

# The Postal History Foundation's



# Stamp Tracks

Whole No. 13

Summer 2010

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

## The Postal History Foundation - The Early Years



*The museum 'family' circa 1966*

In 1960 William (Bill) Alexander, who had recently moved from Pittsburgh, PA, to Tucson, gathered together a group of interested stamp collectors/philatelists with the idea of establishing an organization for the study and promotion of research into the postal history (the movement of the mail in all its aspects) of Arizona and the Western United States. The core group of four included Bill (who had been Curator of Postal History and Stamps at Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh), Arthur (Art) Springer (a past president of the Tucson Stamp Club), Albert Evans (past president of the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs), and Omega Williamson (a past president of the Tucson Stamp Club

with extensive knowledge of Arizona postal history).

The objectives of the proposed organization were:

1. Organize a youth education program to stimulate stamp collecting among youth.
2. Obtain and preserve postal history of all periods for all of the Western States.
3. Gather a collection of historical objects related to the transportation and distribution of the mail.
4. Foster the study and research of postal history in all its varied forms.
5. Organize a sponsoring society of philatelists, historians, and others who have an interest in promoting and preserving these objectives for future generations.

The organizers then approached Dr. Ray Brandes, Assistant Director of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society (now the Arizona Historical Society) with the idea of establishing a postal history department at the Society, which came into being as the Western Postal History Mu-

seum (WPHM). As an affiliate of the Society and located within the Society's building, the WPHM nevertheless had to raise its own funds for all its other expenses. The officers were as follows: Bill Alexander, Director; Al Evans, Chief Curator; Omega Williamson, Curator of Research; and Art Springer, Curator of remaining activities. In order to ensure a reliable source of funding to support the WPHM, a separate organization was formed to carry out such activities. Thus was born the Arizona Philatelic Rangers.

Among the first major activities undertaken by the new WPHM was to acquire as much material as possible relating to postal history of the mails in addition to a wide array of stamp materials to support the youth educational activities. The first large donation was received in October 1960, from the Raymond H. Weill Co. of New Orleans, LA, comprised of many books along with a

*(continued on next page)*

## The PHF -The Early Years

*More information, about the history of PHF, will be on display at a special exhibit in the library*

*(continued from front)*

six volume general collection of stamps. In the years following, Raymond Weill and his brother Roger continued to support the WPHM with several other substantial donations of material. Over the years since, many individuals and organizations have made significant donations to the WPHM, too numerous to list here. A major collection of United States proof and essay stamps was received in 1978 from Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr., the sale of which enabled the WPHM to purchase its own building, the current headquarters at 920 North First Avenue. In

1996 the parents of Peggy Slusser, a long-time volunteer, donated \$750,000 for the construction of the magnificent library that bears her name and stands today as one of the most outstanding philatelic libraries in the country.

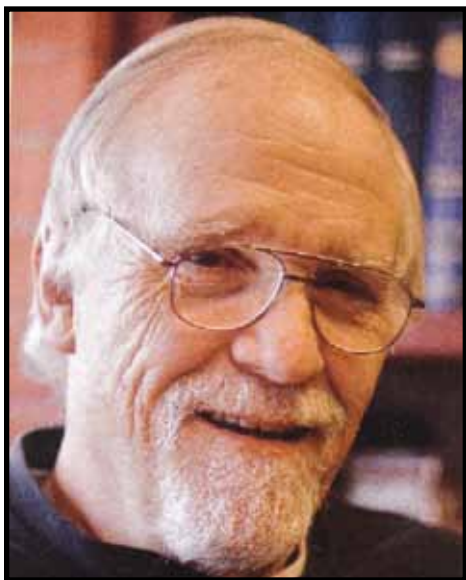
The evolution of the Western Postal History Museum into the Postal History Foundation occurred over several years, but it was finalized with the official name change in 1990. The reason for the name change was to reflect the substantial broadening of activities which this institution has undertaken

over the years: specifically to better identify the organization's purpose and scope, to broaden its base of support, and to allow for future program growth and financial security. And as the PHF celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary, it is evident that it has succeeded beyond expectations as an outstanding philatelic organization that has benefitted not only its membership, youth collectors, the City of Tucson, but also thousands of stamp collectors and philatelists throughout the world.

Frank Mallalieu

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## IN MEMORIAM



**MICHAEL CUSANOVICH**

On Saturday, April 10, the Board of Directors of the PHF held its regular meeting. Two days later, on April 12, Mike Cusanovich died. There was no indication at the meeting

that he was ill. It was a shock to all of us. He was only sixty-eight. Mike had been a long-time member of the foundation and a board member for many years.

