

Federated Philatelist

Newsletter of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs

No. 193, December, 2010

Canadian Free Franks by Federal Deputy Ministers



June 11, 1923 Ottawa, Ontario to Seattle, Washington.

Markings include an Ottawa "FREE" Universal machine cancel, Department of the Interior hand stamp, and O.H.M.S. (On His Majesty's Service) hand stamp.

— By Bill Pekonen

The postage stamp was introduced in Britain during 1840 to eliminate abuses in the British postal system. All free franking was supposed to come to an end. Don't you believe it!

Modern day examples of Free Franked mail in Canada can be found in almost every major collection—sometimes in combination with other features of interest to that particular collector. It is, however, a different class of free franking from most of those prior to 1840. Prior to 1840, free franking was a sign of prestigious connections. It was those kinds of abuses which created a hobby similar to today's pursuit of personalities and autograph hounds.

In many cases, government official mail was signed by the elected Cabinet Minister when sent on government business. In addition to the elected Minister, appointed

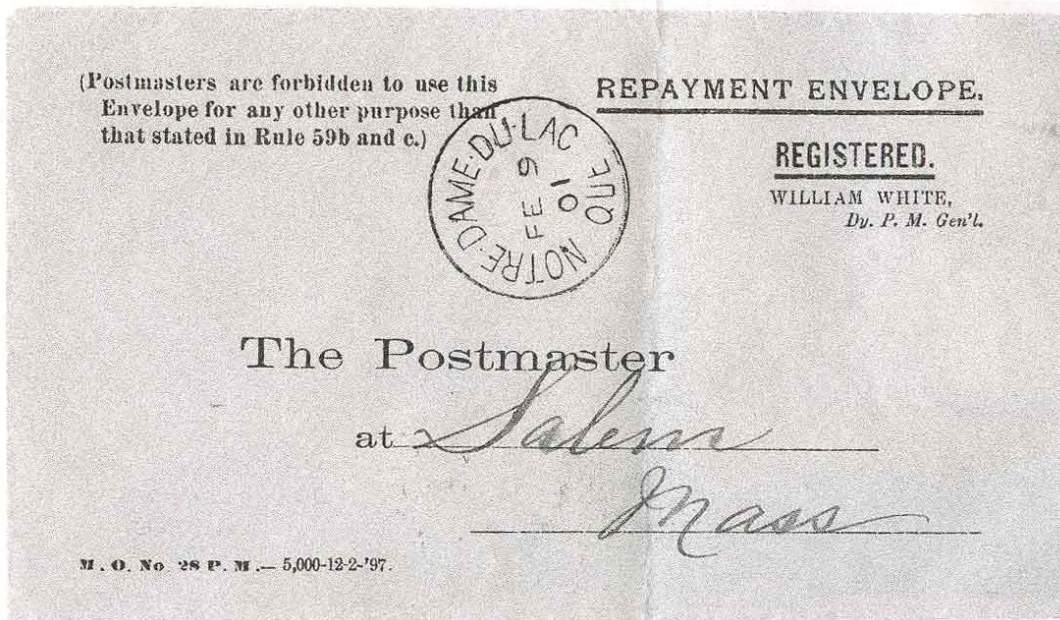
Deputy Ministers were permitted to fix their frank to government business mail. Facsimile signatures later appeared on rubber stamp impressions; on sealing machine and meter machine imprints; or on pre-printed stationery. Deputy Ministers jealously guarded their franking rights as a status symbol. In certain situations, persons holding

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Canadian Official Usages (continued from page 1)



February 9, 1901 Notre-Dame-du-Lac, Quebec for Official Post Office Business. The cover is addressed to the Postmaster at Salem, Mass. It is franked by a Deputy Post Master General. This type of use is governed by a different set of rules. It appears to be on Money Order Business. See the notation in the lower left corner. (M.O. - form number 28 PM with a print quantity of 5,000-dated 12-2-'97.) Mail on Post Office Business did not require postage in any event.

administrative positions different from the Deputy Minister title (president, chairman, commissioner, officer, etc.) were permitted free franking privileges. Some boards and agencies, granted free franking privileges, existed for only relatively brief periods of time. Many franking signatures are not as familiar as the elected ministers even though seen more frequently than a Minister's frank. The signatures are often more difficult to decipher.

The duties of departments and agencies were often changed or transferred to another ministry. The Deputy Minister may or may not change as a result of the transfer. Ministers came and went. Ministers were transferred from one ministry to another. Parliamentary ministries changed names and purposes. Deputy Ministers also came and went. They also often were switched from one ministry to another. Many of these legitimate uses are quite scarce and hard to find. The deputy minister frank was often applied to official government mail by an authorized clerk for the department. Printed matter was also pre-printed with a franking mark to speed delivery.

The basis for free franking has a long history in Britain. While Canada was still a colony, the mail system was under British control. After Confederation, the rules were heavily influenced by British decisions. The free franking

privilege enjoyed by federal government Deputy Ministers in Ottawa continued for more than 100 years.

Many collectors have mistakenly ignored free franked mail because it does not clearly indicate paid postage or that the free franking service was not available to the general public. Since the word "FREE" is used, most philatelists believe that this type of mail has no relevance to postage matters.

What is not generally known is that "FREE" is an abbreviation for the term "free of postage". The meaning goes back many years to a period when the recipient paid the postage.

After the postage stamp was introduced, all mail had to be prepaid, or else the recipient paid double postage (known as postage due). When the word "FREE" is legitimately used according to regulation, no postage due is collected. Free Franking is an entirely different postal classification but it is generally not without cost.

