



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.



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website: www.walthamstampclub.org

The meetings will resume at the SPELLMAN PHILATELIC MUSEUM

(On the campus of Regis College)

241 Wellesley Street, Weston, MA (use the rear parking lot entrance)

From the editor's desk:

It has been a long fifteen months that all of us will not miss and most would like to forget. The pandemic will be talked about for many years to come by us, our children, and our grandchildren. If you have not done so and are physically able, please take advantage of the vaccinations that are and will be given in our neighboring towns and in our state. Next month, we will be able to see each other in person, talk to one another face to face, share our stories, trade our stamp collections, buy, and sell our stuff, and just have phun philatelically speaking.

Most Waltham Stamp Club meetings will be held virtually in addition to being held at the Spellman Museum and will be available online utilizing ZOOM. The club has purchased video cameras and microphones that will be utilized so that all club members can participate and attend meetings starting in August. A guide to how to join us virtually at our biweekly meetings is located at the bottom of the previous page.

Our next WSC event will be held on Tuesday July 20 at 7 pm, a phlea market and next meetings begin on August 24 at 7 pm

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.

Reminder: WALPEX 2021 on October 30, 31 at the Boxboro Regency Hotel

Stamp Club Events and Highlights

The Spellman Museum is open to the public starting on July 8. Last month on Saturday, June 19 the museum had an open house to welcome members and guests. The affair was well-attended, and refreshments were served. Most of all I enjoyed seeing my fellow club and museum members and talking once again "phace to phace". Related articles on the Spellman Open House follow in the newsletter.

A WALPEX committee meeting was held on June 8. Norm Shufrin is chairman, Chris Brouady is stamp dealer coordinator, Marc Jasmin is stamp auction advisor, Hugh

Daugherty is auctioneer, Jack Miler is stamp exhibit manager, Jessica Lauschner is publicity and youth activity manager, Marc Butterline is hotel coordinator, Rick Robinson is the phishbowl manager, and Steve Neuman is volunteer activity manager. The USPS kiosk will probably not be at the show as the prior representative, Tony Fabrizio has been reassigned and post office activities at all local stamp shows are in jeopardy. It is not known at this time if WALPEX stamp covers with the Halloween theme will be made.

The recent purchase of the watermark detector is being used by the museum and will be available at our club meetings. Nancy Miller who is the assistant curator at the museum and Jessica Lauschner will present a report on the tool at a future club meeting.

The phishbowl is a major event and contributor to the financial success of WALPEX. The last event at WALPEX 2019 (last year's canceled because of COVID) was a huge hit as all four thousand phish were sold. Rick is hopeful that this year's phishbowl will be as well. Rick Robinson will be moving on later this year after the show and the club will need a new phishbowl chairman and additional volunteers. Please contact Rick at cfrbjr@verizon.net or Norm at normshu@verizon.net.

WALPEX 2021 will be held at the Boxboro Regency Hotel on October 30-31. The club's financial success in the past has been to a large extent due to the success of the show. It is perhaps the most attended stamp show in the Northeast. We are looking for more volunteers to chair the sign-in desks, administer the stamp cover tables, oversee the stamp exhibit room, supervise the youth center, control the corridors, and communicate with the stamp dealers. We could also use help in setting up on Friday October 29 after 4 pm and for tear down on Sunday October 31 after 5 pm. Please contact Steve Neuman at stevegetsall@aol.com or Norm Shufrin if you are interested.

Recent Waltham Stamp Club Activities and Meetings

May 4, 2021 – Waltham Stamp Club Annual Meeting and Election of Officers - Marc Jasmin, auctioneer; Stephen Neuman, secretary; Peter Lenk, treasurer; Jessica Leuschner vice president; and Norm Shufrin, president.