No doubt he will be most remembered as the Vice-President for Research at the University of Arizona. It was in this capacity that he became famous for his work in biological signaling and energy transduction. He also headed the Arizona Research Laboratories for twenty-two years. Throughout his career, he published more than 300 scientific papers.

As an avid stamp collector, Mike supported the PHF and contributed to its direction. Mike will be missed sorely,

not only for his support as an advisor and board member, but also for his cheerful and positive outlook.

### **PRICILLA WEATHERWAX**

Priscilla Weatherwax, a PHF volunteer since 2002, died on May 21, 2010. Priscilla will be remembered especially for her work with the Christmas stamps and her charming conversational abilities. Described as travel-wise, Priscilla, boarding trains, boats, and buses, traveled all over America and many parts of the world. As wide as her world view may have been, she was known at the PHF for her dedication to her volunteer activities and her friendliness.

# IN MEMORIAM (continued)



**F. BURTON SELLERS**

Burt Sellers of Denver, CO, and Sun City, AZ, was a Ranger since 1985. Burt's accomplishments were many. He was one of only three persons to sign the roll of the Philatelic Congress. He won the Lichtenstein Award in 1976, the Luff Award in 1983, and his Haiti collection won three gold medals. He served as chairman of INTERPHIL during 1976, was a member of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club, and was president of the American Philatelic Society. He has also served in numerous roles on boards of organizations. He died at the age of 91 on June 16.

## **WILLIAM AINSWORTH**

A Ranger since 1998, William Ainsworth specialized in Abraham Lincoln (1866-1909), postal history in general, and the 6 cent Lincoln stamp. At his recent death, he lived in Roswell, GA, and had a business address in Atlanta.

## **DEAN CARTER**

On Friday, May 21, Dean Carter, one of our long-time members, died of Parkinson's disease. Dean received his Ph.D from the University of Arizona in chemistry and spent a successful thirty year career there. He received the Education Award for his teaching and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Metals Specialty research.

Dean was a prominent philatelist and supported many activities at the PHF. He was also active in MEPSI.

## **RAYMOND P. MARIELLA**

Ray Mariella, of Sun City West, was a Ranger since 1994. He died March 17, 2010. Ray was on the PHF board of directors in 1992 and was president of the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs. He lived in Peoria, AZ.

## **WERNER HELMS**

Werner Helms of Norwalk, CA, a noted collector of German airmail, a specialist in East German courier stamps, and a Ranger since 1992, died this June. Werner was an expert in German philately, a generous contributor to the PHF, a star at many philatelic exhibitions, and a recruiter of many Rangers.

## **Library Wish List**

- Foreign stamp catalogs from 2000 to the present
- *Arizona Highways* magazines (current issues)

## **New Grants Awarded to Library!**

The library has been awarded four more grants this year, through a number of different sources. The grants will assist us with preservation work, cataloging our auction catalogs and maps, creating online exhibits of several Arizona Post Offices, and continued processing of our archival collections. More information about the specific grant awards is available on our website. Funding will be through the IMLS American Heritage Preservation Program, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission from the Arizona Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency under the Library Services and Technology Act, which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We are deeply grateful to each of these funding bodies for their support of our work!

**PHF Hours:**  
M-F 8am-3pm  
**Library ONLY**  
Sat. 10am-2pm



## WESTPEX 2010



*Three Rangers enjoy WESTPEX. (l to r) Wayne Youngblood, Editor of "The Posthorn", Paul Nelson and Bob Davis, both from PHF, Tucson*

Exhibits and dealers, collectors and visitors, philatelists and judges, stamps and auctions, planes arriving and departing – all were part of the scene at the WESTPEX 2010 50th Annual Stamp Show held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel on April 23-25. This year's featured societies were the Polonus Philatelic Society and the Scandinavian Collectors Club.

Thanks to the intercession of John Birkinbine, Chairman of the Arizona Philatelic Rangers, and with the cooperation of the show's general manager, Ed Jarvis, the Postal History Foundation was able to have an information table. Since WESTPEX is the best attended show in the western part of the United States, it was an ideal time to spotlight the PHF as it too celebrates its 50th anniversary. Staffing the table were PHF's own Lena Rogers and Paul Nelson, who, during the three days of the show, signed up several new members for the PHF in addi-

tion to having one new Ranger join. Making contact with people from different states and foreign countries was a primary objective of having the table. Lena reported that quite a few people picked up informational flyers about PHF's 2011 ARIPEX show to be hosted in Tucson.

