

Palm Beach Stamp Club Newsletter



February 2025

This month we welcome new club members Bob DeCarlo, Richard Goldberg, Carolina Mendez, and Laura Schorr. But sadly, we must say goodbye to long-time club member and Vietnam era veteran Arthur James (Jim) Davis of Lake Worth Beach. Jim had not attended meetings in the last few years due to long-term health issues. He passed away on December 28th and his celebration of life occurred on January 8th at the Palm Beach National Chapel. Burial followed at South Florida National Cemetery.

While February is known to be full of paper hearts and chocolate, it has a few things going for it, despite being the shortest month on the calendar. February joined the calendar with January around 700 B.C. In the ancient Roman festival *Lupercalia*, celebrants used thongs made from goatskin in purification rituals, which took place during the month, earning it the name *februarius*. February is National Heart month (get a check-up) and Black History Month. We celebrate Groundhog Day on the 2nd; Superbowl LIX (59) on the 9th; Valentine's Day on the 14th; and, President's Day on the 17th.

Regards, Michael Swope

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Estonia
2021
Scott
#942



**Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays**

**Mid-County Senior Center
3680 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, Florida 33461**

www.palmbeachstamp.club

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Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

President: Richard Kaye
V-Pres: Kelley McDougall
Secretary: Pat Hensley
Treasurer: Harry Clifford
Finance: Robert Mendelsohn
Liaison: Dan Maddalino
dmaddalino@aol.com
Editor: Michael Swope
mwswope@ameritech.net



February 2025



National Archives Museum

Can you read cursive handwriting? The National Archives is brimming with historical documents written in cursive, including some that date back more than 200 years. But these texts can be difficult to read and understand—particularly for Americans who never learned cursive in school.

That's why the National Archives is looking for volunteers who can help transcribe and organize its many handwritten records: The goal of the *Citizen Archivist* program is to help “unlock history” by making digital documents more accessible. Contact the National Archives at www.archives.gov to volunteer.

Congratulations to club members Dan Maddalino and Juan L. Riera for awards they received at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, January 17-19, 2025. Dan received

Large Vermeil for his multi-frame “Canadian Postage Stamps designed to Collect a War Tax for the First World War” display.

Juan received *Vermeil* for his work with Steve Swain in Literature competition on “The South Dade Settlement of Cutler, Florida.” Juan also received a *Large Silver* in Literature for “The Sikorsky s43 Baby Clipper.”

Our new meeting location at the Palm Beach Mid-County Senior Center appears to be a good fit for the club. Our first meeting had so many attendees that staff have promised us a larger room for future meetings.

Our annual club luncheon and awards were held on January 28th at the Kingdom Buffet in Lake Worth Beach. Congratulations to Pat Hensley, Keith Lichtman, and Michael Swope for their *Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards* in the annual “Articles of Distinction” competition.



February 8th, Orlando Winter Stamp Show, at Maitland Civic Center, 641 Maitland Ave. S, Maitland, 32751. 10-3:30.

February 9th, Second Sunday Stamp Show at Azan Shrine Center, 9:30 am-3:00 pm. 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne, 32935, 9-3.

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2024 Articles of Distinction



Congratulations to club member Michael Swope for his Gold Award winning article *"According to Hoyle"*



Honors to Keith Lichtman for his Silver Award winning article *"Color Variations on U.S. Stamps"*.

And finally, congratulations to Pat Hensley for her Bronze Award winning article *"Frozen Treats"*.

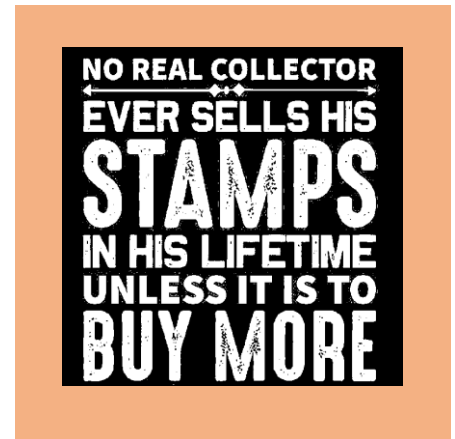


You want to be a Stamp Dealer?

Michael Rogers

To my mind, what makes a stamp dealer is philatelic knowledge, financial acumen, and the ability to get along with others. Every transaction is a reflection of integrity and a dealer's task is to serve the hobby!

A dealer can know his material, be glib and a financial whiz, but if he is unscrupulous, he won't survive. It takes a life time to build a reputation, but a single sour transaction can destroy it. Scoop up all the philatelic literature you can find because it will pay off in many ways. It will be a great advantage when buying or selling.



Stamp dealers need to be intellectually curious and unintimidated by research. If you are truly committed; poring over books, examining postal history, checking first day cover cachets, and translating cancellations will not be a chore. However, as knowledgeable as you may be, no one knows it all. Never hesitate to ask for help.

Your business must be on steady financial grounds and maintaining a healthy cash-flow is essential, especially during troubled economic times. Inventory turnover is important. Try to sell new stock within six months and turn whatever did not sell over for auction to maintain cash flow. For shops and shows, you need to evaluate purchases in terms of how to merchandise and how long it will take to turn over.

If you specialize, take the necessary steps to understand the marketplace, make contacts, develop the inventory, and learn how to merchandise. No matter how narrow the field of philately you choose, there will be a core of passionate collectors seeking it. Reaching those collectors is how creative merchandising pays off.

