

WHAT A DEAL!

By George Gates

The other day, I was rummaging through eBay offerings when I came across an amazing trove of used Famous Americans, the 35-stamp issue of 1940 (Scott 859-893) that opened stamp honors to people who were not politicians or military officers.



Here, in one offering, were about 500 used copies, including 62 of the 10-centers and more than 130 of the 5s, all being put up to bid by a Georgia seller starting at \$1.99.

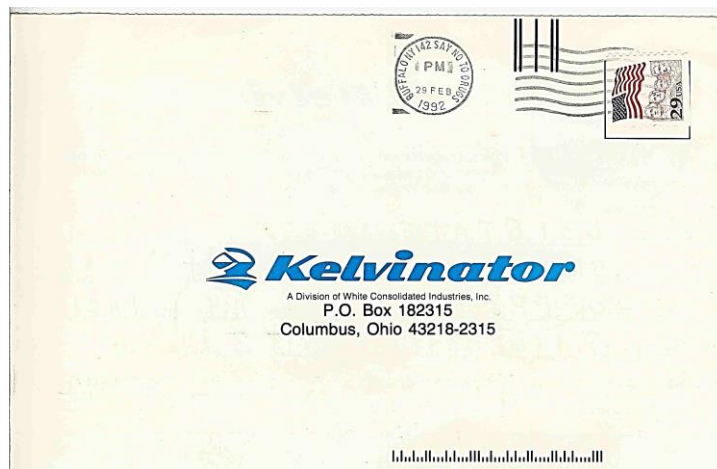
I put the item on “watch”, uncertain if I really wanted it and certain it would go for more than I would be willing to pay for stamps already in my collection.

I went about an afternoon of watching football on the TV, unaware the item was ending about the same time the Vikings were finishing off the Saints. Back on eBay, I learned that someone identified only as “2...2” had won the lot for \$4.23 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. What a deal! May “2...2” have fun sorting through the pile coming soon in the mail.

The event forced me to recall my stamp-collecting beginnings in 1940 at age 9 with very little money available for the hobby. Chasing down used Famous Americans became something of an obsession. Any waste basket was fair game. The 10s were particularly hard to find. Had the eBay trove fallen into my lap, I would have tried to declare a national holiday and organize a splendid parade. And the neighbors would have wondered if that Gates kid had finally lost it!

LEAP YEAR COVERS

Since 2020 is a leap year, it presents the opportunity to obtain covers postmarked on February 29. In past leap years, it was sometimes difficult to obtain covers, especially if the day fell on a Sunday. This year February 29 falls on a Saturday and, coincidentally, it is the first day of BUFPEX and the United States Postal Service will be at BUFPEX! It is the perfect opportunity to obtain BUFPEX show covers, have them postmarked with the show cancel, and on a leap year day!



Commercial Cover cancelled in Buffalo, New York on February 29, 1992. Machine cancel has “say no to drugs” slogan in the postmark dial, a unique machine cancel slogan variety postmarked on a leap year day!

Most leap year covers, especially recent covers, are philatelically contrived. Obviously, the same will hold true for BUFPEX 2020 covers postmarked on February 29. But those covers will make interesting additions to postmark collections. The demand for leap year covers postmarked on February 29 will be strong. The Club stands to profit from the sale of BUFPEX covers to collectors outside of the Buffalo area. Don't forget to buy yours before they sell out!



BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

www.buffalostampclub.org

FEBRUARY 2020

Alfred Carroccia

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HAPPY FEBRUARY!

February is an interesting month for the Buffalo Stamp Club. BUFPEX, for the first time, takes place in February and March!

Saturday, the first day of BUFPEX will be February 29th. The next day, Sunday, is March 1st. Due to conflicts with the MarchParty show in Cleveland the following weekend, it was decided to move BUFPEX a week earlier. Because of the quirky scheduling, leap year and the timing of this newsletter, BUFPEX will get dual coverage in this and the March newsletter. Mark your calendar to save the dates.

With the middle of Winter upon us and the weather keeping us indoors, February provides us the opportunity to work on our collections and to create some exhibits. President Bob Meegan is constantly looking for exhibits. Time and time again, Bob has preached how easy it can be to assemble and create an exhibit. A one frame exhibit is only 16 pages - short enough for an exhibit with limited material. Bob is always available to answer questions.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February 7th: Auction

February 21st: Presentation

February 28th: BUFPEX setup

February 29th & March 1st: BUFPEX

Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga

Auctions begin immediately following any business and announcements which starts at **7:15 PM**. Get here early enough to view auction items. Seller deadline for submitting Lots is **6:45 PM**

Presentations begin at **7 PM** in the Happy Room.

OFFICERS

President: Bob Meegan (meeagan9697@roadrunner.com)

Vice President: Alan Davis (ddavis504@roadrunner.com)

Secretary: Al Carroccia (fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Tim Carey (careystea@gmail.com)

Membership Chairmen: Casey Kielbasa & Dan McNess
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Auction Committee Chairman: John Leszak
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Auction Manager: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Kelly Kreuzer (slothlover4ever24@gmail.com)