May 18, 2021 – US Postal History, presented by Jeff Shapiro. The presentation given by Jeff Shapiro was an introduction to and a summary of several seminars by Jeff for the American Philatelic Society (APS). Postal History is defined by Jeff as “dirty covers” but philatelically is the study of postal rates, postal routes, markings, and modes of transportation. Geographic studies include the states, cities, businesses, and families of the sender and the addressee. Jeff showed many examples of post cards, first class and third-class mail, parcel post, mail by rail, trolley mail, airmail, and wartime “V” mail. Examples include 19th century post card from the Green

family in Ipswich who settled in Worcester and founded the estate that became Green Hill Park; and mail sent to Admiral Richard Byrd with a stamp that says “cannot find him’ on the cover. Mail was not only sent on railways but there were post offices on rails which processed the mail. Maritime mail was sent during WWII and an example was shown with USS Nevada on the cover with a Nov 29, 1941, postmark just one week before being heavily damaged at Pearl Harbor. Airmail delivered to Berlin Germany in 1928 with a Zeppelin stamp on cover. Airmail from Hawaii delivered to west coast first by ship and then from Los Angeles by blimp and eventually by air again to Pittsburgh. Covers were shown that are examples of aerophilately and astrophilately that include mail aboard rockets launched from Wallops Island VA or letters aboard spacecraft like Challenger. Others shown included stampless covers from 1801 and 1840, third class mail parcels sent as first class with postage of former but delivered and handled as the latter. Mail was delivered by Greyhound bus service under USPS auspices. Letters sent from Germany to US during WWII included covers that showed the mail was intercepted by Britain and held till after the war and stamped as Not Delivered. Parcels having postage of more than one denomination demonstrated that rates could be different, for example five cents for the first ounce and three cents for every ounce thereafter. Jeff also showed covers with art showing pointed fingers directing the reader to an important message.

June 1, 2021 – Philatelic Art by George Norton. Philatelic Art is of particular interest to George Norton as he does not collect stamps per se but is much more interested in postal history and sociological aspects of philately. Mail Art has historical context, original art, calligraphy, printed art on covers, cachets on covers, and envelope art. According to “Google”, Postal Art or Mail Art began in the 1950s by American artist Ray Johnson, but in truth is in fact mail art began much earlier dating back to late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Many examples of mail art from 1800s were shown including an envelope from Yorkshire, England 1876; folded letter with profile of a gentleman on manuscript sent from New York NY to Salem MA, 1811; and a letter from T.R. Harris at Harvard sent to a friend G. Mixter in Hardwick MA with a skeleton drawn on the envelope, 1860. Examples of calligraphy shown included a large envelope with calligraphy sent from Brooklyn NY to Odense Denmark with a fifteen-cent stamp (Bureau of Engraving) in 1896. Art on covers included the following: a colorful drawing of a landscape showing where the mail was sent to; exquisite Japanese watercolor art on front and back of envelopes; a pen and ink sketch illustrating the area from where it was sent, in this case Africa; a colored pencil drawing of Santa Claus on Xmas mail; a poetic instructing describing in some detail where the mail was to be sent; unusual Grant letter sheets with artwork, 1887; and postal letter sheets introduced in England in 1840 by William Mulready at the time of the penny black with words “Britannia sending letters to the world.” Printed art advertising on envelopes was popular in the early twentieth century. Hand printed cachets on envelopes commemorating an anniversary or special event. Mail sent during the war included drawings of soldiers or other artwork on the return address as the sender/soldier had time off between missions. Envelopes themselves were art as some were made from wood veneer or birch bark and then sealed with spruce gum.

June 15, 2021 – Show and Tell - The club had its show and tell virtually. Some of the presenters and their offerings are listed below:

Robert Brew – Indonesian Revolutionary stamps from post WW2 with errors in printing and perforation process.

Steve Neuman – Commemorative sheet from Guyana celebrating the 2014 sale of the exceedingly rare one-cent magenta stamp.

Norm Shufrin – inverted Jenny plate block and golden double eagle coin also sold at the June 8 auction at Sotheby's.

