



# 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.



Mar 2023 Issue

Volume 3 Edition 4

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The newsletter contents are divided into the following sections:

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- Stamp Club Events and Highlights
- Feature Stories and “phun” facts from our members
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**The club website: [www.walthamstampclub.org](http://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)***

### *From the editor's desk:*

Every couple of months I prepare and present the items for our newsletter, and I am excited as well as curious as to what features will be included. I am anxious to receive many interesting articles from our membership and just as excited to have them delivered to me. I am curious as well to know if the newsletter will be well received by our members. I believe we have an active, vibrant, multifaceted, and talented club. Under the leadership of Norm Shufrin our club has grown and prospered: we have listened to many fascinating presentations, and we have the best stamp show in the Northeast, WALPEX. The Spellman Museum provides when compared to others, a rare and a superb facility for our meetings, our equipment allows the meetings to be held virtually and the website adds to our public exposure.

This issue features articles by Gail Mays on the Chinese Year of the Rabbit, Stephen Tauber on the Scavenger Hunt, and the editor's article on stamp covers and specifically how one man may have saved the world. I hope as a reader you will find these articles to be both enjoyable and interesting.

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**As a club member and a reader of the newsletter, please reply to our club's request for information regarding your philatelic interests and subjects of your collection. The data you provide will assist others in determining your interest in stamp auctions, bourses, and presentations. Include the following if applicable: (1) countries, (2) dates, (3) topics, (4) ephemera such as postcards or labels, and (5) other, and of course your name and send by email to Norm Shufrin or me.**

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Our next meeting will be March 7 when we will have a club auction

The 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.

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.

## Stamp Club Events and Highlights

As the editor, I thank all our members who have written articles for the newsletter. I encourage all our members to read the newsletter and contribute articles of interest to our fellow members. The articles can be of any length and any photos are encouraged.

### *Recent Waltham Stamp Club Activities and Meetings*

- The Show and Tell on January 17 featured ten different presenters with fascinating stories.
  - Robert Brew – Poster stamp from Paris in 1913 on a new boulevard with lots of activity
  - Ken LeBow – US fancy cancels, rare Chicago Blue, checkerboard, messianic and the seeing - eye.
  - Stephen Tauber – postcard from Rothenberg OT Germany showing the river Tauber.
  - James Hencke – A Xmas card sent to his grandson in Russia and returned (for no logical reason) and covers from old business schools that featured practice stamps.
  - Pete Lenk – Two one-dollar bills in an envelope sent from the Nielsen Rating Institute.
  - Stephen Neuman – Cover from John T. Locke with two 1893 five cent Columbians
  - Tom Barner – North Korean stamps and souvenir sheets from 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - Dr. Frank Slack – cover featuring Zeppelin stamp and cachet of flight over NYC
  - Joel Goldberg – Iranian Souvenir sheets and stamps
  - David Fillingham – A stamp booklet from Israel featuring the Ottoman Towers
- On Feb. 7, David Ball presented “My Story in 1800 Years”, a family history of a WSC member and Northeast Federation chairman that goes back to ancient Rome. David was born in Austria, lived in Trinidad and came to America by traveling through Canada. David is an Astro-philatelic delegate to the FIP, the International Philatelic Federation, headquartered in Switzerland.
  - He also shared several flight covers and the stories on how he acquired them. They included a Lindbergh cover, some pioneer rocket mail, Paul and Chris Calle covers and some drift station covers. He’s currently collecting post cards with storks and gave us a description of what is required for a post card exhibit.
- On Feb. 21, Dr. Chris Kolker gave an outstanding and informative presentation, “The Stamps of Post-WWII Germany”. Dr. Kolker is a prominent member of the German Philatelic Society and has given many presentations on stamps from Germany and Germany colonies. In 1948, the Russian districts in the Eastern region overprinted the postage stamps printed and issued by the British and American districts in the Western part of Germany. The French issued their stamps as those from a different country. Because of a poor economy and inflation, the Russians needed to differentiate the stamps that were used in the West. Eventually the hand i=overprints were replaced. The 38 districts by number and name of post office were stamped in Latin or Gothic font, for example 3 - Berlin. In some instances, two numbers were used if districts merged 20 and 29 or 41 and 27. The many variations in overprints and many forgeries in its short usage led to its higher value for collectors.

