## The Journal of the Poster Stamp Collectors Club



Winter 2010 Vol. V No. 3
Whole \# 19

## A Valentine Whimsy

Valentine's Day will have come and gone before our next issue. This is too lovely an item to let pass. I'd date it before WWI.

APS \#255.


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The most topics on one poster stamp?


The most items on one poster stamp?


## "Contrary to Regulations"

Despite proper postage, the handstamp was applied in London because of the improper placement of the 1911 Coronation stamp, issued by the Union for Philanthropic Philately, London. Nevertheless it was sent to Bremerhaven whence it was forwarded to Villa Magdalena at Haserode Harz. It is not clear who put the red line through the handstamp.


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## President's Corner...Art Groten

## Correct PSCC meeting dates!!

I made an error in the dates for the PSCC meeting in Old Greenwich, CT. It will be on March 18-20, 2011. This is during the annual Convention of the Ephemera Society of America. On Friday, March 18, the lectures will be about various aspects of entertainment. A full list of the talks, the registration and the hotel information are on the Ephemera Society site (www.ephemerasociety.org) as well as in the enclosed pamphlet. The venue is the wonderful restored Conde Nast building, now a Hyatt Regency Hotel. A special show rate will be available. The enclosed copy of the ESA pamphlet about the show gives hotel contact information. Those flying into New York can take Connecticut Limousine which charges about $\$ 60$ each way. You can book on line at www.ctlimo.com.

On Friday evening we will have an off-site dinner for PSCC members, followed by a swap meet. Anyone with material for trade or sale is welcome to bring it. Charles Kiddle will be coming from the UK and invites members to send him a want list of material he should bring with him. His email address is above. At least four dealers who specialize in poster stamps will have booths: Ray Petersen, Mike Mead, Harris Leonard and Bob Bradbury. Other dealers often have poster stamps as well.

I have exhibits from Nick Follansbee and Charles Kiddle. If anyone else wishes to exhibit please contact me before all the frames are spoken for.

Our publications and web chair, Don Bodow, is quite ill. I have assumed his duties. We are attempting to have our stock of literature returned. Anyone who has placed an order, please contact me. If your check has not been cashed, please put a stop on it and issue another. I am sorry for this unforeseen difficulty. We all send our best wishes to Don for a speedy recovery.

Our plans for a club auction have been put off a bit. I expect to be able to report on this in the next issue. W. J. Jansse had hoped to do the organizational work but family matters require his energies elsewhere.

## Membership News:

New members:
\#146 Mack E. Matesen, 19828 80th Place West, Edmonds, WA 98026-6406; mnret@sprynet.com
\#147 David Miller, 2154 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705-1836: collects WWII, Worlds' Fairs and Expos, Olympics, poster stamps related to U.S. commemorations
\#148 Thomas Glavin, 75 Silverwood Dr., Newport News, VA 23608; fixnit2@msn.com. Collects poster stamps related to philatelic themes and stamp shows

Dropped for non-payment of dues:
010, Art Mongan; 026, Richard Nichol; 027, Norma McCumber; 050, John Swade; 052, Randy Neil; 076, Scott McClung; 082, Aaron Harper; 092, Scott Tress; 093, William Powers; 098, Bill Porter; 111, Dick Sheaff; 114, Greg Sutherland; 118, Lewis Kaufman; 133, James Stillman; 135, Chuck Jarvis; 138, Wayne Clowery; 139, David Zach; 141, Alfred Paul Arruda.

## From the Editor...Art Groten

Rather than repeat my pleas, I refer you to my earlier columns. This is your Journal. Support it.

## The Royal in December...

The 50th anniversary display of the Cinderella Stamp Club, hosted by The Royal Philatelic Society London at its headquarters on December 16, 2010, was a rousing success. 125 people attended and viewed the exhibits, many of which related to poster stamps. There was lively discussion as visitors saw material they had never seen before. Michael Dixon gave a talk, The Postal History of Upper Bongoland, spoofing classical philately to the merriment of the crowd. At the celebratory dinner, I had a chat with Alan Moorcroft, current President of the Royal, about how important it is to expand horizons and draw in new collectors. All societies are facing the same issues. I hope to continue the dialogue.