Don Jennings – Beer barrel revenue stamps printed by Bureau of engraving in early twentieth century. Denomination is one dollar for a full barrel.

Jack Miller – Israeli cover from Jewish National Fund (KKL) postmarked in May 1949 commemorating the first stamp show held in Tabul. Stamp printed on cover featured Theodore Hertzl.

Dr. Frank Slack – Twelve cent Queen Isabella II stamps from Spain., circa 1865

Future Waltham Stamp Club Activities and Meetings

The club under the leadership of Norm Shufrin is planning another exciting, informative, and enjoyable year for all its members. We request that all attendees at the museum be fully vaccinated for COVID. Most of all we hope many of you will participate.

July 20 – Phlea Market Stamp Sale in the Spellman Museum.

August 24 - History of the Post Office Through Stamps by Henry Lukas

Date TBD - Color Matters or EFOs by Nancy Meyer

Date TBD – Report on our Stamp Watermark Detector

Sat .Nov 20 – Our semi-annual brunch meeting at 9:30 am at Spellman museum

Feature Stories from Our Members

Oh Dear! There are Holes in My Stamps

by Stephen Tauber *and previously submitted to Spellman Museum newsletter*

Rest assured. Some collectors like stamps with patterns of holes punched into them. Such a stamp is referred to as a "perfin". The word comes from "perforated initials" or "perforated insignia". The first perfin was produced in 1868, when the government of the United Kingdom (Great Britain to philatelists) gave permission for companies to punch patterns into their stamps to identify them.

Around the middle of the nineteenth century, an office clerk might earn about £20 per year, as stated by Mr. Micawber in Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield". This worked out to about 7 shillings 8 pence per week (about \$1.92 at the exchange rate of the time). The many stamps in denominations of 1 penny to 6 pence, 1 shilling, or more which were kept in the office to frank business mail were a temptation for pilferage, particularly since unused stamps could be redeemed at the post office. A few companies planned with the printer of the government's stamps to print the name of the company on the backs of stamps before gumming them. This led to the underprints (Cf. Fig. 1), so called because the printing was under the gum. Since the stamp was identified as being the property of the company, the post office would not redeem them for a private individual.

The company had to pay for the "underprinting", and the arrangement was cumbersome. Once the punching of patterns into stamps was allowed, the companies could perform the task as needed on their own premises. Regulations specified the sizes of the holes which were allowed and the maximum total size of the pattern, and they forbade advertising. The punches were manufactured for this purpose under the patent held by John Sloper for his check cancelling machine. Some examples of such punched stamps are shown in Figure 2.

The use of perfins spread widely, and most countries soon permitted the practice. Examples from a few countries are shown in Figure 3. Great variety can be found in the styles of perfin patterns. Figure 4 shows a sampling of patterns. These include single letter (in various fonts); letters enclosed in a frame; single and multiple horizontal lines; diagonal, vertical, sloping, curved, varying height, staggered, and overlapping arrangements; one letter enclosing others; monograms; and geometric patterns. When a large company used perfin stamps, it sometimes wanted (perhaps for accounting purposes) to distinguish among the offices which used the stamps. In that case additional holes were added in various positions, so that a unique pattern was assigned to each office (Cf. Fig. 5).

Perfins have a confluence of interest with another area of collecting – precancels. These are stamps which are cancelled in advance for use by mass mailers, the town being specified but

without a date. In some cases, the stamps are also punched with perfin patterns, producing so-called preperfs. This practice is not restricted to the United States, as shown in Figure 6.

Revenue stamps have been punched with perfin patterns in the same manner as postage stamps and for the same reason, e.g., New York stock transfer stamps (Cf. Fig. 7). On the other hand, a revenue stamp or a postage stamp used for revenue may receive a punch cancellation (Cf. Figure 8).

Collectors of perfin stamps gathered in 1943 to form the Perfins Club, which now maintains a Web site at www.perfins.org. This United States organization was the model for numerous such societies in other countries. Members of the Perfins Club perform studies of perfins and publish their results in *The Perfins Bulletin*. They have also assembled a catalogue of all perfin patterns known to have been used United States postage stamps.