### ***Schedule for spring through summer 2023***

March 7, 2023 CLUB AUCTION – Club members sell, and the public is invited to bid, no buyer's fee.

March 21, 2023 Guest Speaker - US "Win the War" definitive, a common stamp with some very uncommon postal history by Jeff Shapiro, WSC member and award winning exhibitor.

April 4, 2023 “Chinese Auction” night – (details to follow)

April 15, 2023 SPECIAL SATURDAY AM BRUNCH PROGRAM: “Gems from the Vault” presented by Spellman Museum Curator and WSC member Nancy Meyer

May 2, 2023 ANNUAL MEETING/DINNER – Election of Officers (Details will follow/RSVP needed)

May 16, 2023 Guest Speaker – “Poster Stamps” – the fascinating stories behind these stamps – by WSC member, Robert Brew

May 30, 2023 5<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY – Informal gathering for bourse books, assembly of club bourse books, use of WSC equipment for stamp I.D.

June 6, 2023 Guest Speaker – “Local & Private Mail stamps – by WSC member, Stephen Tauber

June 20, 2023 CLUB AUCTION – Last auction before the Fall – lots of bargains

July 18. 2023 SUMMER GET TOGETHER: BOURSE BOOKS

August 15 2023 SUMMER GET TOGETHER: BOURSE BOOKS - AND OUR ANNUAL SUMMER PHILATELIC PHLEA MARKET

#### **Future Philatelic Shows**

Dedham Show – first Sunday of each month Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7 at the Hilton Hotel in Dedham MA.

Riverside Show – second Sunday of each Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14 at the Spellman Museum

Nashua Show – third Sunday of each month Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21 at the Eagle Wing Function Center in Nashua, NH

Northeast Federation Philatelic Show May 5-7 at the Boxboro Regency Hotel

## *Feature Stories from Our Members*

### **This is One Scary Rabbit**

**by Gail Mays**

Recently, China's Postal Department issued a Year of Rabbit stamp set. The first stamp has a blue bunny with a pen and a note in its hands. It is writing down new year greetings. The second stamp has three bunnies forming a circle. In Chinese folklore, three bunnies running in a circle have a healing and reviving power. Their background is a medicine urn that is used to grind traditional herbs. It is to symbolize rebirth, healing, and recovery.



**Year of the Rabbit Stamp Set issued by the Chinese Postal Department this year.**

However, stamp enthusiasts in China openly expressed their disappointment on the designs. The blue rabbit on the left is dissed the most. The common opinion is that this blue bunny, with its bloodshot eyes, dark hair on top of its head, humanlike fingers, thorny hairs on its toes, black whiskers, and the wacko smile, looks too “wicked” and “possessed”. It is anything but a lovely new year good wish symbol.

“This thing reminds me of my childhood nightmare, The Crazy Bunny.”

“Is this a bunny from hell?”

“What is he holding? Is that a Death Note?”

“I’m okay if I see this rabbit at an art show. But it is not suitable for a Chinese New Year stamp.”

“I dare you to put the blue rabbit on a letter to me! I am okay with the second one from the set.” “The artist is not at fault. The committee that chose this design is a bunch of insensitive wackos.”

Some people also compared, “... look at Taiwan... look at Hong Kong, Japan, and even France.





**Stamps from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and France celebrating the Year of the Rabbit.**

Why can't China have something lovely and peaceful?"

To understand the blue bunny design, we may want to learn about its designer's other work and style. Mr. Huang Yong-yu is not a familiar name to most people outside China. But his famous Monkey is widely known. Yes, Mr. Huang is the father of the highly sought after first zodiac Monkey stamp:



Mr. Huang, 99 years old, whose artwork has been shown in many countries in Europe, has received many honors and rewards in his lifetime. Let us take a peek of some of his art:



**"Me, 90 years old!!"**



**Self portrait**



**"Little mouse: I'm ugly. But my Mom loves me."**



**"A cat. I found you in a trash bin. I will take care of you."**

We can see that the blue Rabbit is in line with Mr. Huang's unconventional art style. Regardless of the disses, stamp collectors' behavior remained the same. In the cold and dark winter night before the zodiac stamp set came to the market, long lines formed, outside most major post office buildings, hours before the opening –



Traditionally, during the Chinese New Year, people are supposed to be grateful for the good things in the old year while looking forward to happiness in the new year. 2022 has been a very peculiar year. The last three years have been a nightmare in Chinese memory. When interviewed and asked what they want to say to 2022, there are only two answers from most Chinese: to 2022, "Get Lost!"; about selves, "Still alive." When asked what to expect in 2023, one common answer is, "To stay alive."

