

**2023**

**75 YEARS**

**1948**

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NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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KentPhilatelicSociety.com

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KPS Club News

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| The three exhibitors at Kentpex 2024 were rewarded at the annual awards dinner. Carol Ligda-Wong, Darin Lettinga, and Jayne Gremon won the gold, silver, and bronze awards, respectively, in the spirit of the Show’s theme — “Going for the Gold”, a nod to this year’s Olympic Games.  🟋🟋🟋  The term of Club Directors Chris Daly, Jim Coleman, and Bill Sobotka concludes at the end of this year. All three have agreed to run again for their posts. Elections will be held at the Club meeting to be held on January 28.  🟋🟋🟋  It is time to renew your KPS membership for 2025. The dues remain unchanged at $15 for the upcoming year. Half of our membership has done so. You may be among the Club’s members that have not renewed their membership yet. If so, please plan to drop off your payment at the next Club meeting. You can also send a check made out to Kent Philatelic Society to the address found above in the masthead. Please do not delay.  🟋🟋🟋  Don’t forget the members’ pot luck dinner. It will be held on Tuesday, December 10. Please contact Bill Sobotka (616-531-3295) as soon as possible to let him know you will be attending. The doors will open at 6 PM for socializing. An | auction will take place after dinner.  🟋🟋🟋  In conversations with members of several clubs in recent months, it is apparent that many non-collectors have reached out to find out how to dispose of the collections they inherited. They have no interest in the hobby nor do they know anyone who might. The easiest solution for many is to find a local club for advice on how to dispose of it, especially if it has some appreciable value, or to donate it to the club.  But what if you are a collector and no one in your family has any interest in following in your footsteps? In this month’s installment of “Every Stamp Tells a Story”, KPS member and President of the Greenville Stamp Club, Bruce Dangremond, shares his personal attempt to find a suitable home for his collection. If you have comments or questions, he welcomes your emails addressed to rpepper@pathwaynet.com  🟋🟋🟋  **KPS Archives**: The final Railroad Post Office (RPO) from Grand Rapids left on December 7, 1968 bound for Chicago. The September 1969 issue of The KPS Philatelist reported that member John Rothwell worked part-time on such a RPO. Accordingly, he collected RPO postmarks. Mr. Rothwell gave an account of his collecting interest as he was the speaker at that month’s meeting. |

The KPS Board will enhance our monthly auctions by holding a drawing for a **FREE** $10 certificate toward the winning purchases of one lucky member. You need to be present to participate in the drawing.

**MONTHLY PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

The Kent Philatelic Society meets on the 4th **Tuesday** of the month at the Byron Center Baptist Church, 7343 Byron Center Ave SW, Byron Center.

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| December 10, 2024: **KPS MEMBERS POT LUCK**  6:00 PM Doors open  6:30 PM Bring a dish  7:00 PM Table Auction | January 28, 2025: **KPS CLUB MEETING**  6:00 PM Board Meeting  6:30 PM Lot Viewing  7:00 PM Presentation and Table Auction |
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*Members are invited to share their philatelic experiences in this space. Perhaps you made a special acquisition, or thrive on an uncommon collecting topic, or saw a remarkable exhibit. Share it with your fellow collectors. Contact the Editor with your stories.*

**The Joy of Letting Go? A Definite Maybe.**

Upon reaching this ripe old age of 84, I’ve acquired a significant collection of covers and stamps which all display a fancy cancel on the 3-cent U.S. stamps issued from 1861 to 1869 (like the three shown below).





I am in reasonably good health; I also know I’m not immortal. So, I have a predicament many of you also face. What happens to my collection when I’m gone?

My first thought is to pass it along to a family member. Some investigation revealed that none of my descendants is, nor is interested in becoming, a stamp collector. I don’t want my collection to be thrown out in the trash. I want it to eventually end up in the hands of fellow philatelists who will enjoy and appreciate each item. Expecting a family member (unfamiliar with the world of philately) to deal with my collection is plain unfair. That’s a task I should deal with now, before I’m gone. So, I’ve decided to sell it. I have several options.

**Sell it through a well-known philatelic auction house.** My experience with these types of auctions has been disappointing at times. It all depends on how many people attend the auction who are specifically interested in what you are selling. My area of interest is so narrow I rejected this option because I didn’t want to bet on how popular my collection would be to an audience on a particular auction day.

**Sell it myself on eBay.** The eBay web site is excellent for selling things. Generally, it has a huge audience – much larger than the typical stand-alone auction house. The drawback – each item must be described in detail including condition. If I were to sell my collection piece by piece (thousands of items), the time commitment would be enormous. That’s not the way I want to spend my time.

**Sell to a fellow collector.** I invited a person who shares my passion for fancy cancels to look over my collection. I gave him an attractive price for everything – below what I paid. But he wanted to pick and choose individual items instead. I dislike bartering. I hate to haggle. I’m not good at it and I always come away feeling I could have done better. That’s why I hate buying/selling a car. The biggest reason for not allowing someone to cherry-pick my collection, however, is that I don’t want to be left holding a collection of leftovers of minor value; even more difficult to sell. I said no thanks.

**Sell to a stamp dealer.** I sent my collection by UPS to a large dealer in Chicago who runs big ads in *The American Philatelist*. After a week or two I received a call informing me, “not interested.” Now, I don’t know if they lack employees knowledgeable about fancy cancels or if they felt the market for fancy cancels is too small, but in my humble opinion, they blew a profitable opportunity. They also stopped me from contacting any other dealer.

**In desperation I called Mr. Fancy Cancel.** That’s his eBay account name. His real name is Frank Kaplan and he’s from New Jersey. Frank and his son, Larry, manage Mr. Fancy Cancel together. I have purchased many nice items from them over the years. “Here’s the deal”, he said. “Send me your collection. I’ll look it over and make you a cash offer. But you will do much better for yourself if you put it on consignment with us. If you choose the latter, I will do all it takes to sell each item on eBay for a 25% commission. You will receive a monthly check until everything is gone. What say you?”

I sent him my collection. After looking it over he called me to say, “What a beautiful collection. I had a ball reviewing it.” He also told me what he thought my entire collection would bring on consignment. I was flattered. I was also impressed with his vast knowledge about fancy cancels. I took the consignment option.

Frank is now in the process of selling my collection on eBay. Frank has proven to be honest and accurate with his descriptions on eBay. He listens to my suggestions and he keeps me informed. I could not be happier working with the Kaplans.

To date I’ve already received $1,000 more than the offer I gave to my collector friend. Best of all, Frank has lots more to sell. I have no doubt I will hit Frank’s estimated retail value for my collection. Our arrangement is working so well, I’ve asked Frank to sell other philatelic possessions unrelated to fancy cancels: color proofs, errors, color and paper varieties, stampless covers, philatelic literature, etc.

I sincerely hope my story helps you deal with the question “What happens to my collection when I’m gone?”

Bruce Dangremond