



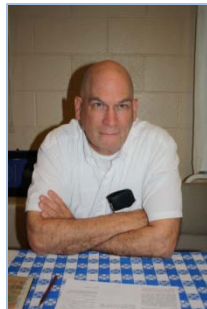
Washington Despatch

Washington Stamp Collectors Club

Issue #26, Winter 2010-11

President's Message

November is the month of Thanksgiving and an appropriate time to say thank you to all of those who have helped the Washington Stamp Collectors Club. Last month we honored Tadas Osmolskis with the Gantz Award for outstanding service to the club for his long service as our auctioneer. There are others who have helped the club who deserve recognition as well. Virginia Randolph is always the first to arrive (She has the key to unlock the door.) and brings the circuit books. Virginia is also one of the last to leave. When she leaves, invariably leaving with her is Milton Holmes. They clean-up and lock-up after us, making sure the place is left clean and thus keeping the Church happy to have us. Many thanks to Virginia and Milton.



Another is Don Peterson who, in the appointed position of Membership Chairman, scans the new member list each month in the American Philatelist for District of Columbia residents and sends them an invitation to come and join us. Our membership roll is increasing thanks to his personal effort.

You all are receiving this newsletter because of the work of Jeff Meade. He has made our electronic newsletter, <http://wsccdespatch.wordpress.com/>, interesting and up-to-date. He is now doing the same for our print newsletter. Thanks, Jeff.

Special thanks also go to our Program Chairman, Dan Piazza, who has arranged for a number of speakers to give us interesting talks. As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, Dan has already booked speakers and

activities for all of 2011. He has even provided us with a handy pocket size schedule. It is not easy to organize programs for this club with all of our diverse collecting interest. Thank you, Dan.

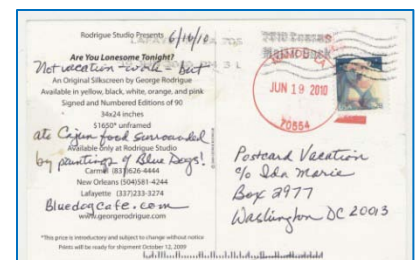
Thanks also go to all of you, who come to our meetings, read our newsletters, and share this fascinating hobby. It is you who provide the rewards to all our volunteers and officers with your "Thank you's".

One last note, this is my last President's Message as I do not intend to run for re-election in January. It has been a good three years, but it is now time to turn the reins over someone else. All I can say is "Thank you" for having me as your President.

Blogging Our Stamp Club

I recently took over the duties of Despatch editor, and I'd like to tell you about some changes. I'm throwing the Washington Stamp Collectors' Club into the 21st Century with an online blog. The blog is something I can update on a consistent basis, but also allows for comments, pictures and articles to be posted as well. I will maintain a printed newsletter, distributed quarterly, for those who do not have internet access. For those who do, check out <http://wsccdespatch.wordpress.com/>.

The new blog features regular columns like Meeting Minutes, Upcoming Events, the President's Message, and featured recent events. New columns have sprung up as well, notably the Postcard Vacation column edited by





(Blogging our Stamp Club, con't)

member Ida Marie Giusti, encouraging members to send postcards whenever they travel. Nearly a dozen postcards have poured in from Club members already and many more are expected.



Member Tanika Williams has started a column profiling different members so we can get to know who we are, what we collect, and how we started collecting in the first place. This is a great opportunity to promote the hobby by highlighting the dedication of WSCC members.

Summary of Recent Programs

Several great programs have taken place in the last few months, notably a strong list of guest speakers. Here's a quick list of the speakers and their topics:

- Ⓢ Thomas Lera, Research Chair at the National Postal Museum. "A Colorimetric Analysis."
- Ⓢ Peter Sarmiento, "A Philatelic Biography of Gen. Douglas MacArthur."
- Ⓢ Dr. Robin Gates Elliot, "Bearing Philatelic Witness: Stamp Design in Post-Communist Eastern Europe."
- Ⓢ APS Executive Director Ken Martin, "Non-Denominated Philately."
- Ⓢ Ellen Frost, "Overprints as Portents of Change."

The club also held great discussions about the philatelic hobby, especially in the run-up to NAPEX and the annual APS meeting held this year in Richmond, Virginia. Also just for fun, a challenge night was thrown in for the Letter Q! Now that's a tough collecting letter!

The Annual Awards Banquet was again held at Tony Cheng's in Chinatown. Excellent food and company, and President C.A. distributed the annual awards to:

- Ⓢ Gantz Cup: Thomas Lera, Research Chair at the National Postal Museum
- Ⓢ DeVoss Trophy: Tadas Osmolskis



Upcoming Programs

December 2010:

- Ⓢ December 1: Special Event: Dan & Tadas Magic Show!?!
- Ⓢ December 15: Annual Holiday Party and Donation Auction.

January, 2011:

- Ⓢ January 5: Alphabet challenge- the letter 'I.'
- Ⓢ January 19: Stamp Bingo!

February, 2011:

- Ⓢ February 2: Herbert Cover Contest.
- Ⓢ February 16: Member Auction.

Key Meeting Minutes:

- Ⓢ January 6: Club debated Proxy voting. The measure passed and has been incorporated into the Constitution and Bylaws; members Bill and Janet Hughes step down as Despatch editors.
- Ⓢ January 20: Club votes to stop circulation of APS circuits based on the new imposed circulation fee.
- Ⓢ March 17: Club announces that members Bill Sandrick and Doug Lehman won exhibit awards at Springpex.
- Ⓢ April 7: Executive Secretary announces she has taken over the first day ceremony duties for NAPEX from member May Day Taylor.
- Ⓢ May 4: Member Jeff Meade proposes taking over the Despatch editing duties but in a blog format.
- Ⓢ May 19: President C.A. Stillions circulated a new WSCC sign-up brochure in time for NAPEX.