The subject is simple in theory. The subject became complicated because the rules were not always strictly followed. Canada is not the only country with free franking. Similar free franked official mail examples can also be found that were mailed by officials in the United States and in most other countries around the world.

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The Federated Philatelist

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From the Editor's Desk

My apologies for taking so long to publish this third, and final issue of 2010. A busy summer and fall, combined with a shortage of material, have made this issue much later than I had planned. I hope to get back to our normal schedule of four issues per year in 2011.

PIPEX 2010

I enjoyed PIPEX 2010 in Spokane. There were many great exhibits, and Lincoln Center was a good location for a stamp show. Hotels are expensive and it is nice to know that there can be other lower-cost options—such as Lincoln Center—that can be used for shows. The awards banquet was especially enjoyable and there were many opportunities to visit with other collectors at the show. Having so few dealers must have been a disappointment for the hosting Inland Empire Philatelic Society, even though the floor seemed busy. Dealer and table fees pay a big percentage of the costs in running a show, and this will make it difficult to host major shows in smaller cities such as Spokane in the future.

The future of PIPEX

The AGM included a lively discussion about where and when we can expect future PIPEX shows. (See a full discussion of the AGM on page 6.) There will be no PIPEX in 2011, as no club stepped forward that was willing to host it. After the AGM, a group of individuals met and offered to host a 2011 show in the Seattle area. The Federation directors rejected this offer. Their reasons for this decision included the lateness of the offer and the lack of one or more clubs willing and able to host it. (See a discussion of this starting on page 7.)

The good news is that the Oregon Stamp Society (OSS) agreed to host four consecutive PIPEX shows in Portland from 2012-15. Past Portland shows have been well attended and attracted a large group of dealers. OSS, and their many volunteers, do a great job in hosting shows, and I am thankful that they are willing and able to do this. The AGM included some discussion of possibly having Portland be the permanent location for future shows. There are good reasons to consider doing this. No Canadian city has hosted a PIPEX since 2002, and the Seattle area lacks large clubs such as OSS who are willing and able to sponsor a show.

And yet, I do not like the future prospect of having future PIPEX shows in only one location. We are an international federation, and we should have shows in Canadian cities, in the Seattle area, and in smaller US cities. Would Canadian clubs—and many smaller US clubs—feel slighted if they never again hosted a PIPEX? Perhaps financial and logistical realities may make it difficult to have a future PIPEX in other locations, but I hope that we can find a way.

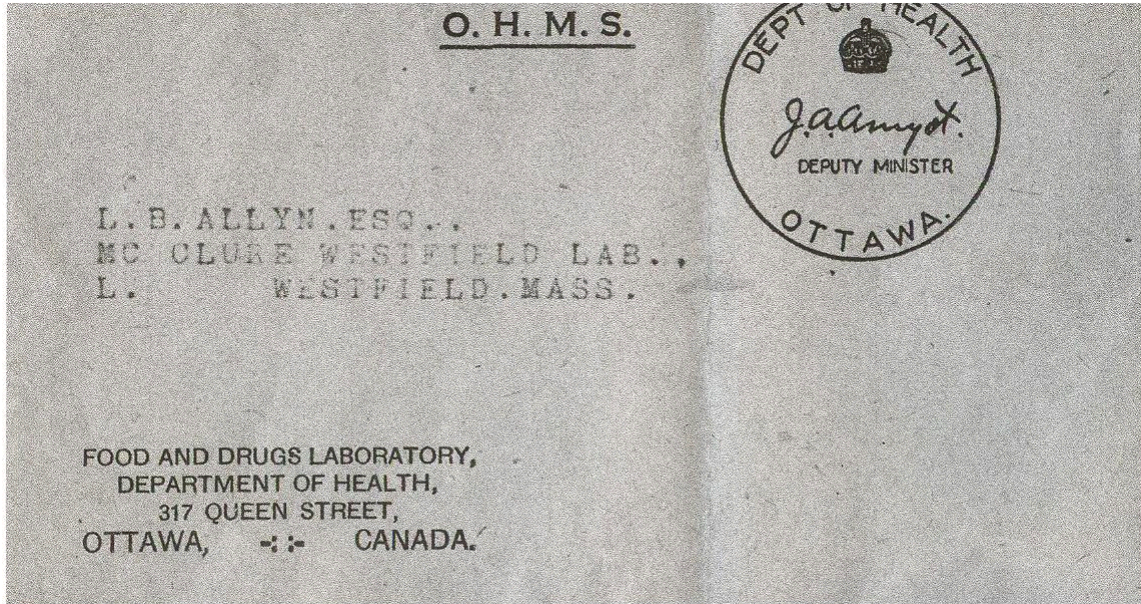
Youth Stamp Collectors

At the AGM we also heard the sad news that Youth Stamp Collectors will cease operation at the end of this December. Carol Edholm is leaving the organization due to health problems. Thanks to Carol and Keith Edholm for their many years supporting young collectors—who truly are the future of philately! See pages 8 and 10 for two articles by Carol, one with her thoughts on how to encourage young collectors and the other a recap of the activities of Youth Stamp Collectors.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2011.

—Larry Mann, Editor

Canadian Official Usages (continued from page 2)



Undated Official Mail, with a circular stamp of the Deputy Minister of the Department of Health. Generally, the franking on second class mail is pre-printed. These are more common than first class mail. This type of franked cover, however, may be more difficult to find simply because a Crown is included within the franking mark. Different designs and sizes of the crown imprint exist amongst different departments.

