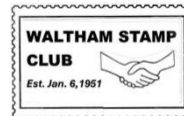




Waltham Stamp Club

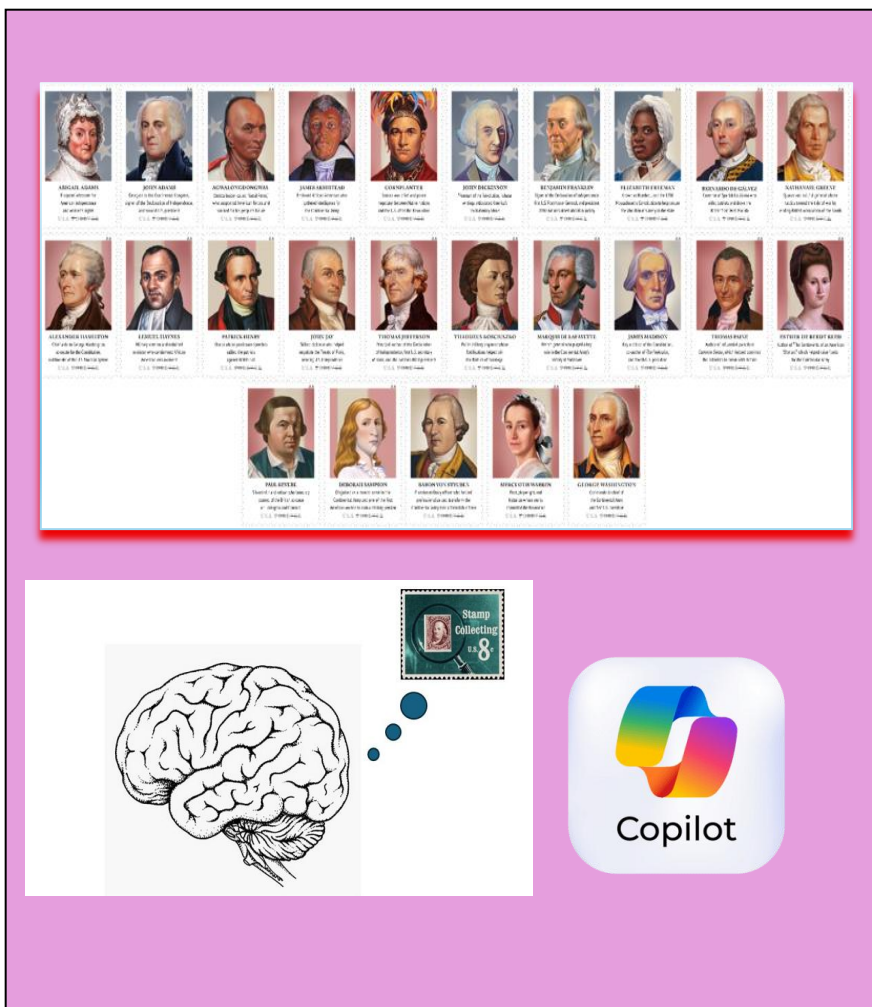


FOUNDED APRIL 1951

A member of the American Philatelic Society from 1968 (Chapter #683), the United Stamp Societies, Inc., and the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs.

JAN 2026 VOLUME 6 EDITION 3

IN THIS ISSUE



- Figures of the American Revolution by Stephen Neuman
- The Collector's Mind, Brain and Personality by Mark Hauser MD
- CoPilot Views on Philately and Boston 2026 by AI
- Calendar of Events for winter and Spring 2026
- Presentations by Frank Slack, Ken Flowers, and Robert Brew
- Spellman Museum Highlights
- Phun Facts



The newsletter contents are divided into the following sections:

- Contacting the Waltham Stamp Club
- Stamp Club Events and Highlights
- Feature Stories and “phun” facts from our members
- Stamp Sales and Bourse Book Procedures
- Where to Go for Buying and Selling Stamps
- Appendices

The club website: www.walthamstampclub.org
The meetings are at the **SPELLMAN PHILATELIC MUSEUM**
(On the campus of Regis College)
241 Wellesley Street, Weston, MA (use the rear parking lot entrance)

The Waltham Stamp Club meetings are held virtually in addition to being held at the Spellman Museum and are available online utilizing ZOOM. You may join a zoom meeting using a PC or mobile phone. You can download the ZOOM app if you do not already have it. A meeting ID and password will be sent to you in the meeting invitation as well as a link to the website. Your display name once you have joined ZOOM will be shown. You have the option to connect the audio and/or video for others to hear and see you at the meeting. There is also a telephone number provided in the invitation to the meeting so that you may participate without an internet connection.

From the Editor

One of the feature articles in this issue, written by Mark Hauser, explores why stamp collectors enjoy philately and how our brain and our personality are influenced in a positive way to pursue the hobby, each of us probably began in our childhood. We are members of a club who share our interests in philately and as a social activity we communicate and participate in group events like bourse, stamp shows and simply talking and listening to our fellow members.

Franklin Roosevelt was an avid philatelist, who collected stamps starting at age eight, and by the hobby, found immense joy, stress relief, and a way to learn about the world. Through his Postmaster General, James Farley, FDR helped design over 200 stamps including the 1933 Byrd Expedition of Antarctica, Mother's Day issue depicting Whistler's Mother in 1934, 1934 Susan B. Anthony, and three-cent Win the War in 1942. Cardinal Francis Spellman, a good friend of FDR, a renowned stamp collector, turned his love for stamps into a significant resource for research, leading to the Spellman Museum at Regis College housing his collections and promoting philately as historical documentation. Presidents Herbert Hoover and Gerald Ford also collected stamps. Famous philatelists who were not American presidents include Queen Elizabeth II, King George V, John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Patrick Dempsey, James Earl Jones, Ronne Wood, Ayn Rand, Nicolas Sarkozy, Maria Sharapova, Warren Buffett, Jacques Cousteau, Amelia Earhart and Anatoly Karpov.