## Another British Library collectible...



The 2011 edition of the British Library Diary is called The World of Stamps and, on its cover, includes three poster stamps in the company of some of the world's rarest stamps. Quite lovely company for Cinderella!

## A Word from Walter...Walter Schmidt

In the April 1938 issue of the National Poster Stamp Bulletin, mention is made that the Armour Meat Company had issued a series of eight poster stamps honoring Walt Disney's production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. I read that a total of five million (!) sets were issued. Question: Does anyone have 1000 sets in stock today? 100 sets? 10 sets? They currently retail for about $\$ 75$ which is a hefty sum for something once so common. I have selected two to illustrate. I'm sure members are familiar with the rest of the set. If not, ask our editor to send you a scan.

DEPS report...Dick Warren
Continuing from the report in Journal \#17, there are indeed a number of changes being developed in the way we present undated event poster stamps in the DEPS database.

Just about all the stamps with an identified Location, missing only the year-date, are now imported into the database itself. Their image remains in the Image Gallery at the website www.posterstamplist.com and appear pretty much in alphabetic order by location (city). These images are a good visual shortcut to stamps that could otherwise be hard to find in the database 'catalog'. More detail is found in the 'What's New' section of the website, beginning with the entry for 29 August 2010.

I'm also exploring a good way to present Images on the internet site 'Flickr'. I looked at 'Facebook' but it appears that Flickr, being designed for sharing photos and other images, will be the preferred utility program, with widespread exposure to folks who don't know a poster stamp from a postcard. The curious and those who like what they see may very well be drawn to the hobby in this way.

## National Poster Stamp Bulletin...

Many of us have never seen an issue of the bulletin of the very active poster stamp society of the 1930s and 40s. On the next page, in reduced from, is Vol. 12 \# 4, issued August, 1947.





## 1914 Dutch article on poster stamps...Jaap van Dijk

A Note from the translator:
As most of today's poster stamp collectors know, the issuing and collecting of poster stamps was in its heyday at the beginning of the 20th century, more precisely between 1912-1914. During those 3 years, with a booming economy, 100.000s of new poster stamps, mostly commercial ones, were issued.

Nowadays few people realize that during this period there were more poster stamp collectors than postage stamp collectors, the same for the number of collector societies. Indeed, most postage stamp dealers also dealt in poster stamps, many of them even offered new-issue services for their many clients!

This booming business suddenly collapsed to almost zero, when, in the autumn of 1914, the Great War (WWI) broke out. In a very short time the booming consumer economy changed into a war economy, and the production of new poster stamps came to an abrupt end.

However innumerable commercial poster stamps were rapidly replaced by an even larger flood of numerous war propaganda and charity poster stamps. Germany and Austria produced the largest number, but also France, Great Britain and many smaller countries flooded the world with their war propaganda labels.

Many poster stamp collectors were not enthusiastic about this new type of stamp, and, due to the war, many of them stopped collecting altogether.

During the post-war period, the prewar poster stamp very slowly made its comeback, starting with exhibitions, congresses etc. and later with commercial ones. However poster stamp collecting never reached its prewar level.

So finally the "battle" between the two collecting forms was won by the stamp collector.
I am happy to conclude that both hobbies survived up until today and that the author of this article was as wrong as he could be.

To the right is a photograph of a crowd of collectors awaiting new issues being released by Frank \& Co. taken from the article.

The article follows on the next two pages.


The Collecting of Poster Stamps, 1914
This is a synopsis of an article written in February 1914 by G.J. van Siereberg de Boer in an unknown magazine.

In this article the writer calls attention to a new form of collecting coming from Germany. He is referring to an article in, Das Plakat, written by Dr. Adolf Saager stating that this new sport/hobby is spreading like an "infectious disease" among the schoolchildren of Munchen. At schoolhouses and in marketplaces, the children are showing their albums and exchanging their poster stamps. This hobby is so pervasive that schoolteachers and even the police are having stopping this activity at schools and marketplaces.
[On page 3 below is a photo of hundreds of children trying to lay their hands on a new set of PS issued by the firm Frank and Co at Amsterdam. This time the police were called in.]

