



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

March 2024

Alfred Carroccia

Fuzzy9600@verizon.net

MARCH NOTES

BUFPEX will be held the weekend of March 23rd and 24th. The hours Saturday will be 10 AM to 4PM and Sunday 10AM to 3PM. BUFPEX is the premier event for the Buffalo Stamp Club. Frames are available for exhibits, and it is still not too late to enter an exhibit. Don't forget to support all the dealers participating in the bourse. The USPS will be on-site Saturday only, but Bufpex cachet covers will be postmarked both Saturday and Sunday. See insert for cachet designs.

All Club members are encouraged to attend and to volunteer some time at the Club hospitality table at the entrance or helping to set up and tear down frames. (Frame setup time will be communicated prior to the Show.) Hope to see everyone at the Show!

As we near the end of the Club calendar, the last order of business will be the Board of Directors election. This is an important event for the Club as it is the Board that governs the Club and its Officers. If you want more input in how the Club is run or which direction the Club should move, consider running for a seat on the Board. You will be rewarded knowing that you are helping the Club improve. Thank you.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thursday, March 7th: Meeting/Auction

Sat. & Sun., March 23rd & 24th: BUFPEX

Thursday, April 11th: 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
(meeagan9697@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)

FEBRUARY AUCTION

With John Leszak resting after his medical scare, the Club sprang into action filling in for him at the February auction.



Paul Moore, Tim Carey and Alan Davis keep the lots moving!



A sizeable crowd of Club members patiently await the lot description to start the spirited bidding.

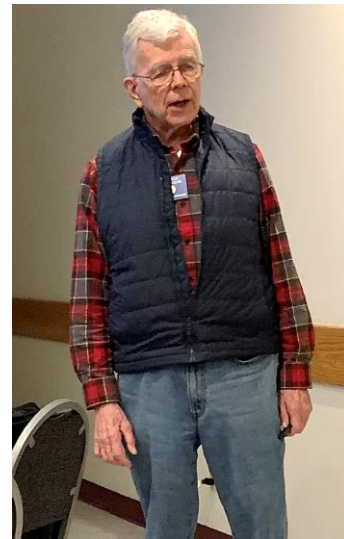
Thanks to President Alan Davis who is filling in for auctioneer as John recovers. Thanks also to Barb Kern who enters the lots, Paul Moore who tracks the lots, collects payment and distributes payments. Dan McNess, Dan Sherwood, Bennie Passantino and Tim Carey for making the auctions run smooth. It is hard work but exciting and fast moving. They can always use help.

MARY MEEGAN

As this was being written, we had just heard that Mary passed away Sunday morning at 3:30 AM. Our condolences and prayers to Bob and family. More information forthcoming.

FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

Charlie Livermore gave an exciting presentation on the Canadian National Exhibition on February 22nd. Thirteen Club members attended the roughly one hour power point presentation. Charlie talked about the history of the CNE and showed many examples of stamps and postal history from his collection.



Thank you Charlie for a very interesting talk!

JOHN LESZAK

John was again featured in the *Buffalo News* in the *City & Region* section on Sunday, February 25th in a follow-up report. Entitled "*Stricken runner is 'blessed' to return*", he describes his near-death experience and his road to recovery. We look forward to his return!

BUFPEX EXHIBITS

The Club is soliciting exhibits for BUFPEX which will be held March 23rd and 24th. As an enticement to Club members, individual page and multi-page exhibits can be entered, if there is not enough material for a one-frame (16 page) exhibit. Of course, one-frame and multi-frame exhibits are welcome. See Alan Davis or Al C. for applications.

BUFPEX DEALERS

Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd & 24th

- **Tri-K Philatelics, Kim & Casey Kielbasa**
- **Richfield Philatelics, Bill Witschard**
- **Cover Connection, John Leszak**
- **Mike & Tim Retzer, Buffalo, NY**
- **Howard Roeske, North Tonawanda, NY**
- **Telah W. Smith, Ashland, OH**
- **Paul Duda, Buffalo, NY**
- **Scott A. Shaulis, Murrysville, PA**
- **Niagara Stamp Sales, Norm Titterington**
- **United States Postal Service (Sat. only)**

Flyer enclosed – Help promote the Show! Come and support the Club and dealers! Be sure to visit all the dealers. They carry everything you need. They will even help you start a new collecting area. Hope to see everyone there!

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Club member Dave Przepiora has donated philatelic books and periodicals to the Club. They will be available before the March auction. The cost will be \$1 per item. An inexpensive way to build your philatelic library. As the saying goes, knowledge is power. Thanks again to Dave for donating the literature.

IRV TESMER

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. will auction the postal history collection of Irv Tesmer. Irv, as we all know, was a life member of the Buffalo Stamp Club and the authority on Western New York Postal History. Irv co-wrote the definitive book on the subject with Club member Dave Przepiora. The Club helped publish the book.

