



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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IN THIS ISSUE



- China Year of the Horse by Gail Mays
- Benjamin Hale Postal History by Marc Jasmin
- Calendar of Events for Spring & Summer 2026
- Youth Group Activities in Spellman Museum
- Presentations by David Ball, Ed Sterling and Rick Barrett
- 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

The feature article in this issue, written by Gail Mays, the Year of the Galloping Horse describes what's happening today in China, and particularly Shanghai, her hometown. The traditional Horse is a symbol of force and strength and for the 2026 China Post stamp designs, there are two titled "galloping toward grand aspirations" and "myriad steeds heralding blessings". The galloping spirit and energy that the horses depict will carry China throughout the year is yet to be known. The economy in mainland China has been disappointing and the unemployment, home sales, and recent events in Venezuela and Iran are some of the reasons. Shanghai, often regarded as the promise of growth and prosperity for the middle class, left people wonder if the glory of the "Magic City" has come and gone.

Marc Jasmin has written an article about a Benjamin Hale cover letter, almost two hundred years old, and recently purchased on eBay. It is an example of postal history, a growing trend among philatelists. In the first two months of this year, we have had presentations on Ukrainian War Issues by David Ball, Orangeburg Coils by Ed Sterling, and Captain Tim Healy by guest speaker Rick Barrett.

We're just two months away from the International Stamp Exhibition in Boston. The celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States is aptly fit and being the birthplace of Sam Adams, John Adams, and John Hancock and also as where the spark of independence was lit. The Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, Battle of Lexington and Concord, and Bunker Hill. One only needs to walk down the Freedom Trail past the Old North Church and the house of Paul Revere.

Our next issue in May will feature the highlights and stories from the Boston 2026 International Stamp Exhibition. As editor I encourage others to write and submit articles to the newsletter about this exciting event.

Schedule of Events for 2026

- March 17: Stamp Auction
- March 31: Fifth Tuesday meeting
- April 11: Sat morning Spring Brunch
- April 21: Presentation, The Graded US Stamp Market by Clark Frazier
- May 5: Annual Meeting / Barbecue – Election of Officers

- May 19: Presentation, Stamp Collecting Basics: Gum – by Bob Brew
- May 26: Special Meeting at the Boston Seaport Convention Center
- June 2: Review of the Boston 2026 World Expo stamp show
- June 16: Stamp Auction
- June 30: Fifth Tuesday Meeting
- January 6: New Year Stamp Auction
- January 20: Modern Ukrainian War Issues by David Ball
- July 21: Summer Meeting / Bourse Books
- August 18: Summer Meeting / Philatelic Phlea Mark

Future Philatelic Shows

Dedham Show – first Sunday of each month Apr 5 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. Mar 15 and Apr 19.

Recent Waltham Stamp Club Activities and Meetings

- The meeting on January 6 was a Zoom meeting because of bad weather and we had a Show and Tell from the following club members.
 - Stephen Tauber showed several photos of exhibits that were in the National Postal Museum in Washington DC that included a Franklin Carrier stamp on cover, forgeries from collectors and post offices, and a Concord stagecoach used for mail deliveries.
 - Peter Lenk showed a cover from J. Wise and Sons, a scissor manufacturing company with a two cent Washington stamp (1932) with vertical edge cut error and a collection of eight-cent National Park Centennial stamps with errors in printing colors.
 - Robert Brew showed a rare 1910 poster stamp of a plane flying over the Alps, Lake Maggiore. The plane crashed and the pilot was killed.
 - James Hencke is preparing an exhibit for the Spellman Museum on the India Princely State Court Papers stamps and covers. The translation and text accompanying the exhibit is prepared by Bela Patel, a high school junior who with her parents, studied the feudal life in India before the democratic government.
- On January 20, David Ball gave a fascinating review of Modern Ukrainian War stamps and their associated history, starting with the famous image of a Ukrainian soldier giving the finger to the Russian warship Moskova followed by a stamp with the same image but with the warship missing.
 - A label (not paying postage) issued at that time, se-tenant with the above stamp, where the ship was still present but the word DONE was overprinted.
 - Stamps issued showing a Ukrainian farm tractor towing a disabled Russian tank, and a stamp promoting the bomb sniffing dog Patron.

