

Stamp Tracks

NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

A Complete Picture

of Tucson's heritage describes the new Tucson Birthday Stamp. Tucson is now 240 years old and the Postal History Foundation Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) program annually hosts a kids-only contest to design a custom U.S. stamp commemorating the event. Tucson's birthday is officially celebrated on August 20th every year.

The grand winning design was created by Ironwood



Ridge High School senior, Joshua Baca. Joshua is the senior class president, Thespian president, and a member of the National Honor Society and of the Youth Advisory Council. He is interested in studying design and animation in college.

His inclusive design reminds us of Tucson's extensive history. "I wanted



to show the diversity of the people who have lived here throughout history," Joshua said. "My inspiration for my stamp design comes from the everyday scenery we see in Tucson." The silhouettes from left to right represent Native Americans, Spanish Conquistadors, ranchers and cowboys, and the local mariachi performers frequently seen and heard at local Mexican restaurants, events, and musical competitions.

Joshua's complete picture also reminds us when the first train came to town in 1880, the religious heritage brought with the Spanish explorers and priests,

Continued on page 7

Recent Changes in Scandinavian Philately by Paul Nelson

As a specialist of Scandinavian stamps, I have noticed a number of interesting changes regarding the Danish and Swedish postal systems.

The Danish and Swedish postal authorities have consolidated into an entity called "Post Nord." Danish stamps are still designed and marketed in Denmark, but are now printed, using Denmark's printing equipment, in Sweden. Gradually, the formats of the stamps from these two countries have been consolidated to make more efficient use of the specialized

equipment at the printing works.

Sweden has closed many small post offices around the country, entirely relying upon retail stores and kiosks to handle the mail quantities. They have, for example, provided bags and cartons similar to our Priority Mail boxes, but rather than being free they have a preprinted value on them, and this enables the parcel to be handled without input or weighing from the Post. There are preprinted values

Continued on page 4



THE POSTAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org



Postal History Foundation

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www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Officers:

Chairman: Bob Davis

Vice Chair: Bill Kohl

Secretary: Ron Newman

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Staff:

Executive Assistant: Lena Rogers

Education: Lisa Dembowski

Library: Valerie Kittell

Education Assistant: Linda Wynn

Hours:

Monday-Friday 8am—3pm

Post Office: M-F 8am—2:30pm

Slusser Library: M-F 9am—3pm

See past issues of **Stamp Tracks** at
www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

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@phftucson

Chairman's Message

I will depart from my usual message asking for help finding new volunteers, requesting new donations, and finding volunteers to help with manning the table at ARIPEX. We still need all of the above but

I am highlighting and reviewing a disk we have in our philatelic library. This is a CD entitled "Philately of Switzerland; An Introductory Handbook."

This is the second edition published by the American Helvetia Philatelic Society and includes a multilingual philatelic dictionary. The disk includes 32 chapters and gives an excellent overview of everything that relates to collecting Swiss stamps. This is excellent information even for a collector of Swiss stamps.

A partial list of the chapters include: Forgeries, Soldier Stamps, Revenues, Canton Issues, Sitting Helvetia, Postal History, and (one of my favorites) Hotel and Postage Due stamps.

There is also a great chapter on Swiss Tricks and Traps. This chapter gives easy to follow instructions on identifying the watermarks, telling the difference between chalky and non-chalky paper and of course how to check for grilled gum on the various papers among other interesting facts.

I highly recommend this e-book especially if you have some Swiss stamps you have difficulty identifying (the difference in value between grilled and un-grilled stamps can be significant).

Bob Davis

Holiday Gifts

Call Lena at 520-523-6652

PO Banks, Stamp Collecting Kits, and
Treasure Chests for sale.

