

Stamp Tracks

NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Love For Arizona Airmail

Inspired by the United States Postal Service's 2017 "Love Skywriting" stamps, the Slusser Library's current exhibit, *Love For Arizona Airmail*, depicts the chills and thrills of daredevil pilots who flew over Arizona skies in the early days of aeronautics through photographs, newspaper articles, and historical postcards and envelopes.



Cal Rodgers and the *Vin Fiz*

The exhibit takes visitors through milestones in airmail service in Arizona, beginning in 1911 with Cal Rodgers, a pilot in the William Randolph Hearst-sponsored race to complete the first trans-continental flight. Cal was sponsored by Armour and Company, which was launching a new grape beverage called, Vin Fiz (which became the name of his plane). Cal made stops in Arizona, notably in Willcox and Tucson. He also delivered the first unofficial airmail through his private airmail delivery service, Rodgers Aerial Post. The company wasn't successful, primarily because people were more interested in watching the plane than posting mail.



The Flying Schoolgirl

In 1915, the well-known stunt and daredevil aviatrix Katherine "Flying Schoolgirl" Stinson thrilled a crowd on the opening day of the Southern Arizona Fair with her daredevil spirals and loop-the-loops, "a perfect exhibition of flying as mortal eyes have ever looked upon." Miss Stinson, shown at left, was an excellent mechanic, and designed and built airplanes as well as piloted them.

Miss Stinson dropped the first official mail sack in downtown Tucson. The hand stamp canceller and a postcard from the fair are part of the display.

Katherine Stinson also opened a flying school in San Antonio. During World War I, she offered her services as a combat pilot and was denied. She drove ambulances in France instead. She and her husband, whom she met in the hospital while she recuperated from tuberculosis and he from war wounds, married and settled in his native New Mexico.



1915 postcard dropped by Katherine Stinson as part of the first official airmail in Arizona.

Unlucky Lockheed in Gila Bend

The tiny town of Gila Bend was rattled on November 14, 1918, when experimental aircraft Lockheed F-1A made an unexpected landing in the desert. The trip seemed doomed from the start. Rain and mud delayed take-off from California for three days. Turbulence, high winds, and dust storms over Yuma interfered with controls and navigation. Over Gila Bend, Arizona, head-winds were too strong to continue. Upon landing, a

Continued on page 5





Postal History Foundation

920 North First Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85719

520-623-6652

Fax: 520-623-3810

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Officers:

Chair: Bob Davis

Vice Chair: Mike Wood

Secretary: Niel Balsino

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
Facebook and Twitter!

facebook.com/postalhistoryfoundation



@phftucson

Chairman's Message

The annual ARIPEX show involves a lot of packing and preparation of items to be sold and transported up to the Mesa Centennial Hall from Tucson. It is a tiring and time-consuming job, but once we get there and set up, we have a lot of fun.

I want especially to thank Dan Sherry and Jack Mount for their support, hard work, and use of their vehicles. We filled more than three vehicles full of covers, collections, topical collections, books, and more to sell.

During this particular show I think it is safe to say we were the cover specialists. And, we still have plenty more covers. So if you are interested in covers, give us a call or drop by if you are local.

We appreciate our many volunteers who help us to achieve our goals of education, postal history, and research.

Thank you volunteers!

Bob Davis

*Are
you
current?*

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

Website Redesign



Take a look at our new website.

It is a work in progress, but almost finished.

We hope you enjoy the new experience.

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

ARIPEX 2017 – Arizona's 59th Annual Show

Some tidbits about the show held at
Mesa Centennial Hall - February 17-19, 2017

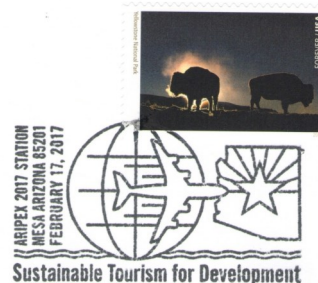
The theme for this year's ARIPEX was taken from the December 2016 United Nations resolution establishing 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The UN supports the idea that well-managed and designed tourism can contribute to the three pillars of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental.

