

Stamp Tracks

NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Slusser Library to Celebrate 20 Years



Twenty years ago, October 11, 1996, the Postal History Foundation (PHF) dedicated the Peggy J. Slusser Memorial Philatelic Research Library. It was the culmination of the diligent efforts, perseverance, and attention to detail of several foundation members.

Funding for the project was provided by Blaine and Bessie Slusser, in memory of their deceased daughter, Peggy (see accompanying story, page 6.) This donation was facilitated by foundation member and Arizona Philatelic Ranger John Birkinbine, who was a friend of the Slussers.

Architectural firms began presenting designs to the foundation as early as 1993. The winning design, by Les Wallach from Line and Space, placed importance on the new building fitting “the existing character of the historical neighborhood” and ensuring that the building create an “intimate, comfortable and efficient environment” (PHF Records, Design Program). So impressive is the design that the Slusser is featured in *Architecture For the Books* by Michael J. Crosbie, a book of outstanding library buildings in the United States. During construction, PHF board mem-

ber Carl LeMar John functioned as the architect-on-site.

The new library had its detractors as well as supporters, however. According to a letter written by Betsy Towle, the West University Historic District, in which the PHF resides, strongly resisted the plan to tear down the existing house and commence new construction. Besides being unsuitable for the functions of a library, the building was also in a state of disrepair, and was described as being uninhabitable. The PHF urged members to attend a hearing with the city council and the mayor in support of the PHF’s plan. Postal cards were created for supporters to sign and send to the mayor and city council as well.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on January 12, 1996, and the new library was dedicated ten months later.



Blaine and Bessie Slusser attended both events, as did many of the other people instrumental in this project.

The PHF will hold an event later this year, near the October 11th dedication date, to celebrate the Slusser’s twentieth anniversary. We hope that you will join us. Please look for upcoming information on this event, and if you use email, please send us your address (at library@phftucson.org) to be included in periodic news and events announcements.



THE POSTAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org



Postal History Foundation

920 North First Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85718
520-623-6652

Fax: 520-623-3810

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Officers:

Chairman: Bob Davis
Vice Chair: Mike Wood
Secretary: Ron Newman
Treasurer: Ted Maynard

Staff:

Education Director: Lisa Dembowski
Librarian/Archivist: Valerie Kittell
Executive Assistant: Lena Rogers
Education Assistant: Linda Wynn
Stamp Tracks: Lisa Dembowski

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

Follow the PHF on
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@phftucson

Chairman's Message

We are planning an active schedule of events for the late summer and fall, which will fully utilize the Slusser Library.

Up first, August 19th, is the 9th annual Tucson Birthday Stamp Design Contest awards ceremony. This event, attended by contest winners and their families, is always Standing Room Only.

The Tucson Birthday event will be closely followed by the new issue Star Trek stamps in September. We are planning an exhibit, a first sale ceremony (with costumes and Romulan Ale), and a set of cacheted covers for sale to the public.

Finally, in October, the PHF will host an event celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Peggy J. Slusser Memorial Philatelic Research Library.

Along with our regular tours, children's activities, sales, and more, we will definitely need the full resources of our volunteers to accomplish this ambitious schedule.

Bob Davis



PHF Membership

Renew or Join Anew

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

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



Philatelic Gifts

Call Lena at 520-623-6652

Stamp Collecting Kits and
Treasure Chests for sale.



WORLD STAMP SHOW 2016 Report by John Birkinbine II

Held May 28 - June 4 in New York City, this eight day event was an intentional mammoth of a stamp show. For all philatelists this was an exceptional opportunity to learn about myriads of topics and to socialize with collectors from all over the world.

There were 588 stamp and postal history exhibits encompassing 4,186 frames containing over 67,000 pages of interesting material. In addition there were 171 literature exhibits, including books, catalogs and journals. The judging was very strict, as evidenced by 89 exhibits not receiving any medal.



