



May, 2009

OKLAHOMA CITY



STAMP CLUB BULLETIN

Editor – Philip Fox foxfam1973@sbcglobal.net

Notes from the Editor

By Philip Fox, editor

Hello Everyone in the Oklahoma City Stamp Club. I am sending this copy of the Oklahoma City Stamp Club to Joe Crosby to notify him and you that things have taken a bit of a slide for me. To be blunt, doctors have found a growth in my left temple. This is interesting for me since as a minister, this part of my mind is especially important tonight since my ministerial duties require an absolute huge amount of this part of my mind.

I am praying that after surgery this week, my surgery is awesomely successful. I am praying to continue all things at full speed by the end of the summer, as God so wills. Either way, please remember me and my family.

I apologize that my editing is weak tonight. It is amazing how incredibly fast this has come upon on me. Please ignore my mistakes and enjoy this one for a laugh!

By the way, one last laugh:

<http://qwantz.livejournal.com/104142.html>

Special Note From Joe Crosby: As you have read above, our editor, Phil Fox is about to undergo major neurosurgery at Mercy Hospital here in Oklahoma City, presently scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th. Everyone should understand that he put out this newsletter during the six day period while he was released after his diagnosis and prior to his surgery. I know of no greater dedication to our club that has ever been exhibitedfar beyond the call of duty. This came to me late on Saturday night and I am certain Phil had just finished his sermon for tomorrow's church service. Phil does this newsletter because he loves this club and this hobby, like he loves everything in life. That is why he is such a successful Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Healdton, Oklahoma. I know every member of this Club will hold Phil in our prayers.

Club Minutes & Notes from February through April

Feb 17, 2009

9 present

Meeting called to order by Joe Crosby. We now have our books from the Oklahoma City University Library. You can check out these books from the Oklahoma City Stamp Club.

Financial Report by Ray Janz

CLUB

Beginning Balance 7-1-08	\$579.54
Deposits for period	266.00
Expenses for period	(611.91)
Balance as of 12-30-08	\$233.63

OKPEX

Beginning balance 7-1-08	\$477.21
Deposits for period	5261.33
Expenses for period	(5371.69)
Balance as of 12-31-08	\$366.85

Full financial report is attached to minutes.

Membership report by Frank Schultz

Regular members	61
Jr. Members	2
Life members	5
Spouses	3
Total	71

Paid members	54
Not paid	17

No more business. Meeting adjourned.

March 1, 2009

14 present

Meeting called to order by Joe Crosby. No circuit books tonight. Our next program will be on Whales and Dolphins of New Zealand by Oklahoma State University professor of Veterinary Medicine. The program tonight was Sing along with Stamps. A fun program. No more business. Meeting adjourned.

March 17, 2009

15 present

Meeting called to order by Joe Crosby. Oklahoma Philatelic Society now has a web site. Our program tonight was Whales and Dolphins of New Zealand by Alastair Watson, professor of Veterinary Anatomy Center for Veterinary Health Sciences from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. A very good and interesting program. No more business. Meeting adjourned.

April 7, 2009

18 present

Meeting called to order by Joe Crosby. We had Shirley Eubanks back with us. Glad to have her back. We also had one new member, Yvonne Kolarik. Welcome to our new member. Next program will be by Steve Turchek on make it official. Our program tonight was our fourth annual auction. No more business. Meeting adjourned.

April 21, 2009

19 present

Meeting called to order by Joe Crosby. Our program tonight was by Steve Turechek on "Make it Official". No more business. Meeting adjourned.

Oklahoma City Stamp Club Programs for Spring and Summer 2009

May 5	RALPH DeBOARD "Post Offices In Paradise"
May 19	USPS Stamp Design DVD
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 Tables \$20.00
Aug 18	"What I did for the Stamp Collecting Hobby" By all members

A Collection of Covers Recently Discovered on the eBay

By Steve Turechek

Collecting modern-era, commercial postal history can become a long, lonely vigil of invariably fruitless Internet, dealer box and stamp show searches. But when a real gem comes along, it somehow



makes up for countless hours spent searching with nothing to show for it. Here's what I mean:

