



March, 2009

OKLAHOMA CITY



STAMP CLUB BULLETIN

Editor – Philip Fox foxfam1973@sbcglobal.net

Oklahoma City Stamp Club's Hines and Plyler Honored With American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' Diamond Awards

At the Arlington, TX, AmeriStamp / TEXPEX Show on February 21, 2009, two of the outstanding Oklahoma City Stamp Club members were honored by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) with the presentation of AAPE's Diamond Award.

Don Hines was given this high honor for his exhibit *Great Britain King George V Photogravure Issue 1934-6* and Earl S. Plyler for his exhibit *United States Domestic Two-Cent rate 1775-1979*. Both exhibits received gold medals at OKPEX 2008. Hines won the Grand Award as well. However, both exhibits have won grand and gold medals at World Philatelic Series shows in the past ten years.

This new award is given only to AAPE members. It honors exhibitors, not exhibits. There are two ways to qualify. The first requires the exhibitor to create a multiple-frame exhibit that has been awarded ten gold medals at US or Canadian national-level shows within a ten-year period. Both Don and Earl have done this. The second way of winning requires an exhibitor to win six gold medals with six different exhibits in a ten-year period.

Both of these requirements are difficult to achieve. So far, only 29 exhibitors have won the award. Congratulations to Don and Earl. Keep up the good work!

(Photographs of the winners will appear in the next edition of the Bulletin.)

Oklahoma City Stamp Club Programs for Spring and Summer 2009

Mar 3 SING ALONG WITH STAMPS by Vernon C. Moore (About 37 min) Created 1992

Based on the author's very popular and award-winning exhibit of the same name, this program is designed for audience participation. It features a number of stamps, each suggesting a song. The music ranges from popular mainstays of the 1940s and 1950s up through the Beatles and even beyond. Based on clues ranging from titles to a few words of lyrics, viewers are asked to identify songs by singing a line or two of the tune.

Mar17 WHALES AND DOLPHINS by Oklahoma State University Professor of Veterinary Medicine

Apr 7 CLUB AUCTION IV

Apr 21 Steve Turechek

May 5 Ralph DeBorde

May 19 OPEN NEED VOLUNTEER

Jun 2 CLUB AUCTION V

Jun 16 Election of Officers and Circuit Books

Jul 7 No Meeting

Jul 21 Ice Cream Social and Circuit Books

Aug 4 No Meeting

Aug 8 STAMP FUN FEST III

Aug 18 "What I did for the Stamp Collecting Hobby" By all members

Jim Onkst Death Reported

Funeral services for Jim Onkst, member of the Oklahoma City Stamp Club, were held on January 14, 2009. Jim has been described as a collector's collector who participated in the hobby for the sheer joy of collecting. He collected whatever he liked with no emphasis on value, completeness, or rarity. For him, it was all about the fun of the chase.

"If we all got the joy out of our collecting that Jim got, we would truly be blessed," OCSC President Joe Crosby said. Jim couldn't tell you what he would be collecting next. His collections included naval ship cancels, postal stationary, and a complete set of Christmas seals including singles, varieties, on cover, etc.

Onkst served in the Air Force and afterwards worked at Tinker AFB for more than three decades. He served on the Tinker Credit Union Credit Committee for seventeen years, serving as its chairman twice. He served on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of America. Beginning in 1963, he was very active in Masonic Lodge activities, both at the local and state levels. He also served as a deputy sheriff for Oklahoma County.



Palestinian Authority Airpost

By Steve Turechek

Although Palestinians and Israelis have been in conflict ever since Rebecca bore Jacob and Esau (recorded in the Biblical book of Genesis), by the mid-1990s some tangible progress was made in pursuit of a less hostile co-existence. The Oslo Accords signed in 1993 authorized and paved the way for the Palestinian Authority (PA) to conduct its own postal operations, independent of Israel. Service began in the Gaza strip and Jericho in 1994.

Problems initiating service arose as the first PA stamps were issued and sold for postage. The first few PA issues were denominated in *Mils*, the currency of the former British Mandate of Palestine. Israel protested this; the currency was changed to *Fils*, where 1 *Fil* = 1/1000 Jordanian dinar. Some of the existing stockpiles of *Mils* stamps were overprinted and re-denominated.