- There was also evidence of the Ukrainian post office working closely with the military, since a stamp showing damage to the main bridge from the Russian mainland to Crimea was released on the very day that the bridge was attacked and damaged. The stamp is rich in imagery with an image of Jack and Rose from the Titanic in their famous pose on the prow of the Titanic replicated on the edge of the damaged bridge – indicating the bridge was no more indestructible than the Titanic. The stamp also showed a car falling off the bridge with washing machines falling out of it, a nod to the fact that Russian troops were stealing washing machines from occupied Ukraine. The stamp also showed an overhead drone, which has become one of the main weapons of the war.
- Another stamp was issued showing a bold attack where trailer trucks were driven to Russia, then drones were released from the truck to attack and destroy Russian military aircraft.
- David closed his talk with some of his own AI generated possible stamps to show other events from the war.
- On Feb 3, a presentation was made by Ms. Siobahn Mahany who handles all the children’s activities at the Spellman Museum. Once a month from September to June she meets with elementary grade youngsters interested in stamp collecting.
 - The first year of membership is free and is fifteen dollars a year thereafter. Packets of stamps are given out to everyone who attends, and special events are held for each holiday, for example Halloween, Xmas, and Valentine’s Day. Chris Brouady will coordinate the youngster activities at Spellman with Boston 2026.
- On Feb 17, Ed Sterling gave an informative and entertaining presentation on the Orangeburg Coils.
 - Scott number 389, three cent vertical coil, Washington is one of the rarest and most valuable 20th century stamps but is not an error or invert.
 - It is a vertical Perf 12 and has a deep violet color with a single line watermarked USPS. It had a very limited production run for one specific company.
 - “Cousins” Scott #387 1c dk grn Franklin and 2c carmine Washington also perf 12 and issued in late 1910 are not nearly as rare or valuable.
 - Scott #389 was a special order by Bell and Company located in Orangeburg NY located west of Hudson River. Known as “manufacturing Chemists”, their primary product were diet pills, called “**papyans**” or Bell-Ans promoting stomach relief for indigestion.
 - Bell needed to send free samples of the pills to doctors as fourth class mail in a small envelope packet and weighing under three ounces.
 - The three-cent coil stamps were machine applied. #389 stamps first delivered to Bell in January 1911. Almost all cancels were made by Orangeburg PO.
 - Ed showed us samples of the Orangeburg coil mailing envelopes.
 - The mailing envelopes used were first discovered by Dr. James Parker and the stamp was discovered. There were only ??? quantity printed and requests for additional coils as single or pairs were disregarded.
 - A strip of five was broken up and sent to NY Public Library and Smithsonian. Eight pairs of coils were sent out privately, several expertise. The perf 12 coil disappeared shortly as it would not work with the stamp machines and replaced by perf 10. Scott # 456 is 3 cent Washington vertical coil.

- Nobody knows how many of Orangeburg coils were printed but a single stamp used sold for over \$7000 at auction and an used pair sold for over \$200000
- On March 3, Rick Barrett gave an informative and entertaining presentation on Captain Tim Healy, his life and contributions to philately.
 - Rick was introduced to the subject of Captain Tim from an auction consignment paper from the Ivory Stamp Club.
 - Born in Australia, Reginald Stafford Healy, he served as an officer in the Australian army during World War I. He was electrocuted by lightning and hospitalized for several months thereafter.
 - A storyteller, adventurer, humorist, radio broadcaster, and entrepreneur, Captain Tim did more to bring philately to young people, in nineteen thirties and forties, than anyone else with possible exception of FDR.
 - In 1933, Capt. Tim met Doug Storer, an advertising man who introduced him to Proctor and Gamble who was seeking to increase its production.
 - Stamp collecting was more than a pastime; it was a way to document movement of letters and postmarks from tens and even hundreds of thousands of people and a way to advertise for Proctor and Gamble makers of Ivory Soap.
 - During the Depression, youngsters would be asked by letter to provide two wrappers and a dime and receive packets of stamps and a stamp album.
 - Ivory Stamp Club was formed and later absorbed by H.E. Harris, the dealer.
 - Captain Tim was featured on radio and later in weekly broadcasts he would tell adventure and spy stories to youngsters nationwide. The Ivory Stamp Club of the Air featured on WJZ led to the sale of more than eight hundred thousand albums with more than 400 million stamps.
 - The Ivory Stamp Club could not keep up with demand and orders were ended but the impact on stamp collecting continued.
 - Little postal history remains, like postcards and letters from Capt. Tim but old stamp albums with his name can be found on eBay.

A Scavenger Hunt was organized by Stephen Tauber with awards to be given to the winner(s) in March. Rules were sent to each of our club members in January.

