

The Postal History Foundation's

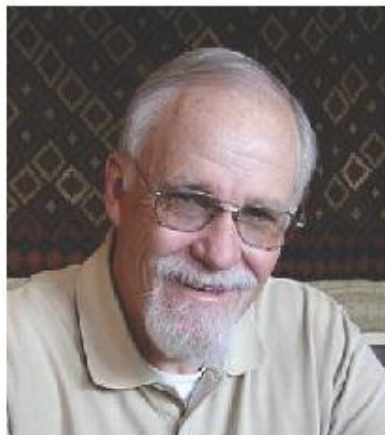


Stamp Tracks

Whole No. 17

Summer 2011

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES



Dr. Michael Cusanovich

PHF to Host First Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

On September 10, 2011, the Postal History Foundation will be hosting the First Annual Michael Cusanovich Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Education Department. As many readers may know, Mike Cusanovich was a dedicated PHF board member and an avid golfer. Efforts are underway to make this an exciting and successful venture to both honor Mike and provide funding for the Education Department. We would like to encourage our members to participate in the tournament if at all possible. If golfing is not your "bag", then we gladly extend an invitation to sponsor a hole or provide prizes or prize money for the raffles and the winners. Your contributions are tax deductible. If you know

(Continued on page 2)

The TUGSON Cancel Error

Errors in postmark cancels are less popular for collectors than errors in the printing of stamps, yet they are probably scarcer. An interesting example is the misspelling of Tucson at the Greenway station in Tucson. There was a Greenway Rural Station from Dec. 1, 1929, until Feb. 15, 1955, and then the Greenway contract branch location at the Veteran's Hospital from Feb. 16, 1955 to 1973. The error seems to have a relatively long life of more than three years. The first known cancel with the

error is dated March 16, 1933, and the last known dated October 2, 1942. The error of the "G" is quite clear in 1933 (Figure 1) but becomes blurred so that the "G" is not clear in the latter year (Figure 2). What is mysterious about this error is why it lasted so long. The Postal History Foundation has forty copies of this cancel in its archives. How could such an error last so long? Didn't the station postmaster notice? Or was it just too much trouble to get a new cancel? We'll never know.

-Bob Bechtel



Figure 1



Figure 2

920 North First Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719 • www.PostalHistoryFoundation.org

Phone: 520-623-6652 • Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Chairman's Message:

It's not too early to be thinking about participating in Arizona's 100th anniversary to be celebrated on February 14, 2012. There are many activities being planned for the Valentine State; one in particular is the Arizona Centennial Conference which will be held at Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort in Phoenix April 18-22, 2012. This will be sponsored by the Arizona History Convention, Inc., the Museum Association of Arizona and the State Historic Preservation Office. If you have an article on the centennial that you would like to present, please contact Bruce Dinges at 949 E. 2nd Street, Tucson, AZ 85719 or email bdinges@azhs.gov by February 12, 2012.

There will also be prizes given for the best convention paper (\$750) and college students can win a prize of \$500. Call Bruce at 520-628-5774 for more information.

Junior high and senior high school students can also win awards by submitting papers. Contact Kathleen Garcia at 602-618-8816 or email kathleeng1951@hotmail.com.

There will also be panels, roundtable, poster sessions, and workshops of interest to the museum community as a whole. You can contact the Museum Association of Arizona at www.azmuseums.org.

We are trying to locate canceled cards or letters dated February 14, 1912, from any Arizona towns. So far we have cancels from Bisbee, Glendale, and Globe. If you know of or have any other cancels with this date please contact us at www.postalhistoryfoundation.org or call 520-623-6652.

-Bob Bechtel

Letter to the Editor:

[The following excerpt is taken from a letter Bob Bechtel received in response to his article "World's First Commemorative" in *Stamp Tracks*, No. 16 (Spring 2011). With permission from the writer, it is printed here as a letter to the editor.]

With all due respect, unless your old *Linn's* source is using an uncommonly restrictive definition of "commemorative," the article is in error by five years. Every definition that I am familiar with includes memorial or mourning stamps issued within a year of a major person's death as a "commemorative" stamp.

Accordingly, the World's First Commemorative would be U.S. Scott No. 77, the memorial stamp for President Abraham Lincoln issued in April 1866. This was established in various articles and is the earliest according to the National Postal Museum at the Smithsonian Institution. In particular, see Eliot A. Landau's "The 1866-68 15c Black: History, First Day, Production Varieties and Uses of the First U.S. Commemorative" in *The Chronicle*, Vol. 54, No. 1-2 (February 2002 and May 2002): 17-31 and 100-111.

Best regards,
Eliot A. Landau
(Arizona Philatelic Ranger)
Downers Grove, IL

PHF to Host First Annual Memorial Golf Tournament (Continued)

friends or family members who play golf, please recommend us to them and give them the information in this newsletter so they might contact us. We certainly do not want anyone to feel left out. Opportunities abound!