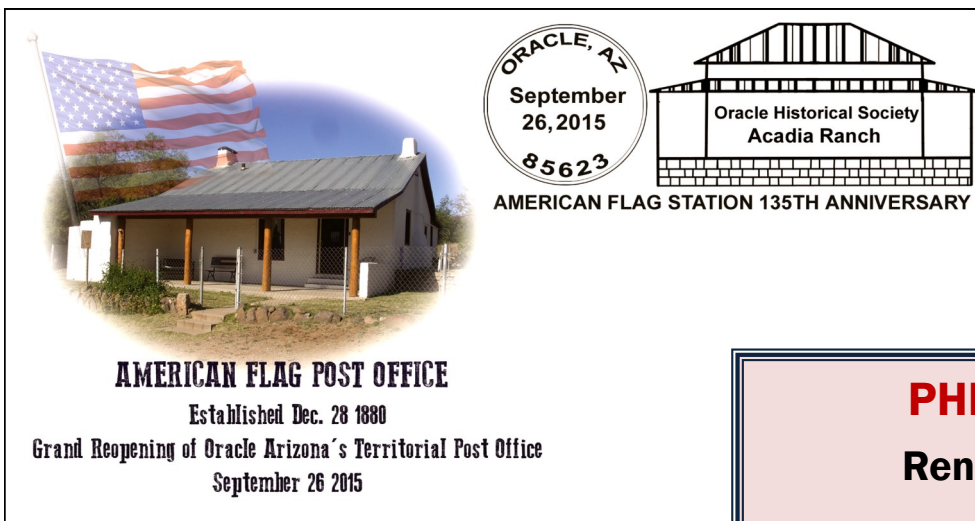


American Flag Ranch Celebrates 135th Anniversary

The Oracle Historical Society recently hosted a celebration of one of the oldest Arizona post office buildings still standing in the state. The building, nestled on the north side of the Catalina mountains approximately 30 miles north of Tucson, was constructed in the mid-1870s during the Ulysses S. Grant administration.

The name, American Flag, came from the mining community of over 40 people living there in 1880. During the 1890s, the population declined to about 15 people and the building was no longer used as a post office. Area mail was then processed five miles away in the nearby town of Oracle.

A famous resident of note, Buffalo Bill Cody, actually lived in the area off and on from 1908 to about 1912,



Left: The commemorative envelope issued on September 26th showing the renovated post office.

Above: Inside the American Flag Post Office.

as he had invested in local mining properties.

Over the years the building fell into disrepair until the Oracle Historical Society devised a plan to save the structure in 2011. Under the leadership of Kevin Armbrust, several volunteers including Brian Kirkpatrick, John Medley, and Dan Peremarini, helped to renovate the building.

To visit this historical gem contact the Oracle Historical Society at 520-896-9574 or through their website at oraclehistoricalsociety@gmail.com. The event envelope is available from the Oracle Historical Society or the Oracle Post Office. Proceeds from the event and sales of the covers will be used to repair the old corrals and maintain the building and grounds.

PHF Membership

Renew or Join Anew

Support the
PHF, Youth Education thru Stamps (YES),
and the Slusser Library.

One hundred of you have renewed so far.
Let's make renewal unanimous!

Your support is critical to our
mission to support the
future of philately.

For additional gifting opportunities visit
"Ways to Help" on our website at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Scandinavian Philately cont'd

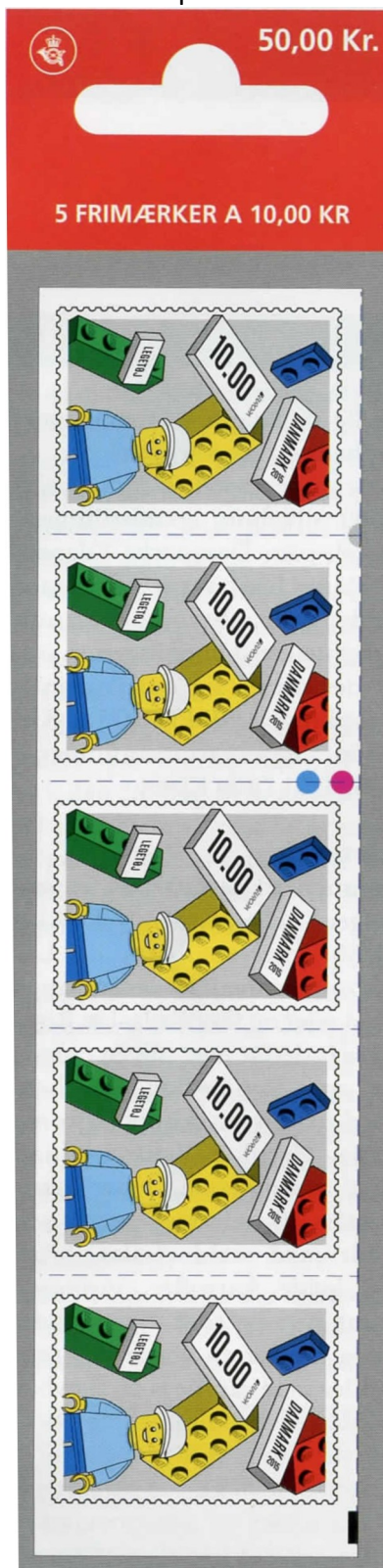
for mailings within Sweden, within the Nordic Postal Union, to European addresses, and to other worldwide locations. The cartons and bags are not easily available to the philatelic market, which is an inconvenience for collectors of postal stationery.