Entrance to the show at the Javits Center, NY City.
Photo by Stewart Milstein



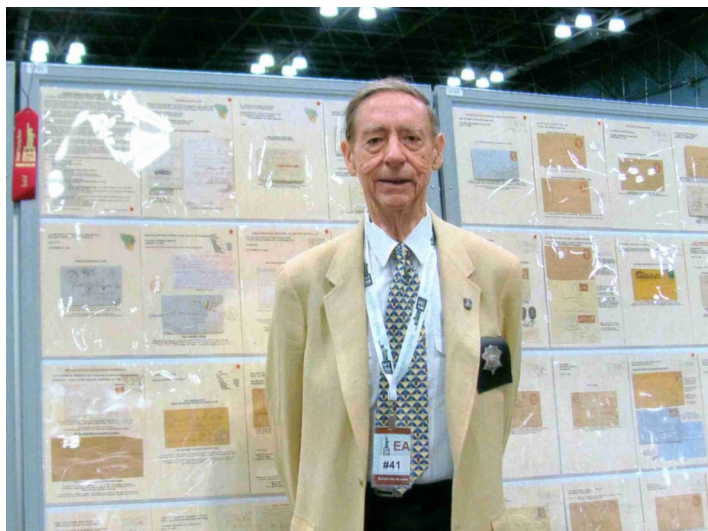
Postal History Foundation Table
Photo by Seny Birkinbine

Collectors could choose from 300 meetings or events for philatelists, most specialized to enable collectors to gain knowledge and to socialize. One hundred and fifty one dealers and auctioneers provided exceptional opportunities to acquire wanted material with prices ranging from a few dollars up to the million dollar level.

One hundred philatelic societies participated with booths to welcome members and to answer specialized inquiries. The Postal History Foundation had a corner booth displaying a beckoning sign that attracted many inquiries. Free stamps were given to children and the PHF education department supplied over 60,000 stamps to the youth area for the show.

During the show, the Arizona Philatelic Rangers held an outstanding dinner with full attendance. That event will be covered in the next issue of Stamp Tracks.

The PHF is very appreciative of Stewart Milstein and John and Seny Birkinbine II for giving their time managing our table at the 2016 NY World Stamp Show.



John Birkinbine II in front of his gold award exhibit
"Pioneer Arizona Area Classics, 1783-1870."
Photo by Seny Birkinbine

Award Winners

Congratulations to John Birkinbine and John Wynns on their latest awards earned at recent stamp shows.

At the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May John Wynns received a Gold and APS 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence for his single frame exhibit titled "Peru's 12 Centavos Issue of 1905." Wynns also won a Vermeil for his three frame exhibit, "Canada: 1927 Confederation Issue Usage."

John Birkinbine won gold at the 2016 New York World Stamp Show for his eight-frame exhibit, "Pioneer Arizona Area Classics, 1783-1870."

Britain Celebrates 500 Years of Royal Mail

Our friends across the pond have recently celebrated 500 years of British postal service. Many philatelists know that British reforms in the 1800s, some overseen by Sir



Rowland Hill, resulted in the world's first adhesive stamp in 1840, the Queen Victoria 1d black, also known as the Penny Black. The issue of the Penny Black and subsequent issues fueled stamp mania as people started collecting stamps. The term *philatélie*, or, in English, *philately*, was later created by George Herpin in 1864 by taking the Greek root *philo* meaning "an attraction or affinity for something," and *ateleia*, meaning "exempt from duties and taxes." The new word clarified that with the advent of postage stamps, the recipient no longer paid the postal charges.



Lesser known is that Henry VIII knighted the first Master of the Posts, Sir Brian Tuke, in 1516. Sir Brian created a formal postal network to carry the "royal mail" across England between key towns such as Dover and London. At that time, the mail system was only used by those in the royal households and courts.

Mail in the 1500s was carried on horseback by post-boys between towns, evolving into horse-drawn coaches in 1784 at the suggestion of theatre owner John Palmer, who used coaches to transport sets and actors between towns.



Charles I opened the King's Posts to the general public in 1635, but it was too cost-prohibitive for the average person until the 1840 reforms. By 1665, the sorting and delivery staff in London included 45 employees. Today, 140,000 are employed by the Royal Mail.

This June, to commemorate the 500 years, horse-drawn mail coaches were sent along modern-day roads that were based on original postal routes in areas including Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast and London.



Penny Black used by the PHF Education Department, YES.



To learn more, visit the Royal Mail site at <http://500years.royalmailgroup.com/>



All stamps pictured above are British. Great Britain is the only country not required to print its name on stamps. The silhouette of the reigning monarch is usually part of the commemorative stamp design when a British stamp is issued.

At left are the horses and Royal Mail Carriage last June during the re-enactment in front of the Pier-head building in Cardiff, Wales.

How the Post Office Created America

How the Post Office Created America

by Winnifred Gallagher.

