



WASHINGTON CITY DESPATCH



NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB
VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2 WHOLE NUMBER 20 MARCH - APRIL 2009

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WSCC Despatch Goes 'E-lectronic'

By

Bill and Janet Hughes

In an effort both to curb newsletter production costs and to keep up with web-oriented members, the *WSCC Despatch* is now available by email. For those members who opt for the email version, the newsletter will be sent out in Adobe PDF format. It will be sent out at the same time the printed copies are mailed. Each copy of the *Despatch* costs the club approximately \$1.50 to print and mail. In an early offering, 19 members have elected to receive their newsletter via email. Those who want to sign up for this service can send their name and email address to the Newsletter Editors at jmhughes02@yahoo.com. If, after trying this out, you encounter problems, wish to go back to a printed version or have questions or comments, please email us and let us know.

Upcoming WSCC Meetings

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|----------|--|
| March 4 | Speaker, Ellen Frost , Topic: Stamps as Propaganda |
| March 18 | Members Swap and Trade |
| April 1 | Speaker, Clifford Alexander , Topic: Wiley's Washington City Despatch |
| April 15 | Donation Auction (For the benefit of the club; Nationals Baseball parking restrictions) |
| May 6 | Hungerford Album Competition |
| May 20 | Speaker, Dan Piazza , Topic: The 3¢ Smithsonian Commemorative of 1946: Design, Production, Usage (Nationals Baseball parking restrictions) |

Philatelic Book Corner

Grover Hinds Publishes Book on *D.C. Stampless Postal History*

Notice Received from **Grover Hinds**

In the 90's Thomas O. Taylor was approached by a member of one of the old clubs to undertake a DC stampless postal history work. Taylor asked me to help him. I have finally published a work that includes 1790 – 1855 based on Taylor's collection and research, my collection and research, much of the Turner collection (I bought much of it at Bennett's), and thousands of covers that have been on line the last number of years. The result has quite a few differences from the ASCC. The work is over 150 pages, soft cover, spiral bound, with many illustrations. I have included the Georgetown and Alexandria straight lines and extensive sections on the 1790's manuscripts for all three towns. I have my own identification/numbering scheme for Washington manuscript town marks. There is a large section on the Washington City post office locations and post masters. Much of this is from Davis. As that work is over 100 years old I included it. I didn't worry about which political polity the various parts of DC belonged to and when in the 1790's. I strove for completeness. I do have a section about the political divisions. I have used Taylor's numbering system of the town hand stamps, with some changes of my own. I made a stab at identifying the ancillary markings paid, free, rates, etc, but don't claim it to be definitive. I have short free sections for Washington and Georgetown. I published a whole book on free franks last year with much more information and examples of Washington covers. There are also some appendices, including third party markings e. g. hotels, a price guide, Washington as a distribution office, some Post Office Department activities such as the dead letter office, Blodget's hotel, etc. There is a section for the post offices in Washington County. There is a four page color section for the Georgetown hand stamps of the 1840's that show the vivid colors of the 1849 - 1851 period, and also shows one of my themes, the oxidation of some of these colors. If interested, the book is \$31.00 postpaid from Grover Hinds, 4913 Brampton Parkway. Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

NPM Library: Updates to the Collection

Not only do we have more books to choose from at the **NPM Library**, but the library is still open on the **Third Saturday every month from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.** **DAN PIAZZA**, Assistant NPM Curator, has provided a list of new books in the library. Thanks to **DAN** and to the **NPM Librarian**.

United States covers and Hawaii : featuring rare covers from the Dr. W.F. Amonette Collection
R.A. Siegel Auction Galleries. HE6184.C65 R3 1996

Mellone's Specialized cachet catalog of first day covers of the 1940's // edited by Michael Mellone. HE6184.C25 M475 1984

Scott number index and cachetmaker index for first days : volumes 1-41 // compiled by Wayne Gasper and Pat Price
HE6184.C25 G37 1997

Camp Genter : Colorado ghost town mail : origins and operations of a 4th class post office // by John H. Willard & Sergio Lugo. HE6376.A1 C695 2008

Women on stamps // by Betty Killingbeck. HE6183.W6 W362 1978

Levy's Boy & Girl Scout cachet covers of the United States. Vol. 1 & 2 , 1910-1960 // by Jay L. Rogers
HE6184.C25 R64 2007

Preserving the people's post office // Christopher W. Shaw ; HE6371 .S498 2006

Bulls eyes : the first stamps of Brazil // by José Kloke ; done into English by L.I.G. Leveson ; edited by Aaron and Joshua Karp HE6185.B6 K662 2006