Siegel will auction 78 lots of Irv's material divided into Buffalo postal history, WNY postal history, and US postal history. There are also bulk lots containing hundreds of covers. The auction takes place March 2 (maybe after you receive this newsletter). If you miss it, the catalog can be viewed at:

<http://siegelauctions.com/auctions/sale/1312>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The election for Board of Directors will be held prior to the auction on May 9th. The Club is governed by a Board of Directors comprising 12 Club members in good standing serving three-year terms (dues are paid). Four members are elected each year. It is the Board of Directors who make decisions and guide the Club. The Board member position does not involve a lot of work. Communication is typically through email and the Board meets once a year in July to set the Club calendar, review finances and discuss open issues.

The Class of 2024 whose terms are set to expire are:

Tim Carey

Alan Davis

Casey Kielbasa

There is an open position available. Any Club member interested, please contact Alan Davis or Al Carroccia.

UPU COLORS AND THE 1898 FIRST BUREAUS

Have you wondered why so many early US stamps were primarily red, green or blue? In the late nineteenth century, after the introduction of postage stamps, nations took it upon themselves to print stamps of different denominations and colors. It became confusing as postal clerks had difficulty determining whether stamps were valid and paying the correct rates.

In 1896, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) member nations proposed uniform colors for international mail. The colors agreed to were red for standard printed matter, green for postcards, and blue for letters. Most nations complied but it took the US several years to reissue existing stamps. The first group of Bureau issues of 1894 were reissued in 1898 to conform to the new UPU rules.



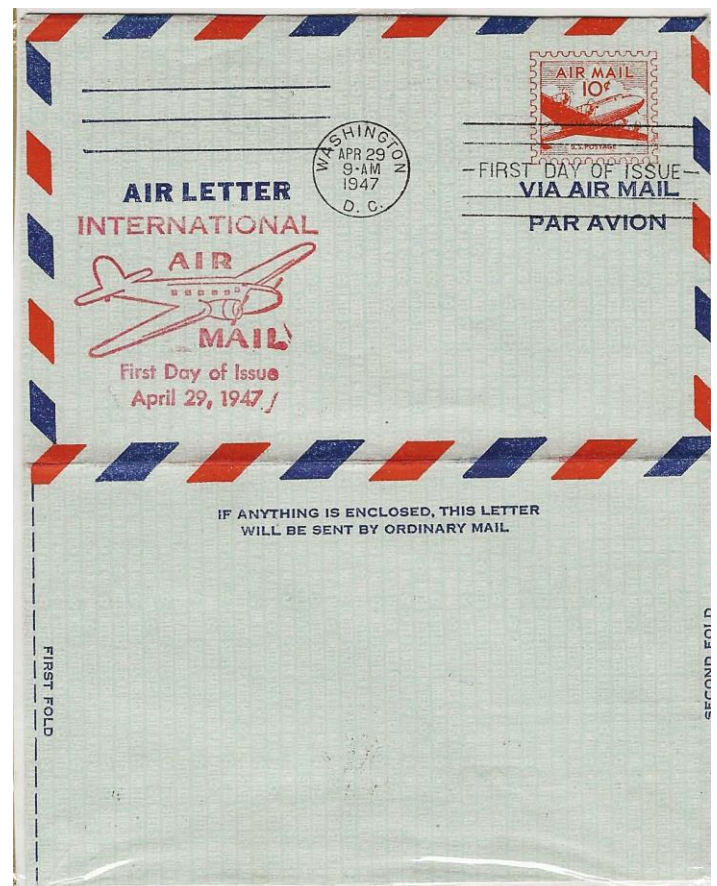
The one cent Franklin was changed from blue to green. The five cent Grant was changed from chocolate to blue. Other stamps were changed to avoid confusion. The ten cent Webster was changed from green to brown and orange brown and the fifteen cent Clay was changed from blue to olive green.

The first bureau issue presents a wonderful challenge in collecting the different shades, particularly those of the 1898 issues. Of course, there is the postal history not only with the shades, but with the rates.

BACK OF THE BOOK

An aerogram, or air letter sheet, is a foldable sheet with postage imprinted on the sheet. The UPU has specific regulations, such as no enclosures are allowed. Simply, it is letter and postage in one.

The first air letter sheets were issued by Iraq in 1933. The US issued its first air letter sheet in 1947. In 1953 the UPU approved the term aerogramme as the designation for a letter sheet.



The first US aerogram (Scott UC16), issued on April 29, 1947, was imprinted "Air Letter". UC16c was issued in November 1953 and is imprinted "Air Letter" and "Aerogramme".

This first series has many varieties designated as Scott UC16a through UC16d. Yet don't forget about the postal history! There is so much more to collect, and they all tell a story.