326 pages: illustrations, 24 cm, hardcover

Published by Penguin Press, 2016 in New York

How the Post Office Created America follows the chronology of United States history, beginning with the founding of the post office in the years before the revolution. Ms. Gallagher's opening chapter about Benjamin Franklin reveals that Franklin was one of two postmasters general for the Crown. He was fired in 1774 for advocating for independence, even going as far as switching his usual postmaster's frank from "Free. B. Franklin," meaning his postage is at no cost, to "B. Free Franklin." Franklin was later appointed postmaster general of the Post Office Department in 1775 under the Continental Congress after William Goddard had created a Constitutional Post used by the colonists to avoid British inspection of possible treasonous mail.

Throughout the book, several examples are discussed relating to the use of propaganda in the mail by political parties and activist organizations promoting causes such as abolition, religion, temperance, and women's rights. Many of the examples she cites are familiar to the PHF, as our archives include a substantial collection of Civil War patriotic envelopes, commonly used as Union propaganda.

Also included are historical examples from the early freight companies, stagecoach lines, and railroads that helped open the West to settlement by miners, ranchers, and others.



One of many Civil War era envelopes in the Slusser Library archives.

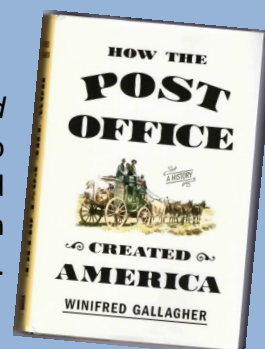
Gallagher carries her discussion through to the present day, including an examination of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA), which requires the United States Postal Service to prefund future health benefits for postal employees, something no other government or private corporation is required to do. Making the payments required by the PAEA, starting in 2007, of \$5.5 billion annually for ten years is a major cause of today's deficits. Gallagher writes, "Since 2011, the post has simply defaulted on the payments, and efforts to reduce them to a more manageable level have been complicated by various legislators' insistence on attaching political strings to potential solutions."

An engaging read, *How the Post Office Created America* will inform and entertain both general and philatelic audiences.

Enter Our Contest!

Three lucky *Stamp Tracks* readers will each win a copy of *How the Post Office Created America*, courtesy of the publisher, Penguin Press. To enter, send your email address to library@phftucson.org, which will sign you up for periodic news of PHF events, or send your name, address, and phone number to PHF Book Contest, 920 N. 1st Ave., Tucson AZ 85719. Three names will be selected randomly from the combined entry methods.

Deadline to enter is August 12, 2016



From the Archives



Photo of painting
by Dusty Sheridan

*He sees each fledgling sparrow fall,
He knows small broken wings.
He hears each anguished, plaintive call
Of tiny broken wings...*

*He knows each lonely crippled child
Who bravely laughs and sings,
Who longs to run and romp in fields
And know glad joy it brings.*

This was among several practice calligraphy sheets found among the papers of Peggy Jean Slusser, the namesake of the Postal History Foundation's philatelic research library. The passage Peggy so carefully and neatly penned is striking, not only because she, too, was never able to run and romp in fields, but also because her fingers, twisted and curled from life-long arthritis, were the instruments of such beautiful flourish.

The practice sheets contain poetry, aphorisms, passages from books about her favorite topic, the Civil War, names—her name, her father's name, her mother's name, the names of Civil War generals—and rows and rows of letters of the alphabet, each stroke showing a passion for the art, and a determination to master it, that transcends the years that have passed since her pen touched the paper.

The items in Peggy's collection also tell the story of a woman who was deeply interested in people. She corresponded with pen pals in Iran, Ghana, East Germany, and Egypt. She sent mail to American prisoners of war in Hanoi, Vietnam. She saved newspaper clippings about her family, especially her paternal grandmother's people, the Moores.

Those who knew Peggy describe her as intelligent, curious, and kind. It is fitting, then, that a library should carry her legacy. The Slusser Library serves people from all over the world with their own keen interests in a variety of philatelic and Civil War topics. These people are served, and this library exists, because of the generous gift of Blaine and Bessie Slusser, in memory of their only daughter, who died at fifty years old. Everything she loved about life, however, continues at the Peggy J. Slusser Memorial Philatelic Library.

*I've dreamed many dreams that never came true
I've seen them vanish at dawn.*

*But I've realized enough of my dreams, Thank God,
To make me want to dream on.*

Volunteer Spotlight

Our volunteer spotlight shines on Cathy Flaherty, who came to the PHF Education Department YES four years ago looking for a safe working environment where she could "help someone else out instead of becoming a couch potato and feeling sorry for myself."