I asked the Artificial Intelligence program Copilot (from Microsoft) about philately and its status today; for example, who participates in the hobby and why. I also inquired about how the upcoming show in Boston, the Twelfth International Philatelic Exhibition celebrating America's 250th anniversary can be a benefit not only for stamp collectors but for the public in general. Truthfully, I was short of a feature article this month, so I asked for help from AI to write one.

This year the US Post Office will issue a commemorative sheet of twenty-five stamps honoring the people who were instrumental in the birth of our nation two hundred and fifty years ago. The feature article by Stephen Neuman shares the stories of each of these people.

Schedule of Events for 2026

- January 6: New Year Stamp Auction
- January 20: Modern Ukrainian War Issues by David Ball
- February 3: Show and Tell
- February 17: Orangeburg Coils by Ed Sterling
- March 3: Captain Tim Healy by Rick Barrett
- March 17: Stamp Auction
- March 31: 5th Tuesday
- April 4: Spring Brunch
- April 21: The Graded US Stamp Market by Clark Frazier
- May 5: Annual Meeting / Barbecue – Election of Officers
- May 19: Stamp Collecting Basics: Gum – by Bob Brew
- June 2: Review of the Boston 2026 World Expo stamp show
- June 16: Stamp Auction
- June 30: 5th Tuesday
- July 21: Summer Meeting / Bourse Books
- August 18: Summer Meeting / Philatelic Phlea Mark

Future Philatelic Shows

Dedham Show – first Sunday of each month Jan 4 at Holiday Inn at 55 Ariadne Road in Dedham MA

Nashua Show – at the Apple Grove Events Center at 19S Depot Rd in Hollis NH on the third Sunday of each month. Jan 18.

Recent Waltham Stamp Club Activities and Meetings

- Bourse book procedures have changed so now the borrower must sign his or her name before receiving receipt and therefore is liable for its return.
- On November 4, Frank Slack gave a presentation on “How many Victoria Falls have there been and where will the next one be? Evidence from stamps, postcards and ephemera”.
 - Victoria Falls, named after Queen Victoria, is the largest waterfall in the world by volume of water going over it, and is 100 yards high and 1 mile wide.
 - 61 worldwide stamp issues have shown the falls, with the first being in 1905, issued by the British South Africa Company, and the most recent being in 2015 by Japan. A wide variety of these stamps were shown.
 - As opposed to Niagara Falls, which gradually “moves” due to erosion, Victoria Falls has moved in a stepwise fashion as a new crack/channel

can quickly develop and a new gorge is formed, cutting off the previous falls.

- Postcards show where the previous 8 Victoria Falls were. The speaker showed satellite views and postcards where the next new channel seems to be forming and where the next Victoria Falls will be, though it will probably take 20,000 to 30,000 years.
- On November 15, club members had Saturday morning brunch and Ken Flowers, Spellman curator, gave another presentation on 'Gems from the Vault' and hinted that he is looking for stamp inverts.
 - Ireland overprints on Sea Horse issued from Great Britain in 1922 in various denominations.
 - The Postcard recognized as the first First Day Cover with the stamp of Warren Harding and the cover addressee of G.W. Linn of the Linn Stamps fame.
 - A vertical strip of four Jefferson stamps issued in 1857-1860 for which only 878 issued. The block is pictured in the Specialized Catalog.
 - Letter from Theodore Roosevelt "on Safari" to Lawrence Abbott (editor) in Nov 1909. The letter describes polar explorers Robert Peary and Frederick Cook in colorful terms.
 - The rare reissue of the 1869 ninety cent Lincoln (w/o grill) in 1875.
 - A letter from Abraham Lincoln in October 1864 containing a presidential pardon for Barren County Kentucky postmaster Wilburn Bybee. Cosigned by William Stuart, Sec'y of State.
 - Hungarian rarity issued in 1925 featuring the inverted image of Madonna. Twenty of these stamps are in the Budapest Postal Museum. A total of eighty on the sheet were discovered before the error was found.
- On December 2, Robert Brew gave a presentation on AI in Philately.
 - Four internet providers with AI services were studied by examples chosen and comparison of results given. ChatGPT-Open AI; Claude-Anthropic; Gemini-Google; and Copilot-Microsoft.
 - AI is used for stamp identification; Main strength is its fast. Main weakness is not always reliable – errors and variants, fooled by forgeries, cannot detect watermarks.
 - AI programs do not license or authorize Scott catalog info. for example, after Br. Honduras #125 stamp scanned: ChatGPT identified as Br. Honduras Scott#125, Claude can't give out Scott #, Gemini -Scott #125: Copilot – Scott #144.
 - Two-cent Washington Scott #332 (double line) Scott #375 (single line) watermark identified by Chat GPT correctly as Scott 332 but to check watermark; Claude difficult with Washington-franklin series stamps; Gemini as Scott #332 but to check watermark not to rule out #375; Copilot- could be Scott#332 but could be Scott#375.
 - Gemini correctly identified a fake NY Provisional letter and stamp and provided information that the postal rate was incorrect for the route and date & time. CoPilot provided information about the postmaster but did not reveal as a fake. Claude incorrectly identified the cover stamp nor that it