The show cachet and postmark, designed by local Tucsonan graphic artist Don Regole, is another example of his talent and ability to connect all of the important and interesting aspects of a planned event and create a colorful, creative, and memorable postmark and cachet. Don's talent and generosity never fail to amaze us here at the Postal History Foundation (PHF). The decision by ARIPEX to use the National Park 2016 issue stamps on the cover complements the environmental connection mentioned above.

ARIPEX 2017



Mesa Convention Center
February 17-19, 2017



Official ARIPEX 2017 cachet and postmark designed by local Tucson graphic artist Don Regole.



USPS stamp issue "Uncle Sam's Hat," unveiled at ARIPEX.

The PHF table was very successful this year at the show. Thank you to all of those who paid a visit to the PHF table, supporting our philatelic sales program, which in turn supports all the programs of the foundation. Thank you very much to chair Bob Davis, volunteers Dan Sherry, Jack Mount, and others, who helped run the table.

The youth area, run by Mesa local Marsha Condit and PHF board member Sue Sisson, was well-supplied with activities and stamps provided by the Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) program of the PHF. Activities connected with the unveiling of the new USPS issue "Uncle Sam's Hat" were created for the children. The new stamp celebrates the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States. Children were given activities to complete using stamps that celebrated their own interests, family history, and daily activities.

Heard around the exhibit area was "there were more interesting and refreshing exhibits this year with fascinating material" including *The Ultimate Roadtrip* and *A Pilgrimage to Mount Rainier*. Both exhibits featured postcards sent back home during long road trips.

Mint Plate Blocks Available for Order

Contact **Ted Maynard**
at 520-623-6652 x 103
or
email your want list to
finance@phftucson.org



Support PHF Through Amazon Smile



+

amazon.com
Smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

=



Follow these easy directions:

1. Go to **smile.amazon.com** and select the Postal History Foundation as your charity.
2. Always be sure to order through **smile.amazon.com**. Replace your old amazon.com bookmarks with **smile.amazon.com** if necessary. Your Amazon account is unaffected by buying through Amazon Smile.
3. **Shop!!!**

Rangers Invade Chinatown During NY 2016



By Wayne L. Youngblood

On Friday June 3, during World Stamp Show New York 2016, about 30 philatelic notables and Arizona Philatelic Rangers converged from all over the world and descended a narrow passageway into the intimate and private basement dining room of the Cafe Hong Kong, located at 51 Bayard Street in the heart of New York's historic Chinatown.

Among those present were Bernard Beston (Australia's FIP consultant to the jury), John and Seny Birkinbine, David & Virginia Coogle, Bill Crowe, Mark Eastzer, Larry & Mrs. Gibson, Jim Ginsburg, Patricia Kaufman, George Kramer, Tom & Jo Mills, Steve & Cathy Schumann (Steve was Commissioner General for NY 2016), Sergio & Liane Sismondo, Ben Termini, Ross & Mrs. Towle, Wayne Youngblood and others. The reason for this high-level summit in a non-pretentious location? Good food, fellowship and a chance for Rangers to get together and enjoy each other's company during the huge international show.



The exterior of the Hong Kong Café. The Ranger entrance is at left.



From left: John Birkinbine, Dr. Raymond Chen, Seny Birkinbine and new Ranger Alex Schauss.

Of those Rangers present, Bill Crowe holds the distinction of having both a gold and silver Ranger badge.

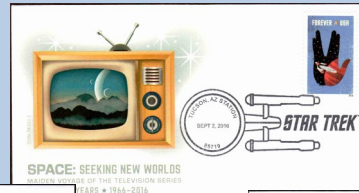
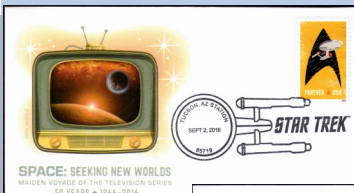
As a favor to John Birkinbine, Dr. Raymond Chen (a longtime friend) planned and had an amazing 12-course dinner (plus extras) prepared specifically for the event, with both familiar and unfamiliar entrees, utilizing traditional Chinese delicacies. Each course was explained.

As is so frequently the case at Ranger events, the food was excellent and the conversation stimulating.