It is common sense that for businesses to proceed, there must be harmony. And yet, you have all experienced dealers that interject politics and profanity - which has nothing to do with the business of a stamp dealer; and, will inevitably be offensive to some buyers. The best transaction is one where both the seller and buyer are at peace, six months after the sale.

Membership in the American Stamp Dealers Association is a must. Put to the side all the benefits. Membership in the ASDA says the dealer subscribes to a rigorous code of ethics and provides the collector a sense of comfort when conducting a transaction.

Stamp dealers serve the hobby by starting new collectors. Support your club with donations!

Ref: Reprinted in part from "American Stamp Dealer & Collector", Reminiscences, October, 2011

Priority Express Mail

Keith Lichtman



Scott #4739

Priority Mail Express is an accelerated domestic mail delivery service operated by the United States Postal Service. It provides overnight delivery to most locations within the continental United States and guaranteed delivery within 2 days. Unlike most other USPS delivery options which provide only delivery confirmation, Priority Mail Express provides tracking information. Priority Mail Express delivers 365 days a year, including Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays.

Priority Express Mail was preceded by: (1) Special Delivery, a domestic service introduced in 1885 that utilized a special messenger to deliver urgent mail. That service was discontinued in 1997. (2) Express Mail, where experimental service began in 1970 and permanent service was implemented in 3,500 post offices in 1977. (3) In 2013, Express Mail was renamed, Priority Express Mail

The first Priority Express Mail postage stamp was US Scott #4739, New York Grand Central Terminal issue with value of \$19.95. Note: Priority Express Mail stamps are not identified as such on the face. The 2024 Priority Express Mail postage stamp is US Scott #5828, the Cosmic Cliffs issue with value of \$30.45. The 2025 Priority Express Mail postage stamp is US Scott #5955, the Star Cluster issue with value of \$31.40.



Scott #5828

The Star Cluster Priority Express Mail stamp was issued on January 21, 2025, and bears a 3.2% increase over the 2024 Priority Express Mail stamp. This stamp will be available on line as a pane of 4 for \$125.60. It will also be available for purchase as a single stamp only, by calling USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services at 844-737-7826 and requesting the single stamp. There is a \$1.00 fee for this special request. That is still better than buying the sheet.



Scott #5955

I do not expect to see many of these stamps used. Most post offices probably won't carry them because they'll prefer to use machine labels. I expect after the next rate change a properly used stamp on cover will be worth more than a mint, never-hinged stamp. Good luck finding one.

Ref: [USPS.com](https://www.usps.com)

Endangered Species: Florida Manatee

Pat Hensley

In January, we visited the Manatee Lagoon in West Palm Beach (free admission and free parking). After seeing so many manatees in the lagoon, I started to think what stamp they might be on. I found the 32¢, 1996, Florida Manatee (Scott #31050), part of a fifteen-stamp set featuring Endangered Species. First day ceremonies occurred on October 2, 1996, at the San Diego, California Zoo, which additionally was celebrating its 80th birthday. James Balog photographed the manatees pictured on the stamp at Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Florida.



It was issued as part of the USPS's National Stamp Collecting Month, with the theme "Collect and Protect." It was hoped that these stamps would catch the interest of children and encourage them to become stamp collectors. This month was co-sponsored by the USPS and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.

The Florida manatee is a large, slow-moving mammal that lives in the warm waters of Florida and other parts of the southeastern United States. Manatees are often called "sea cows" because they graze on underwater plants, much like cows eat grass on land. They can grow to 10 to 13 feet long and weigh as much as 1,000 pounds or more. These gentle animals spend most of their time eating and swimming in shallow waters like rivers, bays, and coastal areas. Manatees have thick, wrinkled gray skin and a flat, paddle-shaped tail that helps them move through the water. They also have a very small number of teeth, which they replace throughout their lives as they wear them down from chewing plants. Manatees are herbivores, meaning they only eat plants, and they consume a lot of vegetation each day—up to 10% of their body weight. They are not aggressive animals and are known for their calm and friendly nature.

However, their population is at risk because of threats like boat collisions, habitat loss, and pollution. Conservation efforts, such as creating manatee protection zones and reducing pollution, are helping to protect them. In recent years, manatee populations are slowly increasing, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service still considers them a vulnerable species.

References:

Photo by Pat Hensley

<https://www.mysticstamp.com/31050-1996-32c-endangered-species-florida-manatee/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2021). Florida Manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*). Retrieved from <https://www.fws.gov>.

Beach Umbrella

Michael Swope



The combination of sun, surf, and sand has long attracted beachgoers. When the rare “day off” comes around, fans pack up duffle bags, picnic baskets, station wagons – and head to the spot where land meets water and sun meets sand. People-watching from the shade of a brightly colored beach umbrella is just one of the many joys of a day at the beach.

The artist signed postcard featured above is from the Maxim Card Collection and was published by the Unicom Corporation at Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1990. The Connecticut based artist, Ed Little (1957-) is a professional artist specializing in oil and pastel painting. He has a Master of Fine Arts degree in Figurative painting from the Academy of Art, San Francisco.

This First Day Issue, post card rate (15¢), Beach Umbrella postage stamp (Scott #2443) was designed by National Geographic’s artist, Pierre Mion (1931-2021). The stamp was circle-date cancelled at the Sarasota, Florida, first day ceremonies on February 3, 1990.

Ref: Post card from Author’s collection; LiveAuctioneers.com; iBerkshires.com