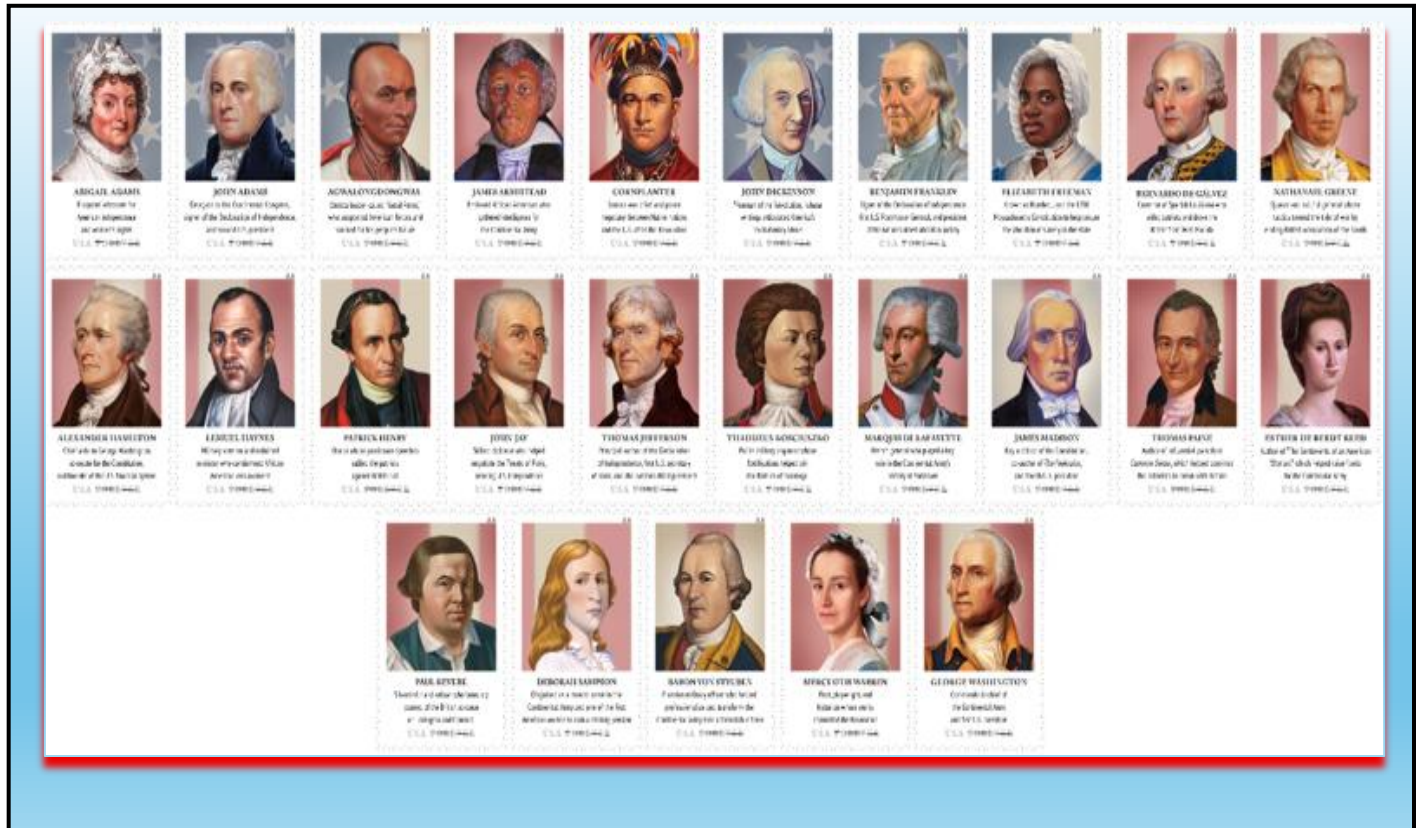
was a fake. ChatGPT did recognize cover as probably a fake but also not as an official US local post. Additional information was provided about the cancellation and the addressee.

- AI provides stamp values based on catalog or estimates based on online sales
- AI can help search for material related to fancy cancels and covers
- Foreign alphabetic characters such as Japanese or Arabic may be read incorrectly
- AI is generally good for research such as quantity of stamps printed or additional details for covers, persons and postal history.
- AI can be used for proofreading and editing philatelic articles and exhibits.
- In summary, AI can point you in the right direction for stamp identification but everything should be confirmed as frequent errors are made.
- AI can give you a rough valuation and point to finding new material on obscure sites.
- AI can help with simple research, proofreading, and editing.
- On December 16, we had our annual holiday party and Yankee Swap.



Saturday brunch on November 15, 2025

Feature Stories from Our Members



Figures of the American Revolution

By Stephen Neuman

Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States, this pane of stamps pays tribute to 25 individuals whose ideas, leadership and sacrifices were vital to achieving American independence and shaping the new nation. Representing a range of roles and perspectives, from political thinkers and military leaders to writers, diplomats and everyday citizens, the honorees reflect the collective effort that defined the Revolution. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the pane, which features original artwork by 13 contemporary artists.

Abigail Adams- Born in Weymouth MA in 1744. Wife and closest advisor to John Adams, second president. Mother of John Quincy Adams, sixth president. First first-



lady to live in the White House. Advocate for women's rights and education. Urged the Founding Fathers to "remember the ladies." She supported the abolition of slavery. Died in 1814 in Quincy MA.

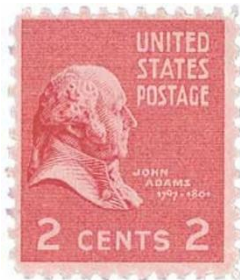
James Armistead- Born into slavery in Virginia about 1748. With the permission of his master, he enlisted in the Revolutionary



War under General Lafayette. Working as a spy, Armistead gained the trust of General Cornwallis and Benedict Arnold. Armistead provided information that allowed American forces to prevail at the Battle of Yorktown.

