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The *Postscript*
Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club
1904 Nanticoke Cir
Tallahassee, FL 32303

President's Message *from Mike Francis*

We are at that time of year for the nomination of club officers. Recommendations for officers will be taken at the November meeting and floor nominations will be taken during the voting process at the December meeting. Any member who desires to be an officer of the TSCC should seek a nomination. Everyone is encourage to participate in the operation of your club.

I would like to personally thank all those members who helped with the 2nd annual Mini Stamp Show. While there was very low attendance, those who did attend had a nice time discussing our hobby. A big thanks goes out to Don Nimey, Larry Sharp, Larry Benson, Rene Manes, Marlena Hopkins of the USPS, and others. A big thank you goes to Ed Walters who helped with the planning and setting-up of the showroom. The club could not do without you Ed!

Finally, the club has experienced a profitable and smooth year by carrying on the ideas of past president John Goble and the tight accounting of Don Smith. They both did an outstanding job last year. Of course we are most fortunate to still have Becky as club Secretary and Mickey as Vice President. It has been a good year and let us all work to make next year even better. Mike

THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

American Philatelic Society
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Specializing *by Dr. Rene Manes*

Most of us gave up the idea of collecting the whole world long ago. We stopped picking up material from those prolific stamp producers, for example new countries in Africa, Asia or the South Pacific, like Djibouti, Ras Al Khaima or Niuato. That still leaves us with more stamps than our albums can handle.

One way to go is to stop collecting altogether or to stop collecting issues after a certain date, (my cut-off was sometime in the 1970s.) A better solution is offered in a recent article in Linn's March 1st *Collectors Workshop*, i.e. "How to get specialized." Using Germany's military occupations of Luxembourg to make his point, the writer shows how to become expert in a particular topic, person, event or time period.

The article explains how, at a very reasonable cost, you can use the services of the American Philatelic Research Library at the new headquarters or at the www.stamplibrary.org web site to find the material on any special subject; how you can use the internet or read up on the history of your topic for insights on the people and events featured on your stamps; and how you can often contact directly the authors of books or articles related to your topic. Incidentally you'll be surprised how gladly most will respond to your comments or questions.

It is a great article but it does leave out other useful suggestions. For one thing, some of us haven't given much thought on what to specialize in or on how to narrow down a particular topic. The next problem is our unfamiliarity with all of the information resources available in out hobby.

There are two main sources of help. The first is the American Philatelic Society's (APS) register of APS Affiliated units or study groups. The second is the directory of the American Topical Association (ATA) affiliates and study groups. Note that a few of these affiliated groups belong to both the APS and the ATA.

First, a list of current APS affiliates can be found on the APS website:

Www.stamps.org/directories/dir-SpecialitiesSocities.htm (enter this into your browser with out any spaces or hyphens.) cont. page 2

Meeting Dates & Presentations Left in 2004

This is a list of our presenters for the rest of 2004:

November 9th — John Goble

December 14th — Xmas Party

Note that there will be nominations for club officers at the November meeting.

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Happy Holidays

TIDBITS

- We have 3 new members: Doris Hunt, and Gene & Amy Van Omer.
- Several members have donated items for the benefit of the club for the raffle and the silent auction: Gwynn Kidd donated some very nice cacheted first day covers; and several times Al Kelly has donated covers and stamps. Ms. Mary McRory donated covers to the club through Larry Benson.
- Ernie Volaric has submitted nine stamps for the *Identify this Stamp* section. Dana Bryan has submitted two hard to identify stamps.

Specializing (cont.) *by Dr. Rene Manes*

At this site, scores of key words are given, several of which may refer to a single affiliate. For example, the words Journalists and Poets both refer to JAPOS or "Journalists, Authors and Poets on Stamps." Similarly the separate headings, Gay and Lesbians refer to the "Gays and Lesbians on Stamps" club. The majority of affiliates concern a country but there are many other categories of specialization such as "Cats on Stamps", "Chess", "Churchill", "Bullseye or Smack-on Cancels", etc.

Specific membership information for each affiliate is available from the APS at its new Match Factory address:

American Philatelic Society
Attn: Corrine Swartz
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823

or by contacting affiliate representatives on the Internet. Annual US memberships run from $8 to $25 per year and usually provide membership lists and a quarterly journal.