Both Lena and Paul expressed pleasure in seeing, once again, Louise Christian and her son George Christian. Louise has been a long time benefactor and supporter of the PHF. They were also able to renew their acquaintance with Wallace Craig, a well-known Southern California philatelist. Furthermore, it was no surprise to both to see many PHF members and Rangers attending the show.

Perhaps one of the most interesting areas of the show was the children's section which included an information and activity table and, more importantly, an activity room. The dedicated room allowed opportunities for inter-

active philatelic activities and the hands on activities which make stamps and stamp collecting so appealing to children. It is no small wonder children flocked to the area. As an enhancement, the children took a guided tour of the exhibits and the dealer tables. At the PHF table, they collected color-changing pencils and the new collecting fad, erasers. Of course, both were inscribed with the PHF logo and name. Several different California Boy Scout groups also toured the show, another indication of the youth emphasis at this show.

Often at any show or convention, meals are a focal point, whether for the guest speaker's address or for the food. Attending the Scandinavian dinner, Paul re-connected with fellow collectors with common interests while



*John Birkinbine and his wife Seny at John's dealer table*



*Cheryl Ganz, Smithsonian National Postal Museum Curatorial Services and Louise Christian*

Lena attended the Rangers banquet where the focus was on the food. Commending both the quality and quantity of the food, she also had kudos for the serving staff.

What stamp show would be complete without awards? Participants at the WESTPEX

2010 were "going for the gold". The Grand Award, a U.S. \$20 Double Eagle gold coin, was awarded to Alfredo Frohlich for "Republic of Columbia - International Mail 1886-1899". Numerous other awards were given in other categories.



Ed Jarvis, WESTPEX Chairman of the Board and  
Ken Martin, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society

## Library Corner

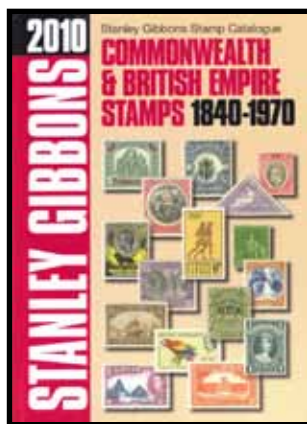
### New Acquisitions

The library has received a donation from the Lincoln Collection from Garry Greenberg, long time member of the Tucson Stamp Club, including his prize-winning Lincoln topical collection, as well as cachets, covers, postcards, and other philatelic material related to Lincoln. New titles include:

- **Czeslaw Slania--master engraver, 1921-2005.**  
John Campbell (2008)



- **Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth & British Empire Catalog (2010)**



- **Panama Postal Markings, 1758-1950.** Edited by Jim Cross (2010)
- **Postal Cards of Spanish Colonial Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico.** Robert Littrell, ed. (2010)
- **Postal History of Kuwait,** Mohammed Abdul-Hadi Jamal (1998)

- **U.S. Domestic Postal Card Regulations, 1874 to 1885.** Robert Stendel (2010)



### Children & Youth:

Thanks to Richard King, we have had quite a few additions to our children's collection this month. New titles include:

- **A Day with a Mail Carrier.** Jan Kottke (2000)
- **Delivering Your Mail.** Ann Owen (2004)



- **The Post Office Book: Mail and How it Moves.** Gail Gibbons (1982)
- **To the Post Office with Mama.** Sue Farrell (1994)
- **Where Does the Mail Go?** Daniel Shepard (2003)

## Welcome New Members!

Robert Cagna - Dunbar, WV  
Bill & Jo Glass - Casa Grande, AZ  
James Green - Galeta, CA  
Dr. Robert J. Segal - Tucson, AZ  
**New Ranger:**  
Eigil T. Trondsen - Nassua, TX



## *Notes From Lisa*

News from Youth Education  
Thru Stamps

### **End of School Year!!**

We have finished another fantastic year in the classroom and community. The YES program (Youth Education thru Stamps) has supported over 9,000 students, teachers and parents in Tucson and throughout the country. These teachers, parents, and students enjoy and appreciate how much they can learn from stamps!!! Everyone in the community is involved! From libraries to scouts, home schools to charter schools, public schools to community events, kids love stamps!! There are several educators across the country using our program materials and stamps. We are the "go to" place for stamps because of our fifty years of organizing, sorting and filing stamps and supplies! We have supplied close to 390,000 stamps to students, teachers, scouts, and libraries. Over fifty-six schools used our program this year because they realize the potential stamps have to stimulate enjoyment and interest in learning.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of all of our volunteers who continue to sort, file, and prepare sets of stamps for the enrichment and education of youth here in Tucson and across the country.