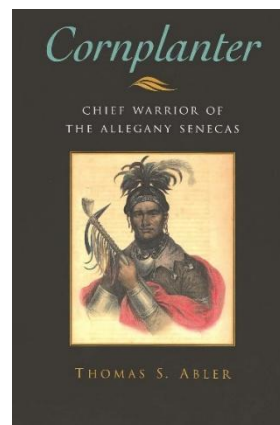
Armistead died in 1830, having successfully petitioned for his freedom in 1787.

John Adams- Born in Braintree MA in 1735. Founding Father and second US president. Leader in the American Revolution. Vice-president for George Washington. A leader in the Continental Congress, arguing for separation from Great Britain and helped draft the Declaration of



Independence. Secured foreign support for the war, getting loans from France and Netherlands. First president in WH. Died in Quincy MA on July 4, 1826.

Cornplanter- Born in 1732 in Canawaugus NY (Caledonia presently) was a Seneca chief and diplomat. He played a pivotal role



in negotiations between the Iroquois Confederacy and the United States following the Revolution. During the war he fought on the side of the British. He was a signatory of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784 and the Treaty of Canandaigua in 1794

and others. He died in 1836 and is buried in Warren County PA.

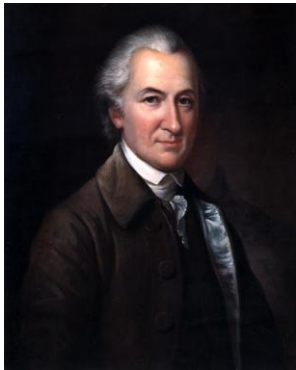
Agwalongdongwas- "Good Peter" A native American from the Bear Clan from the Oneida tribe of Indian nation. Converted to Christianity (Presbyterian) in 1748. Became



a preacher meetings and conferences during war until he was imprisoned in Fort Niagara. Released after four years and spent rest of his life speaking to Oneida Indian nation. Died in 1792.

John Dickinson- Born in 1732 in Talbot County MD. The Founding Father was an attorney and a politician from Philadelphia PA and Wilmington DE. He was known as the Penman of the Revolution for his influential writings including "Letters from the Farmer in Pennsylvania" in which he opposed British taxation without representation. Although he didn't sign the Declaration of Independence, he contributed to the Articles of Confederation

and US constitution. He died in 1808 In Wilmington DE.



Benjamin Franklin- Born in 1706 in Boston MA. He was a writer, scientist, inventor,



statesman, diplomat, printer, publisher, and politician. He invented the lightning rod, bifocals, and hand paddle. Founding Father of the US and drafted the Declaration of Independence

and US Constitution. He was the first Postmaster General of US. Secured the alliance with France during the Revolutionary War and negotiated the treaty that ended it. He died in Philadelphia in 1790.



Elizabeth Freeman-aka Mumbet. One of the first enslaved people to file and win a freedom suit in Massachusetts. Born in New York in 1744, the MA

Supreme Court found slavery to be inconsistent with the State Constitution. In her suit, Brom and Bett versus Ashley (1781) gained freedom based on the

constitutional right of liberty. She died in 1829 in Stockbridge MA.

Bernado De Galvez- Born in Spain in 1746, as a military leader he served as governor of Louisiana and Cuba, and later as Viceroy of New Spain. Under orders the Spanish crown, he supported the colonists and the French allies during the Revolutionary War. He helped



facilitate vital supply lines in Gulf and helped defeat British in West Florida. The campaign led to return of all Florida to Spain at the Peace Treaty of Paris. He died in 1786 in Mexico.

Nathaniel Greene- Born in 1742 in Warwick RI. Served in the Continental Army during the war and had reputation as one of the most dependable officers and his successes in command of the Southern theater. After taking command, he engaged the British armies in a series of campaigns of guerilla warfare against the numerically superior forces led by General Cornwallis. Greene continued to serve after the Battle of



Yorktown. He settled down as a plantation owner in 1783 and died in 1786 in Mulberry Grove GA.

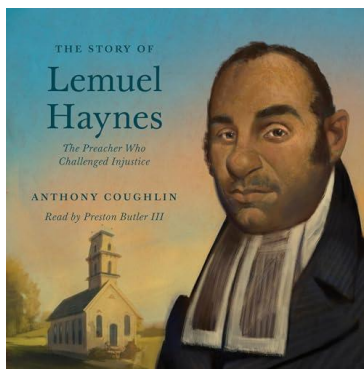
Alexander Hamilton- Born in 1755 in the British West Indies. As a young boy from an impoverished family, he worked very hard, learned about international commerce and came to America. He arrived in New York in 1773 and went to Kings College (Columbia Univ) and wrote an article defending the



Patriot's cause against the Loyalists. He left college to join forces with them and wrote letters for General Washington and became his assistant. A delegate to the Constitutional

Convention and author of the Federalist papers. The first US treasury secretary. He died in 1804 in a fateful duel with Aaron Burr.

Lemuel Haynes- Born in West Hartford CT in 1753. First black minister to serve in the Continental army. An anti-slavery activist, he also advocated against the colonization movement arguing that people from African descent living in US should be entitled to



the same rights as other citizens and not be resettled in Africa. Haynes pastored a church in Rutland VT for thirty years and then in Supreme

Court. He died Manchester VT for three. His last parish was in South Granville NY where he died in 1833.

Patrick Henry- Born in Studley VA in 1736. The first and sixth post-colonial governor of Virginia, was a brilliant orator and a major figure of the American Revolution. He is best known for his words, "give me liberty or



give me death!" Henry was a colonel in command of the regimen recently formed in the Continental Army. He commanded a strong majority of Anti-Federalists to

create a new Democratic party led by Jefferson and Madison. Due to ailing health, Henry retired in 1790 and died in Red Hill VA in 1799.