Handbook for intermediate first day cover collectors. volume 1 compiled by Steven M. Ripley HE6184.F57 H36 1995

‘In Tune’ with Professor Phil

The members of the WSCC had a rare opportunity at the February 4th meeting. **Phil Uhlmann**, long time member and mastermind of our periodic Phils-a-telic Quiz, celebrated a ‘significant’ birthday. **Don Peterson** received a note from Phil’s sister, Marilyn, letting us all in on the secret. She said, “I live near Albany, NY, and cannot travel to D.C. to share it with him. Phil is such a good brother to me. Perhaps someone may wish him a happy birthday in person. Phil is flattered to just have a conversation about postage stamps or cancellations, and he is so happy about that. I just wanted you to know what an important role the WSCC stamp club plays in Phil's life.”

What we do know about Phil is that he is an accomplished clarinetist with a career in the United States Army Band at West Point. Because of his musical ties and philatelic interests, **Don Peterson** designed a birthday cake with both themes in mind.

Phil’s cake was designed like a 42 cent ‘Happy Birthday PHIL’ stamp. At the bottom, are notes on a staff with a treble clef. For those of us who do not read music, Don assured us that the notes were to depict the song ‘Happy Birthday to You.’ Everyone was happy to be able to surprise our fellow member and friend, **Phil Uhlmann** and wish him many more years of collecting.



Members Old and New

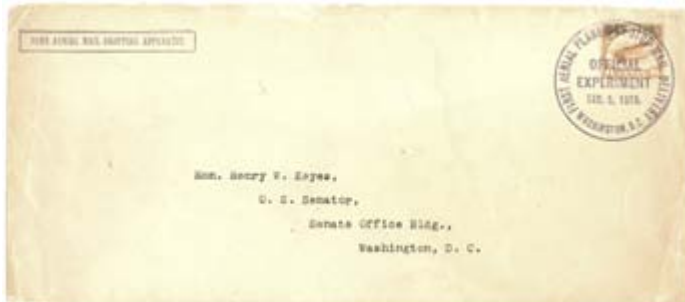
Longtime member Eric Brown sends warm greetings from his new adobe home in sunny New Mexico, where the skies alight every evening with sparkling stars and a bright moon. Eric is enjoying a slower pace of life, even though there's not much in the way of stamps or clubs out here. Please keep in touch with him at: 3939 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, #66, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

The WSCC welcomes three new members during February. **Charlotte Brown** is a staff member at the National Postal Museum. **Frank Correl** is also a member of the Mr. Beasley Stamp Club and collects postal history. **Robert Grafton** collects early Great Britain, 1840 – 1859. We are happy to have you aboard.

C. A. Stillions Reports on Philatelic ‘Eggs-periment’

By C.A. Stillions

On Friday, 5 December 1919, a twin engine bomber flew over the United States Capitol grounds and dropped 134 pieces of mail and several cartons of eggs in an experiment to determine if a dropping apparatus invented by Leroy B. Jahn would make mail delivery by non-stop airplane practical. Below is one such piece of mail and a tracing of the post mark on the cover.



The letter enclosed is address to Senator Henry W. Keyes who had just been elected to the Senate in 1918 and was a member of the Senate Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department. In subsequent Congress he became Chairman of this committee. Although the letter is dated 5 December 1919, the envelope was back stamped “WASHINGTON, D.C., DEC 5, 12 M, 1919”. Which means the letter was written before December 5th. This is not the only problem with the letter. The letter says the mail landed about 100 feet from the Capitol implying it landed on the East Plaza of the Capitol. According to contemporary newspaper accounts it did not quite happen that way. According to the *The Evening Star* the landing zone was the vacant block just south of the Washington City Post Office, now the National Postal Museum. With the construction of Union Station and the removal of the railroad stations from the National Mall, Congress expanded the Capitol Ground to connect the Capitol with the new entrance to the city, a project that took from 1910 to 1940 to complete. But by 1915 most of the land had been acquired and cleared, as seen in the picture below. According to the *Star* article, the landing site was missed substantially.



VIEW FROM CAPITOL LOOKING NORTH, ABOUT 1915, SHOWING MALTRY BUILDING AT LEFT, TRUCK NO. 1 ON NORTH CAPITOL STREET, SENATE STABLES AND NO. 3 ENGINE HOUSE ON DELAWARE AVENUE, AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDING AT RIGHT

“It was intended to drop the mail in the vacant lot directly across from the main door of the city post office building, but the parachute and its burden of mail floated clear across Union station plaza and landed behind Liberty hut in front of the old Southern railway building.” Today the old Southern railway building is the U. S. Capitol Police Headquarters at 145 D Street, N. E. It is just out of the picture, off the right hand edge. It must have been quite a sight to see a group of well dressed men chasing a small parachute and its burden across Union Station Plaza. (cont.)

