

Stamps & Tongs

The E-mail Newsletter of the
Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society



Buyer Beware

This piece of junk mail arrived in my mailbox about three weeks ago. While it was nice to see all of these handsome commemoratives adorning the envelope, the contents inside made me sick. This is the kind of stuff that gives stamp collecting and hobbies in general a bad name. The company, which shall remain nameless, offer four commemorative panels for \$8.25 each. Each panel has 4 or more US mint stamps on it, along



with a description of a major historical event. If you buy all of the panels, it will set you back about \$1,650 for about \$45 catalog worth of very common US stamps.

One of the questions I have about this junk is where did they get my mailing address? Did *Linn's* or *Mekeel's* sell my address to them? Did the APS sell their mailing list? If they did, shame on them. Did the USPS give them my address (I saw no official USPS sanction of the panels)?

I looked this company up online. They seem to specialize in coins and stamps, treating them as "heirloom" items or some such. For example, they have a presentation case with a 1925 Lexington-Concord Half Dollar (very good condition) and a used Scott 619. All yours for five easy payments of \$36. I went to eBay and found the coin (vg condition) for \$9.99 and the stamp for \$1.99.

So if you received this junk mail, do as I did, and put it to good use and recycle it (or line a bird cage with it). I really do not understand why they put this junk out, and I feel sorry of the uneducated who purchase it.



AmeriStamp Expo/ TEXPEX

will be held February 20-22, 2009 at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas 76011.

- approximately **90 dealers** from throughout the United States and abroad
- participation of important national collectors' societies, including annual meetings of the Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (MEPSI), the Texas Philatelic Association, and the Texas Postal History Society
- more than 6,000 pages of exhibits, including the annual single-frame Champion of Champions competition and Most Popular Exhibit competition



Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society

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Notes from the Editor



It is almost time for the big show in Arlington. I am again passing on the information that the APS is desperately looking for its members to volunteer to work the show. You can volunteer by going to the TPA website, www.texasphilatelic.org. If you can, give a couple of hours back to our great hobby and volunteer. It has been confirmed that there is a charge for parking at the show. It will only be \$5 a day. So at worst, you are out \$15 if you attend all three days. I hope this does not keep anyone from attending the show. This would be a good time to carpool with another DPCPS member.

The show will feature a First Day of Issue ceremony Saturday at 11:00 am. The issue will be the American Civil Rights Pioneers. I think this will be the first FDOI ceremony since the Amber Alert stamp in 2006. So plan on being at the show to attend this special event.

We had our first quarterly auction of the year at our last meeting in January. We did not have many lots, but all but one sold! I think the recent bad weather and the economy might have kept our turnout low that night. A big thank you goes out to Tom Cunningham for being the auctioneer and Harry Pedersen filling in for the Kempston's in running the auction. A fabulous job by all. Start planning ahead for the Spring Cleaning Bourse in March. Bring your money and your items to trade and sell. You can be a dealer, too!

See you at the next meeting! DM

Feb.-March 2009 Philatelic Calendar

February 11 Program: Danish Bi-Color Issues, presented by Harry Pedersen.



February 20-22 AmeriStamp Expo & TEXPEX Volunteers needed to help with the show! If you are an APS member and can volunteer, go to www.texasphilatelic.org to sign up today!

February 25 Mini Auction and Philatelic Spotlight: TBA.

March 11 Spring Cleaning Bourse (see page 4 of the newsletter). Bring items you would like to trade or sell. Tom Cunningham and Jim Myers will bring their inventory.

March 25 Mini Auction and Philatelic Spotlight: TBA.

To volunteer for a presentation or Philatelic Spotlight, contact Harry Pedersen.

Cunningham Philatelics

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Collections
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Jim Myers

US, Worldwide, 19th Century, #1's, Socked on the Nose,
Cancels, Topicals, Great Britain & Colonies & Ireland.

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Metroplex Postal History of the Month



The February postal history of the month is a postcard from Bournemouth, United Kingdom to Dallas, Texas. The postcard left Bournemouth, which is located on the southern coast near Dorest, on October 14, 1925. A postage due mark was placed on the postcard in New York (see lower left hand postmark). Upon its arrival in Dallas, it was assessed a postage due fee of two cents. The franking on the postcard consists of Great Britain King George V one penny stamp (Scott 188). The US postage due stamp that is precancelled (Scott J62). The address in Dallas was located between Maple and Oaklawn.



