

WILLAMETTE STAMP & TONGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF SALEM STAMP SOCIETY

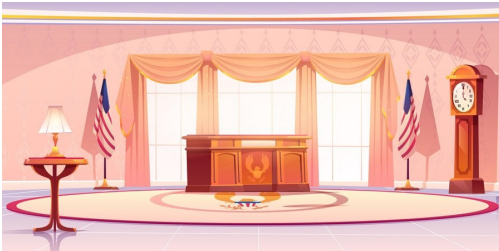


Volume 53 Issue 5

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS 1933-2026

May 2026

WEBSITE www.salemstampsociety.org



From the President's Desk

Hello all,

This is just a reminder that the Club is hosting a special Barbeque on June 17th 2026 at the Scottish Rite Center to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. Doors open at 5 pm, the meal will start at 6 pm and the meeting will begin at 7 pm. The cost per person is only **\$2.50**. Family members welcome. There will be a sign up sheet at the May club meetings or you may contact me by email.

The menu:

Barbeque Ribs

Hot dogs + vegan option

Potato Salad

Fruit Salad

Chips and Dip

Baked beans

All this and an exceptional Club auction. Hope to see you there!

Lisa

April 15th Meeting.

Bob Grosch gave an excellent program on “Dumb Oval Cancels”. These came into use when registered mail had to be cancelled on the back of the envelope to check that it was properly sealed. Postage on the front had also to be cancelled to prevent reuse but could not contain any information on place or date of posting—hence “dumb”. Double concentric ovals were most commonly used:



Bob described how he made an award winning exhibit on these cancels despite discouragement from a judge.

Bob Reynolds reports that 45 out of 60 lots in the bid board were sold for nearly \$400.

May 20th Meeting.

Correction: In last month's newsletter I wrote that we will have a Members' Auction in

May. This was incorrect, the main event will be **a Members' Swap Night.** Bring along your surplus items to sell or trade with club members.

Useful face value stamps will also be on offer to members at significantly reduced prices. The cost of postage will again increase on July 12 from 78c to 82c. So this is a good opportunity to save on your postage costs!

Salem Stamp Society

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Club News & Meetings.

*****June 17th Meeting.*****

Bob Reynolds will write a review in the next newsletter on the Special Club Auction which will take place after the Barbeque. He will include more details on a number of exceptional and outstanding lots from the late *Lucien Klein's* collections. Collectors of US and British Commonwealth stamps should not miss this auction.

Dues! Treasurer Alan Maul reminds you that you need to be a fully paid up member in order to place bids in club auctions and bid boards.

Competitions.

Congratulations to *Dick Hawks* who won the challenge set by Bob Grosch to identify the set of watermarks used by various countries.

Don Edwards has prepared a philatelic scavenger hunt challenge for members with a mystery prize for the winner—see details on page 4.

Library.

The 2027 Scotts Catalogs are coming out and the Volumes 1A-B and 2 A-B have been added to the Library and will be available at the May meeting.

PIPEX 2026.

This year's show took place over last weekend at the Hilton Garden Inn in Clackamas. The hotel (formerly the Monarch) has been extensively refurbished and remodeled by the new owners. The Exhibition Hall now has much improved lighting and overall appearance.

The show was another very successful event with over 550 people attending over the three days. It also included a major auction this year organized by Cherrystone and Uptown Stamp Show who reported that the majority of lots were sold (including some interesting British Commonwealth items acquired by our Club).

The feedback from the dealers was that they were pleased with show attendance and organization.

Lisa Janz writes:

I want to thank all those who attended and helped at PIPEX. We had a good show, and the Auction was a big success. Thank You for making PIPEX possible.

My thanks to club members: Danny Bisgaard, Phil Kumler, Dave Epps, Bob Reynolds, Ralph Nafziger, Norma Neilson, Mark Loomis, Jerry Lenis, Lloyd Farrell, Steve Brandt, Barbara Hendrix, Bill Seymour, Michele Giammatteo, Tony Port, Alan Maul, George Struble, Bill Roberts, Marc Dochez. If I missed you here please remind me, FYI; Someone left a black leather case behind with postcards in it. Please let Lisa or Alan know if it was you.

Lisa

The PIPEX 2026 Awards were presented at the Banquet on Saturday night. *Alan Maul* was this year's winner of the PIPEX Service Award in recognition of all his hard work in arranging all the dealers for the bourse and laying out the floor plan for the whole show. This is no easy task to round up the dealers, collect dealer fees and position them in a way that satisfies all the parties. He has carried out this job for a number of years now and is very good at it. There will come a time when he will be looking for an understudy to train.