Page four of this issue is the copy of the publicity flyer with entry forms. Please feel free to use it. The tournament is going to be our yearly education fund raiser. Help us to continue to enrich the educational lives of students across the country and to promote stamp collecting.

Notes From Lisa News From Youth Education Thru Stamps

Summer is HOT with activities in the YES Education Department!

Summer Stamp Camp 2011

We had three groups of kids participating in Stamp Camp over a two week period. This year we offered three different levels because the kids wanted to keep coming back for more stamp activities and learning opportunities. This summer's Super Advanced group was especially enthusiastic after having entered exhibits in ARIPEX 2011 and after having experienced the joy of winning there. The Beginning "campers" were able to learn about the history of stamps, how to hinge stamps, and how to identify stamps by country. They studied stamp types and topics on stamps while learning to use basic stamp collecting tools. After studying ways of starting a collection, they were then set on the path to start personal collections starting with the resources at the PHF. The Advanced group learned about cancellations and postmarks, perfins and metered mail, and stamp grading. The Super Advanced group was kept busy learning about the stamp printing process, postal delivery, postage rates, and zip code geography. The highlight of the week for them was making hand-made paper with a personally designed watermark.



Girls look for hidden images on stamps



The Advanced group decides on stamp conditions



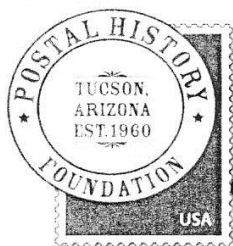
An Advanced student sews his watermark on a screen for making paper.

Owney Finally Gets His Day of Glory!

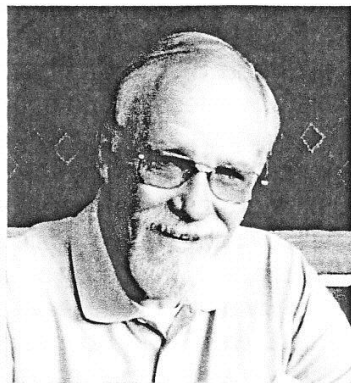
Owney, the Railway Mail Service dog and the postal employees who cared for him, finally received due recognition when the U.S. Postal Service issued a new stamp on July 27, 2011. The Postal History Foundation created four different cachets for the First Day of Issue, one by Dave Bennett, and three by Don Regole. Regole also designed a special Owney cancel to be used at the time of the stamp's release. To celebrate the event, the PHF started activities with a special story time about Owney with guest storyteller Mr. Ed, a very popular local storyteller. Before story time, Rodger Freitag of the USPS in Tucson unveiled the Owney stamp. Afterwards, the children created stories with stamps, made bookmarks with dog stamps from around the world, designed their own animal stamps, and had fun looking through the treasure chests of stamps. Adults attending had time to tour the PHF facilities and buy the new stamps and cachets, and enjoy refreshments. All proceeds from the sale of the cachets benefit the Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) program of the Foundation.

Michael Cusanovich Memorial Golf Tournament

benefiting Youth Education in Tucson



*celebrating
51 years of
service!*



Saturday
September 10, 2011

6:30 am Registration

7:30 am Shotgun

**Randolph North
Golf Course**

600 S. Alvemon Way
Tucson Az. 85711

Contact:
Lisa Dembowski
623-6652 x 102

ldembowski.phf@mindspring.com

The Postal History Foundation is an IRS approved non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation that provides educational support for teachers, students, scouts, libraries, and community centers at no cost. We support over 10,000 students in the surrounding community every school year.

**Postal History
Foundation**
920 N. First Ave.
Tucson, Az. 85719

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Format:

Four-player Scramble

Cost: \$100 per person

Includes:

18 holes of golf with cart

Use of practice range

Gift Bags

Lunch Included

Prizes:

1st/2nd place teams

Closest Pin

Longest Drive

Great Prizes!/Raffles!

Win a Krank driver!

**First 20 who enter get a
Dove Mountain Golf cap!**

_____ **Yes, I would like to sponsor a Tournament Tee-box sign. Please enclose your business card.**

Business Name: _____

Contact Phone # _____

PLAYER ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ **Phone** _____

Player 2 Name _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

TOTAL PLAYERS: _____ **@ \$100/PERSON =** _____

HOLE SPONSORSHIP \$100 = _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE FOR THE LOCAL STUDENTS! = _____

TOTAL CHECK OR CHARGE AMOUNT= _____

Tax Deductible!

Hole Sponsorship \$100

Put your business name
and logo on a Tee-box!

Make checks payable to:
Postal History Foundation
Attn: Golf Tournament

Visa or Mastercard #

Expiration date: _____

Library Corner

Librarian Bids Farewell to PHF

Charlotte Cushman left her position as librarian/archivist in late June and is sorry to say goodbye to the many volunteers and patrons she has come to know. She began working at PHF in 2008 and said of her experience, "I enjoyed the challenges of bringing technology into the library through the creation of an online catalog and digital exhibits." She noted that the dedication of the volunteers is what she will miss most. Charlotte will be working as a consultant with digital projects and web content for a Boston-based organization, although she plans to continue to spend much of the year in Arizona.

