

WILLAMETTE STAMP & TONGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF SALEM STAMP SOCIETY



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CELEBRATING 78 YEARS 1933-2011

November 2011

WEBSITE www.salemstampsociety.org

OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. so that there would be plenty of time for the BIG club auction. It was a spirited and fun auction with lots that were actively bid on. Mark Copeland joined Salem Stamp Society. Welcome! President Bob reported that Dick Boyle is mobile, starting to get his speech back, and working on his stamp collection. Dick, if you are reading this, we all wish you a successful recovery and hope that we see you soon. It will be great if you can come to our Christmas Dinner Party.

NOVEMBER MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011

John Esbenshade will present a program on early airmail. The November meeting is when we elect our officers for 2012 and three directors for the 2012-2013 term. See the next paragraph for

the names of the nominees. There will be a bid board with 26 lots. See inside for a listing of the bid board lots.

CLUB ELECTIONS AT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

The nominating committee proposes the following nominees for election at our November club meeting:

President: Carl Newswanger

Vice President: Frans Geerlings

Secretary: Ray Berg

Treasurer: Jerry Gooley

Directors for a two year term:

Peter McCallum

Loren Meyer

Bob Reynolds

Directors who are continuing to serve for another year to finish their two year term are: Marc Dochez, Alan Maul, and Gary Tiffin.

JAMES E. LEE HAS PUBLISHED *THE TRAVERS PAPERS*

The Travers Papers is a comprehensive compilation and study of how the first postage stamps of the United States were developed, designed, produced, issued

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Marc Dochez	503 538-6217
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and used. In a letter announcing the two volume reference work, James E. Lee, the publisher, writes: "In 1907, Arthur M. Travers, the Chief Clerk of the Third Assistant Postmaster General began to select, for preservation, original documents in the Post Office Department relating to the production of United States postage stamps. This was in the face of a massive destruction of the country's postal records mandated by the government to reduce the costs of document storage space. Almost 90 years later his transcripts of these papers were recovered. Miraculously, the original documents on which the transcripts were based were also recovered from a later plan by the POD to dispose of them." It has taken 14 years to complete these two volumes. *The Travers Papers* are described as the official records (of) United States Postal History and Postage Stamps 1834 - 1851. This massive work was compiled by Thomas J. Alexander, the late George W. Brett, and the late W. Wilson Hulme II. It was edited by Barbara Mueller. It contains never before released untouched documents relating to the birth of American postage stamps. The two volume, 1300 page work is not cheap. Lee is currently selling it for \$300.00 until November 25, at which time the price goes up to \$350.00 for any remaining copies. Only 365 sets of the books

are being offered for sale. The books should be purchased by the larger philatelic libraries, including the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). This may make the volumes available for research and study to APS members. But, it remains to be learned whether the books could be shipped to a member to read, or must be read only at the APRL. Thanks to Marc Dochez for calling my attention to this important publication.

OBOCK AND DJIBOUTI

The European powers "opened up" Africa in the 1850's. The steamships that sailed to Africa needed coaling stations to be set up around Africa. In 1857, France bought the town of Obock and adjoining territory from local Danakil Sultans. A treaty in 1862 ratified the purchase. But, France did not take possession until 1883. Actual occupancy was in 1884. Obock is a small port city in the scorching climate (average high of 104 degrees F. and average low of 73 degrees F.) on the north side of the Gulf of Tadjoura, which opens into the Gulf of Aden where it joins the Red Sea. Annual rainfall is less than five inches. The landscape is arid. Vegetation mostly consists of acacia scrub. Obock was the port of entry from which French Somaliland and later French Somali Coast was created. For less exposed anchorage, the port was moved to the southern side of the Gulf of

Tadjoura, at Djibouti. In 1894, a permanent French administration was established in the city of Djibouti. The region was named Cote Francaise des Somalis (French Somali Coast). From 1892 to 1901, general stamps of the French Colonies with handstamped overprints ("Obock") and value surcharges were used in Obock. In 1892, a set of 13 stamps in the Commerce and Navigation key type was released, followed in 1893-94 by a long series of imperforate stamps picturing Somali warriors and camels. The 1893-94 series had a frame of simulated perforations. They were printed in two colors on paper with quadrille lines printed on it. The stamps are of larger size. The higher values are triangles. These stamps are Obock Scott Catalogue numbers 44A through 64. After the capitol was moved to from Obock to Djibouti, Obock's stamps, overprinted Djibouti were used for a time. The earlier stamp issues of Djibouti are listed as Somali Coast in the Scott Catalogue. This is because in 1902, stamps of Djibouti were replaced with stamps for the French Somali Coast marked *Cote Francaise des Somalis*. Those early *Djibouti* overprints are Scott numbers 1 through 5 and have catalogue values from \$160.00 to \$2200.00 mint, and \$150.00 to \$1500.00 used. The area became the French territory of Afars and Issas in 1967 after new treaties with France. The

