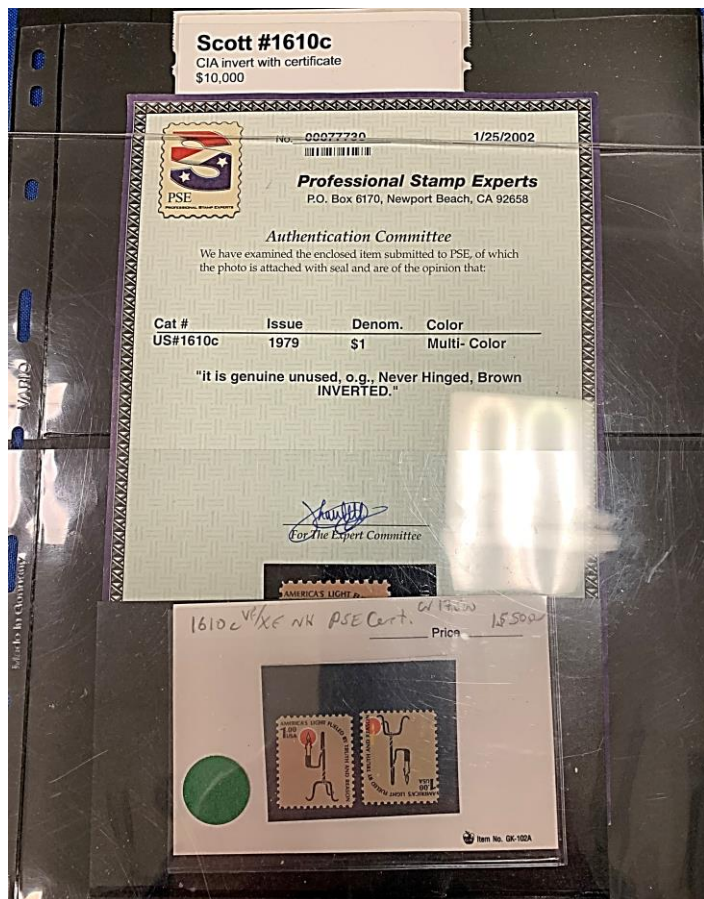
Other Directors: Mike Donohue (donohuem54@hotmail.com)

Deborah Grande (beemore23@yahoo.com)

Heidi Rust (youdafox@hotmail.com)

CIA INVERT

If you went to Cleveland, you had a chance to see the Jenny invert (Scott C3a). If you were at the Autumn Stamp Festival you had a chance to see the "other" famous invert, the CIA invert (Scott 1610c)



Dealer Scott Shaulis has the stamp in stock and is selling it on consignment. The Scott catalog value is \$17,000. The consignment price is \$15,500 but Scott is selling it for \$10,000! It also has a PSE certificate. The reason for the price reduction is that more examples have been discovered.

The story behind the discovery of the CIA invert is just as exciting as that of the Jenny invert. The \$1 stamp from the Americana series was issued on July 2, 1979. The initial discovery of 95 stamps was in 1986 when CIA employees purchased the stamps. They returned to purchase normal examples to swap after they discovered the error.

CIA INVERT (Continued)

The employees contacted dealer Jacques Schiff who immediately purchased some of the inverts. The CIA discovered what had happened and proceeded with disciplinary action against the employees.

In 2023, an intact plate strip of 20 was discovered which came from a second pane raising the census to 115 stamps. There is the possibility that additional stamps may be out there as it is speculated that two error panes of 100 stamps may have escaped destruction after discovery of the errors. Perhaps someone is holding the stamps for sale at the right time. There is also the possibility some stamps were sold and used on mail.

No matter what the story may be, the Buffalo Stamp Club had a famous stamp in its presence. If any Club member is interested in purchasing this unique item, contact Scott Shaulis at scott@shaulisstamps.com. Then contact your friends in the Buffalo Stamp Club and begin bragging about your new acquisition!