Several of our club members won awards for their exhibits: Mark Loomis, Worth Mathewson, Ralph Nafziger and George Struble. The full listing is given in the *Palmares* which is reproduced on Page 3 of this newsletter and available on the PIPEX website along with copies of this year's exhibits.



PALMARES

PIPEX 2026



World Series of Philately Show
Hilton Garden Inn Clackamas, Oregon
May 1- 3, 2026

TONY WAWRUKIEWICZ GRAND AWARD

Vesma Grinfelds – *Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia: 1919-1921*

RESERVE GRAND AWARD

Semyon Melamed - *DELAG – The World's First Airline: Development of Airmail Service 1910-1919*

SINGLE FRAME GRAND AWARD

Lloyd Ferrell – *The Battleship Oregon (1893-1919); "Bulldog of the Navy"*

People's Choice Award

Eric R. Knapp – *The Raven Story Stamp of 2021*

George Struble Innovation Award

Ralph Nafziger – *A Soldier's Diary – The World War I North Russia Expedition*

Larry Spray Encouragement Award

Tim Bergquist – *My U.S. ATA One-Page Exhibits*

MULTI-FRAME EXHIBITS

Large Gold

Vesma Grinfelds – *Cancellations of the Provisional Era in Latvia: 1919-1921 (95 pts)*

Semyon Melamed - *DELAG – The World's First Airline: Development of Airmail Service 1910-1919 (95 pts)*

Lloyd Ferrell – *Transition to War: Pearl Harbor Ships before and after December 7, 1941 (93 pts)*

Also, American Philatelic Society - Award of Excellence: 1940-1980; United States Stamp Society - Statute of Freedom Award

Louis Fiset – *The Uprooting of British Columbia's Japanese Canadians, 1942-1949 (92 pts)*

Also, American Philatelic Congress – Congress Award

Lloyd Ferrell – *Little Known Pearl Harbor Ships: without Postal Facilities (91 pts)*

Also, American Philatelic Society - Research Award

Mark Loomis – *WWII Civil Censor Marks of Southern Rhodesia (91 pts)*

Gold

Michael Bloom – *Essays and Proofs of Guatemala (90 pts)*

Louis Fiset – *UK Internment of Resident Refugees Fleeing the Third Reich (1940-1942) (89 pts)*

Michael Bloom – *Guatemala's Master Designer/Engraver: Arnoldo Chavarry Arrue (88 pts)*

Norma Nielson – *A Study of the U.N. Chagall Window Minisheet (87 pts)*

James Ong – *From Sea to Air: Postal Disruption and Route Reconfiguration in Formosa, 1945-1949 (87 pts)*

Also, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors – Novice Award

David Jay – *Mail Service in Rural Russia: Volostnoe Pravlenie Offices, 1845-1928 (87 pts)*

Louis Fiset – *French Interzone and Free Zone Mail during the German Occupation (1940-1943) (86 pts)*

David Jay – *How Russia Delivered the Mail: Auxiliary Offices and the Police Post, 1889 to 1918 (86 pts)*

Large Vermeil

Ross Marshall – *Soviet Antarctic Expedition Transcontinental Flights 1961-1967 (83 pts)*

Vermeil

Ross Marshall – *Hungary 1918-1921 Armistice to Treaty of Trianon (78 pts)*

Gerald E. Smith – *Railway Post Offices (R.P.O.) on Streetcars (76 pts)*

Norma Nielson – *Fabergé's Imperial Easter Eggs; Extravagance and Intrigue (76 pts)*

Also, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors – Gold Award of Honor; American Topical Association - 1st Award

MULTI FRAME EXHIBITS

Large Silver

Donald Blais – *Bridges Over the Ages; From Ancient to Modern Times (73 pts)*

Also, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors – Gold Award of Honor; American Topical Association - 2nd Award;

Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs - Thunderbird Award

Cathie Osborne – *A Town Called Bell (73 pts)*

Also, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors – Benninghoff Award

Eric R. Knapp – *The Raven Story Stamp of 2021 (70 pts)*

Also, American Philatelic Society - Award of Excellence: Post 1980

SINGLE-FRAME EXHIBITS

Large Gold

Lloyd Ferrell – *The Battleship Oregon (1893-1919); "Bulldog of the Navy" (92 pts)*

Vesma Grinfelds – *Latvia: The Rising Sun Stamp of 1919 (92 pts)*

Also, American Philatelic Society - Award of Excellence: 1900-1940

Yuxiang Jiang – *China Express Letter Stamp (1812-1914) (91 pts)*

David Jay – *St. Petersburg Registered Mail with Geometric Postmarks, 1881-1904 (91 pts)*