No.	Criterion	Points
1	Stamp showing an open book	3
2	Stamp showing roller skates	3
3	Stamp with a number cancel	3
4	Foreign stamp showing work by a United States artist	3
5	Stamp inscribed with a Linnaean name	3
6	United States stamp with a Chinese inscription	3
7	Stamp showing a knight in armor	3
8	Foreign "postage paid" cover	3

9	Precanceled postage due stamp	3
10	Stamp showing a monetary amount which is not its denomination	4
11	Stamp from an African country showing flag of an Asian country	4
12	Stamp showing an architectural drawing	4
13	Stamp inscribed for use on priority mail	4
14	Foreign precancelled stamp	4
15	Stamp showing full date of cancel	4
16	Stamp inscribed with the same word more than three times	4
17	Stamp from a territory the claim to which is not recognized by any country	4
18	Stamp canceled at the site shown in its vignette	5
19	Special delivery cover marked "Fee claimed by office of first address"	5
20	Highway post office cover first trip or last trip	5
21	Stamp with instructions on an attached tab	6
22	Stamp cancelled at other than a post office	6
23	Cover showing a processing problem	7
24	Censored post card or postal card	7

Feature Stories from Our Members

The Year of Galloping Horse vs. Shanghai my Hometown

By Gail Mays

Gallop! Gallop! Gallop! The sound of galloping is embedded in many things associated with the horse in China. First take a look at the Chinese character, Horse 马 (pronounced as “Ma”). All Chinese characters are pictographs and this is how 马 developed over time in history. It kept its gallop at every stage.



A horse



Oracle script

Bronze script

Seal script

Clerical script

Modern character

There are many Chinese idioms associated with horses. Here are a few examples: 人强马壮 (rén-qiáng-mǎ-zhuàng) *strong men and strong horses*, means a well trained and equipped army; 马不停蹄 (mǎ-bù-tíng-tí) *a galloping horse without a single halt*, means relentless; 千军万马 (qiān-jūn-wàn-mǎ) *a thousand soldiers and ten thousand horses*, means an impressive show of power.

The traditional Horse is a symbol of forward force and strength. For the 2026 Horse, China Post announced it would pick designs from the public for the first time with these elements. It collected over 440 designs from 169 individuals ranging in age from 8 to 84 years old.



101 stamp enthusiasts were selected from different cities all over the country to judge these designs. Based on their opinions, Wang Hong-wei and Zhao En-zhong finalized the designs of the two-stamp set. The first stamp is titled “Gallop Toward Grand Aspirations”. It depicts a fiery red horse charging through lucky clouds, mane blazing, symbolizing steady progress and big goals for the new Five-Year Plan¹ starting this year. 2026 is also the Year of Fire. The designers used China Red element on the horse to represent a flame. It is a Fire Horse.



January 5, 2026, Gallop Toward Grand Aspirations Myriad Steeds Heralding Blessings

The second is “Myriad Steeds Heralding Blessings” – three energetic horses running together with auspicious patterns, representing unity and strength across the country.

Since launching of the first-ever Zodiac stamp, the famous Monkey, in 1978, after Deng Xiaoping ended the Cultural Revolution, this is the 4th round of China’s Zodiac Year of the Horse stamps. With the horse appearing every twelve years, the first notable Horse came out in 1990 for the Iron Horse year. Others include the 2002 Water Horse and the 2014 Wood Horse.



1990

2002

2014

Mixed reactions greeted the main designer, Wang Hong-wei, a professor at Qing Hua University School of Art who was also born in a Year of Horse. He is one of China Post's go-to artists for the zodiac series. His work includes designs of every zodiac year from the Year of the Snake in 2013 all the way through this 2026 Horse set. Reviews of the horse design are divided. Weibo was buzzing with love for the bold energy calling it Wang's best in years, and saying the first stamp especially pops way more than the last few zodiac issues. Others gripe it is too cartoonish and over-the-top compared to the more traditional, elegant styles of earlier cycles. Quite a few say the colors are too loud and the horses look more like comic-book characters than classic Chinese art.

Expecting dwindling interest over zodiac stamps in general, China Post Office significantly cut the production of the Year of Horse Stamps. The quantity of booklets dropped by 30%. Collectors could reserve the set of stamps and booklets starting December, 23, 2025. Unlike the previous years, booklets were not "sold out" by the end of the day on the 23rd.