After the three year lockdown, there was the sudden Open-up at the end of 2022, before the medical system was ready and before people were psychologically ready to be released from their homes. There is no medicine for sale. There is not enough hospital space and doctors for very sick and dying patients. There are not enough cremation facilities to burn dead bodies... The whole nation is swept under this big wave called "turning positive".

From 1959 to 1961, there was the so called "Three Year Natural Disaster" during which 30 million Chinese died. Decades later, this second round of "Three Year Natural Disaster" is about to wrap up. Yes, it must be called "natural" since no one is to question the policy makers' decisions. What is the death toll so far?



## 重磅：放开20天，全国累计确诊6万例，累计死亡11例...

慧翔百科  
2022-12-28 20:33 上海

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据官方最新统计数据，昨日全国累计新增确诊病例5136例，再度创下放开以来的新高点，较前一日增长17%。

昨日新增的5136例确诊病例来自全国28个省市区和兵团。

兔子急了会咬人



According to Chinese government data on December 28, 2022, in the 20 days since opening up on December 7, the total tested positive for Covid is 60,000, and the related death number is 11.

Living in this “no question can be asked” surreal environment, this blue rabbit correctly reflects the common state of Chinese people’s mind.

When what you are living through and what you are told are two far extremes, how can you not go nuts? How can you not feel like living in a la-la land and in a wacko way? The Blue Rabbit looks about right for the current state and for those people who have suffered three long years of horrific trauma.

One other thought - there is a traditional Chinese saying: Don’t push a cornered rabbit. A crazy rabbit can bite!

Reference: [https://c.m.163.com/news/a/HPMVV8J10553F5QV.html?from=wap\\_redirect&spss=ad\\_ap\\_pc&referFrom=](https://c.m.163.com/news/a/HPMVV8J10553F5QV.html?from=wap_redirect&spss=ad_ap_pc&referFrom=)

## When Lifting Stamps May Have Saved the World

By Stephen Neuman

Collectors sometimes lift stamps off from a cover to examine the paper it is printed on or perhaps to remove the stamp for his collection. But eighty years ago, lifting stamps helped the free world escape from a possible nuclear disaster being pursued by the Nazi evil empire. What follows is a true story of stamps, espionage, and a two-hundred-mile escape across snowy mountains.

Iacob and his younger brother Sven Somme joined the Norwegian resistance to fight the Nazis since the occupation of their country in 1940. Iacob, a scientist plotted to sabotage the hydro plant in Telemark where the Germans were building a nuclear bomb. He was caught and executed in 1944. Sven, a marine biologist, despite the risk continued by mapping strategic German military bases and photographing military torpedo bases along Norway's west coast. The intelligence he gathered was mailed to his Allied handlers on microfilm which was carefully hidden underneath the stamp on the envelope.



Sven Somme (left), One of his secret letters under a stamp (right).



The plan worked until German soldiers spotted the sun glinting off his camera lens as Sven snapped picture of a German U-boat base on Otteroy island. He hid the camera under a rock and Sven told the soldiers he was bird watching. The plan might have worked but the soldiers found the camera before he could get off the island. Sven was taken to the mainland by boat and confined to the vessel overnight to await his execution. When his guard fell asleep, he slipped off his handcuffs and walked casually past five-armed soldiers, who mistook him for a civilian. Sven fled into the countryside.



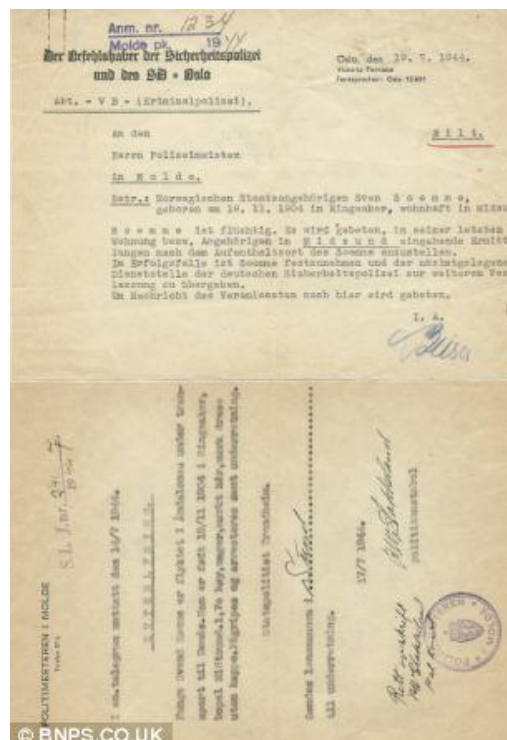
One of the many secret documents collected found by Sven Somme while working as a spy.