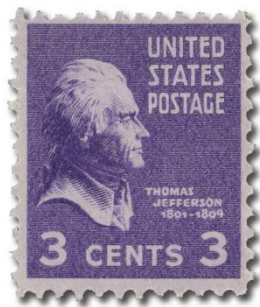
John Jay- Born in New York NY in 1745. American statesman, diplomat, signatory of the Treaty of Paris and Founding Father. He went to Kings College (Columbia Univ) at age 14. A key author of the Federalist Papers. He served as the first Chief



Justice, a Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Governor of New York. In NY he signed legislation for gradual abolition of slavery. Jay was instrumental in establishing the

authority and independence of the Supreme Court. He died in New York NY in 1829.

Thomas Jefferson- Born in Shadwell VA in 1743. Founding Father and third president of the United States. He was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. He was the first Secretary of State under George Washington and the nation's second vice-president under John Adams. He represented Virginia in the second Continental Congress and was Governor of Virginia during the Revolutionary War. He is a leading proponent of democracy, republicanism, and natural rights and he produced formative documents and decisions at the state, national, and international levels. He died in Monticello VA in 1826.



Marquis de Lafayette- Born in France in 1757. Served with distinction in the Revolutionary War as a French general providing tactical leadership and close friend of George Washington. He secured the support of the French and played a key role in the victory at siege of Yorktown. In France he helped draft the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of family. He fled France but was captured and returned and elected to Chamber of Deputies. He argued vehemently for abdication of Napoleon. After Chales X was overthrown, Lafayette became commander of the National Guard. He died in Paris in 1834.



Thaddeus Kosciuszko- Born in 1746 in Poland. He was a Polish military engineer, statesman, and military leader who became a national hero in Poland, the United States, Lithuania, and Belarus. He fought in the conflicts between Poland and Russia and



was on the US side during the Revolutionary War. He opposed slavery and as Supreme Commander of the Polish Armed Forces, he led the 1794 Kosciuszko

Uprising. Unfortunately, the uprising failed and Poland lost most of its territories. He died in 1817 in Switzerland.

James Madison- Born in Port Conway VA in 1751. A Founding Father and known as the Father of the US Constitution and the fourth President of the United States. Born into a prominent slave owning plantation. He helped organize the Constitutional Convention and helped write the Federalist Papers and was a close advisor to President Washington. Alongside Jefferson he helped organize the Democratic Republicans in opposition to Hamilton and the Federalists. As Secretary of State, he helped convince Jefferson to submit the

Louisiana Purchase Treaty for approval by the Senate. Madison led the US into War of 1812 that convinced him of the need for a stronger federal government. After his presidency, he



returned to his plantation Montpelier VA where he died in 1836.

Thomas Paine- Born in Thetford UK in 1732. A Founding Father, inventor, political philosopher, and statesman. His pamphlets *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis* framed the argument for American independence from Great Britain. Paine advanced the Enlightenment arguments for human rights that shaped the human discourse across both sides of the Atlantic. His work advocating the right of people to



overthrow government forced him to flee to France. Freed from French prison, he returned to US but there he denounced Washington as incompetent.

He died in 1809 in Greenwich NY and only six people attended his funeral.

Esther de Berot Reed- Born in London UK in 1746. She was first lady of Pennsylvania and the wife of Governor Reed. She founded the Ladies Association of Philadelphia that raised funds for the Continental Army. She emphasized women's contributions to the Revolution and



advocated for their patriotic duty to participate in the War for Independence. She raised over \$300K for the Patriots. She succumbed to dysentery and died in Philadelphia PA in 1780.

Paul Revere- Born in Boston MA in 1735. A silversmith and American revolutionary famously alerted the Lexington militia about the approach of the British soldiers in 1775. He supported independence and took part in the Boston Tea Party. His legendary midnight ride on horseback and a notification by a system of lanterns, he



contributed to the victory at Lexington and Concord. Following the Revolutionary War, Revere built his reputation as a craftsman and industrialist. He retired in 1811 and died in

Boston in 1818.

Deborah Sampson- Born in Plympton MA in 1760. A woman who disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. She was in uniform for seventeen months before being discovered. She required medical treatment after contracting a fever in



Philadelphia. She was honorably discharged at West Point in 1783. She married Benjamin Garnett in 1785 and later went on lecture tour to speak about her wartime experiences.

She died in Sharon MA in 1827.

Baron von Steuben- Born in Magdeburg, Germany in 1730. A Prussian-born army officer who played a leading role in the American Revolution by reforming the Continental Army into a disciplined and professional fighting force. He was discharged from the Prussian Army and joined the US forces at Valley Forge. He managed a significant improvement in



performance of the US troops and as a result is regarded as one of the fathers of the United States Army. He is responsible for what became the US Army Drill manual,

known as the Blue Book. He died on his farm tract in Mohawk Valley NY in 1794.

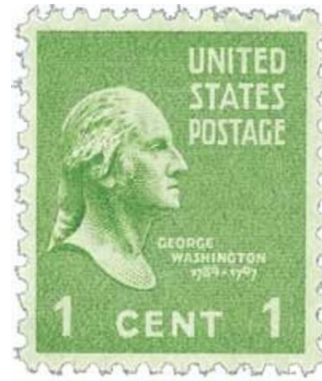
Mercy Otis Warren- Born in Barnstable MA in 1728. An American activist poet, playwright, and pamphleteer during the American Revolution.