The market is the one making the final judgement. Overnight queues before January 5, 2026, the official selling date, a frenzy at launch day with some locations selling out in hours or days, and prices doubling days after, indicate that China Post office miscalculated the demand. It was 马失前蹄 (ma-shi-qian-ti), like a galloping horse suddenly lost its front footing.

While pondering if the galloping spirit and energy these horses carry will last throughout the actual Year of the Horse starting February 17, in a nation that is badly in need of both spirit and energy, I cannot help turning my eyes toward my hometown, Shanghai, the leading horse for the country's economic chariot. With bold cutting-edge futuristic architecture and classic Chinese gardens, the Paris of the Orient transformed itself into the Oriental Pearl after 1980's economic reform. Serving as an economic barometer, for both the Chinese and global economic markets due to its pivotal role as a major financial, trade, and innovation center, the city consistently ranked as China's leading city by its total GDP, often followed by that of Beijing and Shenzhen.



2010 Shanghai – World Expo



2013 Shanghai Yuyan Garden

Shanghai has long been a city of promise to many Chinese: Here as long as one devotes full energy and mind to his/her work, there will be a space carved out for him/her in this city. There will be a chance the person can excel and eventually cross class boundaries in the society.



Lujiazui, Pudong District, the Heart of China's Financial Center Night view of Pudong District in Shanghai



July 20, 2020, Pudong in New Age (Lujiazui is on the center stamp)

Toward 2025, this highly regarded promise was torn apart by the tragic death of Ms. Zheng Wen-lu², which shocked the nation and caused an uproar internationally: Ms. Zheng was an investment banker and a high achiever who worked at the prominent CICC (China International Capital Corporation) in Lujiazui, the famous financial district in Shanghai which is considered to be a legendary ground for millionaires.

Since 2023, the wave of companies cutting back on salary all over the nation had finally reached Lujiazui. WIND data³ shows that in the top financial companies like CICC, employees' average yearly income was 1.16 million yuan in 2021. Two years later the figure was halved to 700,000 yuan in 2023. In 2025, it dropped to 35,000 yuan for the first quarter income. Ms. Zheng and her husband,

who also worked in Shanghai’s financial sector, had a combined yearly income over 1.2 million yuan in 2021. The couple took out a 11.77-million-yuan mortgage and put a 5-million-yuan downpayment toward a 16-million-yuan home in a prestigious location in the city in October, 2023. Their monthly mortgage payment was 57,000 yuan. However, soon after they bought their home, the couple encountered a double strangulation. First, their monthly combined salary in 2024 dropped from 10,000 yuan to 7,000 yuan. After their monthly mortgage payment of 5,700 yuan, they will have to survive on 1,300 yuan per month which is impossible in costly Shanghai. Second, the liquidity of the asset dried up since home values in general depreciated by 30% in less than two years in the country. The value of their home dropped by 25% which wiped out their entire downpayment. The Shanghai government’s 5-year lockdown policy prevents homeowners from selling homes in the first five years after purchasing them. On top of the strict policy, the developer of the property was experiencing cashflow crisis. The couple were not able to gain ownership of their home by obtaining the deed since the building was not officially delivered by the Builder. Ms. Zheng, months into pregnancy, feeling desperate from being deadlocked by both market and policy, jumped to her death from a high-rise building on July 3, 2024 at the age of 30.

Solomon Yue  @SolomonYue

#CCPChina's CICC high paid investment banker Zheng Wenlu just jumped off a building. She faces a salary cut and can't pay the monthly mortgage on her ¥10 million RMB (\$1.37 million USD) house. x.com/baig_meryem/st...



This post is unavailable.

12:20 PM · Jul 4, 2024 · 29.5K Views

If Ms. Zhang’s death was the high-pitched wail for the middle-class’ broken dream triggered by bursting housing market and rigid government policy, there is also an undetectable silent cry from under the city’s once hailed world class grand infrastructure.⁴



1996 Shanghai City – Eastern Section, Modern Landmarks

After dark, looking under those grand overpasses or bridges, one sees two types of dwellers living in open air. One type sleep on randomly laid down cardboard. The other type is novel: This new

group of people live in small tents padded with moisture blocking pads. They are not the typical homeless. They still hold daytime jobs that keep the city going. They are uber/taxi drivers, food deliverers, cleaners, maids, and nursery teachers, etc. The reason they take shelter under bridges is because renting a bed in the city has become a luxury. These outdoor areas are now named “Mercy Hotels” by citizens in Shanghai. It has become these people’s last line of defense during this harsh time.

