



# WASHINGTON CITY DESPATCH



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NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB  
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## WSCC Remembers Nicholas Carter

Nicholas G. Carter, president of the American Philatelic Society, died Sept. 11 at his home in Bethesda. He was an economist at the World Bank and later became an economic consultant. He retired in 2002. In addition to his role as the current president of the APS, Mr. Carter had been an executive committee member of the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. He also was on the board of directors of NAPEX and a member of the Council of Philatelists at the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum. While not a member of the WSCC, he supported us and all stamp collectors. The membership of the WSCC sends their condolences to his family.

## Otto Thamasett Receives the Gantz Award for 2008

By Don Peterson  
Photographer Tadas Osmolskis



WSCC President **C. A. Stillions** presented the **Gantz Award** for 2008 to **Otto Thamasett** on behalf of the Washington Stamp Collectors Club. The presentation was made at the Third Annual DeVoss-Gantz Awards Dinner held at Tony Cheng's Seafood Restaurant on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Gantz Award is presented each year for outstanding philatelic service by a non-WSCC member to the Washington, DC local and regional area. Nominations are made by members of the WSCC and are voted on by the membership. This year's recipient was nominated by two members of the club and was unanimously chosen to be honored with this award.

**Otto Thamasett** joined the Springfield Stamp Club in the mid-1970s and served two terms as president and one as vice-president of the club. He has been a member on the SPRINGPEX show committee since 1979, served on the Trophies, Security, and Printing committees and did the Show cachets for 17 years from 1990 to 2007. He was Co-Chairman of SPRINGPEX in 1986-1987, and continuously since 2002. He joined NAPEX in 2002 as a Director, and has been in charge of covers and souvenir cards ever since.

**Otto** was Chairman of Show Sales for WASHINGTON 2006, and by the way, did an outstanding job. He is the Current President of Graebner Chapter #17 of the American First Day Cover Society. Last and certainly not least, **Otto Thamasett** is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.



Many of his friends attended the Awards Dinner to honor **Otto**.

Here **Neal Parr**, a member of Graebner chapter #17 and the Springfield Stamp Club, **May Day Taylor**, WSCC member, **Otto Thamasett**, and **Rollin Berger**, editor of the *Graebner Gazette*, join to celebrate at the Awards Dinner.

The WSCC membership joins in thanking **Otto** for his contributions to the philatelic community and looks forward to working with him in the years to come.

## Awards Dinner a Real Philatelic Affair The Program 'Covers' the Menu



Along with the promise of vegetarian spring rolls, Kung Pao Chicken, Sweet and Sour Pork, fried rice and fortune cookies, each person attending the Third Annual WSCC DeVoss-Gantz Awards dinner on October 1<sup>st</sup> received a collectible program that was stamped inside with a 42 cent Celebrate stamp and cancelled at the National Postal Museum station in Washington, D.C. on October 1, 2008.

Thanks go to President, **C. A. Stillions** and **Virginia Randolph** for providing this memento of a great evening.

## Tables Turned at Awards Dinner

**Photographer Tadas Osmolskis**

The Annual DeVoss-Gantz Awards Dinner was held on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the popular Chinatown restaurant, Tony Cheng's Seafood Restaurant. Over 40 WSCC members, spouses, and friends attended and enjoyed a delicious selection of dishes, from soup to fortune cookies. The conversation was filled with smiles and laughter as old friends and new caught up with happenings in the philatelic world of Washington, D.C.







After dinner, **President C.A. Stillions** began the program by asking for a moment of silence to remember three Life Members of the WSCC who had passed away this year. These members were **James DeVoss**, **James Kerr**, and **Jerome Sherman**. The Gantz Award was presented to Otto Thamasett.



Then **President Stillions** announced that the Executive Committee could not decide on just one person for the **DeVoss Award**. Instead, a team had been selected. Then he announced that the winners for 2008 were the *Despatch* editors, **Bill and Janet Hughes**. It was several seconds before they realized what had been said. The element of surprise was certainly evident on their faces.

The editors had been preparing to interview and take pictures of the DeVoss awardee. The tables were turned.

## Note from the Editors

We would like to thank all those involved in selecting us for the **DeVoss Award**. We agreed to work on the newsletter in order to help the club and in the process it became a labor of love for both of us. This award was totally unexpected and we are deeply appreciative that our work has been noticed. We will strive to make this a fun and informative publication that all the members can enjoy. This is your *Despatch*. We look forward to receiving more contributions in the future from all of you. Thank you again.