Demonstration: Sven Somme demonstrates how he leapt from tree to tree so as not to leave tracks during his escape (left). Mr Somme is pictured with his wife Primrose, who he met in Britain (right).

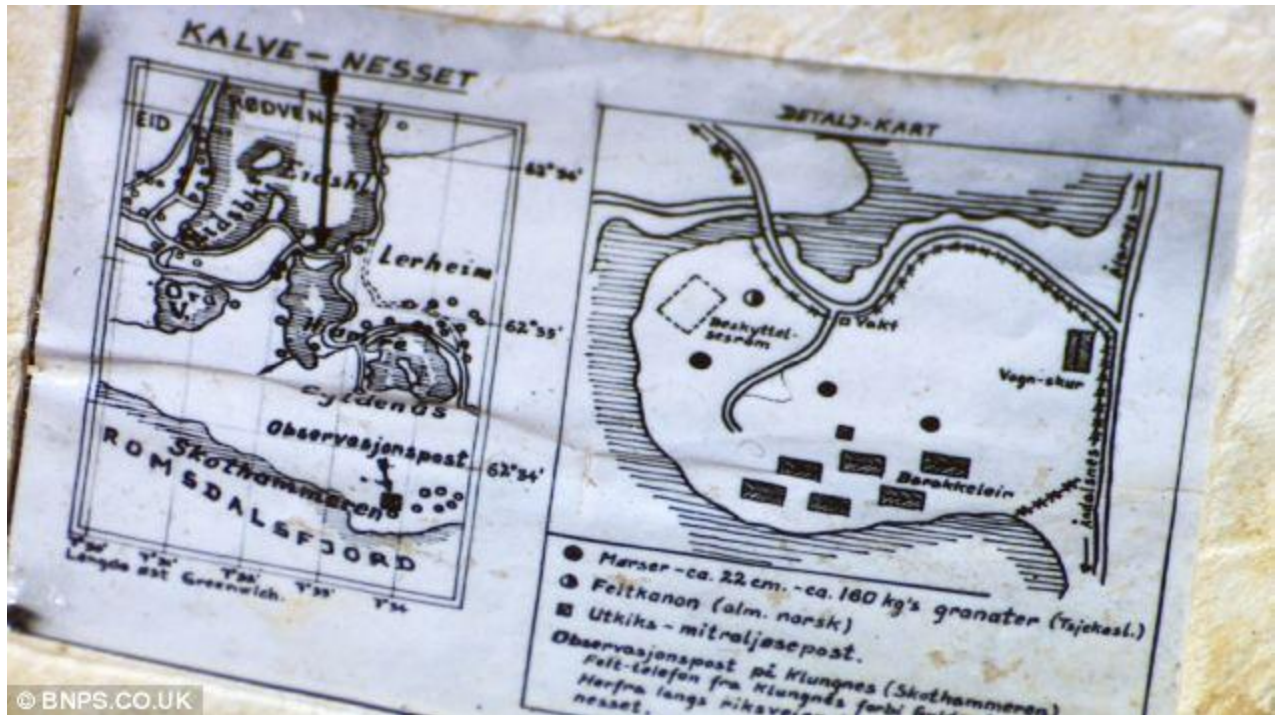
About an hour later, the Germans realized he was gone and sent nine hundred soldiers and a pack of hounds after him. By now Sven had crossed streams in his light shoes and was climbing up snowy mountains, where frostbite was a real possibility. With the Germans in pursuit, he sometimes swung from one pine tree to another to avoid leaving footprints in the snow. A family sheltered him and exchanged a pair of boots for his shoes. Sven made it to a safe house, where he hid for five weeks while false papers were made for him. He walked across the border into Sweden and arrived in Great Britain for a private audience with the exiled King of Norway. Sven had walked more than 200 miles in brutal conditions during the two-month escape.