Even though Shanghai’s home selling and rental market are weak, subletting and group sharing rentals has been going up steadily. This trend is driving low wage earners to the outskirts of the city and “Mercy Hotels”. When factories shut down and companies lay people off, most people who lose their job pick up temporary work like food delivery or uber driving. Shanghai has a population of 24 million. This gig force has reached 2.8 million and 20% of them are recently laid off from various business sectors. There are now more drivers than passengers on the road in the city. Many districts have to limit the number of permits issued to new uber drivers. Each driver’s daily earning dropped by half in 2025 compared with that in 2022. Most people in this industry used to be without degrees or with associate degrees. In 2025, college graduates and even people with master and PhD degrees joined the competition. Mr. Zhang, a DiDi⁵ driver for over 5 years, used to take home 800-1000 yuan after a 10-hour work day. Now he needs to work 14 hours a day to earn 500 yuan if he is lucky. Drivers state that it is not a matter of whether you are willing to work extra hours or not, the fact is the platforms have stopped sending out requests for lack of passengers and food delivery orders. Waiting idly for hours every day on the side of the road and staring at their phones for orders to pop on the screens, drivers are thinking of their monthly mortgage payments and living expenses 24/7.

Opposite to the engorged gig job force on the street, the domestic working force has downsized to the point of facing extinction. There are over 180k certified domestic workers in Shanghai. With parttime and uncertified workers, the total number could exceed 400k. This population used to represent the quality of life of middle class in Shanghai. This situation has changed tremendously. Based on Shanghai Commerce Department report, in the first quarter of 2025 alone, service contracts dropped by 8.5%. The demand for hourly workers and cleaners dropped by 15%. Middle class families on average cut their budgets by 20%. Ms. Liu had kept a full schedule for over 8 years cleaning multiple households every day. She discovered in 2025 that her employers suddenly became “busy”. This is a textbook case: when the economy is in decline, the first expense a household cuts is not child education nor home loan. Instead, homeowners do household chores that they used to hire helpers to do. Ms. Liu’s 3 times per week cleaning schedule in some households was cut down to once per week. She was also told that she was no longer needed by some employers. This army of domestic workers is over 1% Shanghai’s population. It would stand out like sore thumb if it is counted in unemployment statistics. Mr. Zhang and Ms. Liu represent this large population in Shanghai whose income dropped severely. Unable to afford rent, they make homes at Mercy Hotels under highway overpasses.

State issued economic and unemployment data is upbeat as usual: In first half of 2025, yearly income per capita in Shanghai was approaching average 47,000 yuan and ranked number one in the nation. However, under this average, some people enjoy Americanos at 28-yuan per cup in cafes,

while some shelter under highway bridges and eat half of an 8-yuan rice ball from convenient stores, the other half to be kept for the next day's breakfast. The shelter areas they sleep are maintained cleanly. Next to their tents, suitcases, cookware, and hygiene items are lined up neatly. The photogenic daily rituals of keeping the space presentable is to convince themselves and the city, "This situation is temporary. I am still a decent and respectful Shanghaiese." As the nation's attention's focuses on the downfall of the middle class,



旁邊還擺著牙刷、牙膏、一次性碗筷



there hides the most silent cry in Shanghai in 2025. This cry has no tears nor sobs. The phone screens light up at

4 am in the morning next to neatly folded comforters and sheets because that is when the dwellers can receive their first job orders for the day.

Shanghai, was once proudly nicknamed the "Magic City" (Modu), a name derived from a novel of Showa Era Japanese writer, Giichi Muramatsu⁶, *Metu* (Demon City). He visited Shanghai in 1920s'. The city's modernness (Modu) struck him and kept him spellbound for many years. The Magic City is now whispered by some as the "City of Tombs."

Besides shattered housing and job market, China's 2026 Year of the Horse gallops head into an alarming halt of population growth. Unlike the forever rosy economic data published by the Central Government, census reports can only be made up for 3 to 5 years before telltale signs flare up. The truth reveals itself when waves of daycare centers shut down, elementary schools consolidate, and wide spread job losses occur in education sectors. On December 3, 2025, Tencent News made a bold and chilling prediction: The yearly birth rate is expected to drop by half in China in less than 10 years. The number of babies born in 2025 was under 7 million. Since China's One Child Policy written into constitution in 1982, the country's birth rate has driven off



September 19, 1983 "One Child Policy is a Fundamental National Policy."

a cliff. The Central Government relaxed the policy in recent years when warning signs surfaced. The effort was portrayed in some Zodiac stamps as well. The changes came too late. China is finally seeing the coming of irreversible population freefall.