The 1878 Canada Post Office Act provided for free franking under Section XIV which stated, in part:

2. All letters and other mailable matter passing to or from the Public Departments at Ottawa, including all correspondence addressed to the Ministers in charge of the said departments or to their Private Secretaries, or to the Deputy Heads or Secretaries of the same, as well as all mail matter on which the name or designation of one of the said Public Departments (or branch thereof), at Ottawa, forms part of the address — and this without regard to the name or title of the person to whom the same may be directed.

Postal regulations were changed in 1892 to tighten up rules. Similar rules with minor modifications existed until free franking was abolished in 1972. Since 1972, the UPU regulations require wording similar to “Postage Paid”.



1997 Grizzly Bear, first of the wildlife definitive series.

A Whale of a Stamp!



On October 4, Canada issued a new definitive that is truly a whale of a stamp. The new \$10 stamp is the highest denomination ever issued by Canada Post, and also the largest, at 128 x 49 millimeters, or nearly 5 x 2 inches. The stamp pictures the blue whale, which is the largest animal that has ever existed on earth—larger even than the prehistoric dinosaurs. Blue whales can measure up to 30 meters in length and weigh up to 180 metric tons. Several species of the blue whale are known and they inhabit the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans.

The blue whale stamp is part of a series of Canadian high-value definitive stamps that started in 1997 with an \$8 grizzly bear issue. The stamps are all quite attractive and use traditional intaglio engraving.

PIPEX 2010 Awards

Grand

- **Ron Rhodes**, *South Australia 1855 - 1912*

Reserve Grand

- **Dickson Preston**, *Commercial Zeppelin Mail*

Grand Award Candidates

- **Dale Forster**, *Pacific Northwest Mail Options 1833 - 1870*
- **JW Palmer**, *Usages of the United States Battleship Revenues of 1898 - Documentary and Proprietary*
- **Dickson Preston**, *Commercial Zeppelin Mail*
- **Ron Rhodes**, *South Australia 1855 - 1912*

Gold

- **Tim Bartshe**, *Orange Free State Settings of the VRI Overprints 1900* (& American Philatelic Congress Award)
- **Ingeburg Fisher**, *Nuremberg - Tale of a City* (& ATA 1st Place Medal and Ribbon)
- **Dale Forster**, *Pacific Northwest Mail Options 1833 - 1870* (& U.S. Classics Society Award & APS Award of Excellence pre 1900)
- **JP Gough**, *UPU Rules, Regulations and Rates* (& APS Research Medal)
- **James Graue**, *DLH South Atlantic* (& APS Award of Excellence 1900 - 1940)
- **Ralph Nafziger**, *The 3 Cent 1848 Oregon Territory Issue* (& APS Award of Excellence 1940 - 1980)
- **JW Palmer**, *Usages of the United States Battleship Revenues of 1898 - Documentary and Proprietary* (& Thunderbird Award - An excellent example of showcasing your material to the best advantage, & AAPE Creativity Award)
- **Dickson Preston**, *Commercial Zeppelin Mail* (& Postal History Society Award)
- **Ron Rhodes**, *South Australia 1855 - 1912*
- **William Snider**, *The Beacon Airmail Stamp* (& U.S. Stamp Society Award)
- **Anthony Wawrukiewicz**, *The Sun, Myth, Science, Culture* (& ATA 2nd Place Medal and Ribbon)

Vermeil

- **Lyman Caswell**, *The First Postage Dues of Hungary*
- **Ruth Caswell**, *Literacy* (& AAPE Award of Honor)
- **Ingeburg Fisher**, *Postal Development in Berlin 1945 - 1950*
- **Anne Harris**, *The Golden Age of American Horses* (& AAPE Award of Honor)
- **Dennis Hassler**, *California Express Companies*
- **Larry Mann**, *Spokane Washington: Development of a Post Office 1881 - 1974*
- **Wallis Simpson**, *Great Britain KEVIII*

Silver

- **Chic Bertolacci**, *The Kasimir Stamps of Liechtenstein 1920 - 1925*
- **Dean Goard**, *The Africa Inland Mission - Tracing Its Development Through Postal History*
- **Larry Mann**, *Touring the Fair, 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Post Cards*
- **Howard Ness**, *Dead Letter Mail*
- **Peter Taylor**, *Postmarks of the Mexican Postal System During the 19th Century*

Silver-Bronze

- **Lyman Caswell**, *The Travels of Alexander von Humboldt* (& ATA 3rd Place Medal and Ribbon)
- **Marilyn Miller**, *The Evolution of Olympic Sporting Events* (& The Women's Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award & AAPE Novice Award)
- **John Arn**, *Domestic 1 oz. Letter Rate - 17¢ to 30¢*

Bronze

- **Lisa Foster**, *George Washington: A Philatelic Profile*

Single Frame Awards

Grand

- **Larry Lyons**, *The Carriers of Charleston S.C. 1849 - 1859*

Gold

- **Larry Lyons**, *The Carriers of Charleston S.C. 1849 - 1859*

Vermeil

- **Tim Bartshe**, *Occupation Stationery of the Transvaal 1900 - 1908*
- **Dickson Preston**, *Ben and George Ride Again*

Silver

- **Lyman Caswell**, *Provisional Postage Dues of the First Hungarian Inflation, 1921 - 1926*
- **Anne Harris**, *Ladies With Horses, 1901 - 1925 - The Signatures of 18 Italian Artists*

Bronze

- **David Oldfield**, *Canada's 1985 Parliament Booklet Issue Booklet #88*

Future PIPEX Shows

- **2011** – No show. AGM, April 9 in Moses Lake
- **PIPEX 2012** – May 11-13 in Portland
- **PIPEX 2013** – May 10-12 in Portland
- **PIPEX 2014** – May 9-11 in Portland
- **PIPEX 2015** – May 8-10 in Portland
- **PIPEX 2016** – OPEN

Northwest Federation 2010 Annual General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Executive Secretary Bill Geijsbeek at 8:35 AM on June 5, 2010. It was held at the PIPEX 2010 show in Spokane.