Ordinary stamps for letter mail are available at these retail locations, but because the people who own or who work in those outlets are not postal employees, it has become common for forged stamps to be sold through the kiosks. Many forgeries have been created in Asian countries, and others in the Baltic countries. The problem was not noticed by the Swedish authorities until a philatelist who purchases bulk mail envelopes from companies wrote to the Swedish postal authorities to inquire why the "soak ability" of so many stamps had changed! A closer look was taken and it was discovered that in many cases, misspelled words were present on the fake common stamps, the perforations were different, the papers were not the same, ink colors vary, and other points of fakery were discovered. The loss to the Swedish postal system was in the several millions of Swedish crowns! As a result, the criminal authorities have become involved, and there have been several arrests.

Details of these have been published in the excellent journal *Fakes, Forgeries, Experts*, copies of which are in the Slusser Library here in Tucson. The catalogs, even the Swedish ones, have not mentioned or illustrated these

fakes, but if you collect modern Sweden at all, you should take a look at the details of these.

Recent publications coming from Denmark mention the revised marketing plans for the Danish and Swedish postal authorities.



Possibly as a result of the Swedish fakes, there are new products aimed at these kiosks and supermarkets, etc. The stamp formats have been changed somewhat, and the packaging of these stamps has been modified for display on racks for sale.

Illustrated at left is a scan taken from the 2015, No. 3, issue of the *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* journal. These stamps commemorate the famous Danish toys, Legos. Notice the difference in margin detail in each of the five stamps in the strip. This is probably going to drive the catalog editors and album publishers over the edge. Other Danish stamps being packaged in this same format have these alignment markings in the margins.

On a related note, if you have some Lego stamps please forward them to the YES program as students write requesting them frequently. Legos, Super Heroes, Harry Potter, Hello Kitty, and other kids' topics on foreign stamps are very popular requests. Please forward them to YES.

ARIPEX 2016

Mesa, AZ

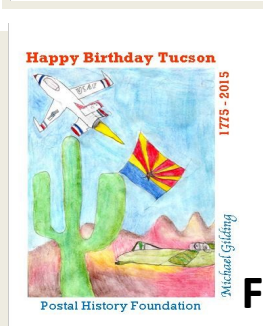
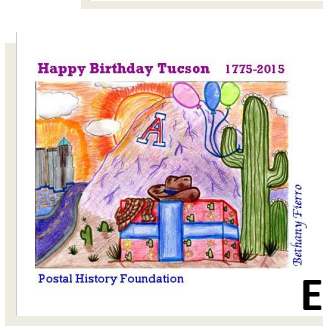
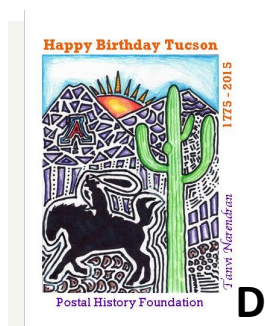
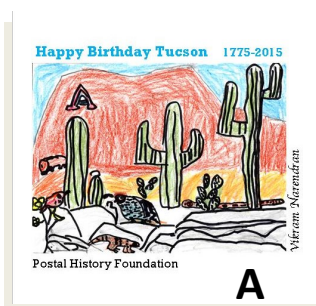
February 19-21

Drop by and visit the PHF table.
Support the kids!

Spink Auction house is sponsoring one transportation vehicle to ARIPEX in Mesa from Tucson on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Please contact Joyce Kagarise at dkagar@dakotacom.net.

Tucson Birthday Contest Cachets

Two winners from each age group were chosen for cacheted envelopes along with the Tucson Birthday stamp pictured at right. Sales of the stamp and cachets help support the YES program. Enjoy the fantastic designs below.

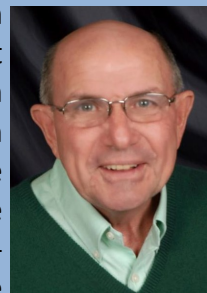


Ages 5-8 : A - Vikram Narendran, B - Nola Gelling
 Ages 9-12: C - Maureen Magee-Uhlik, D - Tanvi Narendran
 Ages 13-17: E - Bethany Fierro, F - Michael Gilding

Volunteer Spotlight

This issue our volunteer spotlight shines on Ron Eustice.