Old friends renewed friendships and new acquaintances became fast philatelic friends. The event even provided the opportunity to induct a new Ranger, Alex Schauss. Perhaps we'll see you at the next event?

Enter our Star Trek Raffle by emailing: education@phftucson.org

If you want a chance to win a set of our famous Star Trek cachets from last year's event, send an email to education@phftucson.org with your name, mailing address, and email address. We will draw two names and mail the cachets to the winners in May 2017. Postmark below right is on each of the envelopes.



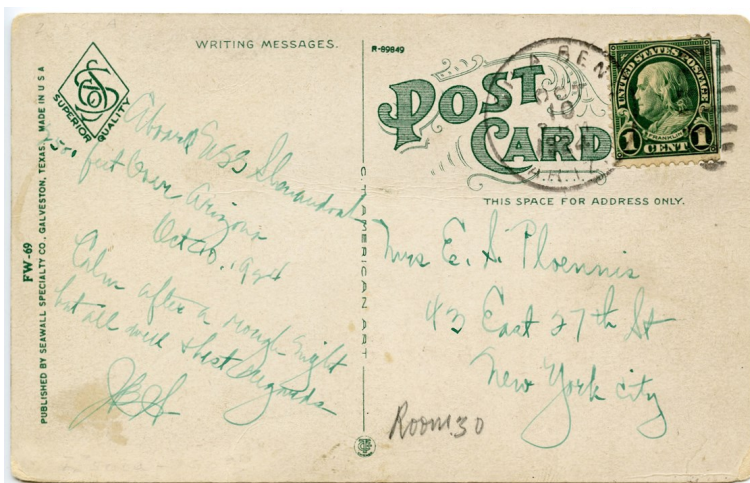
Love for Arizona Airmail *cont'd from page 1*

cactus shredded a wing; the occupants, two pilots and a mechanic, hitched a ride on a train back to Yuma for parts and spent the night. The next day, locals helped repair the plane and move it into position for take-off. All was proceeding quite well until a fanatic in an automobile, racing alongside the F-1A, decided to swerve into its path and cut the plane off. Pilot Bob Ferneau blew a tire avoiding the car; as a result the plane was poorly positioned for take-off. After the crowd helped shovel a make-shift runway, the plane lifted off the ground. Twenty feet in the air, the right engine cut out. The pilot tried to make a belly landing in sand dunes, but instead the "nose wheel hit a dune and the F1-A upended with a jolt that caused a fuel tank to shift and crush" the other pilot and mechanic. Only the mechanic was seriously injured, and the plane was a total loss.

Dirigible in the Desert

Scores of Tucsonans looked to the skies at daybreak on October 10, 1924, in anticipation of the United States Navy airship *U.S.S. Shenandoah* passing overhead on its way to San Diego, California. The *Shenandoah's* trans-Atlantic flight was part of a research project on long-distance airship travel that the Navy hoped would revolutionize military and commercial airship service.

They saw the *Shenandoah* (or ZR-1) as the prototype for fleets of military and commercial airships. Her design was based on a German Zeppelin.



Rare U.S.S. *Shenandoah* cover dropped over Gila Bend, Arizona.

Originally, the *Shenandoah* was to make an Arctic flight. But on October 7, 1924, the airship set out not for the frozen north, but for sunny San Diego, California. After a late departure from Fort Worth, the *Shenandoah* traveled through the rest of Texas, New Mexico, and into Arizona. At 5:20 a.m., the University of Arizona picked up a "hurry call" from the crew, who had just passed Benson, for help in getting their bearings. Tucsonans spotted the airship from a distance at 5:40 a.m. It flew over the city at 6:30 a.m. The *Shenandoah* was reported to be flying at 1,500 feet.

Over Gila Bend, an unknown quantity of mail was dropped out of the *Shenandoah*, taken to the Gila Bend post office, and delivered the rest of the way by the post office department. The Postal History Foundation holds one of these "drop covers" in its collection. On one side, the postcard shows a picture of main street Ft. Worth, Texas (the *Shenandoah's* last previous stop). On the other, reporter Junius B. Woods writes a brief message to Mrs. E.S. Ploennis in New York City: "Aboard the USS *Shenandoah* 2500 over Arizona Oct 10, 1924. Calm after a rough night but all well and best regards. JBW."