## Pre-Meeting ‘Get-Togethers’ Fun and Friendly

One of the best ways to begin an evening of swapping and trading is to attend the pre-meeting ‘get-togethers’ held at the Cantina Marina Restaurant, located next to Odyssey Boat Tours, Water Street, S.W., Washington, DC starting at 5:30 P.M. All members and their guests are invited to attend. Here we see some of our members enjoying a light meal and catching up on some of the latest philatelic happenings. It is almost a ‘tropical’ atmosphere. Whenever the weather turns a bit cold, there is an upstairs room that overlooks the harbor. Also starting in December through March, when winter sets in, the pre-meetings will be held at the Pier 7 lounge at the Channel Inn, just two blocks from the Cantina Marina.

**Don Peterson** asked **President C.A. Stillions** how Cantina Marina had been selected as the pre-meeting site. Not only had **C.A.** visited this restaurant, but was the structural engineer who designed it, when it was known as the Gangplank. Some of us have lived here long enough to remember that name. Now you know the “rest of the story.”



## EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED

**6 November** Mr. Beasley Stamp Club, Parrish Hall, Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, Chevy Chase, MD, 4:30 P.M., Auction of high quality philatelic material, Contact person: May Day Taylor, [maydaytaylor@verizon.net](mailto:maydaytaylor@verizon.net).

**17 December** WSCC Holiday Party/Dinner and Donation Auction, 7:00 P.M., downstairs hall at regular meeting site, Christ Methodist Church. Members bring a potluck dish to share and quality items to auction.



## WSCC Member Presents at Blount Symposium

By Martin Fleischer

In preparation for her talk to the Blount Symposium on Postal History at the National Postal Museum at the end of September, **Dr. Robin Gates Elliott**, WSCC Member, presented her topic to the WSCC at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The title of **Dr. Elliott's** presentation was "Philatelic Propaganda: Border Changes in Eastern Europe, 1938-1941."

Those who have an interest in twentieth century European history may know to varying degrees the way in which so much of Europe was "sliced and diced" at the Versailles conference. But it did not end there. Especially in the 1930's and early 1940's, various countries were once again practicing a "slice and dice" form of territorial expansion. Most are familiar with the Third Reich's annexation of the Rhineland, Austria, Danzig, and the Sudetenland, etc. but there were other countries also playing the land grab game. Such activities on the part of Russia, Hungary, and Romania were wonderfully explicated by **Dr. Elliott** during her talk. The unique element in her presentation was the review of specific stamp issues which depicted the actual or allegorical moment of the annexation, and showed exactly how stamp design and execution produced incredible miniature propaganda posters, extolling the need for, and results of, territorial annexation.



**Dr. Elliott** explored the meaning behind Poland SC 334(1938). The stamp depicts a benevolent (sword pointed downward) Mother Poland welcoming peoples from what was previously Czechoslovak territory.

She pointed out that the low, wall-like structure is actually an uprooted and thrown down border post and the area of different shading in the background is indeed a map of the annexed territory. She was able to pull this information from the stamp's design. All the Scott catalog informs us is: "issued in commemoration of the restoration of the territory ceded by Czechoslovakia."



Another example discussed was Russia SC 767 – 771. This 1940 issue commemorated the "liberation" of the territories and peoples of Western Ukraine and Western Belorussia (sometimes known as White Russia) in September, 1939. The five different stamps depict locals enthusiastically welcoming the Red Army and that army interacting with locals and providing assistance. Many other examples were shown and discussed, including the issues of Hungary (SC B98 – 102; B123 – 125) and Romania (SC B195 – 197). For each series, **Dr. Elliott** explained the political and economic reasons for each country's annexation and situated the territories in question with a series of maps. Through her fascinating presentation, club members were treated to an infinite variety of philatelic research.

## More New Holdings At NPM

**DAN PIAZZA**, Assistant NPM Curator and WSCC member, has provided the WSCC newsletter editors with lists of several new books which have been added to the holdings of the NPM Library. The editors are providing a list of some of these books, as space permits. Thanks to **DAN** and to the **NPM Librarian**.

The revenue stamped paper of Mexico , 1821-1876 :  
An illustrated catalog and history of renta papel  
sellado in post-independence Mexico // Donald O.  
Scott and Frank A. Sternad.  
HJ5377.Z7 S36 2006 Imprint: [S.l. : s.n.] c2006.

Prisoners of war in British hands during WWI : a  
study of their history, the camps and their mails // by  
Graham Mark. UH85.G7 M37 2007 Imprint: [ Great  
Britain ] : The Postal History Society, 2007.

The postal stationery of the Bechuanalands and  
Botswana // Peter Thy, John Inglefield-Watson.  
HE6184.S73 T59 2004 Imprint: London : British  
Philatelic Trust 2004.

Postal history of United States forces in British  
Solomon Islands protectorate during World War II.  
Jersey, Stanley C. UH83 .J56 Imprint: [State College  
Pa. ] American Philatelic Society, 1968.