Sven married an English wife and had three children before dying of cancer in 1961. After the death of his wife, his daughters found an archive of secret documents – envelopes with tiny maps hidden under the stamps, instructions from the resistance written in invisible ink, a map used during his escape and a Nazi warrant ordering Sven's arrest and execution. Amazingly, the family that sheltered him was found – and they had kept his shoes, preserving even more of this seventy-year-old story.



Warrant: Mr Somme's daughter also found an arrest warrant issued by the Nazis for his capture





Revealed: The documents found by his daughter include detailed maps

Graham Lay, the specialist from the Antiques Roadshow, which featured Mr Somme's archive, said: 'The resistance was incredibly important to the Allies winning the war. 'Without these amazingly brave men and women, it's very likely that the outcome of the Second World War would have been completely different. 'What you have is a testament to an incredibly brave man. He knew - because of the fate of his brother - what would await him if he was captured.'

References:

1. Daily Mail, Incredible Bravery of Norwegian Spy Who Leapt from Tree to Tree to Hide His Tracks by James Rush and published April 2013.
2. Another Man's Shoes, Cape Cod Curmudgeon Nov. 2020

## The Scavenger Hunt

Stephen Tauber

The WSC recently concluded its first Scavenger Hunt since prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Five contestants competed in the hunt for 24 categories of item (cf. Appendix B in

the May 2022 Newsletter). The first-place winner was Tom Barner, who presented at least one example of each of the 24 categories. James Hencke, in second place, and Rob Trevisani, in third, each presented examples of 23 of the 24 categories — but of different point values. The most challenging categories called for were a cover mailed from a country's office abroad and a registered postal card or postcard. These two categories tripped up the other two contestants.

The five contest entries were on display (together with my assemblage) for those who attended the June 21 meeting in person. A few examples follow, selected from the winners' entries:

### Stamp on stamp:



### Commercial advertising on selvage:



Censored cover:



Foreign postage due stamps on cover:

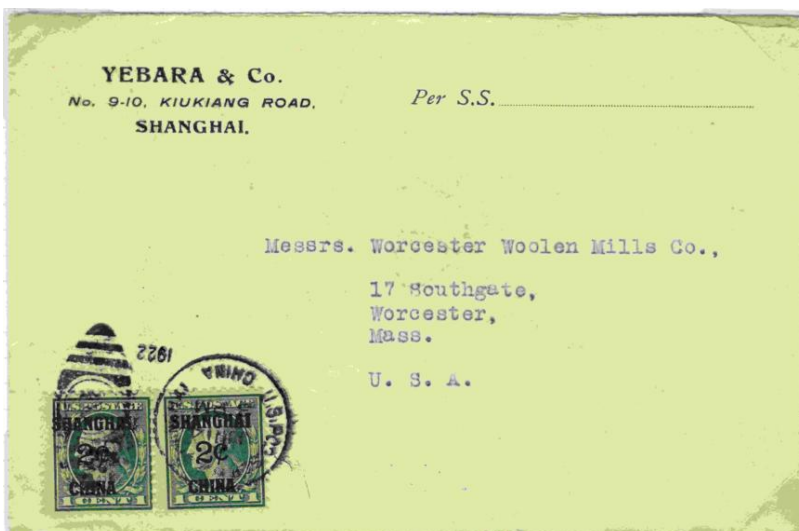




Registered postal card:



Cover mailed from a country's office abroad:





This was the Club's twelfth Scavenger Hunt; the first was held in 2000. There have been two types of hunts: There was either a list of categories for each of which an example was to be presented or else a category was defined with the challenge being to find as many examples fitting that category as possible. The 2000 hunt had 20 categories, of which six were non-philatelic: (1) stamp advertising in a language other than English, (2) foreign copper coin, (3) food label stating contents only in metric units, (4) straight pin, (5) button with an odd number of holes, and (6) blotting paper. Among the categories used in other years for the as-many-as-you-can-find approach were flags on stamps foreign to the issuing country, back-of-the-book stamps from dead countries, and currencies fully spelled out.

The currencies hunt in 2012 inspired Rick Robinson to suggest that the Club construct an exhibit for WALPEX consolidating all of the entries. James Hencke and I helped Rick to assemble that exhibit. For a few of the currencies which were spelled out only on rare or otherwise costly stamps the stamps were lent by the Museum for inclusion in the exhibit. The joint effort in organizing this exhibit was described in an *American Philatelist* article (S. Tauber, "Viribus Unitis. Members Join to Mount a Club Exhibit", *Am. Philatelist*, **128** (10), 934 (Oct. 2014)). The borrowed stamps were returned to the Museum; the remainder of the exhibit has become part of the Museum collection.