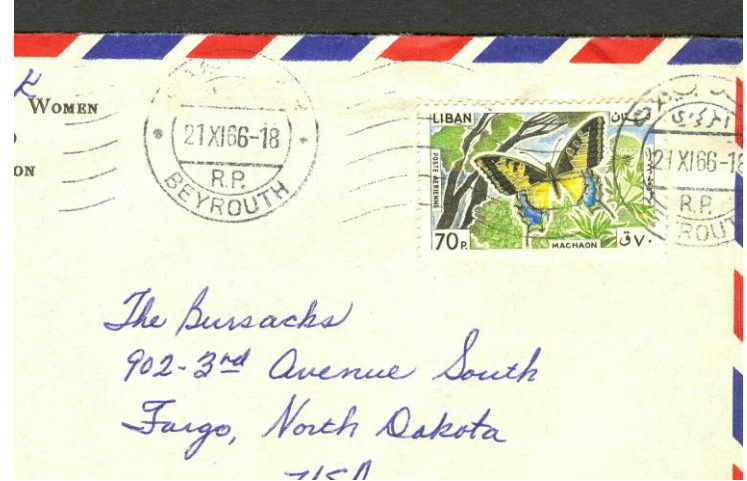
In 1967, when Israel attacked Egypt beginning the Six-Day War, rioting broke out in Beirut, Lebanon. Americans were briefly evacuated when the Lebanese government could no longer guarantee their safety. Time magazine covered this story as an aside to the short war in an article titled "Exodus, Economy-class" in the June 16, 1967 edition:

"Escorted by tough riot police of Beirut's red-bereted 'Squad 16', the Americans boarded Pan American and Middle East Airlines charter jets . . . Others made it aboard the American Export Isbrandtsen freighter Exilona for a leisurely, sun-drenched cruise to the Cypriot port of Famagusta." With this historical background in mind, consider the cover shown nearby, posted in Beirut. It contains an 11-page typed letter sent by Lois Bursack, an American assistant professor of English at the Beirut College for Women. She wrote a vivid description of the evacuation for her friends and family back in North Dakota shortly after the ordeal ended. Lois joined 300 other Americans aboard the Exilona bound for Cyprus, and proceeded on to Athens, Greece until the dust settled and it was safe to return to work. Her letter home recounts events beginning June 5, 1967 and reads in part,

“Somewhere along in here it was 3:30 a.m. and beginning to get light. We got into six buses; a Lebanese soldier armed with what looked to me like a small machine gun sat at the front of each bus. About 4:30 we left the campus, seeing the broken windows of the British Embassy on the way out. There was an almost unanimous gasp from the passengers on our bus when we saw all the Lebanese soldiers guarding us. There were at least two truck loads; a jeep full of soldiers accompanied our convoy of buses.

Fortunately they were an unneeded precaution; we saw very few people; most of these few were in services (cars operating on a route much like buses do) apparently going to work. As we went along the Corniche we saw a burned shell of a car not far from the American Embassy....”

This particular letter/cover is but one of 48 that Lois mailed to her parents between 1966-1968 that recently sold on eBay as a lot for less than \$2 per cover. To carry the 11-page legal size letter, 310 piasters postage was required, paid using a strip of three of the 100p Morpho Cypris butterfly plus a single 10p issue depicting the waterfall at Djezzine, Lebanon. Lois used a variety of Lebanese stamps,



*The Bursacks
902-3rd Avenue South
Fargo, North Dakota
58101*

most often from two airmail sets: the 1965 set depicting butterflies (Scott C427-C436) and the 1966 set depicting scenic landmarks (Scott C486-C492).

Most of her letters describe everyday life in Beirut...many fun times with her roommate, friends, exploring Jerusalem, electricity and water outages, shopping, office politics, the curious mingling of Muslims and Christians and various local customs among all her students. Lois Bursack died in 2008, apparently never married. She was well educated, the daughter of a medical doctor; her parents lived in Fargo, ND where the entire correspondence was addressed to.



*The Bursacks
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Fargo, North Dakota*

She was very articulate, happy, ready to travel and see the sights at a moment's notice. She was not a philatelist, although she mentioned mail service in some letters, mostly to wondering to her Mom and Dad about disrupted service during Muslim holidays, the speed of airmail versus seairmail, the price of postcards, the lack of availability of aerogrammes, and who could have possibly forwarded a letter to her in Athens during the time she was absent Lebanon during the evacuation period.

The additional covers show nice usages of butterfly airmail stamps from the same set. Stumbling onto these covers, many of which which could easily fit in to a topical butterfly collection, or an airmail collection, or a modern postal history collection, or even a war collection was what makes philately so much fun. What awaits you in the eBay universe?

The Oklahoma City Stamp Club meets 7 PM on the first and third Tuesdays of each month (except 3rd Tuesdays only in July and August) at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 1320 SW 38th St. Oklahoma City.