

Stamp Tracks

NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Youth and Adult Learners Supported by PHF

Guest Contribution by Robert Alexander Cagna

Over the past several years, I've had the pleasure of working with the Postal History Foundation's (PHF) Education Director Lisa Dembowski, Librarian/Archivist Valerie Kittell and the volunteers of the PHF... but not in the way most people do.

You see, I live in West Virginia, and have never been to Tucson. I'm the library director of a university health sciences library. I love philately, postal history, stamps, and postcards, and I wanted to share my passion with others. The PHF has helped me immensely.

One day I spoke with our local Montessori school's administration about the possibility of my giving stamp talks to their various classes of elementary school children. They were enthusiastic, and told me the students presently were studying the four

seasons of the year and ocean life. Lisa and the volunteers put together relevant work pages, stamps and supplies about the ocean and the four seasons, as well as a great selection of world stamps for the kids. I gave my presentation in classrooms full of students, and of course, the children loved it! I went back a second time to give more stamp talks and share stamp collecting tips with the students.



West Virginia University Health Sciences
Center, Charleston Division

I had seen in *Stamp Tracks* that PHF offered stamp treasure chests to schools to encourage philately and learning. Since I work at a medical library, I thought it would be wonderful, in a similar way, to promote stamps related to the history of medicine. We could offer the stamps to students, faculty, and medical residents. We did that by first requesting stamps from the PHF, and, after receiving them, we offered a basket of stamps for browsing. Patrons could choose five stamps each, and we also offered glassine envelopes.

I was beginning to see that the PHF mission applies to adults, too. I brought to my lectures topically-related stamps provided by the PHF. I also gave presentations at national library and book-related conferences, and, again, the PHF helped with supplying stamps related to my talks. I'm sure this made the talks more memorable and, hopefully, introduced to the attendees that stamps are useful for adult learning.

This summer I gave a workshop to twenty rare book librarians and booksellers, titled "Every Stamp Tells a Story: How Postage Stamps, Postal Stationery, Postcards and Other Postal Ephemera from the 18th Century to Today are Historically Important to



Robert Cagna



Mr. Cagna's favorite medical stamp is the USPS first semi-postal because "it raises money for a good cause."

Continued on page 3



THE POSTAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org



Postal History Foundation

920 North First Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85719

520-623-6652

Fax: 520-623-3810

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Officers:

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Vice Chair: Mike Wood

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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

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Chairman's Message

Stamp collecting is about making connections. We make connections to stamps as we develop collections, whether country or topical. Through stamps we connect to knowledge while studying or researching the “story” behind a stamp. We connect to people – other collectors, stamp sellers, stamp clubs, philatelic librarians.

The PHF exists to grow and expand connections through stamp collecting. We begin with our Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) program and multiply the effects through teachers, locally and across the country. We introduce and re-introduce retirees to the old world of philately with tours and outreach. We involve some as PHF volunteers.

With the support of members, contributors, and legacy gifts, and the inflows of stamps from those who donate their philatelic materials, we shall continue to nurture and grow the current and future world of philately.

Thank you all!

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)**
 - ◇ **Slusser Library**
- ⇒ Donate stamps: Cull your collections and accumulations.

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Thank You!

Website Redesign

Take a look  at our new website.

We hope you enjoy the new experience.

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Youth and Adult Learners Supported by PHF *cont'd from page 1*

Special Collections.” Once again, the PHF came through with marvelous stamps and supplies. Lisa and the volunteers made personalized stamp packets for each attendee, topically based on their interests, as well as where they lived and worked. Those packets were quite a hit!