The second source is the American Topical Association (ATA) which can be contacted at:

American Topical Association
P. O. Box 57
Arlington, TX 76004-0057

Or you can go to their website ww.americantopical.org

The ATA directory of study units and affiliates lists 52 active units with their dues, contact names, addresses and when available, e-mail addresses and websites. Included among them are the Golf Society, Lighthouse Stamps and Stamps on Stamps Club. There are 33 active ATA chapters, 8 of them overseas but none in Florida. From 1958 to 2003, the ATA has published over 150 handbooks on a great variety of topics. The most voluminous topic seems to have been World Railways with 3 handbooks, 3 supplements and a CD.

If you aren't already specializing why not consider it? It could bring new life to your hobby. If you have ever thought of doing an article on your special interests, the Philatelic Research Library (APRL) and the various affiliate groups will provide invaluable new information. Rene

Railroad Mail Drop at River, Kentucky *by Ed Walters*

This is a photo of a an old-time mail drop hook. It is in the area where I was raised in River, Kentucky. The Post Office was on one side of the river and the drop hook and train tracks where on the other side.

The train rarely stopped and did so only because someone wanted a ride. But, the train would always pick up the mail if the bag was on the arm.

If one wanted to catch the train that was a different story. To catch the train it was necessary to cross the Big Sandy River. The only way across the river to catch the train by the mail hook was to walk over a small swinging bridge. Once on the other side of the river the train would have to be flagged down if one was going to catch a ride.

Identity Uncovered

This stamp has English markings that allow you to start the identification process. The most obvious element of the stamp is the word FRIMARKE. Research shows FRIMARKE was only printed on the stamps of Denmark, Norway or Sweden. No country name is obvious on the stamp. Under the Universal Postal Union guidelines, stamps that do not have the country name printed can only be used within that country. The only exception to this rule is the stamps of Great Britain. British stamps, which may be mailed from England to any location in the world do not have Great Britain or England printed on the stamp.

Since the cancellation has obliterated part of the second English text on the stamp it will be necessary to search the catalog for an identity. In this case the best place to start is the early issues of the country in question and the back-of-the-book issues such as revenues or local post.

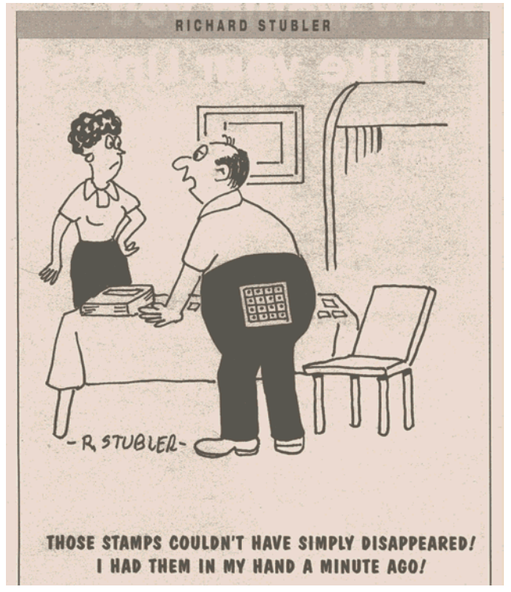
This stamp was not found in Denmark or Norway. It happens to be an early Swedish issue: #38, perf 13 priced used at $15.00 (Scott 2003).

This stamp does have the country name SVERIGE (meaning Sweden) on it but it is obliterated by the postmark. The simple techniques outlined herein led to the stamps identify in a minimum amount of time.

Identify This Stamp

See if you can identify this stamp. Its identity will be uncovered in the next issue.

One of Richard Stubler's Better Cartoons *submitted by Ernie Valoric*



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The Postscript is the quarterly journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club. Articles may be reproduced

STAMP SHOW NOTICE:

December 3-5, 2004

FLOREX will be at the Orlando Expo Center, 500 W Livingston (west of I-4). It is hosted by the Central Florida Stamp Club. Bourse on Friday & Saturday from 10am-5pm. Sunday from 10am-3pm. There will be 40+ dealers and exhibits with a special Lewis & Clark cancel. Contact Francis Ferguson, POB 0132, Apopka, FL 32704-0132 or call at 407-493-0956. Email is ferg@cfl.rr.com

2nd Annual Mini Stamp Show

On October 23, 2004 the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club held its 2nd Stamp Show. While the attendance was low do to many factors especially the nice weather outside and the annual Scouts events, those who attended the show enjoyed the presentations. Below are several pictures taken at the show. The USPS also had a successful sales day at the show.

Top Left: Marlena Hopkins of the USPS and a visitor.
Top Right: Hub Chason viewing the Turtles on Stamps display
Bottom Left: Jerry, Dana and Don viewing the exhibits
Bottom Right: USPS sales table