Figure 1:



Figure 2:



Figure 3:



Figure 4:



Figure 5:



Figure 6:



Figure 7:



Figure 8:





WALPEX 2021 is coming in October and our club needs volunteers! Are you ready to help us?

WALPEX is the largest annual event for our club. We all missed the event last year because of COVID. But this year on the Halloween weekend we plan once again as in 2019 to hold the WALPEX event at the Boxboro Regency Hotel in Boxboro MA. Come join us.



We encourage our readers to contribute to the newsletter by writing a brief description of how they started their philatelic hobby and their interests in stamp collecting. Contribute “phun” facts of interest to our membership. We all have something to contribute and our stories and phun facts will be shared with others in our club.

You may contact the editor, Stephen Neuman by email or by phone if you wish to write or submit. I will also accept any comments on how we can improve the newsletter.

Email stevegetsall@aol.com or phone at 508-395-4543

Visit our Waltham Stamp Club website at

<https://www.walthamstampclub.org>.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

We Encourage APS Membership



The official launch of Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo will take place at the APS's Great American Stamp Show in Chicago, August 12-15, 2021. The World Stamp Expo comes to the U.S. once every 10 years and is the first time it will be held in Boston, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation. If you have questions or comments, contact Ms. Nancy B. Clark, president of the 2026 World Expo at Nancy.Clark@Boston2026.org or by mail to Boston 2026 World Expo c/o Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History at Regis College, Weston MA 02493.

Many of our club members are also members of the American Philatelic Society. Participants in the new WSC Stamp Sales Program who wish to sell stamps must be APS members. Aside from the informative American Philatelist monthly magazine, there are online stamp chats, free videos, a discount for stamps and books at the APS store, and on-line philatelic literature, articles, and pages from their Research Library. Go to the APS website at <https://stamps.org> for details.

The Great American Stamp Show is planned to be held August 12-15 at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemount IL. The show is co-hosted by APS, the American Topical Association, and the American First Day Cover Society.



Spellman Museum News and Events

The Spellman Museum is now open to many visitors including students four days a week from Thursday through Sunday, noon to 5pm. The museum is subject to state rules and regulations regarding masking and social distancing due to COVID. 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.



If you have not yet taken the museum's twelve- minute virtual tour of their galleries, we hope you can take some [time](#) and give it a look. Just click on the museum website, <http://www.spellmanmuseum.org/> or go to YouTube,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiZs2ZNkbXU&t=4s>

The Spellman Museum Open House on June 19 was an overwhelming success, and many thanks go to Joe Mullen, museum executive, Nancy Miller, Norm Shufrin, Marc Jasmin, and many others too numerous to mention and not yet known by me. Here are a few pictures: Notice how much brighter the inside exhibit galleries are!





The tenth annual Spellman Symposium will be held on Thursday September 9, 2021. The day will feature several informative presentations on Wars and Innovations – A Postal Perspective. Registration is required and you can go the Spellman website for details. The “Going Postal” monthly shows, presented By Henry Lukas, educational director for the museum feature stories of historical events, famous people, and others as viewed on stamps celebrated during that month. . YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV5-7MRRK-ND-k93RnXi7pQ>

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 being in Washington DC. But being non-profit, the museum has depended upon the help of volunteers. We encourage Waltham Stamp Club members to join the Spellman Museum. In addition to free attendance at the museum, the monthly newsletter, the library, and member discounts at the museum stamp store.



Spellman Museum volunteers are needed!!!

For those members of the club who have previously volunteered at the museum or have a sincere interest in doing so, please contact Nancy Meyer, Assistant Curator who will be creating a schedule of volunteers. You may contact her by email at nancy_meyer@alumni.duke.edu.

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

Brunelle Stamps & Coins

Phone number: 603-432-2658

25 E Broadway Unit 1, Derry NH 03038

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