PIPEX 2010 Host Committee Chairman Jay Palmer was introduced. Palmer and the host Inland Empire Philatelic Society were thanked by the Federation for their hard work in putting on PIPEX this year. Anne and David Harris were also thanked for their work in making PIPEX a successful show.

The minutes from the 2009 AGM were read and approved as published in the *Federated Philatelist*.

Bill Geijsbeek gave a brief report on Federation activities in the past year. Two new clubs joined the Federation, the Olympia Stamp Club in Olympia, Washington and the Linn County Philatelic Society in Albany, Oregon. We welcome them to our Federation.

The roll of Federation club members who passed away during the last year was read. This was followed by a minute of silence.

An election was held for Federation directors. Eric Ranger from the BC Philatelic Society was reelected as the Canadian director. Len Lukens of the Oregon Stamp Society was reelected as the US director. Alex Hadden was reelected as NWFSC Treasurer.

Treasurer Alex Hadden gave a brief financial report. The Federation is in good financial condition with over \$15,000 in its accounts.

Carol Edholm, who is the NWFSC Youth Coordinator, gave a detailed report on the activities of her Youth Stamp Collectors organization during the past year. Youth Stamp Collectors is the Federation's outreach program to encourage young stamp collectors. The group had a successful year, including publishing several stamp albums for stamps related to California, several Northwest states, and the US military. Youth Stamp Collectors sponsors youth stamp club meetings in Snohomish County, Washington and works with young people to help them earn the Boy Scouts stamp collecting merit badge. A detailed report will be published in the next issue of the *Federated Philatelist*.

Carol ended her report with an unexpected announcement. Due to health problems, she is resigning as NWFSC Youth Coordinator. She will be closing Youth Stamp Collectors effective December 31, 2010.

A motion was made by Lawrence Clay and seconded by Gray Scrimgeour to thank Carol for her many years of support to young stamp collectors and to philately. The motion passed and Carol received a round of applause.

Bill Geijsbeek called Youth Stamp Collectors a "class act." A brief discussion was held. The Federation would like to continue with some kind of an outreach program

to youth. We are looking for volunteers who can help, and for ideas on what we can do. Please contact Bill Geijsbeek if you have any ideas or would like to become involved.

In the meantime, Carol said that Youth Stamp Collectors will stay active until the end of December. Donations of philatelic material, including stamps, albums, stock books, tongs, mounts, etc. are still needed and can be put to good use. Contact Carol if you can help.

A lengthy discussion ensued about upcoming PIPEX shows. No club has stepped forward and agreed to host PIPEX next year. Because of that, we won't have a PIPEX in 2011. PIPEX is an APS World Series of Philately (WSP) show. The APS requires us to have an annual PIPEX show in order to maintain our WSP status. We can get a one-year bye to excuse us from having the show next year.

The problem is what to do about hosting future PIPEX shows. The Oregon Stamp Society has agreed to host PIPEX in the Portland area in 2012 and 2013. No other PIPEX shows have been scheduled for the future.

While this year's PIPEX is an enjoyable show, with many exhibits, and some good dealers, it will not break even. The show only attracted eight dealers, which was a real disappointment. Costs have also risen over the years, and it is very expensive to host a show, especially if it is held in a hotel.

U.S. dealers seem to have little interest in attending shows in Northwest locations other than Portland and Seattle. Likewise, there is little draw in Canada except for Vancouver, Victoria, and Edmonton. All of these cities would be great for a show, but no clubs have agreed to host a PIPEX there in recent years. There is also the customs problem for both dealers and exhibitors crossing the border with philatelic material.

The Seattle area is a good location for stamp shows, but lacks any large clubs who are willing and able to put on a show like PIPEX. The last Seattle PIPEX was in 2008 – and was run directly by the NWFSC. All PIPEX shows must be hosted by one or more NWFSC clubs. On two different occasions (Vancouver 2002 and Seattle 2008) the Federation sponsored the show when no club or clubs were able to do it. These were exceptions as it was imperative at those times to stage a PIPEX in those cities, and the Federation was able to provide management leadership and obtain the support of several local skilled volunteers.

One suggestion was that PIPEX be held every year in the Portland area. The Oregon Stamp Society is a strong club that has done a great job in hosting previous shows. While this might work, we run the risk that OSS and their many volunteers who help with the show might grow tired

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AGM (continued from page 6)

of doing it repetitively. There is also the issue of fairness. This is brought about by the fact that the Federation has rotated the show for some seventy years. We are a federation of Northwest states and provinces. Would other member clubs be as enthusiastic in supporting the Federation and show if PIPEX became an event scheduled only in the Portland area? On the other side, times have changed and shows that once were economically feasible and club produced in Bellingham, Yakima and Eugene are things of the past. The “P” of PIPEX stands for International. We seem to be losing our opportunity to have Canadian PIPEX shows. There is also the issue of the Federation being an international organization with member clubs in both the US and in Canada. Would it be fair to our Canadian member clubs if we never had another PIPEX in Canada?

Another suggestion was that we could have most PIPEX shows in Portland, with occasional shows in the Seattle area.