Forgeries of the dragon, cherry blossom, and koban  
stamps of Japan [electronic resource] // by Ron  
Casey, Thomas L. Zane and Lois M. Evans-de  
Violini. mrdf 000692 Imprint: Haddonfield , NJ :  
International Society for Japanese Philately, c2002.

United States post offices // compiled by Richard W.  
Helbock. HE6366 .H45 1998  
Imprint: Lake Oswego, Or. : La Posta Pub., c1998-

## Just a Bit of Philatelic ‘Phun’

From the *Indianapolis Star*, January 29, 1935 (abridged and emphasis added):

**Provided by Dan Piazza**

Oh, Mr. James A. Farley, what is it that you’ve done?  
Sent postage stamps to all your friends, and meant it just in fun?  
You sent them stamps, the papers say, with neither holes nor glue.  
And if you ask me, I would say “A silly thing to do!”

Oh, Mr. James A. Farley, you’ll be a nervous wreck!  
The stamp collectors are all mad – you’ve got ‘em on your neck!  
*Of all the fatal things to do, it absolutely fatalest*  
*To rouse the hidden cave-man in a gentle, calm philatelist.*

Oh, Mr. James A. Farley, I say alas, alack!  
You’d better get to work at once, and get those stamps all back!  
Or else those mad philatelists, determined, tough and grim,  
Will all descend on Washington – I thought I’d warn you, Jim!

Oh, Mr. James A. Farley, the thing I cannot see  
Is why, when sending stamps around, you didn’t think of me!

## President STILLIONS' Message

While the calendar year is coming to an end, the stamp collecting year continues. We will be topping off our calendar year with our annual holiday party. It is a pot luck dinner and a donation auction. It is always our most well attended event. It has become so well attended that we have rented a larger hall for the evening. This year as last we have booked the church's downstairs great hall for the evening. It will provide more space for all those who attend as well as more space to layout the auction lots. We have three donation auctions a year and the money realized goes a long way towards paying for the rent for our meeting place. The better the quality of the donations, the more spirited the bidding, the more money raised, the more our dues remain unchanged. So this holiday please plan to donate quality material and, just as importantly, bid generously.

Happy Holidays.

## WSSC MEETING PROGRAMS November and December 2008

5 November	Speaker, Joel Fassler
19 November	Swap and Trade
3 December	Speaker, Ellen Frost
17 December	Holiday Party, Dinner and Donation Auction

### Looking Ahead to 2009

7 January	Swap and Trade and Nominations for Officers
21 January	Annual Business Meeting / Election of Officers for 2009
4 February	Annual Herbert Cover Contest, details in January <i>Despatch</i>
18 February	Member Auction

## WSSC Members Win Awards at BALPEX 2008

By Don Peterson

Many WSSC members traveled to Hunt Valley, Maryland to attend BALPEX 2008, August 29-31, 2008. **Doug Lehmann** won a show Silver-Bronze award for his 1-frame "World War II Ration Books"; **Joyce Adams** won a Silver award for her 1-frame "Another Guatemalan Postal Card: the 1890 3 Centavos Torquoise Blue", and a show Silver and Silver Women's Exhibitors Award for her 4-frame "A Guatemalan Postal Card: the 1890 3 centavos Carmine Red"; and **Patricia Stilwel Walker** won a show Vermeil award for her 7-frame "Howard County, Maryland". Congratulations to our accomplished exhibitors. Many WSSC members also actively attended specialty meetings and philatelic events at the show, including **Don Peterson, Dan Piazza, Doug Lehmann, Bill Sandrik, Joel Fassler**, and others. We definitely are not a shy group.



## Round Daters: Back to Square One

By Phil Uhlmann

Even though I've been flat out denied a round date or postmark on a single stamped outgoing envelope in only, say, 2% of the post offices at which I requested it, the most recent refusal prompted me to take action. I went directly to the National Postal Headquarters at L'enfant Plaza for a long-sought clarification. It took quite a while, but they did finally research my query and I received the following information by email. Reference the "Round Date Stamp: Though it is an all-purpose date stamp, the Round Dater should not be used to cancel or postmark mail, and is always used with red ink." However, regarding "Local Postmarks: The local postmark **must be made available** in all post offices, stations and branches at a customer's request... **There are no exceptions for this policy.**" (I have added the emphasis.)

I will carry this e-letter with me at all times, and will not hesitate to show it to any postal clerk or postmaster who balks at my request for their local postmark.

## ACCOUNTS OF MEETINGS

By Martin Fleischer, Recording Secretary

**3 September 2008** Vice-President **DON PETERSON** presiding, 21 members and 2 guests present. Nominations were made for the Gantz Award and the membership voted unanimously for the recipient. See article on page 2 for Gantz Award details.