Also, American Philatelic Society - Award of Excellence: Pre-1900;

Rossica Society - Award

Gold

David Jay – *The Tsars' Post Offices, 1852-1917 (86 pts)*

George Struble – *1920 Ill-fated Airmail Service Frankfurt – Basel (85 pts)*

Louis Fiset – *Lone Wolf Mail: Lesser Known US World War II*

Postal History (85 pts)

Large Vermeil

Ralph Nafziger – *A Soldier's Diary – The World War I North Russia*

Expedition (83 pts)

Also, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors – Creativity Award

Vermeil

Ralph Nafziger – *Combination First Day Covers of the Fourth Bureau Definitive Issues (79 pts)*

Also, American First Day Cover Society – Award

SINGLE FRAME EXHIBITS

Large Silver

George Struble – *You're Trying to Pay Postage with THAT? (74 pts)*

Also, Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs - Thunderbird Award

Worth Mathewson – *Confederate Postal Service (73 pts)*

Also, Women Exhibitors – Sterling Achievement Award

Worth Mathewson – *Confederate General Issues #6, #7L, #7R (70 pts)*

Silver

Tim Bergquist – *My U.S. ATA One-Page Exhibits (67 pts)*

YOUTH EXHIBITS

Large Vermeil

Presley Joy Whittaker – *Stamps and Saddles (82 pts)*

Also, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors – Youth Award;

American Topical Association – Youth Award

Silver

Yumiko Ramirez – *Big Horns, Big Mission (68 pts)*

PIPEX 2026 JURY MEMBERS

John Hotchner, Falls Church, Virginia, Jury Chair

Mike Ley, Doniphan, Nebraska

Pat Walker, University Park, Florida

Jan Hofmeyr, Victoria, BC, Canada

Ray Pietruszka, Madison, Alabama

Dzintars Grinfelds, San Francisco, California, apprentice

Salem Stamp Society Philatelic Scavenger Hunt #1

Here is a list of Ten Philatelic items for this Philatelic Scavenger hunt. For this first hunt, find at least 7 of the ten, provide proof of your trophies (such as a picture), and send to **Dan Edwards** at **DKE1959@aol.com**.

Deadline for submissions will be noon of the day of our monthly meeting. Names of winners will be announced at our May meeting, successful hunters names put into a drawing for a philatelic prize related to one of the clues. Have fun !

1. A Machin
2. A non-USA FDC
3. A postage stamp showing a famous location in Asia
4. A postage stamp depicting an animal you might encounter on an African safari
5. A postage stamp showing multiple means of transportation.
6. A postage stamp from a "Dead Country"
7. An airmail postage stamp
8. A postage stamp from "the land Down Under"
9. A stamp showing a Zeppelin air-ship.
10. A postage stamp showing a basket

Dan Edwards

What Do I Do Now?

By Bob Grosch

Like many of us I look at my birthday cake and find it hard to believe the number of candles! As I advance in age I wonder what I will do after the sale of my stamp collection. Will I be able in my final years to stop collecting?

I once knew a famous collector and expert on Scott #231 who sold his extensive holdings, but boasted that he never stopped collecting and had a large collection of albums he had filled since his stamps went up for auction.

Knowing that he had had tens of thousands of #231 mounted for his collection, I asked him what he collected now. "Everything that looks like, smells like or tastes like a stamp but isn't one" was his reply.

My friend had accumulated twelve volumes of Christmas Seals, discount labels, S&H Green Stamps, Cinderellas and stationery seals.

"And the best part of my new collections," he said, "is that my new material comes to me for free." "In fact," he continued, "since my friends all across the country found out what I am doing, they send me stuff with a kind word or two. It helps me keep in touch."

I was touched by my friend's solution to life after selling the collection and immediately sat down, wrote him a note, and included a stash of gummed perforated labels that had been collecting in a desk drawer for many years. Upon receiving them he sent me a thank you note, franked with a genuine copy of the two-cent Columbian, Scott#231. The post office failed to notice a very faint cancel on the stamp prior to it's being mailed to me some time in the 1990's. I saved the cover and mounted it one of my albums and labelled it "Last Known Use".

When my collection goes to auction, surely the auctioneer will look at this strangely franked cover and remark, "Now that's interesting!"