### **Stamp Camp 2010!! - See pictures on page 7 --->**

In June we had two weeks of Stamp Camp - Beginning and Advanced. The kids love Stamp Camp and are always unhappy at the thought of camp ending on Friday. I worked with small groups in the mornings and afternoons so the students and I had more one-on-one time with our activities.

During Beginning camp we used stamps to do and learn the following: types of stamps, family history, designing stamps, story writing, postal history, geography, and decoder fun, as well as building collections.

Eight students returned from last year to participate in Advanced camp where we learned about perfins, meter mail, stamp grading, cancellations, and postmarks. We created our own fancy cancels and started work on exhibits for the next ARIPEX which will be here in January 2011. I will continue to work with these students throughout the summer and fall to help them get their exhibits ready for competition at ARIPEX.

Check out the pictures on the next page!

### **Tucson Birthday Stamp Design Contest - For Kids Only!!**

This August we will have our 3rd Annual Tucson Birthday party for kids. The winners of the Tucson Birthday Stamp Design Contest will be announced. The winning stamp will be made into legal stamps for use in the US. via one of the custom stamp businesses available on line. The deadline for entries is August 2, 2010, and the Birthday Party for the kids is on Thursday, August 19th at 10A.M. Entry forms and rules are available at the PHF or on our web site. Please tell kids you know about the contest. We have many entries already but we want more. The kids have such great ideas and wonderful art work. We look forward to judging these entries every year.

# Stamp Camp 2010



*J.D. and Parrish using stamps to write fantastically funny stories*



*Jonah and Uly pulling stamps out of the treasure chest and creating their stories*



*Claudia looks for world stamps to put on a world map in her bedroom*



*Beginning stamp morning group - George, Samantha, and Claudia*



*Afternoon beginning stamp class*



*Advanced stamp afternoon class at the end of the week with their certificates*



*Madeleine using the USPS Guide to US Stamps*



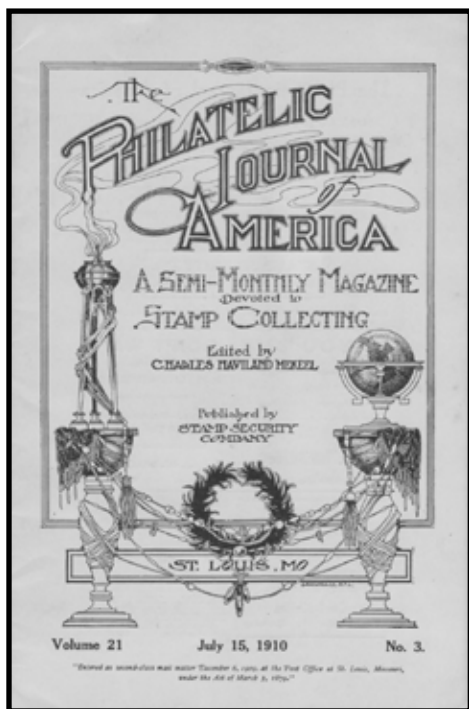
*Advanced stamp group taking time out for a photo op*



*Advanced campers showing off their fancy cancels they created*



## Philatelic Flashback



*100 year old journal*

## Journals Now In Online Catalog

Thanks to an LSTA grant received last year, we have now finished cataloging all of our journals. We have more than 800 titles, dating from the early 1800's to the present, from countries all around the world. Our holdings are visible in our online catalog at: <http://librarycatalog.pima.gov/>

We will be trying to fill in gaps and we are also selling duplicates. If you would like more information on the journals that are available, or the ones we seek, please let us know.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Tucson Stamp Club Meetings

August 21  
September 7 & 18

### Vail Postal History Event

September 18

### PHF 50th Anniversary Open House Celebration

October 23

### ARIPEX in Tucson

January 14-16

## The PHF Family Portfolio

### Officers:

Chairman: Bob Bechtel  
Vice Chair: Paul Nelson  
Secretary: David Bernheim  
Treasurer: Bill Kohl

### Staff:

Executive Assist: Lena Rogers  
Youth Ed: Lisa Dembowski  
Librarian: Charlotte Cushman  
Editor: Lynda Wynn

**Celebrating Our  
50th Anniversary  
In 2010!!**



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Please send us the corrections.