Previously had published plays that attacked royal authority in the state and urged colonists to resist British infringements

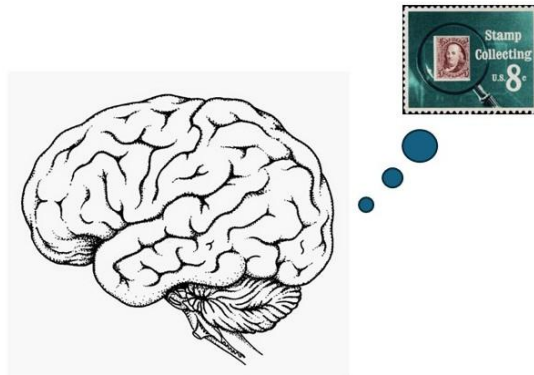
on colonialists' rights and liberties. She issued a pamphlet on the new Constitution

under the pseudonym "A Columbian Patriot" and advocated for the inclusion of the Bill of Rights. Later published a history of the Revolution. Died in Plymouth MA in 1818.



George Washington-

Born in Westmoreland County (Mount Vernon) VA in 1732. A Founding Father and first President of the United States. He was a plantation owner and served as a general and commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and led the army to victory. Played a crucial role in the creation of the US Constitution and later became America's first president, serving from 1789 to 1797. Despite his reluctance and his desire for retirement, he was elected to the office by unanimous approval. He established the nation's capital in a district by the Potomac River. He did not belong to a political party and died in his home in Virginia in 1799.



THE COLLECTOR'S BRAIN, MIND, AND PERSONALITY

By Mark J. Hauser, M.D.

My thoughts for your perusal this month examine the psychological nature of our shared enjoyment of collecting. Stamp collectors know the thrill, that surge of excitement when you find a beautifully centered issue, the variety you've been seeking for months, or the cover whose cancellation ties together a perfect story of postal history. Many of us have wondered why this hobby brings such profound satisfaction. What is it about collecting, stamp collecting in particular, that lights up the mind?

As both a psychiatrist and a lifelong collector, I've had the unusual opportunity to examine this question from two perspectives. What I'd like to share with our Waltham Stamp Club community is a brief tour of the collector's brain, mind, and personality; an exploration of why we collect, what drives our pleasure, and why collecting is such an enduring part of human nature.

Long before humans collected stamps, our ancestors had to forage to survive, gathering food, fuel, and tools. They learned to spot patterns in nature, evaluate what was valuable, remember where they had found things before, and store resources safely. Over time, early humans began collecting attractive, rare, or symbolically meaningful objects not for survival, but for social exchange. For example, shells, stones, and feathers are all beautiful things that could be traded, gifted, and displayed. These objects conveyed status, skill, taste, and intelligence. In other words, the instinct to collect is older than civilization itself. Stamp albums are just the modern expression of ancient circuitry. And in an age where our basic needs are met, those instincts find new outlets. We collect not because we must, but because we innately delight in it.

When a collector finds something special, a primitive reward system is activated deep within the brain. First, the Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA) releases dopamine, the neurotransmitter of *anticipation*. Next, the Nucleus Accumbens registers *reward* and *pleasure*. Finally, the Amygdala attaches emotional meaning and vivid memory. This trio of regions is active in everything from eating chocolate to solving a puzzle. For

collectors, these circuits fire when we search a dealer's box and suddenly spot something rare, a missing space on an album page is finally filled, a beautifully engraved stamp captures our aesthetic sense, or we make a discovery others overlooked. This is the "collector's high," a dopamine-driven burst of intellectual and emotional reward.

While the ancient reward system drives our desire to acquire, a different part of the brain keeps collecting healthy and purposeful. The Prefrontal Cortex is responsible for judgment, prioritization, planning, impulse control, and differentiating value. Collectors use this region every time they decide what to collect and what *not* to collect, how to organize albums and catalogues, how to budget for the hobby, or when to upgrade or refine a collection. This "higher cortical oversight" is what separates collecting (structured, meaningful, thoughtful) from hoarding (disorganized, excessive, driven by emotional distress rather than joy). Collectors take pleasure in curation, not just accumulation.

Studies and decades of observing fellow philatelists reveal a few common traits. Curious collectors notice details, patterns, and differences most people overlook. Appreciating aesthetics, collectors love that objects such as stamps offer miniature worlds of engraving, color, geometry, iconography, and national identity. Desiring to complete the puzzle, collectors find that a full page of filled spaces creates a sense of order, accomplishment, and beauty. Enjoying the thrill of acquiring knowledge, collectors value that every stamp teaches something about geography, politics, printing, history, or culture. Proud of goods accumulated, collectors often derive satisfaction not only from finding an item, but from caring for it, preserving it, and understanding its place in a larger tradition. Lastly and perhaps most importantly, collectors find social connection with like-minded friends. Clubs like ours thrive because collectors enjoy sharing knowledge, discoveries, and stories.

Although collectors hold these common values, each collector is distinctive. Even when two people collect the same thing, they may experience joy for very different reasons. One may love the hunt, another the history, a third the beauty, a fourth the organization, a fifth the rare variety that completes a page. This diversity of motivations is part of why a collecting society is so interesting: each collector's relationship to the hobby is uniquely personal.

In the future, I may distribute a brief survey to our members exploring the 23+ sources of joy in collecting – from aesthetics and investment interest to nostalgia, social bonding, or the pleasure of cataloging. My goal is to illuminate the many "textures" of motivation that make this hobby so rich and rewarding.

Stamp collecting sits at the intersection of biology, psychology, and culture. Our brains evolved to notice, select, and cherish valuable objects. Our minds evolved to find patterns, meaning, and story. And our personalities give shape to how, and why, we collect.

In an unpredictable world, collecting offers many comforts: structure, beauty, mastery, community, continuity, and joy. It is no wonder that philately remains one of the most intellectually satisfying and emotionally rewarding hobbies on earth. I look forward to sharing more about the collector's brain, mind, and personality in future talks and discussions with our club.