To understand this new hobby we have to go back to the history of letter writing: In the 16th century letters were simply folded and closed with wax, later replaced by so-called Chinese sealing-wax, first used in 1624 in Spyer, Germany.

Normal envelopes like we use today were invented in 1820 in London, at first handmade, 20 years later machine made. Until 1880 it was required to close all letters/envelopes with wax; after 1880 wax was only used for money and valuable letters. Around that date the wax seal was replaced by letter seals, see Figures 1-5.

Around 1890 when, where and by who is unknown, someone decided to use these letter seals for advertising. The form rapidly changed from circular to rectangular, the embossed print was changed to lithographic print, which made the use of color easier. In that way the seals were slowly changed into the modern poster stamp, using the same characteristics as postage stamps

In its new form, the poster stamp could become an artistic and colorfully designed form of advertising. This new form of advertising started to increase in popularity around 1894. It began with advertising stamps to promote exhibitions, congresses, etc. that they were to be placed on correspondence.

Around the same time, larger firms started to use poster stamps to replace billboard posters and ads in newspapers. These new advertising poster stamps were soon widely spread by mail, inside packages with their products and by dealers specializing in them.

Initially, the collecting of poster stamps was by children, who were soon followed by their parents.
They were cheap to produce, and easy to spread among many people, as its message makes its way to the customer all by itself.

To show the importance of this new form of advertising, consider that for the 1912 Munchener Gewerbeschau 5 or 6 million of several designs were printed, 250.000 were sold to dealers, and the money received was enough to cover their entire printing cost

In 1897, the magazine Sammlerborse from Leipzig, wrote an enthusiastic article about this new form of collecting. Around the same time the Antiquitatenzeitung from Stuttgart also wrote an enthusiastic article about these tasteful little pictures and predicted that the Brussels World Exhibition of 1896 with its numerous colorful poster stamps could possibly trigger a new hobby.

At first, one might think that collecting postage stamps and poster stamps would be quite similar, since initially both were issued primarily by governments etc.. However very soon poster stamps were also issued by charity and tourist societies, who didn't give them away, but sold them for a small price. German and Austrian mountain societies were able to make a lot of money for their organizations. They were also to aid
the Army and for general welfare societies.
However, most poster stamps were produced by large firms that gave them away as a new and cheap form of advertising.
[In the last part of his article the author tries to describe the differences between stamp collecting and poster stamp collecting.]

The first rule for collecting (whatever) is to use once common sense,
By collecting poster stamps it is far easier to escape the dangerous trap of collecting frustration. The stamp collector does not have much choice [we speak in 1914] as he can only collect the limited number of stamps issued by governments. He can only collect stamps in order of date issued [i.e., the way albums are laid out].

As the number of poster stamps is far greater, if not to say endless, the collector of them has much more freedom in choice of collecting.

The educational side of stamp collecting is very limited as it teaches us mostly about rulers and geographic items [again, this is 1914].

The educational side of PS is far greater as it brings the collector knowledge about societies, cities, magazines, newspapers, exhibitions, feasts, advertising (topics), artists, printers, publishers etc. etc.

The most important goal for stamp collectors is to complete their collections, which limits a great part of the fun [i.e, a complete collection is the end of the fun], while the collector of poster stamps has an almost unlimited choice in building up their collections to their personal choice and standards.

In his last line the author states: [once again he writes in 1914] The final hour of the postage stamp will soon be there, as the canceling of letters will soon be done by machines. And then the poster stamp will take over and will fill the gap in the collecting world.

Translated by Jaap A.J. van Dijk, the Netherlands
Professional stamp dealer since 1974
Furious poster stamp collector since 1998
Jaap has also translated the message of this rebus. It is in a form of old Dutch that was used 100+ years ago. The message reads: "I am soft and quiet by nature; nevertheless it will never happen that a pretty lady will hold me close to her heart."

This sort of stamp was apparently rather popular in the Netherlands as he has a sheet of similar items (see outside back cover).


To round out this Dutch section, here are a pair of plagiarisms. Of course, we don't know which came first.