Nationally other WSP shows are held in the same permanent location each year. WESTPEX in San Francisco, SESCAL in Los Angeles, and Rocky Mountain in Denver are good examples of this. While we would like to continue to have PIPEX shows in more than one location, it is very difficult to accomplish this.

Howard Ness suggested that the Federation study options for future PIPEX shows. The NWFSC Board members present agreed to hold a fall meeting in Seattle to further explain the situation and to listen to suggestions. The results of the meeting and any new feasible options will be reported back to the membership.

We also need to determine where the next Annual General Meeting will be held, since there will be no PIPEX show in 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

— *Minutes taken by Larry Mann*

Northwest Federation News

— *By Bill Geijsbeek, Executive Secretary*

PIPEX 2010 went very well. Despite the fact that the bourse only had eight dealers they did come from a very diverse geographical area. The exhibits were quite outstanding. PIPEX has a reputation of getting high quality exhibits and this PIPEX did nothing to change that perception. The Annual General Meeting went smoothly until I announced that there would be no PIPEX 2011 as no club had volunteered to stage the show. During the winter and spring of this year I was also unable to (1) get two Seattle based clubs to band together to create a PIPEX 2011 show, or (2) to put together a

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group of volunteers in the Seattle area to allow the Federation to produce a show. As a prelude to all of this, my efforts at trying to get either Victoria or Edmonton interested in doing a PIPEX show were also unproductive.

During 2009, other efforts were made to solicit clubs in Canada as well as in the US to consider hosting PIPEX 2011. All to no avail. This has pretty much been the picture annually for the last decade. At one time, long ago, clubs used to compete for the right to hold a PIPEX show. PIPEX shows were scheduled out several years in advance which also allowed shows to obtain major society conventions – such as AAMS, UPSS, PSS, etc. These society conventions in turn would bring in more show attendees, more outside area exhibits, and a few more dealers.

But alas, times have changed, clubs are smaller, show facilities are more expensive, and, as in many other things, club attitudes have changed from “let us do it” to “let Joe do it.” This has resulted in the NWFSC Board having to take a long, hard look at the practicality of holding PIPEX shows at changing locations.

If the clubs that have the ability to stage a PIPEX show will not step up to do so, the NWFSC needs to change its strategy. Over a year ago the Oregon Stamp Society had expressed a desire to host PIPEX 2012 and PIPEX 2013. The normal process for this is to have a club desiring to host a future PIPEX show to make a presentation at a AGM (hopefully several years in advance) and obtain Federation approval. An OSS presentation should have been made at the AGM in Spokane. Unfortunately personal problems prevented an OSS representative from being there. As Executive Secretary, I clarified this situation at the AGM. After Spokane, OSS changed their request from doing two shows to doing four. The primary reason for such a request was that this would enable OSS to do three things: (1) put together a long term team committed to an annual show and to solicit volunteers to man and staff tasks in a planned and coordinated atmosphere; (2) to allow OSS to obtain better terms and more advantageous cost quotes, and (3) to acquire meeting and convention commitments from Regional and National philatelic organizations.

2015 was the magic cutoff date for OSS as 2016 is the next International Philatelic Exhibition (to be held in New York City). Remember WASHINGTON 2006? The APS would like to move its 2016 APS Stamp Show out of the immediate NY vicinity - probably to the West Coast where it is held once every several years anyway. Portland hosted a very successful APS Stamp Show in 2007. Thus Portland is definitely on the APS’s list for 2016. Based on all of this, the NWFSC Board of Directors approved OSS’s request for four dates for Portland.

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Here's my opinion about kids & philately!



The "Thinking Out Loud" column titled "Why 'No' Kids?" by John Dunn in the July-August 2009 issue of *American Stamp Dealer & Collector* got me to thinking. I agree with him on quite a few points, and would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on some of his points and relate our experience with young stamp collectors.

Yes, youth are interested in stamp collecting. My husband and I have been working with youth up and down the U.S. west coast for the past 17 years (through Youth Stamp Collectors, YSC, a non-profit organization working with youth and educators on the educational benefits of stamp collecting). Each year, we work with over 1,000 youth at over 14 Washington, Oregon and California stamp shows, September through May monthly local youth stamp club meetings and through our monthly mail program. We indirectly work with many more youth through our educators via our Educators Program, which boasts over 50 registered educators from around the U.S. and Canada.

Since I'm sure some of you readers are older than I am, you probably got into stamps in order to "travel the world," so to speak, as mentioned in Mr. Dunn's article. I got into stamps because of my older brother and soon realized it was a way to see outside my corner of earth. This is still true today. We have always, and still do, teach our youth to see the world through stamp collecting. True, many households now have the Internet to see the world. Families do travel. But not everyone has ready access to the Internet. Many of our parents restrict their children's access to the Internet to school work only and maybe to communicate with family members and friends who may live in far-off places. Some of the families we work with do not have computers or Internet access at home. Yes, this is true!

When Junior Philatelists of America closed down several years ago and moved to an Internet-only program,

they lost members who did not have computers or Internet access; we got some of them. Some of our educators, such as stamp show youth chairs, do not have computers or Internet access either. Youth of today DO collect stamps to see faraway places at their fingertips, just as we all did/do. Can you locate Bhutan on a map? Our youth can.

Mr. Dunn is extremely accurate in stating the problem is not youth being un-attracted to stamps, but "lack of effort on our part to attract them." For many years, I've heard philatelists complain that young people are not getting into the hobby. (I've previously written articles for *The American Philatelist* regarding this issue, but we've been too busy the past eight years to submit any written articles to any journal.)