Monday thru Wednesday, without fail, the Sun Van delivers Cathy at 8 am to work on various tasks under the direction of our Education Assistant, Linda Wynn. Cathy works four hours straight as "I have a lot to do and I just keep on going." She is an invaluable asset to our department and sorts stamps, does quality control, and cuts stamps off of donated envelopes.

We enjoy Cathy's sunny personality and sense of humor as well as her caring and giving nature. She helps us tremendously with the thousands of stamps that travel through the department every year.

We appreciate Cathy's hard work and dedication.



Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

Got Stamps? YES, Millions.



Our Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) program has been providing stamps for students since the early 1960s. This year, according to our records, we have hit an all-time high for the number of stamps given out in one academic year. Our total this year is 520,000 stamps!

Just in the last ten years, the YES program has provided over 3.5 million stamps to young people throughout the country and world.

A few examples, out of many, of how we use stamps to spread the joy of philately and help teachers connect with the curriculum are shown on this page.

Help YES continue to provide for youth across the country and world. We accept philatelic supplies, stamps, and monetary donations. **Take a tax deduction!**

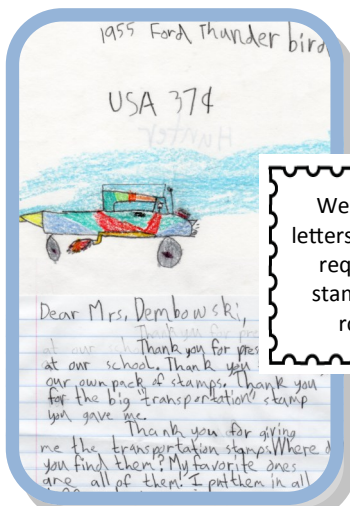
Field trip activities include hunting in our famous treasure chests for stamps to take home.



Over 13,000 students in classrooms and at events across the country annually use our stamps, lessons, ideas, and more!



YES provides stamps to shows anywhere in the country. This summer YES provided over 100,000 stamps to the New York 2016 World Stamp show and the National Postal Museum in Washington DC for youth activities.



We receive letters from kids requesting stamps year round.



Young collectors walk into our facilities and hunt in our files for stamps to add to their collections.



Boy Scouts choose stamps to complete their Stamp Collecting Merit Badge workshop here.

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 greater the audience to spread the word and help us in our mission.

New Members

Larry R. Brown
Scottsdale, AZ

Paul Czopek
Tucson, AZ

Johann Demmel
Tucson, AZ

Claude Deniz
Tucson, AZ

Marty Harow
Tucson, AZ

Robert Irwin
Tucson, AZ

Jack Lapidus
San Francisco, CA

Thomas Li
Tucson, AZ

John Montgomery
Phoenix, AZ

Alexander Schauss
Oro Valley, AZ

PHF Calendar

July 23, 2016

PHF Board Meeting

August 8, 2016

Slusser Library
Star Trek Exhibit

August 19, 2016

Tucson Birthday Stamp Contest
Awards Ceremony 10 am

September 3, 2016

Star Trek Stamp and Cachet
Event 10 am—12 pm
Tucson Stamp Club 1pm

September 9, 2016

Civil War Roundtable 12 noon

September 11, 2016

Tucson Post Card Exchange Club
1-3 pm

October 7, 2016

Slusser Library
Halloween Exhibit

October 8, 2016

Slusser Library 20th Anniversary Event

October 9, 2016

Tucson Post Card Exchange Club
1-3 pm

October 13, 2016

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workshop

October 14, 2016

Civil War Roundtable 12 noon

STAMPS by the POUND



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Tucson Stamp Club

First and third Saturdays at the
Postal History Foundation
12 pm Bourse • 1 pm Meeting

July 16, 2016

Caribbean Topicals

August 6, 2016

Pacific Islands Topicals

August 20, 2016

Honey Bee Stamps

September 3, 2016

Antarctica Topicals

September 17, 2016

Africa Topicals

October 1, 2016

To be announced

October 15, 2016

Presidential Topicals

Civil War Roundtable

meets every second Friday at the PHF
at 12 noon except summer.

Contact **Bob Burdick** at:

bobandglandaburdic@q.com

Tucson Postcard Exchange Club

Meets every second Sunday at the PHF
From 1- 3pm. Contact **Jack Mount** at
jdmount@cox.net or 520-722-9530.

In Memoriam

Irwin Weinberg, Philatelic Ranger