## Advertising on the Reverse...Art Groten

Charles Kiddle has sent along a set of four pre-WWI German poster stamps depicting the Kaiser at various stages of his early life. In and of themselves they are rare but what makes them even more interesting is the printing of an advertisement on the reverse of the stamp. The company that had these stamps produced, Neusser Margarine-Werke in Neuss a/ Rhein, noted two of its products in these reverse advertisements.

To my knowledge, this use of the reverse of a stamp for promotion was first tried in New Zealand in 1883 and it was not successful. Nonetheless, here they are again.

The stamps are from Series A (upper left) and are numbered 1 through 4 in the upper right. There are two different ads on the reverse: 1 and 3 share one while 2 and 4 share the other.


There are many more such stamps and they would make an interesting display, provided, of course, you can find two of each in order to show both sides. I also show the front and back of two stamps from the well-known set by T. P. Glass for Franz Kathreiner of Munich. Each stamp in the set had a different ad on the reverse.


## Before/after...

There are at least two kinds of before/after stamps: those the show the result of using a product or following a particular path and those that show a design change. The latter might be considered variants but they are design variants and not production ones, e.g. in perforation or printing. Once again the problem with definitions becomes apparent.

These two are of the first type: 1) the advantage of using a Transformine girdle and 2) the decisive crossroad between temperance and alcoholism.

Here we have two design variants: the man is presented with or without the beard. Perhaps the beard made him look a bit too devilish.

In this case the woman's breasts are covered up by an extension of her wrap. It would be interesting to know if this was done at the request of some of the stamp's distributors of by the company itself.

And this is a bit of whimsy: the child is quietly put to bed and later on, after screaming for an hour, the maid strangles her. Who says we can't have fun!


## Alfred Basz, the "Leipzig plagiarist"....Peter Rogers

I am sending along these examples of a few of Basz's plagiarisms. But he is better known as a producer of fund-raising stamps for fictitious societies. The sheet below purports to be for the National Chancellory but ! am willing to bet the money went into his own pocket. I'll tell the whole story, someday.

Other than remove the bottom inscription, Basz made no change to the first plagiarism. For the second, he used only the central vignette.


## Available Summer 2009 <br> The newly designed DATED EVENT POSTER STAMP on-line interactive database

- illustrated in-depth listing of worldwide stamps
- 19th Century to 1919, eventually to 1940 : or beyond: descriptions in English
- can be sorted and searched by year, place, country, category, keyword, designer \& many other crikeria \& saved for future reference
- registered users can make notes, inventory, want lists - a personal specialized caralog!
- registration is free
for further information and background info go to the web: www.posterslamplist.com


## Edited by Richard D. Warren (Dick) <br> Contribulfons by many

Please note that data entry is a work in progress and that acouracy and completeness oependa on comments \& contributions by Viswers Like Yid


This space is available for an ad from our members, dealers or otherwise.

## Member classified ads

Wanted: Connecticut poster stamps, event seals \& labels, EKKO \& non-EKKO radio stamps, dir-cut advertising, bank savings and school stamps. Gary W. Potter, 370 Lake Ave., Bristol, CT, 06010-7328 email: bristhist@yahoo.com

Wanted: Poster stamps with a motoring or motoring accessory theme, particularly Italian. Have a few for exchange -- various countries. Peter Marshall email: ar.01177@yahoo.co.uk

Mr. Ice Cream desires ice cream and soda fountain poster stamps from around the world: ice cream, soda fountains, ice cream machines, people enjoying ice cream, etc. Contact Al Mellis: mellisfamily@rcn.com

Wanted: Wisconsin poster stamps, event seals, advertising stamps, charity stamps, labels, artist's proofs on or off cover. Ken Grant, E1 1960 Kessler Rd. Baraboo, WI 53913 email: kenneth.grant@uwc.edu

In the absence of a $1 / 4$ page ad, free member classified ads of up to 30 words, excluding address, will be posted in this space. One ad per member per issue as space permits; first come, first served. Ads must relate to poster stamps. Buy, sell, trade or information sought are all OK. They must be received at least 30 days prior to the next issue, i.e. by March 10, 2011.