Copilot Views on Philately and Boston 2026

Based on questions from our Editor

"Here's a clear, structured picture of the current state of philately, grounded in the information from your search results and expanded with well-established knowledge from the field. I'll keep it simple, but thorough - the way you like your explanations."

Philately today is a smaller but still globally active hobby, with participation shaped by age, nationality, culture, and personal motivations. While the number of casual collectors has declined from its mid-20th-century peak, the hobby remains vibrant among dedicated enthusiasts, investors, and thematic collectors.

Who Collects Stamps Today?

By Age Group -

- Older adults (50+) remain the largest group of active collectors.
- Younger collectors are fewer, but targeted outreach programs are trying to reverse this trend.

By Nationality

Philately remains strongest in:

- Europe (Germany, UK, France, Scandinavia)
- North America (U.S. and Canada)
- Asia, especially China, Japan, and India, where interest has grown significantly in the last 20 years.

By Ethnicity or Cultural Group

There is no strong ethnicity-based pattern, but cultural factors matter:

- Countries with strong postal histories (e.g., UK, Germany) produce more collectors.
- Nations with rising middle classes (China, India) have seen surges in stamp-related investment and collecting.

By Type of Collector

- Traditional collectors: build country or era-based collections.
- Thematic collectors: focus on topics like birds, space, art, or politics.
- Investors/speculators: treat stamps as alternative assets.
- Historians and educators: use stamps as cultural artifacts.

Why People Collect Stamps?

Here are several core motivations:

1. Connection to History

Stamps act as “miniature time capsules,” reflecting political, cultural, and social moments Reality Pathing.

2. Artistic Appreciation

Collectors value stamps as tiny works of art — engraved, lithographed, or designed by notable artists Reality Pathing.

3. The Thrill of the Hunt

Finding rare issues, errors, or completing a series gives collectors a treasure-hunting experience Reality Pathing.

4. Personal Enjoyment & Relaxation

Stamp collecting is often described as calming, meditative, and intellectually satisfying.

5. Community & Identity

Collectors join clubs, attend shows, and trade internationally — a social dimension that keeps the hobby alive.

6. Nostalgia

Many collectors began as children and return to the hobby later in life.

Investment Value: Is Philately Still a Good Investment?

Stamps can be a good investment, but only in specific segments.

7. What does the market look like today?

- The high-end market (rare 19th-century classics, errors, limited issues) remains strong.
- The middle market (common 20th-century stamps) has softened due to oversupply.
- The modern commemorative market rarely appreciates value.

Market analyses emphasize the need for:

- Education
- Authenticity verification
- Understanding rarity and condition

8. Who invests?

- Wealthy collectors in Europe and Asia.
- Chinese investors, who have driven up prices for certain issues.
- Specialized funds and auction houses.

9. Enjoyment vs. Investment

Most collectors today fall into one of three categories:

Type of Collector, their primary motivation and typical Behavior

The hobbyist; Enjoyment, nostalgia, and learning.

Collects themes, attend shows, trades with others. The Historian/Scholar has cultural or historical interest; Studies postal history, writes, research

The Investor has financial interest. Buy rare stamps, uses auction houses

Overall Status of Philately Today

10, Strengths

- Deep cultural and historical appeal.
- Strong global community.
- High-end market remains robust.
- Digital tools (online auctions, virtual clubs) have modernized the hobby.

Challenges

- Aging collector base.
- Fewer young people entering the hobby.
- Oversupply of common stamps.
- Need for more education and outreach to diversify participation....

Here's the exciting part, Stephen: based on what's already known about Boston 2026, this expo isn't just another stamp show — it's positioned to be a catalytic moment for philately. And the search results give us some very concrete clues about how it can move the hobby forward.

How Boston 2026 Can Positively Impact Philately

1. Renewed Public Visibility and Cultural Relevance

Boston 2026 is being framed as a major cultural event, not just a collector gathering. The USPS itself calls it a celebration of “the confluence of art, education, history, and international goodwill” [About.usps.com](#). This kind of framing helps philately re-enter public consciousness as a meaningful, creative, and educational pursuit.

2. Attracting New Collectors — Especially Families and Youth

The expo promises “fun, family-friendly” experiences with visually stunning displays and opportunities to learn about world cultures [About.usps.com](#). Events like this often serve as the first spark for young collectors — something the hobby absolutely needs to sustain itself.

3. Strengthening International Collaboration

Boston 2026 has been granted FIP General World Exhibition status [event.com](#), meaning it’s officially recognized at the highest level of global philately. This brings:

- International exhibitors
- Postal administrations from around the world
- Cross-border collaborations
- A global audience

That kind of international energy tends to elevate standards, innovation, and enthusiasm.

4. Boosting Institutional Support

The USPS is issuing commemorative stamps specifically for Boston 2026 [About.usps.com](#).

That’s a big deal — historically, USPS-backed exhibitions have helped legitimize and energize the hobby.

It also ties the event to the U.S. Semi quinquennial (250th anniversary), giving it broader historical significance.

5. Economic and Marketplace Growth

The expo will feature a vast bourse — a marketplace for dealers, collectors, and postal authorities [About.usps.com](#).

This can:

- Stimulate buying and selling

- Help collectors find rare material
- Support dealers and small philatelic businesses
- Encourage new investment in the hobby

Large shows often lead to price stabilization and renewed interest in overlooked areas of collecting.

6. Raising Exhibit Standards and Inspiring Collectors

Competitive exhibits are a core part of the event. With FIP judging and global participation, collectors will see world-class material and presentation standards.

This tends to inspire:

- New exhibitors
- Better research
- More innovative exhibit design
- Higher-quality philatelic literature

7. Growth in Philatelic Literature

Boston 2026 includes a dedicated literature competition, with entries handled through the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History [cvent.com](https://www.cvent.com).