The air craft use in this experiment is also worth noting. The airplane was built by the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company of Cleveland, Ohio and designated the MB-1, as seen below. It was a wooden, fabric-covered biplane powered by a pair of 400 hp Liberty engines with quad landing gear and twin tails. It was



the first design effort of Donald Douglas who went on to design the DC3 and other great aircraft.

Six modified versions of the MB-1 were sold to the Post Office who used them predominately on the New York-to-Chicago mail route. No MB-1's, of any version, are known to exist today.

Oh yes, the eggs. According to the Washington Post report of the experiment, on Saturday, December 6, Postmaster Merritt Chance had eggs for breakfast Saturday as none of the eggs in the experimental drop were broken.

Upcoming Shows and Bourses

March

SPRINGPEX 2009 March 21 – 22, Sat. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Robert E. Lee High School Cafeteria, 2540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA, Stamp Exhibition and 25-dealer bourse.

April

Franconia Stamp Show, April 26, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Volunteer Fire Dept., 6300 Beulah, Franconia

May

Vienna Quarterly Coin and Stamp Show, May 2 – 3, Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna, VA, Sat. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fairfax StampFest, Elk's Club, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA Sat. 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

June

NAPEX, June 5, 6, 7, Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, Hours: Fri. 10 – 6, Sat. 10 – 6, Sun. 10 – 4
7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean Virginia

Another Trip to Stamps for a Living Planned

Another trip is scheduled to visit the "Stamps for a Living Program" at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Anacostia, SE, Washington, DC on **March 26, 2009**. Meet at the entrance to St. E's at 10:00 AM, 2700 M L King Avenue, S. E in Anacostia. The visit will not last longer than noon. **NOTE:** We must provide the names of attendees two weeks in advance to obtain clearance. Please let **Don Peterson** know if you are planning to attend **NLT March 11, 2009**, even if you will not know until the last minute. He must report the names to St. E's on March 12. If you are not on the list, you will not be admitted on March 26. Don's email is dpeterson4526@comcast.net.

May Day Taylor Promotes Good Will; George V Rules Again; See the Winners of the Annual Herbert Cover Contest

By Bill and Janet Hughes



As shown in this candid picture, it seems that **Don Peterson** is attempting to place his name into the contest as the ‘Ugliest Stamp.’ It was pointed out, however, that he did not qualify as a ‘cover.’ In reality, **Don** is reading the list of winners after a grueling round of judging and tabulating scores.

The **Herbert Cover Contest for 2009** was held on February 4th. There were over 25 entries in 10 categories that even the winners described as ‘very difficult.’ Over 13 members placed items into the contest and one of the WSCC’s newest members won in one of the categories. The first five categories were judged by all members present and the last five by a panel comprised of **Don Peterson, Bruce Kellogg, and Jeff Meade**. Congratulations to all the winners!

Category 1: Cover posted at a post office with the most tranquil name.



Entries in this category included True Blue, Little River, Santa Claus and even Death Valley. But the cover that received the most votes was Good Will, WV submitted by **May Day Taylor**.

Category 2: Cover with the most interesting return address.

The winning entry was submitted by **Bill Sandrik**. This cover with enclosure (King George V Welcome Letter) was distributed to US troops in England, on their way to France, to fight in WWI. The letter has a preprinted signature of King George. They are hard to find with the original envelope. The sender noted at the bottom that he received it at a Railroad Station, and then sent it home.



Category 3: The cover with the ugliest stamp issued in 2008.



It is hard to tell which stamp actually won in this group. We all assumed it was the orange one. This cover from Oslo, Norway has two Norwegian stamps honoring Ase Gruda Skard on her 100th birthday. It was submitted by **Bill Sandrik**.

Category 4: Cover with the most interesting auxiliary postal marking.



This is a post-war German postal card sent to a Hungarian war crimes detainee imprisoned in the Dachau Prisoner of War Camp. Members gave the most votes for this cover submitted by **Bill Sandrik**.

Category 5: Most interesting semi-postal



The commercial cover from Niger franked with three semi-postal stamps was entered by **Virginia Randolph** and won in Category 5.