Cont'd on page 6

Sales Department Specials

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

- **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**—20% discount, save on mailing costs

Also Available:

RPO Covers
Topical Packets
Catalogues
Album Supplements
Stock Books
Stock Sheets
First Flights • Used Albums • Album Binders
First Day Covers & More



Library News

Valerie Kittell library@phftucson.org**Love for Arizona Airmail** *Cont'd from page 5*

The Postal History Foundation acquired the Gila Bend *Shenandoah* drop cover in the late 1960s after six years of searching for such an extraordinary piece of Arizona airmail history. The drop cover is currently on display in the *Love for Arizona Airmail* exhibit in the Slusser Library.

Lindy Light

The City of Tucson was delighted to welcome Charles Lindbergh in dedicating the new municipal airport naming November 23, 1927, as Lindbergh Day. C.M. Stafford remembers it as "something of a binge." Festivities and celebrations included ringing fire bells and alarms at Lindbergh's arrival, poems, banks closing, children let out of school, out of town visitors, Mexican dignitaries, three special trains on the Southern Pacific, a parade, a visit to the veterans in the hospital, a dance, a luncheon, a baby born twenty minutes after Lindbergh's arrival being named Lindy, souvenir medallions and collectible envelopes, a life-size cactus replica of the Spirit of St Louis, and, of course, the dedication ceremony.



Cachet for Lindbergh's 1927 visit postmarked in 1930 when regular airmail service started in Arizona.

The growing economy of civilian and military aviation necessitated the construction of airports—and Tucson had the first municipal airport in the country. In the dedication ceremony, Col. Lindbergh also switched on the "Lindy Light," one of a series of five-million candlepower beacons stretched across the country, promoted by Lindbergh.

Please visit our *Love for Arizona Airmail* at the Slusser Library and look for the complementary video on our YouTube channel (it's also displayed in the Slusser to accompany the exhibit). *Love for Arizona Airmail* runs until Summer 2017. As always, there is no charge for admission.

New on the Shelf

- *The Capture, the Prison Pen, and the Escape: Giving an Account of Prison Life in the South ...* by Willard W. Glazier
- *Padre Kino and the Trail to the Pacific* by Jack Steffan
- *The Civil War: a Soldier's View: a Collection of Civil War Writings* by Col. G.F.R. Henderson; edited by Jay Luvaas
- *U.S. Booklets and Booklet Panes, 1900-1978*, by Donald B. Littlefield and Sam Frank; with review and additional material from members of the United States Stamp Society
- *Put a Stamp on It: Seventy-seven Sparkling Stories Showcasing How Stamps Have Intercepted Historical Events*, by Herman Herst, Jr.; forward by Kenneth Herst
- *To the Letter: a Journey through a Vanishing World* by Simon Garfield
- *Ghost Ship of the Confederacy: the Story of the Alabama and Her Captain, Raphael Semmes* by Edward Boykin

Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

Grow Philatelists in Your Home Town



Several times a year, I receive phone calls from adults in stamp clubs across the country and Canada wanting to know how to involve the younger set in the fun of stamp collecting. Many clubs have thousands of stamps and supplies that can be pooled by members and given away to grow new collectors.

Below are a few suggestions for spreading the love of philately:

- ◆ Contact local school principals or teachers and inform them about our YES program. We can provide you with teacher information sheets, postcards, and examples of lessons so they can order from us.
- ◆ Reserve a table at a literacy fair, book fair, or any educational event.
 - ◆ Decoupage and fill a treasure chest with stamps for kids and adults to pick through. Have them take home their treasures in glassines.
- ◆ Attend local winter holiday events. Have students write letters to Santa Claus, use cancelled stamps for pretend postage, and create a mailbox for the kids to put them in. Kids and adults also enjoy creating their own cards with old Christmas stamps or "Love issues" for Valentine's Day.
- ◆ Visit the local libraries and museums to find out if you can initiate an activity hour with stamps. Some local Tucson libraries have our special stamp treasure chests available to kids. Contact me for ideas about activities.
- ◆ Hold a stamp design contest for your town. Solicit entries from local students and give out awards to the top entries in each age group. Declare a grand winner and order custom stamps using the grand winning design.
- ◆ Start a stamp club at a local school and/or encourage teachers to start pen pals between their students and a class from another state or country. There are resources for starting that on the internet.
- ◆ Host a one-day Stamp Camp for Kids where your club meets. Contact us for ideas.
- ◆ Host a Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge workshop. (Contact your local scout district first. We can help with some supplies.)