The program of the evening was a presentation by Dr. Robin Gates Elliott on "Philatelic Propaganda: Border Changes in Eastern Europe, 1938 – 1941." See details on this program on page 5 of this newsletter.

**17 September 2008** President **C.A. STILLIONS** presiding, 23 members, 1 guest present. Executive Secretary **GERARD MARANDINO** reported that 36 banquet tickets have been sold as of September 17<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will be held at Tony Chengs Restaurant, H Street, Washington, D.C. on October 1 at 7 p.m.

In a follow-up to previous information, **JEFF MEADE**, Director of Education at the National Postal Museum, reported his involvement with the Omaha Philatelic Society in an innovative program to network with school teachers about the use of stamps as an adjunct to teaching history. The society has extensive connections with Iowa and Missouri stamp clubs so the program has a large base potential.

**MAY DAY TAYLOR** gave a formal invitation to all WSCC members to attend the November 6 meeting of the Mr. Beasley club. There will be an auction of higher quality philatelic material which has come to the club through bequest and donations. The club meets at 4:30 P.M. in the Parrish Hall of the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church on Weston Avenue in Chevy Chase, Maryland. **MAY DAY** stated that there will be very fine and desirable items to be seen in this auction.

The meeting program was swap and trade. Circuit books, boxes of world-wide stamps and 5 cents and a goodly quantity of catalogued offerings.

Up-coming events spotlighted included WSCC member **CHERYL GANZ** presentation of "ZIS FOR ZEPPELIN" at her curator's talk at the NPM. **Dr. GANZ**, Chief Curator of Philately, will follow the talk with a guided tour of the new Zeppelin-Aerophilately exhibition on Friday, September 26, at the NPM. "MAKING ARAGO WORK FOR YOU" is the topic of an event on Saturday, October 18 at the NPM. ARAGO is the NPM web site for the national postage stamp collection. "THE A-B-Cs of STAMP COLLECTING" is the topic of a workshop at the NPM to be held on Sunday, November 9, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. This hands-on presentation will be led by **JANET KLUG**.

## Accounts of Meetings (cont.)

**1 October 2008** Members and guests enjoyed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual DeVoss-Gantz Award Dinner. See details on pages 1-4 of this newsletter.

**15 October 2008** Vice-President **DON PETERSON** presiding, 22 members, 2 guests present. The highlight of the evening was a members' auction. Maple syrup, a fan, pot-pourri, note paper, a photo album and Redskins memorabilia wove their way between lots of philatelic material. There were good buys on all types of stock sheets and approval cards. A kiloware lot of world-wide stamps started at \$3 but was only captured at \$8. There were glassines filled with stamps of Turkey (\$4), Manchukuo (\$2), Great Britain (\$2) and more. Some Burmese Official/Japanese Occupation material was knocked down at 1/5 the catalogue price. A sturdy, wooden, wine bottle box filled with two albums and collections in glassines and on stock sheets which started at \$6 and was liberated finally at \$10. An Ishikawa auction catalogue went for \$10 while a quaint 1935 Stamp Atlas fetched \$3.50. As always, **TADAS OSMOLSKIS** provided the auctioneer's commentary.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Members may place classified ads in the newsletter for free on a space available basis. The submission date for ads is the same as for other submissions, the last meeting of even numbered months. Send your copy to the Editor, Bill and Janet Hughes at the address in the panel on the last page. Hand written or typed, mailed or hand delivered, faxed or emailed, any way is acceptable, but email is preferred.

### STAMPS FOR SALE

37 + 39 cents Hi-Ends	\$17.00 a pound	Appraised value 38 cents and over	5 or 10
34 cents and under Low-Ends	\$ 9.00 a pound	cents a piece	
Christmas	\$ 1.00 a pound	Plate # stamps	5 cents a piece
Bulk Stamps	\$ 1.00 a pound	Foreign Stamps	\$15.00 a pound

Order from Stamps for a Living Business, FO18/JHP/OT Dept., 2700 M L King Avenue, S. E., Washington, DC 20032-2601.

## WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB

web site: [www.dcstampclub.org](http://www.dcstampclub.org)

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**Circuits Manager:** Virginia Randolph

**Historian:** Herb Trenchard, email: [trenchardh@si.edu](mailto:trenchardh@si.edu)

Membership information may be obtained from the Executive Secretary. Dues are due June 30th and are \$16.00 a year for resident members, \$8.00 a year for non-resident members, and \$8.00 a year for junior members.

Meeting are held the First and Third Wednesdays of the month at Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street, S. W., Washington, DC starting at 7:00 PM. (Enter Church Education wing from I Street, S.W.)