



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

April 2024

Alfred Carroccia

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APRIL NOTES

BUFPEX has just concluded and what a Show! Attendance was strong both days and the dealers were happy. All reported being busy, particularly on Saturday. The exhibits drew interest as most participants stopped to view the frames. Thanks to all the Club members who helped with setting up the frames and cleanup afterwards. Thanks also to all who helped at the Club table, youth table and silent auction. Special thanks to President Alan Davis and bourse chairman John Leszak for ironing out the details with the show.

With BUFPEX behind us the Club enters the final two months of the Club calendar. The final order of business is the annual Board of Directors election. The election is very important for the Club as it ensures the club continues to move forward, not only for the benefit of its members but for the hobby itself. It is the Board that governs the Club and sets the direction it will move. While there are four candidates the Club encourages other members to step forward and challenge themselves to help the Club move forward. Thank you.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Thursday, April 11th: Meeting/Auction

Thursday, April 25th: Presentation 7 PM

Thursday May 9th: Meeting/Auction
Board of Directors Election

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)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Board of Directors election will be held before the auction on May 9. There is an open seat on the ballot. Club member Peter Stuhlmiller has graciously volunteered to run for that seat. The ballot as of this month is:

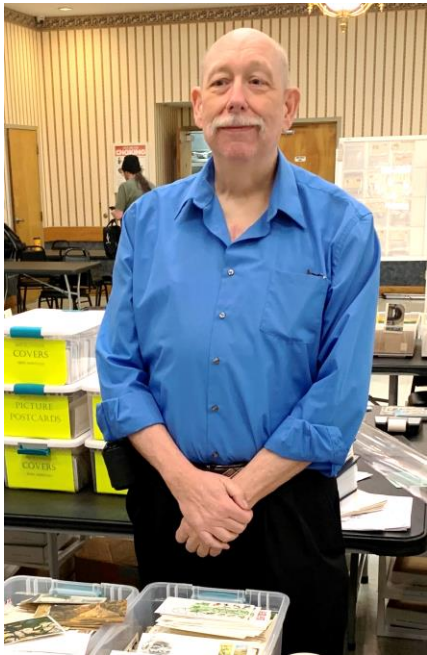
Tim Carey
Casey Kielbasa

Alan Davis
Peter Stuhlmiller

If any Club member is interested in running, please contact Alan Davis or Al Carroccia.

JOHN LESZAK

BUFPEX 2024 was special in that John Leszak returned to his dealer booth for the first time after recovering from his medical issues.



We wait patiently for John to return to his second job as Club auctioneer!

NAMETAGS

If anyone is interested in obtaining a Buffalo Stamp Club nametag, please let Alan Davis know. The cost of nametags is a mere \$5.00! A Nametag promotes the club and encourages name recognition among members. Let's get to know everyone – by name.

APRIL PRESENTATION

After a great presentation in February, Club member Charlie Livermore returns for the April presentation. He plans to discuss two topics. First, he will give a talk about the advanced posting service of both Great Britain, but primarily Canada. The advanced posting service in both Great Britain and Canada allowed postal patrons to bring their Christmas cards to the post office two or three weeks early with the promise to apply a special postmark and deliver them on the last delivery day before Christmas. He will conclude with a presentation called the "Anatomy of a Fraud". This involves the refusal of the Canada Post to handle mail that they considered to be of a fraudulent nature. Both topics are short presentations, yet both sound very interesting. Again, we look forward a great show.

SOLAR ECLIPSE CANCELLATION

The Hamburg Post Office will have a special cancellation for the April 8th Total Solar Eclipse. They will be cancelling there on April 8th or you can mail covers to the Postmaster at the Hamburg office at 5501 Camp Rod., Hamburg, NY 14075.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Four new members joined the Club at Bufpex:

- **Doug Leonard**, Fort Erie, Ontario
- **Ed Williams**, Buffalo
- **Scott Shaulis**, dealer from Murrysville, PA
- **Ron Pfeffer**, Farnham, NY (former member)

CIA INVERT UPDATE

In case you missed it, the CIA invert (Scott 1610c) made an appearance at the Autumn Stamp Festival and was highlighted in our December newsletter. Dealer Scott Shaulis had the stamp available. If you were debating about buying it at BUFPEX, you are too late. Scott had this sign on his table.