Ron hails from Minnesota but now lives seven months a year in Tucson. We are thankful that he has chosen to volunteer here at the



PHF. A world traveler, Ron has many stamp collections including Uruguay, Italy, and cattle on stamps. He is also known around here as Mr. eBay. He successfully sells philatelic supplies on eBay and has raised a good amount of money to support our foundation. If you ever need album supplements, binders, mounts, and more, he is your go-to man.

Thank you Ron Eustice!

Support Education!

Custom stamps are \$1.50

Cacheted envelopes 50¢

To order call Lisa Dembowski at

520-623-6652 x 102 or print and

mail the order form found at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Make a Tax Deductible Gift

The year-end is near so consider a tax deductible gift to the Postal History Foundation! There are many ways to help.

- ◇ Raise your membership level
- ◇ Contribute to a specific program: YES or the Slusser Library.
- ◇ Donate stamps: cull your collections and accumulations.

Thank You!

Sales Department Specials

- **US Year Sets**—1972 to recent . Discounted Prices.
- **US Booklets**—Scott #75 to present
- **Foreign Platinum Mines**—\$135—14.8 oz. off paper
Scott Values from 50¢ to \$9.99
- **Gold Mines**—\$75 - Lower Values-14.8 oz. off paper
- **Mint Postage**—40% discount. Save on mailing costs.

Call 520-623-6652 or email sales@phftucson.org

Also Available:

RPO Covers • Mounts

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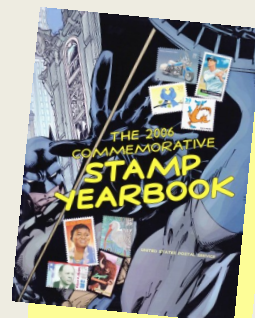
Album Supplements

Stock Books • Stock Sheets

First Flights • Used Albums

Album Binders

First Day Covers & More



Drive Down Memory Lane at the AZ Memory Project

The Slusser Library's latest online exhibit at the Arizona Memory Project, Arizona Automobile Correspondence, features advertising covers - mail that was originally sent by Arizona automotive dealers and other automotive-related companies. All are postmarked in Arizona, many of them in Tucson, and span the years 1924 to 1982.

These covers, from the Bernheim Automobile Covers Collection, are fun and fascinating in a variety of ways. The art, now considered "retro," can be charming, cute, and campy, if not downright weird in some cases!

Some auto businesses still in existence such as O'Rielly, Thoroughbred, and Holmes Tuttle, were established many decades ago. Visitors to the online exhibit may be surprised to find, for example, a 1934 O'Rielly Motor Company cover. The oldest cover in the exhibit, from 1924, is an advertisement from Pennzoil via the Southern Arizona Motor Co. Sunshine Station at 6th and Broadway in Tucson. Who knew there were enough vehicles in Tucson to warrant a direct mail campaign for oil?

Special thanks to Krystofer Meadows who helped with this project. Visit the exhibit at <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/>.



In the "Loupe"

- A recent generous donation from the American Revenue Association has enabled the Slusser to offer researchers more materials in revenue collecting.
- The Slusser recently received a grant from The Small Grants Program at the Arizona Historical Society to inventory, catalog, preserve, and exhibit the many postal history museum objects we've acquired over the years using professional standards and best practices.
- The local Tucson artists group, PaperWorks, will display philatelic-related art in the Slusser from January through March. The exhibit will kick-off with an Open House which will also help celebrate the 15th anniversary of PaperWorks. Please come down between January 11 – March 11 to see the PaperWorks exhibit in the Slusser.

New on the Shelf

- *Mails of the Westward Expansion: 1803 to 1861* by Steven C. Walske and Richard C. Frajola
- *Dorothy Knapp: Philately and Family* by Douglas Weisz
- *A History of America in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps* by Chris West
- *China Philately: Entires and Market Prices* – vol. 1 (Foreign post offices) and vol. 2 (Chinese) by Stephen Ose
- *Stempelgesetze und Gebuhren in Baden von 1628 bis 1952 = Stamp Duty Statutes, Rates and Application in Baden 1628-1952: Baden Fiscal Philately Handbook and Catalogue* by Steffen Eckert
- *Amazing Girls of Arizona: True Stories of Young Pioneers* by Jan Cleer

Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

Complete Picture cont'd

and the powerful monsoon season experienced by over one million area residents every summer. A picture of Tucson would not be complete without the saguaro cactus and the colorful Arizona flag.