Local child "mailing" a letter to Santa at the annual Holiday Express event at the Historic Train Depot in Tucson, Az.

Whatever activity you plan, contact us and we will help as much as we can with stamps, ideas, and supplies.

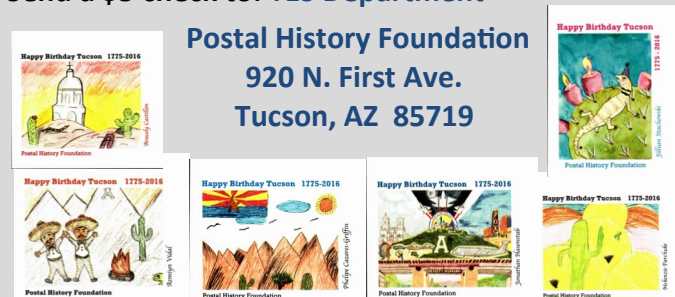
Have fun spreading the joy and growing new philatelists of all ages.

Tucson Birthday Contest Cachets Still Available!

Help support our education program by purchasing the set of six cacheted envelopes, designed by students, for \$5, which includes shipping to a domestic address. Use these colorful envelopes for your mail.

Send a \$5 check to: **YES Department**

Postal History Foundation
920 N. First Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719



Make a Tax Deductible Gift

Consider a tax deductible gift to the
Postal History Foundation!

**There are many ways to help support the
children and philately:**

- ◇ Make a sustaining or legacy gift.
- ◇ Contribute to a specific program:
Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) or
the Slusser Library.
- ◇ Donate stamps: cull your collections and
accumulations.

Thank You!

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 go to our Amazon Marketplace store (link is on our surplus book sales page on our web site.). Money from sales helps 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.



STAMPS by the POUND



Worldwide Mixture or Individual Countries

Prices vary • Many countries to choose from.

Call for availability.

520-623-6652

Free domestic shipping

New Members

Eugene Bryan
Vail, AZ

Wallace Craig
Fullerton, CA

Harry Doolittle
Scottsdale, AZ

Alfredo Frolich
Aventura, FL

Lewis Glasser
Tucson, AZ

Katie Hemphill
Tucson, AZ

Paul Kurtz
Boise, ID

Charles LaBlonde
Colorado Springs, CO

Dr. Ronald Melzer
Tucson, AZ

Karen Peitsmeyer
Sierra Vista, AZ

John Peters
Tucson, AZ

Robert Poeschl
Tucson, AZ

William Robey
Litchfield Park, AZ

Schuyler Rumsey
San Francisco, CA

Robert & Amelia Schowengerdt
Tucson, AZ

Scott Trepel
New York, NY

PHF Calendar

April 22, 2017

**Annual Meeting and
Volunteer Luncheon
at 12 noon**

Westward Look Resort

Tucson Postcard Club

Meets every second Sunday at the PHF
from 1- 3pm

Contact **Joyce Kagarise** at
dkagar@dakotacom.net or 520-682-8424

April 9, 2017

May 14, 2017

**Possible June 11, 2017 meeting
No July or August meetings
September 10, 2017**

Tucson Stamp Club

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

April 1, 2017

Cinderella stamps clothesline

April 15, 2017

Spring Auction
10am Auction Preview — 1pm Auction

May 6, 2017

Dutch Auction — Len Miller

May 20, 2017

Stamp Scramble—Jerry McNew

June 3, 2017

Baseball Topicals

June 17, 2017

Vacation Topicals

In Memoriam

Steve Turchik
Member

Russ Weir
Volunteer

Civil War Roundtable

Meets every second Friday at the PHF
at 11:30 am, except summer.

Contact **Bob Burdick** at:
bobandglandaburdick@q.com

April 14, 2017

May 12, 2017