

Perforations



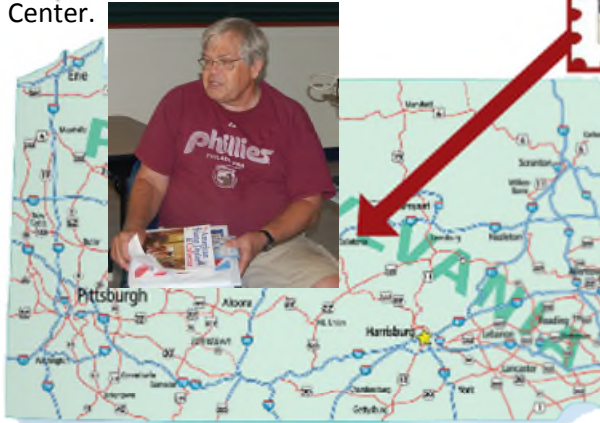
Last month, Bill Schultz talked about his class in "Forgeries" given by the American Philatelic Society located in the old Match Factory, Bellefonte, PA. The course cost about \$500.00 and began with a Sunday evening dinner. The seminar week, Monday–Thursday, consisted of a dedicated 4½ hours for the Forgeries class, followed by an on-site lunch and finished the day with afternoon elective workshops. Also included are two additional dinners and a Friday morning breakfast session with the staff of the American Philatelic Center — and one last opportunity to use the library, sales division, expertizing reference library, and other resources at the Center.



Accommodations were at the Best Western (about six miles away) that had its own breakfast and nice rose bushes as well.

In all it was a very worthwhile event. The instructors were exceptional – as was the ability to get questions answered (by real experts).

If interested, next year's event will be 15 – 20 June 2014. The APS (just off I-80) site is about 650 miles from Grayslake.



This month, Tom Willer will "lead" a discussion on the APS Milwaukee Stamp Show in August (08 – 11).



Treasures' Report: Total – \$ 3,256.47

Local Stamp Shows

HARVESTPEX '13
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St.
West Allis WI
September 21-22, 2013

MSDA Fall Show
Comfort Inn & Suites
600 Milwaukee Ave
Prospect Heights, IL
October 5 and 6

Chicagopex 2013
Westin Chicago
Northwest
400 Park Blvd
Itasca IL 60143
November 22-24, 2013

MSDA Suburban West Show
Lindner Conference Center
610 E Butterfield RD
Lombard, IL
December 14-15, 2013



Next meeting:
7-PM on Tuesday, 24 September 2013
at the Grayslake Library
100 Library Lane - Grayslake, IL 60030



Officers:
Dr Tom Willer – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Ed Pieklo – Treasurer

Where is this Going?

Stamp collecting is a hobby that has, entertained, taught history and drove home current events to many stamp collectors in the past — is this so today or into the future? Has it become a tool of investor?



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To the left are three panels from the comic strip Crankshaft - as seen in the local News-Sun paper (another dying business?). In general, the strip (a spin-off of Tom Batiuk's high school comic, Funky Winkerbean) is about, Crankshaft, an old fart, whose primary job is a school bus driver who manages to hit on many relevant topics with muddled aphorisms and spreading out to touch/jumble the world of his neighbors and co-workers.

In this case, Miss McKenzie (neighbor and member of the local garden club) is now known for her stamp collecting is the foil Batiuk's uses to show insight in the problems faced in *his hobby*.

We tend to blame this decline in the use of postage stamps, on technology innovation — email, text messages, internet shopping, on-line finance — as providing an alternate means to replace traditional letter-writing, paper circulars/catalogs and bill paying. With this said, how can we make sure the hobby survives (and not like coin collecting which appears to become a game of investment) — is there a future in Stamp Collecting?

I would like to say yes, because there are a few million stamp collectors (particularly in China and India), around the world and there are always people looking to trade, buy and sell their stamps (noted by the exportation of Chinese and Indian stamps out of the US). So the hobby may survive for a while with people who already have stamps but this does not grow the hobby here at home.

In this country, we have the APS, with its 33,500 members, is the largest, non-profit organization for stamp collectors in the world. The APS (founded in 1886) serves collectors, **educators**, postal historians, and the general public by providing a wide variety of programs and services. Its stated mission is: **to promote stamp collecting for people of all ages**; to offer services to its membership; and to philately in general, including knowledge and education, which enhance the pleasure and friendliness of stamp collecting to initiate and coordinate new programs for the benefit of stamp collecting and of all collectors; to represent the United States of America in the world body of philately and to assist its members in acquiring and disposing of philatelic materials.

Maybe it is time to think about better supporting the APS so it can coordinate/focus efforts to grow the hobby at home and make it "relevant" in today's technological world.