The other side of the postcard showing the Boscombe pier built in 1888.



A current day photo of the beach, from a different angle. The pier is still there. In 2007, an opinion survey found the people living here the happiest in Britain.

Tell a friend about the DPCPS. Invite them to a meeting!

Spring Cleaning Bourse

Wednesday March 11 @ 7:30 pm



The **Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society** will be having our second annual “Spring Cleaning Bourse” during our first meeting in March. **Tom Cunningham** and **James Myers**, our two member dealers, have both agreed to bring material for purchase. They will each be given a table of their own.

However, the bourse is not just for our two dealers. The entire membership is encouraged to bring material of their own for sale or trade! This is an opportunity, as indicated by the name of the event, “Spring Cleaning Bourse”, to dig out any philatelic treasures you care to part with and offer them for sale or trade. The more participation we have the more successful this event will be!

**Remember to mark your calendars: March 11th at 7:30
at the Edgemere. Bring your philatelic material!**

Postal History from the SS Empress of Ireland

At the first meeting of 2009, everyone in attendance recounted their philatelic activities since we last met in December at the Holiday dinner. Tom Siegel had one of the more interesting stories to relate. He told the group he had hit it big at one of the auctions, winning every bid he placed. The crown jewel of his winning bid was a letter from the *SS Empress of Ireland*, which sunk May 29, 1914. Tom has been kind enough to provide a scan of this ill fated cover. He also provided the following narrative:



At about 1:30 am on the morning of May 29, 1914, during a dense fog, the Norwegian collier *Storstad* collided with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company steamer *Empress of Ireland*. The steamer was bound for Liverpool from Quebec, off the Father Point in the St. Lawrence river. As a result of the collision, the *Empress of Ireland* sunk within twelve minutes five miles east of Father Point. The loss of life from the collision was 1,034. Salvage operations were carried out, starting three months after the accident and some mail was recovered. As backstamps of the



Branch Dead Letter Office, Ottawa, Ont. vary in date from between the middle of September through mid December. Thus it is assumed that the mail was recovered in batches during the salvage operation. All of the recovered mail received a straight line cachet **Recovered by divers from wreck of**



SS Empress of Ireland. This is mainly recorded in emerald green or purple, but two covers are known with the cachet line in blue. A reasonably large part of the recovered mail must have been very badly damaged as it was forwarded in “ambulance” covers. This cover from Vancouver, May 21, has the purple cachet. On the reverse are Dead Letter Office, Ottawa handstamps **DEC 16** and **DEC 24 1914**. This cover is a fine example of the cachet.



Quarterly Auction Highlight



The big item at the first Quartley Auction was a souvenir sheet from Hungary showing FDR. The Scott catalog values this special souvenir sheet (with B198A-B198D) at \$100. The lucky bidder got it for less than one third of catalog value.

New Member Spotlight



Scott Hunter has officially joined the DPCPS as of our last meeting. Make sure you make Scott feel welcome to the Society and introduce yourself to him at the next meeting.

Texas Philatelic Association News: Catalog Giveaway

The TPA will be giving away a 2009 Scott Specialized catalog at **3:00 pm each day** of the show. Make sure you enter your name in the drawing so that I can personally deliver the catalog to you and save on postage and handling. The TPA has another deal.

If you are not a member of the TPA, now is the time to join. There is a new member deal of joining now and your membership will run through 2010. It is only \$20 for two years for new members who join. I will sweeten the deal if you come and talk directly to me at the next DPCPS meeting. Bring me your application for TPA membership and a check for \$15, and **will cover the other \$5**. I will do this for the first five DPCPS members who decide they want to join the TPA-Doug Moss, *First Vice President TPA, Editor of The Texas Philatelist*.

The Texas Philatelic Association



www.texasphilatelic.org

- ★ Support philately in the state of Texas.
- ★ Receive *The Texas Philatelist*, bi-monthly color journal.
- ★ Participate in Oklahoma Philatelic Society (OPS) stamp circuit.
- ★ Participate in TPA-OPS auctions.

JOIN US! Membership fees and dues are pro-rata based on the quarter an application is received: \$12 for January-March; \$9 for April-June; \$6 for July-September; \$13 for October-December (includes next full year). Membership may be applied for online at the TPA website, www.texasphilatelic.org, or an application may be obtained by writing to: Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Rd., Austin, TX 78739-3005.