Early in August last year, my husband and I were at a stamp show, a 35-minute ferry ride and a 45-minute drive from home. A visitor wanted some dealers to look at some gold replica stamp covers that he had for sale. I pointed out several dealers who might be interested. I also mentioned that if they were not interested in buying them, he could donate them to a youth program and take a deduction on his taxes. He flat out stated he would rather burn them first! I could not talk him into it, and finally gave up and sent him to the dealers. This gentleman probably couldn't care less about the future of the hobby. To the rest of the complainers and bellyachers out there, there's an old adage that my mother used when I was growing up—Put Up or Shut Up.

Instead of worrying and complaining about the future of the hobby, I agree with Mr. Dunn. Do something about it! YSC, Stamps R Us (California), Stamp Camp USA (east coast), Young Philatelists of America (APS), BNAPS youth program (Canada), ISWSC youth program, ATA youth program, and many other well-established and successful youth programs desperately need your volunteer time, and philatelic and financial support in order to keep their programs running.

Take one of your free days each month, and donate your time that day to assisting a philatelic non-profit organization. If you cannot donate a few hours here and there each month to volunteer some time at a show or club meeting, then donate some of your duplicate stamps. Are they taking up storage space in your spouse's hobby room? Stamps, covers, albums, catalogues and other supplies are always greatly appreciated. Do you claim charitable donations on your income tax return each year? In this economy, we are all suffering from loss of financial support. The various youth programs in the U.S. and Canada are not in competition with each other; they and collectors like you, all need to work together to reach out to as many youth and educators as you can. If your local stamp show has a youth area or will be hosting a Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge workshop, assist in getting flyers out to youth and to family-friendly public areas. (A helpful list can be found at

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Kids & philately (continued from page 8)

www.stamps.org/directories/dir_ShowManual.htm. Scroll down to Youth Activities, and read the article, "Youth/Educator Area Guidelines").

Today, we need a different approach in getting youth involved in stamps, as the youth of today are different than when we were growing up. Our environment and lifestyles are different; thus, the reasons we were attracted to philately do not necessarily apply today. We have to reach out to the youth differently. We've found over the years that when you approach a youth about stamps, you need to find out what their general interests are FIRST, then apply stamps to it.

For instance, at a Portland, Oregon, show years ago, a woman brought in her teenage son. She wanted him to get interested; he was not. She left him at the youth area. I started a dialogue by asking him what his general interests were. He liked marbles. I'm sure there are marbles on stamps, but I was pretty sure we did not have them in our pick tubs (we use tubs of stamps for the youth to pick out stamps they want, instead of handing out stamp packets which would probably include stamps they would not want). I asked him what else he was interested in. He said he liked rocks and gems.

Now we were getting somewhere! I encouraged him to come closer to the worldwide off-paper pick-tub and started searching for rocks and gems on stamps. I found several. He showed interest, and then I encouraged him to go through the mix. He spent about an hour at the pick tub searching for stamps that interested him. By the time his mom was ready to leave, he had quite a few stamps in his glassine—and they weren't all rocks and gems. He also had airplanes and sports. As he was leaving, he said, "Maybe stamps aren't so bad after all." I do not know where this young man is today, as so many families move between shows that we only see them once or twice. Even if he did not continue his collection, the "bug" had been planted. Be aware, though, that over the years, many youth whose families stay in the area do return to the stamp shows time and again.

To keep youth interested in stamps, patience from adults and accessibility to stamps and supplies are strong determining factors. This is why we set up a youth area at so many stamp shows on the west coast. I remember when I was growing up that my only access to stamps was when my parents bought me a pound or two from Littleton Stamp Company for my birthday and Christmas. I think they took me to a stamp store once or twice. I grew up reading the *Stamp Collector* newspaper and was sad to see it go away. Nowadays, youth need that accessibility more than when I was growing up. They

themselves to stamp shows and club meetings. Once parents see the educational side of stamps, they are all too willing to bring their family to the shows, before or after soccer practice. Home-school families and co-ops love well-planned stamp show youth areas. Besides US and worldwide stamp and cover pick tubs, we always have educational projects for the entire family to work on.

It is true that not all youth stay with stamps—the same as when we were kids. School sports often interfere with stamps. Once in high school, dating sometimes interferes, but mostly it is the heavy homework load our youth of today must endure. And then, there is college. As for getting youth started in stamp collecting, video games and TV are only a small reason why they are not interested. Pushy parents and relatives often stifle stamp creativity.

At another stamp show years ago in Portland, Oregon, a father brought in his two middle-school aged sons. He dropped them off at the youth area, but with strict reminders that one collects US only and the other collects worldwide only. The boys were not happy with this and did end up choosing stamps outside of their areas. The father was upset when he came to get them. Do you think these boys continued with stamps? They probably did not. Young people must be allowed to choose the stamps that they want to collect. Most will eventually specialize. I did not specialize for many years, but now India is my top specialty, although I still collect general worldwide.

A happy story: Young people have come to monthly stamp club meetings straight from swimming—cutting swimming short, because stamps were more fun. They even said that stamps were more fun than video games. One youth was in town from Canada for a hockey game; he and his family were staying at the stamp show hotel. They saw on the hotel's TV daily activities listing that a stamp show was in the hotel that day. This young man was very excited as he had always wanted to start collecting stamps. His parents said he could attend the show after his morning swim.

When we came in to unload and set up the youth area for the show, there were several older gentlemen and one young boy waiting for the show to open. We thought the boy was a grandson of one of the other customers. Not so—the Canadian boy cut his swimming short so he could attend the show. He was first in line. After a couple of hours of stamp fun, his parents told him he had to change for his game. That was probably the fastest change in history! He was looking forward to his game, but he wanted to stay for the show too. When it was time to leave, the parents almost had to drag him and his two sisters from the show!