2016, Year of Monkey (with 2 baby monkeys)



2019, Year of Pig (with 3 baby piglets)

Horse years in the past have seen glory. Exports rose in the 1990s'. After joining WTO, factories cranked out goods for the world in the roaring 2000s'. Now this 2026 Year of the Horse's fire feels borrowed. The promised "common prosperity" feels like a cruel joke when the privileged quietly spirit billions overseas while ordinary citizens scrape by without a safety net. People are experiencing a crisis reminiscent of the Venezuelan economic collapse than the Japan-style soft landing. Shanghai, the city that foreigners built into a global marvel a century ago, has seen glory come and go before. This Year of the Horse, many are left wondering if the fire in those stamps signal rebirth, or the last flare before night falls on the Magic City once more.

Will the single horse leading the herd run out of steam? Would the three powerful horses be running in harmony right behind? The opening of 2026 says negative.



2026 Year of Horse booklet

On January 3, a Chinese envoy met Maduro to discuss joining forces and strengthening relationship between two countries. Only a few hours later, Maduro was ... just gone! Oh Lord! That golden haired big guy had no consideration of China envoy's dignity and reputation! What about all that promised Venezuelan oil that China was entitled to?

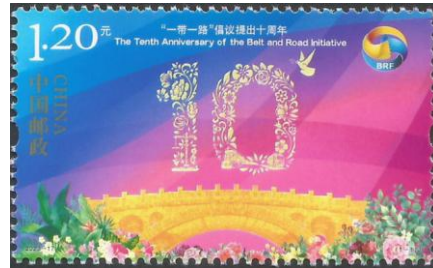
Trump has significantly turned the global tide against China in his second term. All China's close allies tied by the Belt-and-Road initiative are in trouble: Russia is tangled in a long-lasting war, and now even North Korea has dived in to exchange its soldiers for food. Some south American partners, after new elections, are turning away from the Belt-and-Road alliance. They are turning to the US for closer partnership. Most of the African continent has been a mess on this initiative with unpaid and bad debts.



Jan. 3, 2026, China envoy received Year of Horse greetings from Maduro



May 14, 2017, Belt & Road Forum for Inte. Corp.



September, 7, 2023, 10-year anniversary

The aid to another long-term partner Iran... to be or not to be. Under Trump's eyes, China cannot make a move. Iran could see a big change coming, which is not likely in China's favor. That golden haired guy also turned his attention to long ignored United States' backdoors which China has been in and out for years. Canada is the rumored winter training ground for the Chinese Army. And Greenland... When I visited China a few years ago, one of my friends bragged about his government issued entitlement and "representativeness" to visit the island to explore and mark territories for mineral and natural resource rights for China. In Trump's first term in 2019, China had to withdraw two airport building projects in Greenland⁷. Soon after that, China's mineral exploration effort met local resistance under the influence of United States. The days for its free roaming privilege could become numbered starting 2026.

While the gallop of mainland horses sounds like a stumble, the horses from Taiwan are full of spirit. As shown on the image below taken from Sohu, one of the main search engines in China, the designs of Taiwan's Year of the Horses are combination of power and grace. Published on



December 1, 2025, the set includes two stamps plus a miniature sheet. The horses are traditional terracotta army horse style.

- The first red horse stands for, 马到成功 (mǎ-dào-chéng-gōng) *One will succeed soon as soon as the horse arrives*, meaning “instant success”.
- The second white horse means, 一马当先 (yī-mǎ-dāng xiān) *the lead charging horse*, represents “bravery and resilience”.

In the miniature sheet the fiery red steed charging through auspicious clouds exhibits Taiwan’s position in global politics today. As a rising star with pivotal influence, it is an ally and anchor for United States’ military force over southeast Asia. It keeps certain hostile parties in check. One would be curious what happened to those pen-marked and covered areas on the stamp images? Under the marking, it prints “Republic of China” which is not permitted by PRC’s one China policy. Therefore, those ROC names need to be covered to avoid having the websites, chatrooms, WeChat accounts shutdown.

The Year of 2026 Horses could gallop straight into a very dramatic year, that this Year of Fire Horse could leave a bright mark in modern history. The show has just started.

Afterwards: Year of Horse Stamps from other areas.