This encourages:

- New research
- New books and articles
- Preservation of postal history
- Expansion of philatelic knowledge

8. Community Building and Collector Fellowship

The expo will host hundreds of club and society meetings [About.usps.com](https://www.usps.com).

That means:

- Networking
- Mentorship
- Collaboration
- Renewed energy in local and national philatelic organizations

For a hobby built on shared passion, this is invaluable.

In short

Boston 2026 has the potential to be a turning point — a moment when philately becomes more visible, more connected, more innovative, and more welcoming to new generations.

Would you like me to outline how you could get the most out of attending BostHere's the exciting part, Stephen: based on what's already known about Boston 2026, this expo isn't just another stamp show — it's positioned to be a catalytic moment for philately. And the search results give us some very concrete clues about how it can move the hobby forward.

The expo will host hundreds of club and society meetings

That means:

- Networking
- Mentorship
- Collaboration
- Renewed energy in local and national philatelic organizations

For a hobby built on shared passion, this is invaluable.

Editor's note: I could have explored the topics further but decided not to do so, at least for now.

Phun Facts



The first US Love stamp was issued nearly 53 years ago in 1973, and Love stamps have been issued every year since. The Love Series has been an annual staple

in the US stamp program for decades. Over the years it's featured many memorable stamps with beautiful images of hearts, flowers, candy, birds, and more. But do you know how this series got its start?

The popularity of Christmas stamps in the 1960s led the USPS to search for a new holiday to honor on stamps. A holiday with a close connection to greeting cards, TTT1973, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, "The City of Brotherly Love," featuring artist Robert Indiana's iconic *LOVE* design. The Love Stamps for 2026 will feature four different designs featuring birds and will be issued January 13 from Kansas City MO.

We Encourage APS Membership

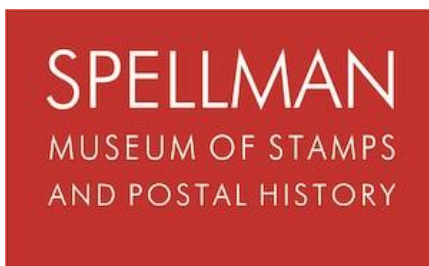
We at the Waltham Stamp Club encourage all our members to join the American Philatelic Society. As APS members you can participate in the educational experience of other philatelists by attending online seminars or sharing the resources of the large research library. There is a monthly stamp journal, the American Philatelist, and a weekly online newsletter. The December 2025 journal has feature articles on FDR and his collection of world stamps and how to capture the world on film and on stamps.

Remember the Dates of May 23 -30 2026



Boston 2026, the twelfth international philatelic exhibition will be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center on May 23-30, 2026. The show commemorates the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of our nation's birth. There will be more than 4000 exhibits at the show, and many are international. Volunteers will play a vital role in welcoming guests, assisting with exhibits, supporting educational activities, and ensuring the smooth operation of the event. No prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to help and a friendly attitude! If you're interested in joining for this exciting week in Boston and learning from other philatelists and experts. Contact Volunteering chairman Steve Kennedy at Boston2026.org.

For Massachusetts residents, local transportation to the Expo Center by car, taxi, or train is possible. There will be a courtesy shuttle bus from the convention center in Boston to the Spellman Museum in Weston.



Spellman Museum News and Events

The Spellman Museum is open to many visitors, including students, four days a week from Thursday through Sunday, noon to 5pm. It is a philatelic gem that is great for all ages. The Spellman Museum is located on the campus of Regis College: 241 Wellesley St., Weston, MA 02493; tel. 781-768-8367.

The New England Postcard Club will hold their third annual meeting at the museum on Saturday March 14, 2026 from 10am to 3pm.



Refreshed with new content and easy-to-access design, the Spellman Museum website continues to be a vital tool and resource to friends, members, visitors and philatelists near and far. Stay updated and visit often for new and exciting content, featuring exhibit updates,

stamp shows and live programming. Please take a moment to visit the website at www.spellmanmuseum.org and enjoy!



We encourage our club members to We at the Waltham Stamp Club are fortunate to have a philatelic museum where we hold our meetings and share resources such as the philatelic library and the stamp store. It is a place where we can exhibit our collections. It is only one of two such museums in our country, the other is in Washington DC. But being non-profit, the museum has depended upon the help of volunteers.

There have been many renovations at the museum in the past year. All of the galleries have been updated with new collections. The Spellman Museum features extraordinary exhibits that illustrate national and world history, social movements, pioneers, and human achievement, connecting visitors with the shared human experience through stamps.

Where to Go for Buying and Selling Stamps

The last page(s) is always for the WSC members who are selling stamp or stamp collecting related supplies, online, so you can buy from a WSC member.

If you are selling online and a WSC member and want to be listed on the last page, email Stephen Neuman at stevegetsall@aol.com (508) 395-4543 or find us at a meeting. Also, if you want to help with the newsletter, you can reach out to me for that too.

eBay:

Clark Frazier as CLARKPHILATELICS

Hipstamp.com:

**Clark Frazier as
CLARKPHILATELICS**

Dave Loving as Sam's Stamp Store

Stamps2Go.com:

James Capelle as JCAPWET

Email and Web Pages:

Dave Loving as samstampshop@comcast.net

Marc Jasmin as WWW.MGJPOSTALHISTORY.COM

And at <https://stampauctionnetwork.com/auctions.cfm>

Brick and Mortar Stamp Stores

Sam's Stamp Shop

Phone number: 508-222-3444

405 Old Colony Road, Norton MA 02766

Falmouth Stamps & Coin

Phone number: 508-548-7075

11 Town Hall Square, Falmouth MA 02540

Kappy's Coins & Stamps

Phone number: 781-762-5552

534 Washington Street, Norwood MA 02062