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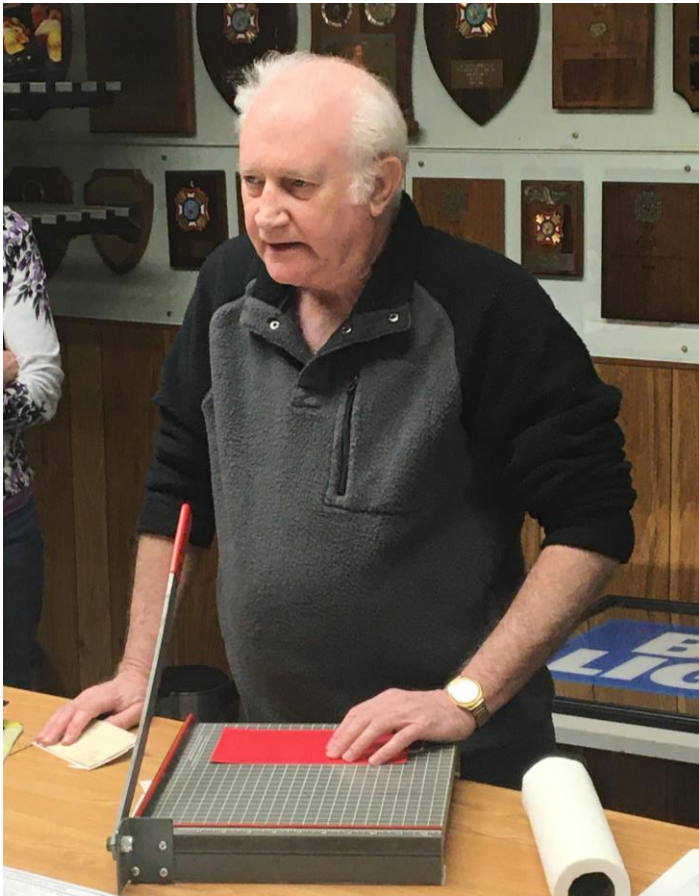
Bennie Passantino,

Paul Moore (paulkmoore@verizon.net)

JANUARY PRESENTATION

President Bob Meegan gave a hands-on approach to exhibiting at the January 24th presentation. We had a good turnout with 13 members.

Typically, Bob will talk about the benefits of exhibiting and what he looks for as an accredited judge. This time Bob showed the techniques in laying out an exhibit page including the mounting of covers. His methodology also makes it easier to make changes to the exhibit when one must add to or correct a page. Bob taught everyone the proper method of using corner mounts and the guillotine in trimming excess paper. The result, Bob explained, is a professionally prepared exhibit page worthy of a gold medal.



Thanks, Bob, for sharing these exhibiting tips. We should now use those techniques to make an exhibit!

NEW MEMBERS

Maureen Gleason- Collects Boy Scouts of America on stamps.

Donna Foster- Collects Worldwide.

Kris Adinolfi- Collects Worldwide.

Donna and Kris joined the Club at the presentation on January 24th. They are enthusiastic beginner collectors who inherited their father's collection. They seemed intimidated at first by the presentation that evening, but settled in once they were told the first rule of stamp collecting - that there are no rules! By the way, they are sisters!

Welcome to our new members!

FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

No one has stepped forward to present in February. The presentations do not need to be elaborate or formal. The goal of the presentation is to show off our material in an informal setting. Any topic or subject is interesting. The material you show could be the Inverted Jenny you are secretly keeping, or any common material, such as your collection of Gambia. Any topic is interesting to us stamp collectors!

If anyone is interested, let President Bob Meegan or Vice President Alan Davis know so we can properly announce it. Otherwise, we will have a "Show and Tell" format with a "Bring your favorite philatelic item" theme.

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.

75th ANNIVERSARY OF IWO JIMA

BUFPEX will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima. This important World War II battle took place in February-March of 1945. Its capture from Japan was with great sacrifice on both the US & Japanese forces that took part. A show cover and cachet will be available for BUFPEX. A show cancel for both days, February 29 and March 1 will also be available.

The 3 cent Iwo Jima stamp, Scott 929, will be one of the stamps franking the show cover.



Thanks to Bob Meegan for designing the cachet and cancel!

**BUFPEX
STATION**

**FEB. 29,
2020**

**BUFFALO, NY
14225-4718**



BUFPEX STAMP JAR

BUFPEX marks the return of the stamp jar! Thanks to Club members who stepped up with donations, the stamps in the jar number somewhere between 100 to 1 million stamps! The joy in running the stamp jar is reading the guesses which run from 100 to 1 million!

Thanks to Joe and Gail Brzezowski, Gene Golebiewski, Bennie Passantino, John Raynor, Scott Shadron and Dan Sherwood for donations and taking the time to number the stamps which helps to keep track of the exact number of stamps in the jar!

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY



The Buffalo Stamp Club celebrated its annual Washington Birthday Banquet on Friday, February 22, 1963 at its meeting place at the Sheraton Motel on Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. A talk on the US Postal Agency in Shanghai, China was given by member Walter Van Buren with three frames of material shown. A small auction was also held.

Today Washington's birthday is combined with Lincoln's birthday to form the President's Day holiday.

TOPICAL EXHIBITING

In the Nov-Dec issue of ATA's *Topical Time*, there's been a series of articles on Thematic Exhibiting. It's been interesting; here's a summary:

1. For a conventional thematic exhibit, use only philatelic material from the traditional, postal history, postal stationery, revenue and maxi card exhibit types, and define as a "thematic exhibit".
2. To include other sorts of philatelic material, such as postcards or advertising covers, define as a "thematically organized exhibit".
3. To tell a thematic story using other collateral material, as well as philatelic material, define as a "thematically organized Display exhibit".

Just explain on the title page and in the synopsis what you are presenting.

More discussion is forthcoming to further clarify the APS exhibiting guidelines.