Jan 5, 2026 Year of Horse, Hong Kong



Jan 5, 2026, Macau



Dec. 1, 2025, Korea



Australia



United Nation

Notes and references:

1. The new Five-Year Plan (FYPs): They are national development blueprints, with the current focus on the 15th FYP (2026-2030) emphasizing **technological self-reliance, high-quality innovation-driven growth, advanced manufacturing (AI, quantum), green development, and strategic autonomy**, moving beyond low-cost production to global tech leadership amidst geopolitical shifts, building on the prior 14th FYP (2021-2025). These plans guide economic, social, and political goals, shaping China's trajectory toward its "second centenary goal" of a modern socialist state. Below are some earlier designs:
2. Death of “Big Winner in Life” shocks China: How Far Has its Real Estate Market Collapsed? Bu JAPAN Forward. <https://japan-forward.com/death-of-big-winner-in-life-shocks-china-how-far-has-its-real-estate-market-collapsed-jennifer-zeng/>
3. Wind Economic Database is A database and analysis platform for global macro and industrial economies.
4. A video essay released in December 2025 by commentator Wen Zhao, titled “To the People of Depressed Shanghai: Shanghai, Please Don’t Cry for Me”.
5. DiDi is China equivalent of Uber.
6. Giichi Muramatsu (村松義一, Sept. 21, 1889 - Feb. 13, 1961), known by his penname Shōfū Muramatsu (村松梢風), moved to China, where he lived in the Russian settlement zone. He was interested in Chinese culture, but while in Shanghai, he was exposed to many varieties of Western culture as a result of large numbers of French, British and Russian expatriates in

the neighborhood. He also made the acquaintance of a number of young Chinese intellectuals. In his 1924 novel *Mato* (“Demon City”, aka Magic City, 1924), he portrayed the dichotomy of Shanghai – a modern, beautiful, civilized façade, hiding a darker side populated by all manner of criminals and vice.

7. Based on Voice of America June 4, 2019 article: <https://www.voachinese.com/a/CHINA-WITHDRAWS-BID-FOR-GREENLAND-AIRPORT-PROJECTS-20190604/4945178.html>



Oct. 1, 1955 The First Five Year Plan Set



April 15, 1967 The Third Five Year Plan Set



Feb.,1976 The Fourth Five Year Plan Set

A STAMPLESS FOLDED LETTER FULFILLS BOTH SIDES OF POSTAL HISTORY

By Marc Jasmin

Recently, there was a stampless folded letter posted (SFL) for sale on eBay with a nice Hanover, New Hampshire 1830s rimless postmark. I purchased the SFL for the postmark fulfilling the postal part of postal history.

Upon receipt of the item, I read the letter and researched the names of the sender and the recipient. The letter was from Benjamin Hale to his father in Newbury, Vermont. Benjamin wrote about tracking down a missing letter that the stagecoach driver remembered picking up in Newbury but had no idea where it was now. It included other news about an upcoming visit to Hanover and meeting with Dad.

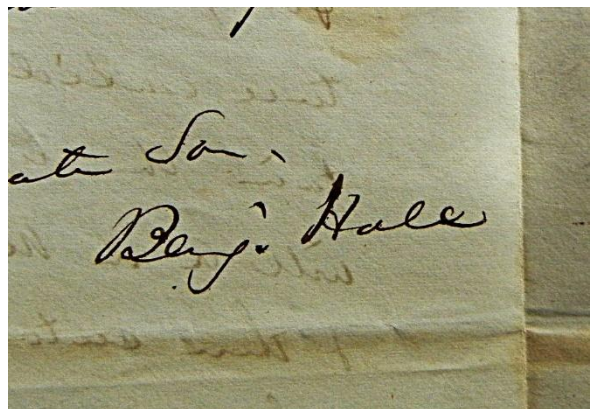
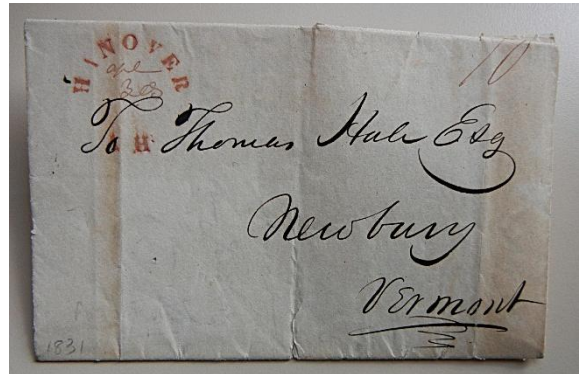
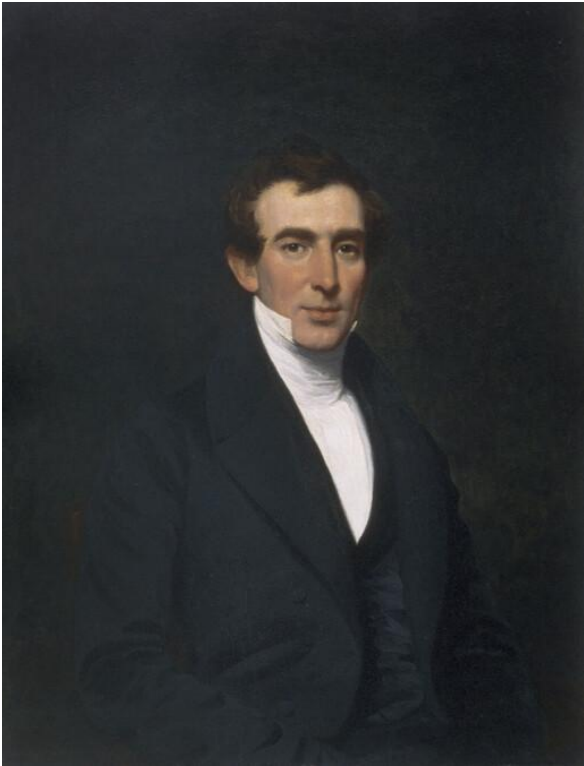
So much for the news. Now comes the history segment of this postal history cover.