Remember, not all youth are geared for stamp collecting, just as not all youth are geared for sports, music, or art.

— *Continued on page 11*

Youth Stamp Collectors



— By Carol Edholm

After struggling with this decision for two years, I will be closing Youth Stamp Collectors on December 31, 2010. Some of you know I've had health issues the past seven years. I've been able to hide it pretty well from the rest of you, but it is time to quit.

Whatever funds and stock are left when we close the books will be divided up amongst our educators and other youth programs per YSC by-laws. At the end of the year, I will provide Federation clubs with a list of youth stamp clubs, youth programs, and educators who would appreciate your donations starting next year.

I have been Federation Youth Chair for almost 12 years. Keith and I have been running Youth Stamp Collectors for 17. We have seen a lot of changes in philately during that time and have adjusted our programs to suit youth and educators' on-going needs.

Over the years, a few of you have donated funding, stamps and supplies. Some of you have even volunteered to help out at stamp shows. Your support has been greatly appreciated each and every time!

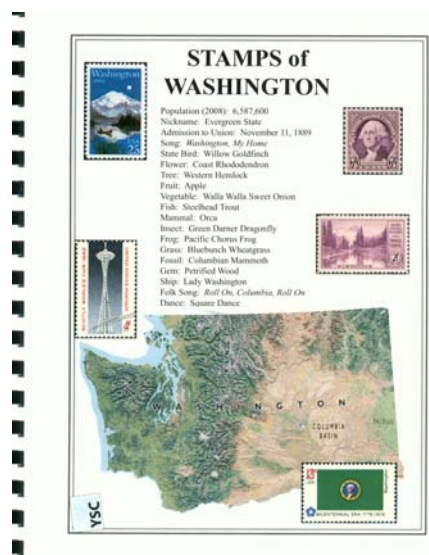
I hope all of you and your clubs will provide financial and in-kind donations and volunteer time to the new Federation Youth Chair, if someone will volunteer.

And now a little history of what's been accomplished during the past 12 years. Youth Stamp Collectors participated in its first PIPEX in 1999 in Portland, and have been a regular part of that and many other shows in the years since. We provided the youth area for the 2008 National Topical Stamp Show. At that show, young collectors received a Philatelic Passport that we created and printed with money from a BNAPS grant.

We have published a regular newsletter and had a Web site for many years. Past issues of our newsletter can be viewed at <http://www.ysci.org/>.

We have conducted many educator workshops to train people to work with young stamp collectors. Educators include public and private school teachers in grades from elementary school through high school; home school parents and co-ops; youth leaders in Scouting and in church-based youth groups; stamp club and stamp show leaders. We have given many Boy Scout Stamp Collecting merit badge training workshops and workshops to introduce Cub Scouts to the hobby.

Of course, we would not be able to do this work without volunteers. Over the years, volunteers have sorted and soaked stamps, put together stamp packets for fundraising events and to distribute to young collectors, and appraised donations.



In the past two years, Youth Stamp Collectors has created and distributed a series of stamp albums, such as the above album for the *Stamps of Washington*. The other albums were for the stamps of Oregon and California, the US Military, and for Canadian Maple Leaf and Flag Definitives.

Other members of Federation clubs have been especially active in working with young people. Robin Clarke, of Victoria, BC, works with a group that meets on the first Friday of each month, from September through May. Their meetings include philatelic quizzes, games, auctions, and training in how to create stamp exhibits. Members of that club have exhibited at VICTOPICAL and VICPEX. Don Shorting is also active in the Victoria area, working with youth and educators in several different schools.

Norma Nielson works with a Calgary club that meets on the second Saturday of each month from September through May. They give presentations at a local library for youth, adults, and senior citizens.

Kids & philately (continued from page 9)

We have had youth who started collecting stamps in grade school and managed to keep collecting through high school and into college. They are the ones who plan on collecting their entire lives. NO, I do not have numbers of how many youth will/have become life-long collectors. We lose touch with many youth over the years as families move and parents decide not to renew their children's stamp club membership. But as long as we are out there, making stamps accessible to youth, they will collect, and for several years at least.

Our Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge workshops the past two years at California's WESTPEX have been quite successful. Due to the interest these workshops have generated in the Bay Area, two of our Scout leaders are working hard at getting these workshops at Filatelic Fiesta and PENPEX—and the PENPEX youth area will be expanding.

So who am I? I am a 47-year old female philatelist. I started collecting stamps at around eight years old because my big brother was collecting. I grew up collecting singularly—I knew of no one else who collected in my school or neighborhood. My brother eventually quit stamps, but got back into it 20 years later, collecting German and Russian Cold War era. Of eight siblings, all but two collected. Most collected for several years before quitting. (I "inherited" all their collections, so I won out on all those coin tosses after all!) I never quit; I am a diehard, life-long collector. I took my collection to college. I collected while raising my younger siblings (who got started because of my love of philately and still collect to some extent today). I managed to buy stamps when our finances were bad with my husband out of work for 2½ years, and still, to this day, work on my collection even though most of my time is spent working on our various YSC youth and educator programs. I've been exhibiting for the past ten years. After three years of marriage, my husband started collecting stamps; we've been married for 20 years now. Our local stamp dealers can tell you stories about our collecting competitions!

So, come on everyone—get off your duff, out of your recliner and/or stamp chair, and reach out to youth and support your local (or any) youth philatelic organization. Volunteer a few hours a month, open your wallets and clean out your closets and drawers. Mr. Dunn is correct—find out what young people want to collect—after all, the stamp collection is theirs. We've already got ours.