The cover above and right was posted in Azun (Palestine) in 1999, destined for Hamburg, Germany. It was presented at the post office franked with unauthorized *Mils* stamps, but re-franked with *Fils*-denominated postage. Careful inspection of the cover's stamps in the close-up (at right) reveals the right edges of two *Mils* stamps are exposed underneath the newer issues. Note the protruding stamp near the center of the cover. The postal clerk in Azun even obliterated the Arabic "٣٠" (30) denomination with a red pen, before adding the 60 *Fils* falcon stamp over the top. One of the newer *Fils* issues bears the likeness of Yasser Arafat, late leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and first President of the PA. Viewed for decades as a terrorist by Israel and the U.S., he was a freedom fighter in the eyes of Palestinians. Later in life Arafat transformed himself into a statesman; he signed the Oslo Accords and other agreements; he was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994.



Unfortunately this cover proved undeliverable and thus received a dual language German/French “zuruck/retour” (i.e., return to sender) purple handstamp. Another very faint purple boxed handstamp bears an ‘x’ and manuscript date of 9/8, likely indicating the date this cover began its return journey to Palestine.



The airmail special delivery cover to the left was posted in Gaza on 8/11/1995 and addressed to Ridgewood, NJ, bears a 1000 *Fils* stamp that was overprinted. Black bars obliterated the old *Mils* currency, and the new currency was added in both English and Arabic. This cover also failed to reach its intended recipient, as evidenced by manuscript “No such #, Attempted Addressee Unknown”. On 12/10/1995 the Hackensack, NJ postmark was added and cover began its journey back to Palestine as well.

As you might suspect, there is a tremendous opportunity for study of PA international airmail during the formative years of service. The scarcity of material in the marketplace, political instability in the region, and lack of philatelic press make this niche of modern airmail history a worthy challenge for collectors, exhibitors, and scholars alike.

AMERISTAMP / TEXPEX Observations

By Philip Fox, editor

The recent TEXPEX show in Arlington, TX, was my first national, APS stamp show to attend. I saw at least a half-dozen other OCSC members there at one time or another. As always, my favorite part of the show was seeing the exhibits. This show had an abundance of single-frame exhibits.

It was also my first chance to see one of the Inverted Jennies in person. I must admit that after studying it a while, taking out my magnifying glass to get a closer look, my first thought was “It looks just like the pictures.” I think I had expected some kind of thrill, but it didn’t impress as I thought it would. To be honest, the stamp at the show that caused me to catch my breath was a mint, VF Scott 72 under glass at one of the dealer’s tables. That stamp never ceases to impress me.

The displays featured the sublime to the ridiculous. The exhibit called “Lesser Known Rareties and Wonders of Philately” always had a good crowd around it. Among its items were “a Waterbury Running Water Closet” cancel, a one-eyed jack (Scott 73 with one cyclopedian eye in the middle of its forehead), a Hindenburg barfbag with rare U. S. Postal overprint, and a carrier pigeon crash cover. On a more serious, yet still unusual, note were the Bosnia Herzegovina tobacco tax paid revenue exhibit, which included stamps at least 18 inches by two inches in size.

A special joy for me was getting to see a couple of the philatelic writers I have read consistently over the years. I attended seminars given by Jacques Schiff (who writes The Error Scene column in *Mekeel’s and Stamps*) and John Hotchner. Schiff talked about the ways in which stamps were faked or altered to increase their value. Hotchner talked about his work on the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee of the U. S. Postal Service. I could have listened to him all evening long.

I spent part of my day going through the dollar boxes (and quarter boxes!). I found a series of letters, which I bought hoping they would yield me a stamp club program for next year. We’ll see.

I encourage any of you who attended AmeriStamp / TEXPEX to write up your experiences and drop them to me by e-mail (foxfam1973@sbcglobal.net) or mail (701 S. 6th St., Healdton, OK, 73438) for the next Bulletin.

John Leszak of *Mekeel’s and Stamps* wrote a column recently asking “If your house were on fire and you only have time to grab one philatelic item, what would it be?” I found that an interesting question so I’m putting it to you. What would you take? Write me at one of the above addresses and let’s see what kind of answers we get. Will it be the expensive stuff or the sentimental.

Please let me know!!

Fall 2008 Club Minutes

January 6, 2009

18 present

Meeting called to order by President Joe Crosby. The Oklahoma City Stamp Club voted to second the nomination for APS Director-At-Large Jim Cate. The program tonight was given by Don Collins on Hawaii. Our next meeting will be our cancelled December Christmas party at MiMi's on Memorial Rd. No more business. Meeting adjourned.

January 20, 2009

20 present

Our meeting tonight was our late Christmas party at MiMi's. We had plenty of good food and door prizes. Everyone had a good time. Our next meeting will be our club auction III. Meeting adjourned.

February 3, 2009

15 present

Meeting called to order by Joe Crosby. No business. Auction time. Meeting adjourned.

-- Frank Schultz, club secretary

The Oklahoma City Stamp Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 1320 SW 38th St., Oklahoma City.