New Zeppelin Poster Stamps...Charles Kiddle
[Ed.: From time to time, as space premits, addenda to Charles's Zeppelin poster stamp book will be presented. Here is the first.]

One of the benefits of publishing a catalogue is that collectors can look through their collections and, as a result, are able to add to the information in the catalogue.


Notes :

1. ZP. 14 is detailed in the text but no image was available;
2. E3b is illustrated in the catalogue but the red balloon is very feint;
3. MZ.7A is an addition.


| Cat. No. R | Rarity | Cat. No. R | Rarity | Cat. No. R | Rarity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ZP.15A | 60 | SZ.18 | 150 | VZ.1I | 100 |

Notes:

1. ZP.15A. a new variant of $S Z .15$;
2. SZ.18. a new addition;
3. VZ.1I an imperf. proof with printer's marks : the colour of the sky is grey-blue.

TEXT
Page 136 : 'Notes 1.' third line 'flich' should be 'lich'.
Page 140 : 'Note 2.' third line - replace 'Besten' with 'Beyer'.
Page 140 : 'Note 6 '. Second line ' 12 ' should be ' 14 '.
Page 218 : add ', D' after ' C ' at 'code h '.

As the months go by there will be other additions and details will be sent to all buyers of the Zeppelin catalogue.

## Alphonse Mucha and the 1913 Ivancice Regional Exhibition...Art Groten

To the best of my knowledge, only two of Alphonse Mucha's exhibition posters were converted into poster stamps, for the 1904 St. Louis Fair and the 1913 Ivancice (Bohemia) Regional Exhibition. His other images that were made into poster stamps were for various charities.

Tom Minor has written about the 1904 St. Louis issues in his book on that World's Fair. Here we will look at the other exhibition stamp. I show a postcard of the original poster and we can only wish they had lithographed the stamp so the colors could have been shown. [Multiple colors with engraved stamps are very difficult to produce.] Despite the fact that the design is by Mucha, the stamp can be quite drab. It is less so when printed in vibrant colors but still doesn't compare to the original design. It is reported that there are 12 colors but some of these may be shades rather than truly different colors.

Poster stamps are produced the same way as postage stamps, following the some steps: hand drawn design, essays, proofs and final production. Finding such material is orders of magnitude harder for poster stamps than postage stamps. Yet for this relatively rare poster stamp we do, in fact, have an essay, known in three colors. [See inside back cover for all illustrations]

The stamp is known with and without a printer's imprint at the bottom. The essays also have the imprint.

This stamp is engraved rather than lithographed and, thus, it is subject to the kinds of constant plate flaws that are more common in engraved stamps. What is most interesting is that the stamps without the imprint have plate flaws while those with the imprint seem not to (at least those I've seen). This suggests, reasonably, that the first printing was without the imprint and produced without the same care as that with the imprint. Constant flaws are usually created by either some bit of foreign material on or damage to the transfer die, or errant engraving tools on the plate itself. Sometimes a poor impression of the transfer die is corrected directly on the plate, resulting in retouches. It is during this process that a tool can create a dot or scratch. These flaws and retouches are constant for the life of the plate. A plate that sees a lot of use may show a gradual weakening of the flaw.

Unfortunately, no full sheet of this stamp is known. We do not know how many were in a sheet or the layout of the sheet. Only one corner stamp with the original selvage is known and that one has a constant flaw, making it the only flaw for which a plate position is known.

There are four major plate flaws:

1) a significant retouch in the sky behind the head of the woman at the right. It shows considerable variation from stamp to stamp, suggesting that the plate might have been made of relatively soft metal that quickly wore down.
2) a dot in the sky just to the left of the mid-line below the upper arch
3) a dot just to the right of the steeple.
4) a long diagonal scratch going from upper right to lower left. It is constant as I have a second one in a different color.

These are all illustrated on the next page.

Alphonse Mucha and the 1913 Ivancice Exhibition


Postcard in original colors
Essay and stamp with imprint



Normal, no imprint
Dot in sky



Retouch behind head Dot near steeple


Scratch


A sheet of 50 Dutch rebus stamps