Category 6: The Largest Cover With Pre-printed Postage



After clarifying the meaning of “large”, the judges finally chose the entry above left. It is a very **large** pre-printed plastic envelope from Great Britain submitted by **Joyce Adams** and was determined to be the largest of the three entries.

Category 7: Earliest cover Originating in the Southern Hemisphere

The cover on the right originated in 1842 in Australia, sent via Melbourne forwarding Agent, hence by the ship “Falcon” to Sydney, then to Glasgow, via London. Received 11 April 1843, after 5 ½ months in transit. Luckily it was received in time for it to be submitted in the contest by **Bill Sandrik**.



Category 8: Cover with two stamps issued the furthest apart in time



This cover was submitted by one of our newest members and is even addressed to him. Winning this category by just one year, the stamps on this cover were issued 123 years apart, 1997 – 1874. The next competitor was 122 years, with stamps from 1995 – 1873. The winner of the category is **Frank Correl**.

Category 9: Earliest postmarked cover with a stamp featuring a person who was neither a head of state nor a monarch.



This cover postmarked 2 July 1857 has a one cent Benjamin Franklin imperf issue. Benjamin Franklin was a scientist, inventor, printer, postmaster and statesman, but never a head of state. Submitted by **Bill Sandrik**.

Category 10: Most recent cover with stamps cancelled in A country other than the country of issue of the stamps.

The envelope at the right was submitted by **Joyce Adams** and won in this very complex category. On one side it is postmarked in Geograd and again in Washington D.C. on the other.

After tallying first, second and third place winners in each category, the judges were able to determine overall contest winners. First place to **Bill Sandrik**, second to **Joyce Adams**, third to **Frank Correl**. We congratulate all who won and can't wait to see the categories next year.



WSCC Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

By Bill and Janet Hughes

The annual business meeting of the WSCC was held on January 21. President **Stillions** reported that, from his vantage, the club has had a very good year. Special programs were quite varied and he was most appreciative of the many members and others who prepared presentations which were thoroughly enjoyed by the attending membership. He also noted the need to address the formal incorporation status of the club. At present, the Washington Stamp Collectors Club (WSCC) remains legally incorporated as the Washington Philatelic Society (WPS). As soon as possible, the membership will have to discuss and decide which name to use. President **Stillions** also suggested that the time has arrived for the club to consider finding a larger space to accommodate our meetings.

Executive Secretary **Gerard Marandino** reported that the total club membership was 70, 10 Life Members and 60 Regular members. All dues are paid in full for these members. Treasurer **Joel Fassler** reported that the club's financial picture is good. The club presently holds two Certificates of Deposit for \$5,000 and \$15,000. Interest for 2008 is \$150 and \$451 respectively for these CDs. The club checking account is approximately \$6,000. Major costs for the year were the Awards Dinner, \$950; printing and mailing of the newsletter, \$404; purchase of a club banner, \$135. The sale of tickets for the Awards Dinner was in excess of the dinner costs. Yearly costs for our space at Christ United Methodist Church are close to \$1000. **Janet and Bill Hughes**, Newsletter Editors, reported that their editorship of the club newsletter has been supported greatly by contributions of articles by club members. They asked that more articles of a specialized philatelic nature be submitted, since there is space for them.

President **Stillions** opened the floor for nominations of officers for 2009. All of the officers for 2008, except the Recording Secretary, stated that they would be willing to continue in service. Nominations were requested for Recording Secretary. **Jeff Meade** announced that he would be willing to serve in that position. He was formally nominated and the nomination seconded. A name for each of the remaining offices was placed in nomination and seconded. The slate consisted of: President, **C.A. STILLIONS**; Vice President, **DON PETERSON**; Executive Secretary, **GERARD MARANDINO**; Recording Secretary, **JEFF MEADE**; Treasurer, **JOEL FASSLER**. **Gerard Marandino** motioned that the slate be accepted by unanimous consent of the membership. The motion was seconded and all attending members voted by applause. President **Stillions** thanked all of the members for their participation.

ACCOUNTS OF MEETINGS

By Martin Fleischer, Recording Secretary

7 January 2009 President **C.A. STILLIONS** presiding, 21 members and 1 guest present. President **STILLIONS** called for nominations for the full slate of club officers for the year 2009. No nominations came from the floor. The current President and Treasurer formally voiced willingness to run again for those offices. The Vice President and Recording Secretary appeared not to assent to formally running again. Nominations will again be requested at the 21 January meeting when voting will take place. **JEFF MEADE** introduced **CHARLOTTE BROWN**, a new staff member at the National Postal Museum. **DAN PIAZZA** informed the membership that the special pull-out frames of the Miller Collection – Part II will come down January 12. The main gallery exhibition will remain on view until March 21. **DAN** also noted that the National Postal Museum postal facility will service inauguration cancellations from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. on January 20th.

