

# PHILATELIC BULLETIN



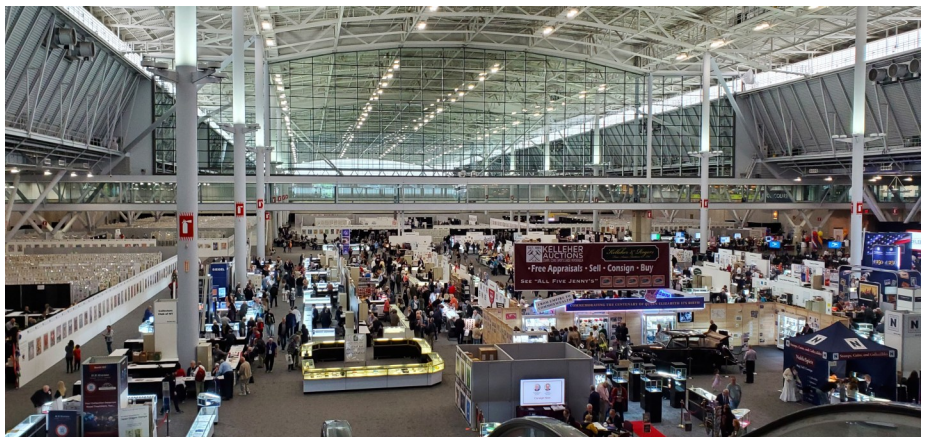
Sarasota Philatelic Club

## Recap of the Boston 2026 World Expo

By Vincent Centonze

If you attended the Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo held May 23-31, 2026, you were at the center of the Philatelic Universe. It was literally the philatelic event of the decade, since it is only held once every ten years. Several members of our club attended and there's no doubt that a great time was had by all.

The show boasted over 4000 frames of world-class exhibits. To put this in perspective, each frame consists of 16 pages of material. This was the annual APS Champion of Champions competition, and a few of our club members had exhibits.



The Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo held May 23-31, 2026, at the Boston Convention and Exhibit Center. This largest philatelic event of the decade boasted more than 4000 frames of exhibits.

In addition to the competitive exhibits, there were also non-competitive displays, such as the Court of Honor. Some spectacular rarities were showcased as part of invited exhibits from all over the world. These included a cover flown on the "Buffalo Balloon" flight, to a letter with the earliest known American Spanish Colonies hand stamped postal marking.

2026

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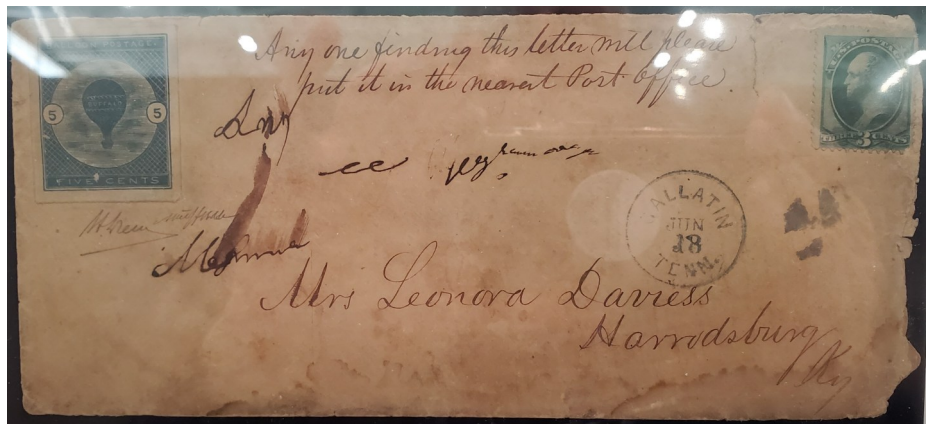
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## Stamp Quiz



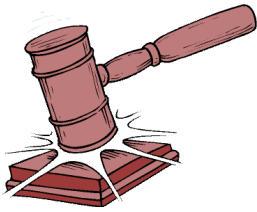
Here's another challenging Stamp Quiz. Part of a stamp is shown here. Can you guess the country,

stamp, and denomination? Rules: The stamp quiz stamps will always be definitives and not particularly uncommon! Here's a hint: the stamp is engraved, unwatermarked, perforated 12, and was issued on ordinary paper and paper with a dull fluorescence. That should help you narrow down the time period. If you know the answer, email me at [centonzevincent@gmail.com](mailto:centonzevincent@gmail.com). Good luck!



The Court of Honor showcased items such as this cover flown on the June 18, 1877, flight of the "Buffalo Balloon" from Nashville, to Gallatin, TN. The cover bears a 5¢ semi-official balloon postage stamp and a 3¢ Washington large banknote stamp.

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## The Prez Sez ...

Dear Club members—

It was a memorable May—I am pleased that our editor did such a through job of conveying to you the excitement that was Boston 2026—I must admit that as a judge, I didn't get to attend many outside functions although I was able to find time to visit the Queen's Rolls!

If you want more pictures go to the Boston 2026 Summary page below—with luck it's a hyperlink

<https://web.cvent.com/event/bbbdc1d9-e50e-44dd-8bef-eb36c9d1251f/summary>

and scroll to the bottom section to see pictures by the day.