Benjamin Hale was a prominent professor at Dartmouth at the time.

This is the joy of collecting postal history, especially from the stampless era. You not only find interesting postmarks and routes, stampless letters also open a window to our nation's history.

BENJAMIN HALE shown in photo below, was an American educator, born in Newburyport, MA, on the 23rd of November 1797; graduated with high honors from Bowdoin, 1818; studied theology at Andover, and in 1822 was licensed to preach as a Congregationalist; in 1823 became tutor in Bowdoin, and subsequently principal of the Gardiner Lyceum. From 1827 to 1835 he was professor of chemistry and mineralogy at Dartmouth. He joined the Protestant Episcopal Church, in which he took orders, and from 1836 to 1858 was president of Hobart College, Geneva, NY, resigning in the latter year on account of feeble health. He wrote *Introduction to the Mechanical Principles of Carpentry* (1827); *Scriptural Illustrations of the Liturgy* (1835); and *Education in Its Relations to a Free Government*. His *Life*, with selections from his works, published (1883) by Rev. Malcolm Douglass. He died at Newburyport on the 15th of July 1863.

The letter shown below was written in 1831 and is from Benjamin Hale to his father Thomas Hale.



Bible Quilt (1886): Featuring eleven panels with Biblical scenes, it is housed at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.

Pictorial Quilt (1898): Located at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, this quilt also uses panels to illustrate spiritual stories.

We Encourage APS Membership

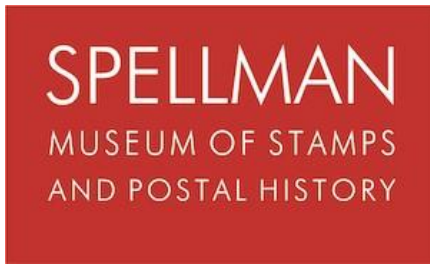
We at the Waltham Stamp Club encourage all our members to join the American Philatelic Society. As APS members you can participate in the educational experience of other philatelists by attending online seminars or sharing the resources of the large research library. There is a monthly stamp journal, the American Philatelist, and a weekly online newsletter. The February 2026 journal has feature articles on stamps from the US possessions and territories, both current and historical. Of particular interest is the article of the early US Post Office in Havana Cuba.

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.

For Massachusetts residents, local transportation to the Expo Center by car, taxi, or train is possible.



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. 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 www.spellmanmuseum.org and enjoy!



Ms. Mahany spoke at our club meeting about the fabulous work she has done to attract youngsters of elementary school age to philately. 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.

Kids Member Day



Thursday, Feb. 19
1PM to 5PM

Attention Kids Members!
As part of your membership, the Museum is offering a FREE program to help you learn more about collecting and to assist you with expanding your collection. Come learn about:

- ~ Stamp Types
- ~ Helpful Websites
- ~ Philatelic Tools
- ~ Stamp Catalogs and Handling and much more!



Registration is required. Please email smahaney@spellmanmuseum.org by February 10 to reserve your spot!

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