SPEAKING OF KIDS

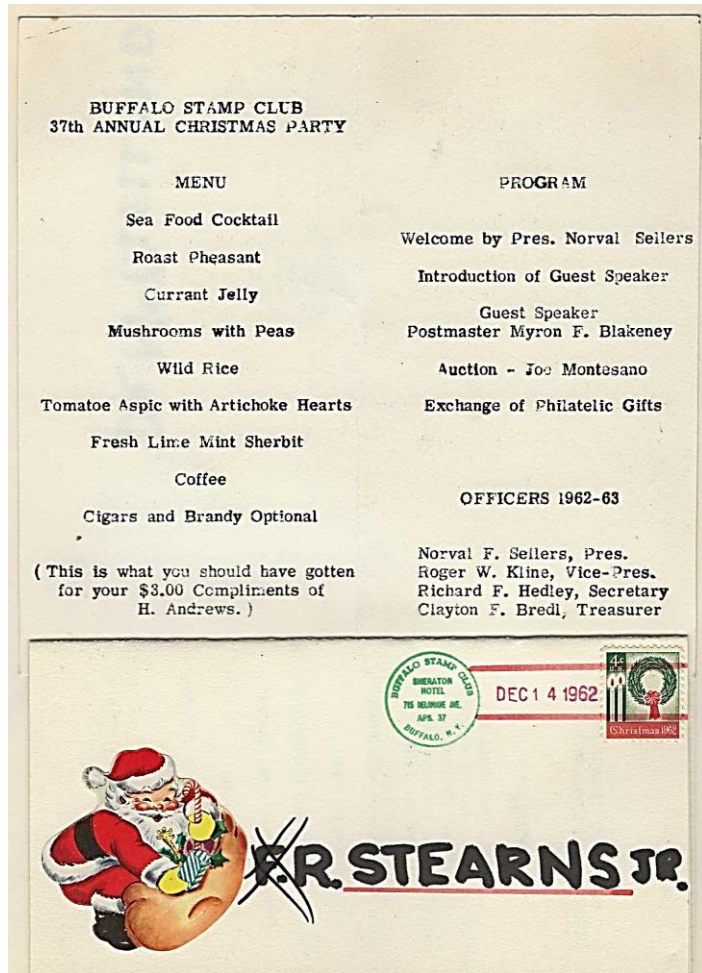
As Al C. pointed out in the prologue, at the last meeting I pontificated on the need to do a better job of attracting young stamp collectors. Here are a few ideas I proposed:

- Free membership/newsletters for youngsters
- Providing starter kits or supplies, like binders, stock/vario pages, tweezers, magnifiers to young people at the Kids Corner or at meetings along with stamp packets
- Have presentations for beginners on stamp hinge application, paper removal, or stamp topical collecting
- Host Stamp Collecting Merit Badge session for Scouts by organizing an event at Bufpex

Who can help coordinate/implement some of these ideas? Looking for help! For our future!

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Immediately after the Auction on December 7th, the Club will move into Holiday mode and enjoy food, refreshments, and camaraderie. The Holiday Social is a tame version of the Club Christmas parties compared to parties of the past.



The Club previously held Christmas parties complete with a dinner, guest speaker, auction and a visit from Santa bearing philatelic gifts!

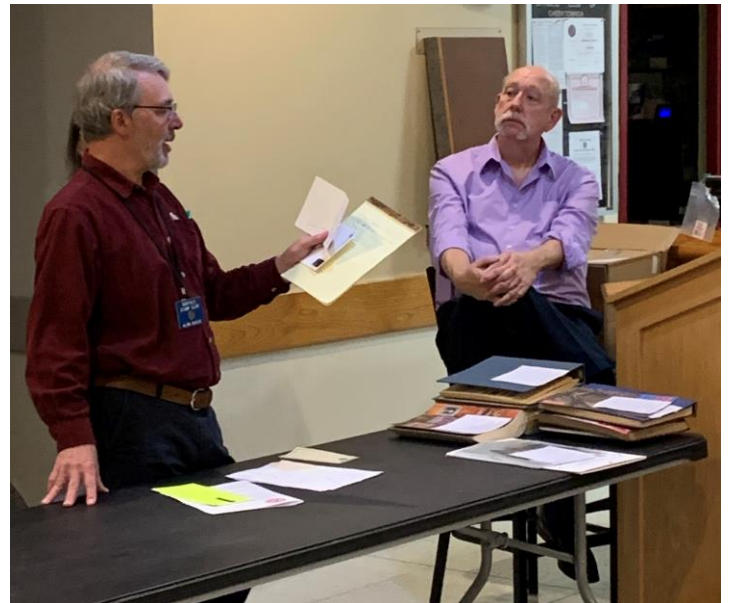
The 1962 party was commemorated with an event cover, Santa cachet and a special cancel. The above cover was addressed to F. Reynolds Stearns, Jr. who collected general issues.

Any Club member who would like to plan an event like this?

DUES

If you did not receive your 2023-2024 membership card, the reason is your dues have not been paid. Please see Bob Meegan immediately to pay your dues. Thank you Bob for creating the unique Club membership card.

CLUB AUCTION



Club auctions are always exciting as one never knows what will be offered. Bargains are the norm and unique items conjure up spirited bidding.