C. A. STILLIONS noted that the A.P.S. Stamp Show will be held 6 – 9 August in Pittsburgh. He suggested that should enough members show an interest in attending, an arrangement for a bus or some other service might prove a viable solution to travelling to the show. He also announced that **ELLEN FROST** will speak on propaganda on stamps, with stress on PRC and DPRK.

Speaker of the evening was **C. A. STILLIONS** on the “The Great Egg Drop Experiment” of December 1919.

21 January 2009 President **C. A. STILLIONS** presiding, 13 members and 1 guest present. President **STILLIONS** welcomed and introduced **CARLOS COTLIER** of Argentina. **CARLOS** is visiting the U.S. until 1 February and teaches in the Faculty of Sciences at the National University of Rosario. He is a recognized specialist in the postal history of Argentina and is past president of the Philatelic Society of Rosario, Argentina.

Business proceedings, election of officers and reports are detailed in this newsletter. **JEFF MEADE** announced that the NPM will offer its “Stamp Collecting A-Z Workshop” on Saturday, 24 January. He also reported on an ongoing NPM Education Department program for integrating stamps and history. A web site is being constructed about Abraham Lincoln/The Civil War/Slavery and related U.S. postage stamps. The site will be part of the NPM ARAGO computerized system. **MARTIN FLEISCHER** suggested that a formal letter of thanks be sent to **DAN PIAZZA**, Assistant Curator of Philately at the NPM for his efforts on behalf of the WSCC. He has conducted numerous special tours of the NPM for the club and has also provided a wealth of information on philately for the WSCC members. President **STILLIONS** will sign and dispatch the drafted letter.

By Jeff Meade, Recording Secretary

4 February 2009 President **C. A. STILLIONS** presiding, 22 members present. The meeting began with the special celebration for Phil Uhlmann (see page 2). After judging of the Herbert Cover contest entries, President **STILLIONS** discussed nominations of APS Officers. The Club voted to endorse **Steve Zwilling** for Secretary and **Dan Walker** as Treasurer. **Pres. Stillion** noted that **Dan Walker** is a WSCC member. **President Stillions** discussed conflict dates with the Washington National’s baseball schedule for the 2009 season, noting that five dates fall on club meeting nights. **President Stillions** handed out copies of the baseball schedule, with conflicting dates circled. **Jeff Meade** inquired about sharing zone 6 resident parking permits, and the club noted such action should be encouraged.

President Stillions announced an upcoming program on PBS about the design and production of American stamps. No channel or specific time was mentioned; details forth coming. **Tadas Osmolskis** announced an upcoming presentation, scheduled for 1:00pm-2:30pm, at the National Postal Museum about Abraham Lincoln’s use of the telegraph. **Tadas** announced that he would be giving a highlights tour through the museum at 11am, and would be highlighting the Lincoln stamps on display at 2:30pm.

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Lorraine Bailey announced that the Grosvenor club is having a special recognition of two club members who are turning 90 years old. Also it appeared that Nutmeg Stamp Co. may have downsized part of its lot describing function. **May Day Taylor** announced that on March 5th the Mr. Beasley club will feature guest speaker **Charles Sullivan** with a lecture on “Tagging and Luminescence.” Members are encouraged to bring philatelic materials so Mr. Sullivan can examine them under a black light.

18 February 2009 Vice President **Don Peterson** presiding, 25 members present. **Don Peterson** welcomed three long-time members who joined us for the evening. They were **Jules MacKallor**, **Cliff Alexander**, and **Hugh Wynn**. **Pat Sluby** gave a short talk on African-American Inventors who had patents on postally related items. A further article on her book will appear in a future *Despatch*. The program for the evening was an auction for the benefit of the members. Items included stock books, ‘real’ hinges, a lot of Korean covers, a book on envelopes and a book on early postal markings in Maryland. There were large albums of stamps as well. There was even a silk undergarment, the proceeds of which sale went to the club. Overall the club members spent \$245 for all auctioned items.

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 cents a piece
34 cents and under Low-Ends	\$ 9.00 a pound	Plate # stamps	5 cents a piece
Christmas	\$ 1.00 a pound	Foreign Stamps	\$15.00 a pound
Bulk Stamps	\$ 1.00 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

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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.)