Those who decided to wait learned a lesson: If you want something, don't hesitate long - buy it now, or you might have "buyer's regret"!

BILL HATZENBUHLER



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Hatzenbuhler on March 11, 2024. He had suffered from declining health over the last few years. He was a Club member for at least 30 years. His last year of membership was in 2018. His daughter, Maer, recollected coming to the Club when she was a little girl. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family.

MARY MEEGAN



The Club suffered a great loss with the passing of Mary Meegan on Sunday, February 25th - Beloved wife of Robert (Bob) Meegan and dearest mother of Theresa, Bob Jr., and Chris. Our deepest sympathies to them and other family members.

Mary was a lifelong collector and shared the same passion as Bob. They supported each other in their hobbies. In case you didn't know, Mary collected eggs – ceramic eggs, glass eggs, eggs on stamps or covers, anything that had an image of an egg. You name it, she had it – Bob estimates over 7,000 which all started with her sister giving her a present of an egg when she was about 11 years old.

When Bob met Mary, she was working as a clerk for Walden Books in Eastern Hills Mall. Bob was already a member of the Club (since fall of 1973). They were married September 1983. Mary was the first female member of the Club in 1984 along with Ann Triggler. Mary's impact on the Club was significant – helping in many ways at meetings, shows, setups, hospitality table, etc. Along with their extended tenure together, they have hosted the annual picnic since at least the year 2000 – over 20+ years.

Mary was one of the most pleasant people with her large smile, happy disposition, friendly conversation, and helpful attitude. She was the epitome of what makes our Club great – friendly, sharing camaraderie for a hobby that we all share a common interest in! For all of us in the Club, we are thankful for having known her. Mary, Adieu and Rest in peace! You are missed!

The Many Facets of Stamps from the Baltic States 1915 -1919

By: Bob Lamb

The Baltic states: Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have a somewhat short but immensely varied philatelic history. The three states are unfortunately sandwiched between bigger and more aggressive neighbors. Sweden, Poland, Germany all claimed jurisdiction at one time or another. The borders were best drawn in pencil because they changed so often. The postal history is just as varied. This article looks at the World War 1 experience and the wide variety of items available.

Lithuania - with the advent of World War One - Germany moved into the eastern territories of Russia. Lithuania and Courland were the first areas occupied. German stamps were overprinted "Postgebiet Ob. Ost". Estonia was largely unscathed by the War, but the Russian Revolution would later come into play. It declared independence in May 1918. Latvia was invaded by the Germans and the country was split in half by the river Daugava. The Russian political order was in chaos and that led to a general stalemate. The country issued its first stamp in November 1918.

There were different government factions everywhere, and the mail and postage situation reflect this. Postage stamps were used to give "pseudo" governments an identity. The availability of printing means and paper led to more variation. There were endless varieties of "made at home" stamps, overprints, and provisionals. Perforations were an inexact or non-existent practice.

One key factor was the shortage of paper. Latvia used any source on hand, such as obsolete bank issues, German maps, and already used envelopes were repurposed, and many issued both imperforate and perforated.



Printed on old maps

The Bolshevik revolution only added to the philatelic mixture. There were so many groups, provincial governments, and occupying forces during and after the War ended – who was in charge? And they all issued stamps to create an identity.

After the war ended – the 3 states eventually became independent and joined the League of Nations. Their philatelic issues were varied, and production value increased.

Their future status was also subject to the Russian Bear. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 led to the Soviets taking over again, and the Baltic countries were swept into the events of World War II.

The stamps issues starting from 1915 are immensely different and offer a wide variety of collecting sidelines. Many are inexpensive and readily available. This is a wide-open collecting area with affordable prices to build a nice collection. Here are some illustrations:



Estonia Issues with one overprint on a Russian stamp



Lithuania Issue – German Overprint



First Home Printed Stamp