territory was declared an independent nation in 1977 and changed its name to the Republic of Djibouti, being named after its principal city. Though Djibouti is an independent sovereign state, it maintains close relations with France through various military and economic agreements. It continues to receive security and economic assistance from France. Djibouti's location is the main economic asset of a country that is mostly barren. The capital, Djibouti city, handles Ethiopian imports and exports. Its transport facilities are used by several landlocked African countries to fly in their goods for re-export. This earns Djibouti much needed transit taxes and harbor fees. Obock is now a small port town in Djibouti. It has an airstrip and has ferries to Djibouti City, while mangroves lie nearby. If you want to look at all of the stamps of Obock and Djibouti in the Scott catalogues, you must look in the catalogue listings for Obock, Somali Coast, Afars and Issas, and Djibouti. Thanks to Bob Reynolds for suggesting this article.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOBAL STAMP NEWS?

Each month the American Philatelic Society publication, *American Philatelist*, lists new applications for membership received. It also lists other pertinent information, such as if a chapter is disbanded, members who have died,

members who have been expelled, and new dealer listings (those approved for classification as stamp dealers). In the August, 2011 issue of the *American Philatelist*, the list of expelled members, found on page 975, listed Jan L. Brandewie of Sidney Ohio, as being expelled for failure to provide customers with products and services for which money was taken (violation of APS Code of Ethics #8) and for failure to respond to official Society correspondence. I assume that this may be the answer to the question posed by this paragraph title.

NEW MR. ZIP WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum launched an online microsite celebrating and examining the history and development of Mr. Zip and the ZIP code campaign. Introduced in 1963, ZIP Codes were not immediately or warmly welcomed by the American public. The notion that people now needed to remember five numbers for their address, and those of anyone they corresponded with, seemed like too much work for many. The new website: www.npm.si.edu/zipcodecampaign chronicles the introduction of ZIP Codes in the U.S. and shows how this popular cartoon figure was used to encourage Americans to use the new system. ZIP Codes were introduced as part of the burgeoning mechanized mail systems that the Post Office Department was employing

across the country. As mail volumes soared in the 1950s and 1960s, postal officials looked for ways to keep the mail moving smoothly. As had other organizations around the world, the POD looked to mechanizing systems such as machines that could move thousands of pieces of mail in the time it took clerks to move a handful. But the machines needed to be able to "read" the mail in order to process it. So the ZIP Code system was introduced, promising Americans that by adding five numbers to each piece of mail, it would travel swiftly through the system to its destination. Mr. Zip was the face of the new campaign. Posters, television, newspaper and magazine ads featuring his image were commonplace in the mid 1960s. The site addresses how these advertisements were used, the public response to the campaign and ZIP Codes, as well as Mr. Zip's continued appearance in popular culture today. It also includes examples of audio and television spots from the campaign. "Almost 50 years after he was introduced to the public, and 25 years after the U.S. Postal Service stopped using him, the craggy, oddball figure of Mr/Zip continues to appear on knickknacks and in popular culture", said Nancy Pope, historian and curator. "An image that began as part of a bank's advertising campaign has become an enduring and recognizable figure of the U.S. mail".

Pacific NW Stamp Shows and Bourses 2011

Sat	Sun	Show Name	Location	Type
Nov 26	Nov 27	Coin, Postcard & Stamp	Fairgrounds, Salem At Columbia Hall, 2330 17 th St	Bourse

Repetitive events

Rose City Stamp Fair - 2nd Saturday of the month at OSS clubhouse

4828 NE 33rd Ave Portland 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Collectors Corner - 4th Saturday of the month at OSS clubhouse

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2012 major shows

May 11, 12, 13 PIPEX 2012 Stamp Show at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Portland

Bourse

Bourse

Events

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011,
7:30 PM, Marion County
Fire District 1 Headquarters
300 Cordon Rd NE Salem
OR

FUTURE PROGRAMS

December: Christmas
Dinner Party