New Librarian Says Hello to PHF

The PHF welcomes our new librarian/archivist, Lisa Hodgkins. Lisa has recently relocated to the Tucson area from London, England, where she worked in both public and university libraries for the past 16 years. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the PHF's wonderful collection and I'm finding the visitors to the Slusser Library have been extremely friendly and helpful." Lisa will be carrying on Charlotte's good work by focusing on processing archival collections and book donations, as well as coordinating the grant-funded project to redesign the PHF web site.



Lisa Hodgkins

Recent Library Additions

The Peggy J. Slusser Library is grateful to have recently received a number of interesting collections:

- **Alex Lutgendorf** has given the library personal scrapbooks which contain clippings of his "Stamps in the News" weekly column which appeared in the *Green Valley News* and *Nogales International Weekly* for over a decade.
- **Warren Franzen** donated a significant number of journal articles accompanied by examples of philatelic material which highlight the articles.
- **Frank Mallalieu** generously donated a number of books and journals to the library, primarily on the subject of philately and the postal history of the Middle East and Kuwait.
- **James Bowman** recently donated a collection of publications on the subject of German philately, including a run of the German Philatelic Society Study and Research Group's journal *Danzig Report*.

New Books

A Handbook of Cancells on United States Federal Wine Tax Stamp by David G. Nussmann and Donald A. Woodworth, Jr. (American Revenue Association, 2011)

Naval Cover Fakes, Forgeries and Frauds editor Richard D. Jones (USSC, 2011)

The Englishman Who Posted Himself and Other Curious Objects by John Tingey (2010)

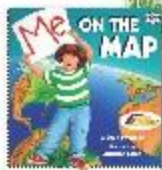
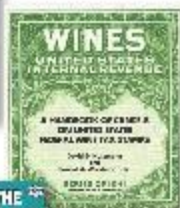
Arizona Territorial Postmark Catalog – 11th edition by Jewell Meyer (2011)

Catalog of the 20th and 21st Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States editor Dan Undersander (2011 -3rd edition)

Children's Books

Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk about the Civil War by Jim Murphy (1990)

Me on the Map by Joan Sweeney (1996)



Peculiar Parcel Post

Her name was May Pierstroff. Just four years old, she was a petite little girl weighing only 48 1/2 pounds. She so wanted to visit her grandmother in Lewiston, Idaho, 100 miles away from her hometown of Grangeville, Idaho, but there were no roads and train tickets were expensive in the year 1914. Enter the U.S. Postal Service! Classify the little blond girl as a baby chick, attach fifty-three cents worth of postage stamps to a tag on her coat, put her in the baggage car, and with the help of a kind-hearted mail clerk, May would reach her destination.

Why the fifty-three cents of postage? While it was illegal to mail live animals (with the exception of baby chicks), there were no restrictions on the books against mailing people, and May's cost was equivalent to that of 48 pounds of baby chicks.

Accounts of May's story and other children being mailed are mentioned in James H. and Donald J. Burns' book *Reaching Rural America - The Evolution of Rural Free Delivery*. May's story also has been fictionalized in a wonderful children's book *Mailing May* by Michael Tunnell available at the Slusser Memorial Library.

(www.smithsoniannationalpostalmuseum.org)

IN MEMORIAM



Carl LeMar John

On July 25, 2011, Carl LeMar John, a long-time member of the PHF, a retired architect, and community activist, passed away. Carl joined the Rangers in 1992 and also held membership in APS, Lindbergh Collectors Club, MEPSI, and the Tucson Stamp Club. An avid life-long stamp collector, Carl's philatelic specialties included Mexico 1884-85, Mexico Officials, and Charles Lindbergh.

For several years, Carl served on the board at the PHF. And, for many years also, he provided skill, dedication, and energy when he was in charge of maintenance at the PHF where he had been a volunteer since 1994.

Carl was a generous benefactor to the PHF. Among his many financial contributions was the funding for the establishment of the PHF Exhibit Room, which was named for him in 2006.

NEW MEMBERS

Edmond Bates, Jr.
Rockport, TX

William C. Kleese
Tucson, AZ

James McCormack
Danville, CA

Tom Rosin
Tucson, AZ

Member Receives Award

Paul Nelson, an active PHF volunteer, recently received the Carl E. Pelander Award for outstanding service in furthering the advancement of Scandinavian philately. He has served in various capacities with the Scandinavian Collectors Club, edited the journal *Luren* for twenty-five years, written articles on various Scandinavian philatelic topics, authored two books on Scandinavian revenue stamps, edited several books on revenue stamps, and served as a trustee of the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation.

The PHF Family Portfolio

Officers:

Chairman: Bob Bechtel
Vice Chair: Bob Davis
Secretary: David Bernheim
Treasurer: Ted Maynard

Staff:

Executive Assist: Lena Rogers
Youth Ed: Lisa Dembowski
Librarian: Lisa Hodgkins
Editor: Linda Wynn

**SUPPORT THE MICHAEL CUSANOVICH
MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**