With a limited amount of space to work with, Joshua very cleverly packed a lot of information into his design. That is one of the many wonderful facets about learning with and collecting stamps. They are miniature works of art that deliver a lot of information. The **YES** program is a pioneer in using stamps as teaching tools. For over 60 years **YES** has and continues to provide this unique learning tool to teachers and students across the country and world.

The custom stamps are sold as a fundraiser for **YES** at the Postal History Foundation.

Six colorful and creative cachets printed on envelopes are also available for sale. (See page five.) Those designs are award winners from each age group.

To order stamps and cachets go online to :

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org
and click on education and the Tucson Birthday information for an order form or call Lisa Dembowski at 520-623-6652 x. 102.

Every purchase helps provide stamps and lessons to students.

Cacheted envelopes are .50¢ ea.

Birthday stamps are \$1.50 ea.

'Tis the Season

Local third graders from Academy of Tucson Elementary visited the PHF for a field trip and the special opportunity to unveil the new Charlie

Brown stamps. The new set of ten stamps celebrates the 50th anniversary of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* television show.

Among many activities during a typical field trip, students get to create a postcard and mail it from our contract post office.

During this particular



USPS representatives Michele Catalfamo and Roger Freitag. Students Cody Nelson and Hailey Tobler.

October 2nd field trip, students wrote a letter, addressed the envelope, and created artwork on the lower left corner of the envelope. The artwork (cachet) is always a special treat for those of us who work here. I have the kids show me their unique designs before they walk into our post office.

While in the post office they were also excited to have their letters postmarked with the special Charlie Brown postmark.



Students waiting in line to postmark their envelopes. Postmaster Lena Rodgers always enjoys looking at the colorful artwork.



Thomas Badertscher shows off his cachet and postmark.

A Charlie Brown Christmas stamps are available here at the PHF while supplies last and don't forget the cute postmark!

Happy Holidays from Lisa Dembowski



Library Book Sales

The Slusser Library offers dozens of surplus philatelic books for sale, including postal histories of various U.S. states, military mail, air mail, railway post offices, postmarks, and postage stamps from all over the globe. Please check the book sales section of our website for a complete listing that includes price and condition. Email library@phftucson.org or call librarian/archivist Valerie Kittell at 520-623-6652 x107 to order. Money from sales help the library to acquire new holdings.

Don't forget to visit us on the front page of our website, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter for the latest news, calendar events, and fun with beautiful scanned stamps and covers. The more who visit, like, comment, and share, the more will hear about us and help us in our mission. Join our online community, and tell your friends as well.

New Members

Mustafa Aourangzeb
Tucson, AZ

James Baker
Oro Valley, AZ

Dorothy Chao
Tucson, AZ

Bill Dickinson
Tucson, AZ

Michele Miller
Buda, Texas

Warren Miller
Chandler, AZ

Albert Rix
Tucson, AZ

Ronald Salyk
Astoria, NY

PHF Calendar

Slusser Library

Letters to Santa exhibit runs through December

Friday November 13

Civil War Roundtable

November 26-27

Closed for Thanksgiving

December 11, 2015

Civil War Roundtable

Closed December 25; January 1

January 10, 2016

Paperworks Anniversary Event

Slusser Library

January 10 – March 11, 2016
Paperworks Exhibit

January 8, 2016

Civil War Roundtable

January 23, 2016

PHF Board Meeting

February 12, 2016

Civil War Roundtable

February 19-21, 2016

ARIPEX

Mesa Convention Center

Tucson Stamp Club

First and third Saturdays at the PHF
12 pm Bourse • 1 pm Meeting

November 21, 2015

FALL AUCTION, 1PM SHARP

December 5, 2015

Madonna & Child Christmas stamps by
Jeanette Frazier

December 19, 2015

End-of-year Potluck
Election of Officers

January 2, 2016

No Meeting

January 16, 2016

Philatelic History from Pearl Harbor to
Midway by Stewart Milstein

February 6, 2016

Banquet at Golden Corral

February 20, 2016

ARIPEX—No Meeting

March 5, 2016

Technology Topicals

STAMPS by the POUND



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Civil War Roundtable

meets every second Friday at the PHF
at 12 noon. Contact **Bob Burdick** at:
bobandglandaburdic@q.com

Postcard Exchange Club

Meets every second Sunday at the PHF
From 1- 3pm. Contact **Joan Gentry** at
520-331-4545 or
Joyce Kagarise at 520-682-8424

In Memoriam

Paul Gault, Ranger
Lawson Nagel, Ranger
Joseph D. Schwartz, Ranger