See you then! Pat

The club meeting in July will be Tuesday the 7th at 5:30 at The Alloro—Dan Walker will give a brief presentation titled: Paying for the Civil War—an introduction to the first Federal Revenue Stamps.

## Recap of the Boston 2026 World Expo (cont.)

Another of the many highlights was a special pavilion entitled *From Empire to Commonwealth – Commemorating the Centenary of Queen Elizabeth II's Birth*. This contained postal items and ephemera which explored the role of the British monarchy in philately and consisted of material on loan from public organizations such as the British Library and several private collections. Upon entering the pavilion, you were immediately greeted by Queen Elizabeth's large Rolls Royce, her first official royal automobile and one of only 18 produced for government dignitaries. The exhibit also included the unique New Zealand 4d Lake Taupo inverted center stamp. On loan from a private collection, this is the only known copy. It was discovered in London 26 years after it was issued and is rarely on public display.



**(Left)** Queen Elizabeth II's Rolls Royce, her first official royal automobile and one of 18 produced. It was on display in the special exhibit, *From Empire to Commonwealth – Commemorating the Centenary of Queen Elizabeth II's Birth*. **(Right)** Curator of the British Library philatelic collection, Richard Morel, explaining material in the special exhibit, *From Empire to Commonwealth – Commemorating the Centenary of Queen Elizabeth II's Birth*.

The show featured eight jam packed days with live auctions, presentations, and book signings. For the kids, there were youth and beginner areas along with a Lego display. There were also over a hundred dealers, auction houses, and philatelic societies. Postal administrations from 25 countries were also in attendance. Of course, the US Postal Service had a major presence, and held a first day ceremony every day of the show. The USPS booth took up a large area of the hall and bustled daily with long lines of patrons purchasing new issues and mailing commemorative souvenir cards and covers. There was a lot of philatelic material created and sent by patrons from the show; however, there was at least one commercial parcel sent... that was mine! I purchased so many books and bulky items that I had to mail them home – I'm sure a lot of other collectors did likewise. Many societies had tables and hosted membership meetings and social functions. Every day there were dozens of informative presentations conducted by the various specialty societies and other organizations such as the American Philatelic Society and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

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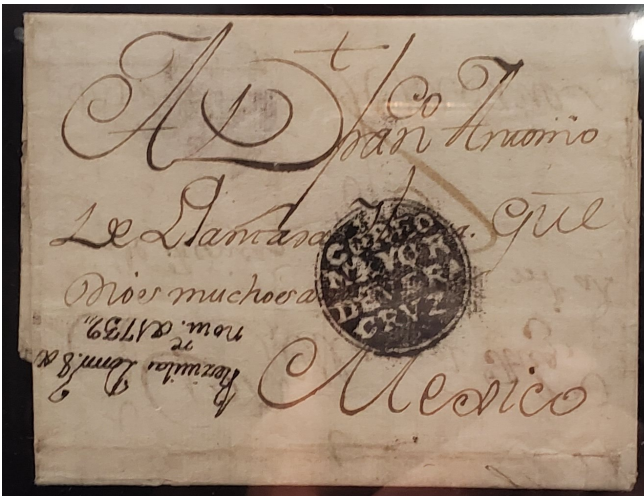
## Recap of the Boston 2026 World Expo (cont.)

As if the expo itself wasn't enough to overwhelm the philatelic senses, the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History is located near Boston in Weston, Massachusetts. The museum was founded by Cardinal Francis Joseph Spellman in 1963 from his own collection. Over the years it has grown exponentially through purchases and donations. On certain days during the show, shuttles ran between the expo hall and the museum. I took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Spellman, which is a treasure to the philatelic world. Although not very big, the Spellman museum has some great permanent and rotating exhibits and a magnificent philatelic library... one of the few in the country. If you visit the Boston area, be sure to take some time to stop by the Spellman Museum. There is also some great material and souvenirs available in the museum store.

The Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo was especially memorable since it was held during the year of our country's 250th birthday, and there was no more appropriate place to hold the show during this milestone year than Boston, which is so closely associated with our nation's founding. The next World Expo will be held in 2036. Although the location has not yet been decided, one thing's for sure – it will be hard to top the philatelic extravaganza that was just held in Boston. Happy Collecting!



The Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History Philatelic Museum and Library operated a shuttle to and from the expo hall on certain days during the expo. The museum was founded by Cardinal Francis Joseph Spellman in 1963 from his own collection. The museum has amazing exhibits on permanent and rotating display and an impressive philatelic library.



New Zealand SG  
322c  
Inverted center  
Only known copy



Image 250% of actual size

Some more gems from the Boston 2026 World Expo: (Left) In the Court of Honor, this 1739 internal letter from Veracruz to Mexico City bears the earliest known handstamp marking in the Spanish colonies. The postmark reads, COREA / MAYOR / DE VERA / CRUZ. (Right) In the special exhibit, *From Empire to Commonwealth – Commemorating the Centenary of Queen Elizabeth II's Birth*, the unique inverted New Zealand 4d Lake Taupo inverted center stamp, is from a private collection. It has only been on public display very few times in the 96 years since its discovery in London in 1930. The stamp was printed in 1904.

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