Please contact me if you have stamps and supplies, funds, or time to donate; I will help you find a youth program in your area that would appreciate your support.

— *American Stamp Dealer & Collector, July-August, 2010*

Federation News (continued from page 7)

Another date to remember is the Inland Empire Philatelic Day on April 9, 2011 at Moses Lake. This event was not held this year as health forced John Arn, the venerable operator of the event for 20 years, to discontinue the show for 2010. The NWFSC has now picked up Inland Empire Philatelic Day and it will be held on April 9, 2011. Please see the NWFSC website at www.nwfdstamps.org for full information. Even though there will not be a PIPEX 2011, there still will be an NWFSC Annual General Meeting (AGM). In order to make this get together tie into a philatelic event, the NWFSC Board has decided to hold the meeting at the 2011 Inland Empire Philatelic Day.

Another change to the NWFSC is taking place. Over the past ten or so years, attendance at AGM's (always held during PIPEX) has dwindled. Many clubs do not send a representative and therefore our meetings have been getting smaller. At Spokane the majority of attendees were not stamp club representatives but individual collectors. That is fine, but what gets lost in the crowd is the fact that it is the individual clubs that run the Federation, not a group of unrelated individuals. In order to change this focus and bring it back to the level where every Federation stamp club has a right to voice its opinion and be heard, much more decision-making is going to have to be done via mail or e-mail. The AGM will become more of a sounding board while voting will be done offline. I would appreciate your thoughts about this.

As was mentioned at the Spokane AGM, two additional clubs have joined the NWFSC – the Linn County Stamp Club (Albany, Oregon) and the Olympia Stamp Club (Olympia, Washington). We welcome both of these new clubs. In a previous life, the Albany Stamp Club (a completely different club, now defunct) belonged to the NWFSC. The Olympia Stamp Club belonged to the NWFSC years ago. On another note, the Boeing Employees Stamp Club, founded in 1955, has disassociated itself from the Boeing Company Recreation Group and in compliance with a request from The Boeing Company has changed its name. Their new name is the Evergreen Stamp Club.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone.

— *Bill Geijsbeek*

Seasons Greetings 2010



PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2011 STAMP SHOWS / BOURSES

includes other major shows and holidays in bold

2011			Revised: Nov 27, 2010		
SHOW DATES					
FRI	SAT	SUN	SHOW NAME	Location	Type
	Jan-01		NEW YEARS DAY 2011 (Saturday)		
	Jan-08	Jan-09			
Jan-14	Jan-15	Jan-16	ARIPEX 2011	Tucson, AZ	WSP show
Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23	SANDICAL 2011	San Diego, CA	WSP show
Jan-28	Jan-29	Jan-30	ORCOEXPO 2011	Garden Grove, CA	show
	Feb-05	Feb-06			
		Feb-13	Fenwick	Seattle	bourse*
Feb-11	Feb-12	Feb-13	APS AmeriStamp Expo 2011	Charleston, SC	WSP show
	Feb-19	Feb-20			
		Feb-21	PRESIDENT'S DAY (Monday)		
Feb-25	Feb-26	Feb-27	APEX 2011	Anchorage	show
	Mar-05	Mar-06	NWSDA Show	Seattle	bourse*
	Mar-12	Mar-13	VICTOPICAL	Victoria	bourse
	Mar-19		STAMPEX - Spring 2011	Salem	bourse
		Mar-20	SPRINGPEX 2011	Eugene	show
		Mar-20	Sno-King Stamp Club Show	Everett	show
Mar-25	Mar-26	Mar-27	Edmonton Spring National Show	Edmonton	Nat'l show
	Apr-02	Apr-03	Bellingham Stamp Club Show	Bellingham	bourse*
	Apr-02	Apr-03	SOPEX 2011	Medford	show
	Apr-09		Inland Empire Philatelic Day	Moses Lake	seminar
		Apr-10	Fenwick	Seattle	bourse*
	Apr-16	Apr-17	Evergreen (Boeing) Stamp Club Show	Kent	bourse
	Apr-23	Apr-24			
	Apr-24		EASTER		
	Apr-30		OLYMPIA ROUNDUP	Olympia	bourse
Apr-29	Apr-30	May-01	WESTPEX 2011	San Francisco, CA	WSP show
	May-07	May-08			
May-13	May-14	May-15	Rocky Mtn Stamp Show 2011	Denver	WSP show
	May-21	May-22			
	May-28	May-29	Portland METRO Show	Portland	show
	May-30		MEMORIAL DAY (Monday)		

2011 Inland Empire Philatelic Day

After a year's absence, the once annual Inland Empire Philatelic Day will return on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at the Best Western Hotel in Moses Lake, Washington. The Hospitality room will be open at 5:30 PM on April 8th and the meeting will begin at 8:30 AM on April 9th. The Northwest Federation Annual General Meeting will begin at 7:30 AM on April 9.

Complete details and registration instructions will be available in early 2011. Details will be in the next issue of the *Federated Philatelist* as well as on the Northwest Federation Web site: www.nwfedstamps.org.

Future PIPEX Shows

- 2011 – No show. Annual General Meeting, April 9 in Moses Lake (Inland Empire Philatelic Day)
- PIPEX 2012 – May 11-13 in Portland
- PIPEX 2013 – May 10-12 in Portland
- PIPEX 2014 – May 9-11 in Portland
- PIPEX 2015 – May 8-10 in Portland
- PIPEX 2016 – OPEN