**2023 Scavenger Hunt**  
**By Stephen Tauber**

**Ends on March 21**

Be sure to bring your entry to the March 21 meeting.

- The purpose of this hunt is to present stamps, postage or revenue, on which numbers are central or dominant in the designs of the stamps.
- The objective is to present as many distinct numeric values as you can.
- Note that, e.g., "0,50 peso" and "½ cent", have the same numeric value.
- Superscript numbers will be interpreted as decimals; thus, e.g., "1<sup>50</sup> dinar" counts as 1.50.
- Only the numerals are to be considered; thus, e.g., "800 tausend" is reckoned as 800 for the purposes of this hunt.
- Surcharges are not eligible.

Present your entries in the order of increasing numeric value.

Put your name and the count of distinct numeric values on your entry.

## The US Postal Service Issues Warning About Fraudulent Postage

The US Postal Service has recently issued a warning about the use of fraudulent postage for letters and packages sent in the mail. "Consumers purchasing online items may be surprised to find out that the vendor mailed their goods using counterfeit postage," the USPS explained. "Under the new regulations, such items will be considered abandoned and disposed of at the Postal Service's discretion. When this occurs, consumers will have to seek recourse from the vendor." You should be wary of cheap postage being sold online.

"Purchasing stamps from a third-party wholesaler or online websites can be unpredictable. You have no way to verify whether they are genuine or not," the agency warned. "The Postal Inspection Service recommends purchasing from Approved Postal Providers. Approved vendors can include legitimate 'big box' or warehouse retailers who do provide very small discounts on postage stamps, but this is through resale agreements with the Postal Service."

Counterfeit postage defrauds the USPS of "funds it needs to provide services to the public," according to the agency. As a result, the international use or sale of fraudulent stamps is considered a crime.



## *Phun Facts*

The image of King Charles III will appear on new stamps from Great Britain starting on April 4. The minimalist unadorned and uncrowned head was personally approved by the King according to the director David Gold of the Royal Mail. It is similar in design to the classic profile of Queen Elizabeth II created by artist Arnold Machin in 1967.



**Visit our Waltham Stamp Club website at**

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

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

The WSC web site has been updated to include WALPEX photos and the schedule for club activities for this year. Our thanks to Ed Sterling.

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](mailto:stevegetsall@aol.com) or phone at 508-395-4543

### **We Encourage APS Membership**

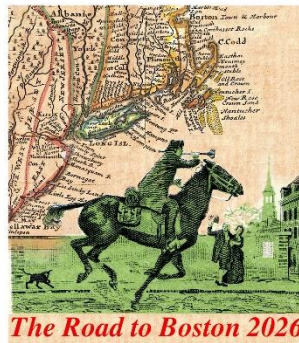


We at the Waltham Stamp Club encourage all our members to join the American Philatelic Society. As APS members you can participate in the educational experience of other philatelists by attending online seminars or sharing in the resources of the large research library. There is a monthly stamp journal, the American Philatelist, and a weekly online newsletter. The APS offers expertizing services and the stamp store that can be found on the HipStamp website.



<https://www.hipstamp.com/>

In May 2026 there will be a World Expo, the twelfth international philatelic exposition, and the first to be held in Boston. The show celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's birth. Find out more on the website, [boston2026.org](http://boston2026.org).



## 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 face 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.



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 2022 exhibit updates, stamp shows and live programming. Please take a moment to visit [www.spellmanmuseum.org](http://www.spellmanmuseum.org) and enjoy!

A short video on the Spellman Museum and an interview with its Executive Director Joe Mullin, can be found on the website above or by visiting the VIMEO website and the following link, [Museum Open House - Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History on Vimeo, https://vimeo.com/591787463](https://vimeo.com/591787463).



**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. We encourage Waltham Stamp Club members to join the Spellman Museum. A senior rate of membership is \$25 a year. In addition to free attendance at the museum, there is a monthly newsletter, the philatelic library, and member discounts at the museum stamp store.**



## *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](mailto: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](mailto:samstampshop@comcast.net)**

**Marc Jasmin as [WWW.MGJPOSTALHISTORY.COM](http://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