Notes from the WESTPEX 2026 Show,

About 15 or so years ago I often visited the Bay Area for my work and would occasionally stay at the Waterfront Marriott hotel close to the San Francisco airport. It was always something of an expensive treat (OK when the company was paying) with good food, comfortable rooms and a great location. Later, when we lived in the Bay Area, it was only a short trip to the hotel and so I could attend WESTPEX every year at one of my favorite places—a double pleasure.

This year we went back to visit the show but the experience was quite different. The journey was not too difficult, just longer and more expensive of course. The WESTPEX show was, I thought, just as good as it ever was with many dealers and a large and interesting range of exhibits. The most disappointing change was the hotel itself.

The choice and quality of the food offered by the hotel was very poor and very expensive. Our room was not clean and no bargain even at discounted show rates. To my great surprise, this hotel would come second to the greatly improved and refurbished Hilton Garden Inn (used for the PIPEX show) in all respects apart from the location!

Show and Exhibition.

WESTPEX is a major show with 70 dealers from all over the world and 250 frames of international exhibits. Its sheer size can be a little daunting and if you only have one day, as I did, you need to be very selective. Although it was quite busy I did bump into a few old friends and dealers that I knew from previously.

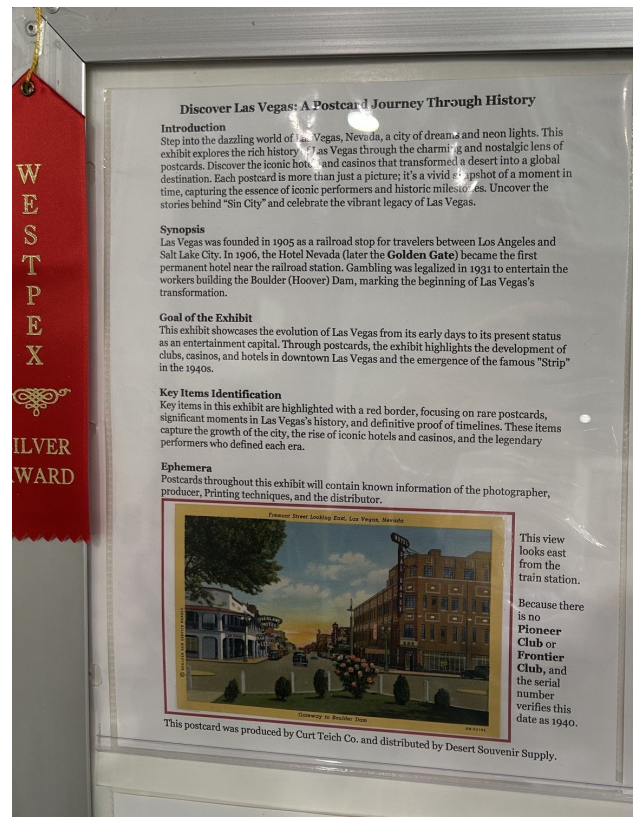
Phil Kumler was busy with youth and scouting activities with a record of scouts attending. As seen below, they seemed to be having a great time.



Phil was also seen being interviewed by APS for a feature called "Tell your Collecting Story".

As you would expect there were many outstanding exhibits on display. Two in particular caught my interest. The first concerned Cunard and their early monopoly of transatlantic mails by steamship (more on this in the next newsletter). The second was a Court of Honor exhibit "A Miscellany of Rarity" by Mark Horne. His primary aim was to collect only items of which fewer than 25 or 50 were in existence. He had several frames filled with stamps of great rarity and which included an inverted Jenny and other near unique items.

Club member Steve Staton had a postcard exhibit on the history of Las Vegas which won a silver award (below). Well done Steve.



Salem Stamp Society

P.O. Box 202

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Meetings

**All meetings held at the Scottish Rite
Masonic Temple,
4090 Commercial St. SE, Salem, OR.**

Wednesday May 20th 2026.

**Members' Swap Night & Club sales of Face
Value stamps at discounted prices.**

Wednesday June 17th 2026.

**Celebrate 250 years of the USA! Barbeque
starting 5pm then Special Club Auction start-
ing 7pm.**

**Pacific NW Stamp Shows and
Bourses 2026**

Local Events

June 5-6, SOPEX, Medford OR

July 18-19 Evergreen Club Summer Show, Kent, WA

Repetitive Events:

**Oregon Stamp Society: Rose City Stamp Fair -
2nd Saturday of the month at OSS clubhouse
4828 NE 33rd Ave., Portland 9:00am-3:00 pm
Collectors Corner - 4th Saturday of the month
at OSS clubhouse 9:00 am.- 3:00 pm**

2025-2026 Major Shows:

**BOSTON 2026 World Expo, May 28-30 2026 at the Boston
Convention Center**