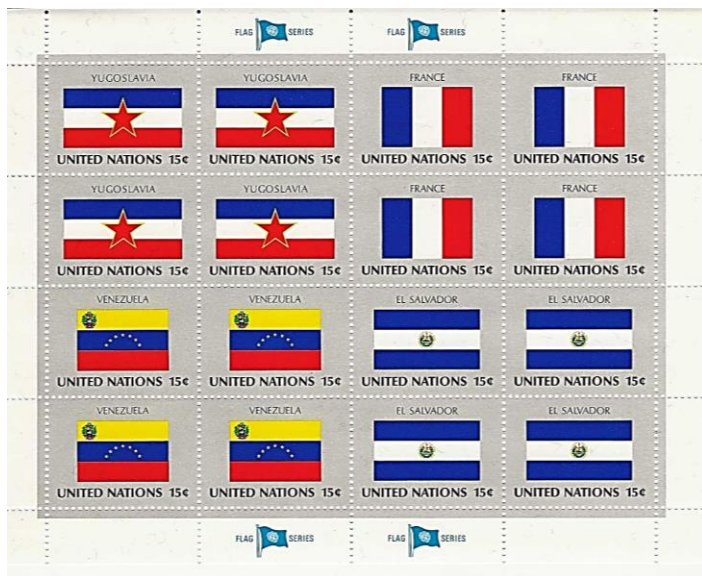
Overlooked are not the lots but rather those Club members who help make the auction a success. The above photo shows our Club President Alan Davis and auctioneer John Leszak. The backbone of the auctions are Dan Sherwood, Barb Kern, Bennie Passantino and Paul Moore. They are to be commended as they organize the lots, sort the lots after being sold, track sales, collect money and pay proceeds. Thanks to them auctions run smooth and efficiently. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WANTED

Any topics, stories, interesting facts, or items to share? Email them to Al Carroccia!

FLAG STAMPS

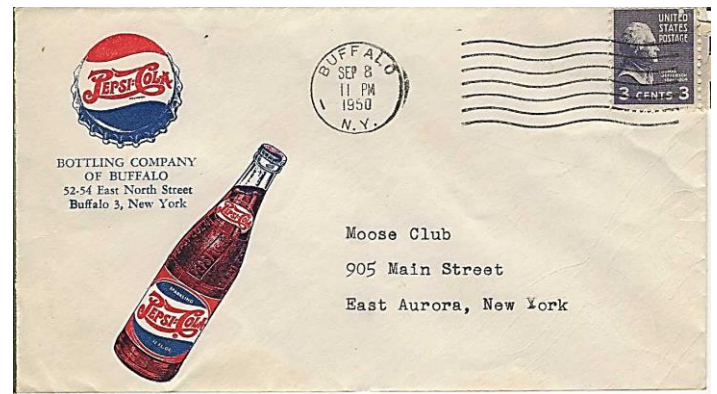
A popular area of topical stamps are flag stamps. Many countries have depicted national and local flags on stamps. The American Topical Association (ATA) publishes four checklists in the flag category. One checklist covers US flags only, 1608 stamps! The rest of the world, not including US, UN and NATO and sports flags, covers over 9,000 stamps!



A popular flag collecting area is the United Nations flag series. Since 1980, the U.N. Postal Administration (UNPA) has honored each member country with a stamp depicting that nation's flag. The UNPA issued 16 flag stamps a year until 1989. The series was halted temporarily when all members had been commemorated on a stamp. The UNPA resumed the series in 1997. The complete issue to date now includes 184 issues.

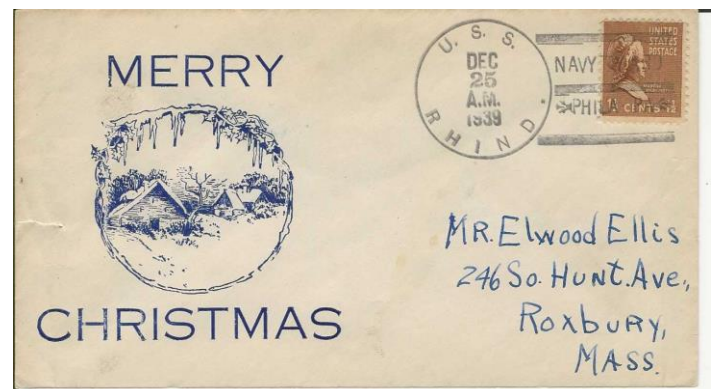
Most, if not all the stamps, are affordable allowing a beginner collector to obtain all the issues. The stamps are issued in different formats which can lead to specialization. Of course, there is the postal history, but that story is for later!

BUFFALO ADVERTISING COVER



The above cover is a pleasant addition to a Buffalo postal history collection. What makes this cover inviting is the color of the corner advertisement for Pepsi Cola. Color makes a cover even more special. A similar cover with only the bottle cap was available for \$15 on eBay. The cost of this cover at the Buffalo Stamp Club? \$5!

HAPPY
Holidays!



The Buffalo Stamp Club wishes all Club members a Happy and enjoyable Holiday Season. Let us take time out from our philatelic activities to spend time with our families and friends.