Librarians participating in Mr. Cagna's workshop in June

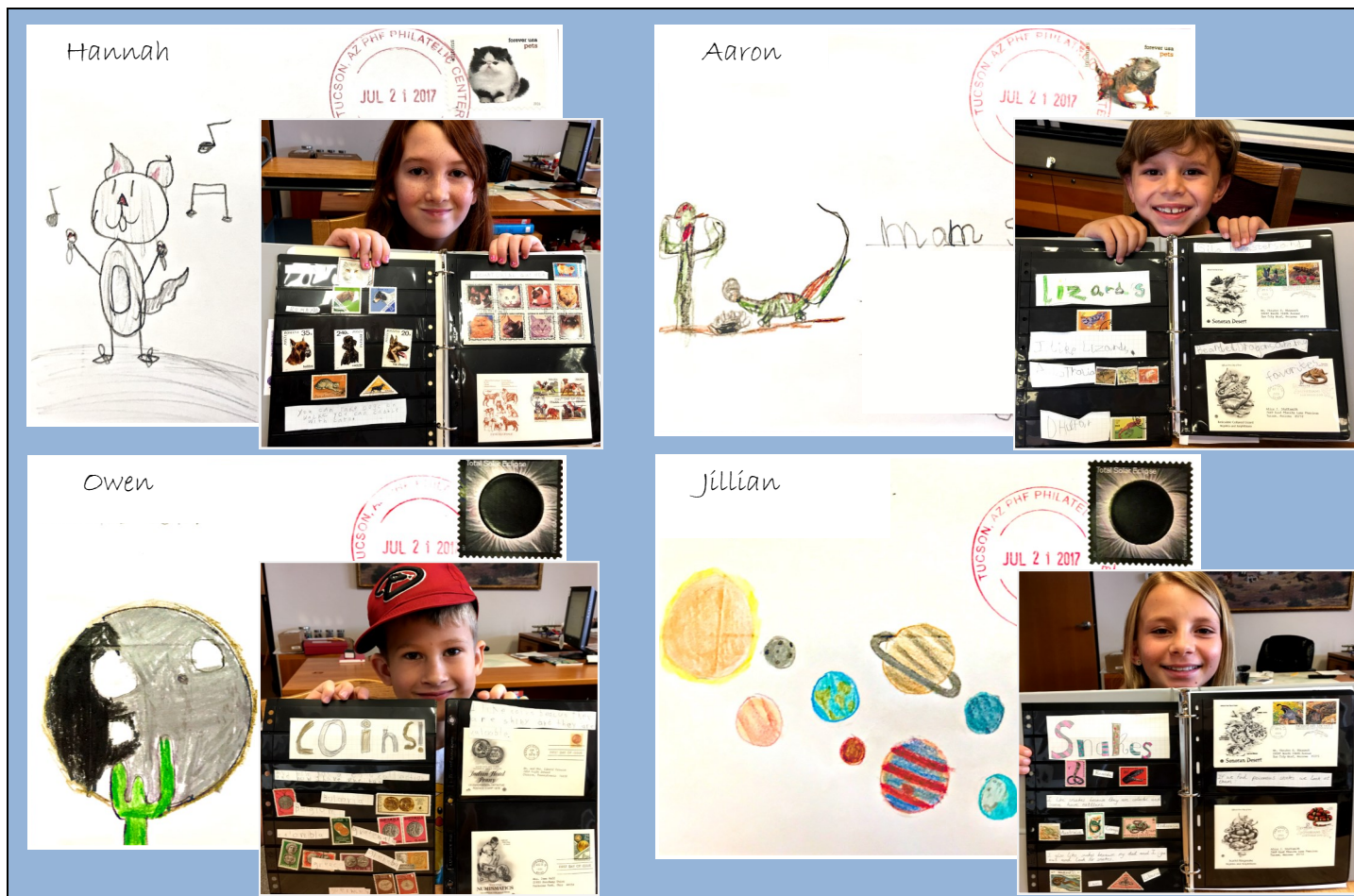
Over the past few years, Lisa and the PHF volunteers have helped me get the word out about philatelic learning to 140 schoolchildren and approximately 320 adults, not including the many patrons who have received PHF's medical history stamps from our library front desk. My presentation attendees have heard about stamps through talks and workshops lasting from twenty minutes to three hours. Also, PHF Librarian/Archivist Valerie Kittell has been wonderful in making sure I receive deaccessioned library books I purchase in time for my talks.

Thank you very much Lisa, Valerie, and all the volunteers of the Postal History Foundation. I couldn't have done it without you.

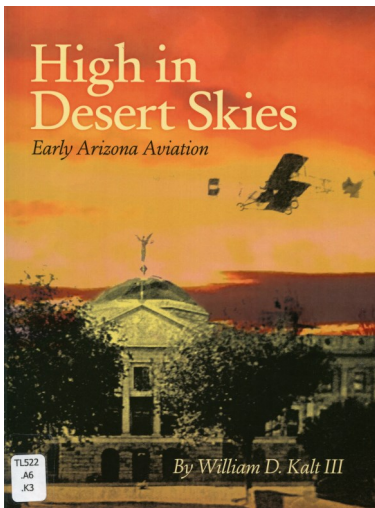
For the past nine years Mr. Cagna has been the library director of the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center, Charleston Division. Mr. Cagna has now moved on to a new position as Library Dean and Associate Professor of Library Science at Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina.

Summer Smiles, Courtesy of Stamp Camp

A fun-filled, busy week at stamp camp included students designing cachets (artwork) to connect with current USPS stamp issues, and gathering stamps and covers (envelopes) to create a collection of a favorite topic.



The Story Behind the Story of Arizona Airmail



High in Desert Skies: Early Arizona Aviation, William Kalt III. Published in Tucson, 2017. Perfect-bound, 217 pages. ISBN 9780998239903. Available for purchase through Amazon (don't forget to use www.smile.amazon.com), in bookstores, and at Mr. Kalt's website, <http://www.highindesertskies.com/>.

William Kalt's latest book tells the story of pioneer flights, early aviation enterprises, airports, and, of special interest to philatelists, airmail in Arizona through engaging discussion, illustrations, and photographs.

The book, divided into twenty-six short chapters, paints several vignettes of the many people and events that participated in and shaped the nascent and formative years of Arizona aviation, including Charles Hamilton, Cal Rodgers, Gates M. Fowler, Katherine Stinson, Major T.C. Macaulay, World War I Ace Ralph Ambrose O'Neill, Barr's Flying Circus, and Charles Lindbergh's 1927 visit to Tucson. He also chronicles the first aerial filming of the Grand Canyon and efforts to

establish airfields. Thoroughly researched and well-supported (bibliographic references, pages 199-211), Mr. Kalt's book captures the excitement, drama, and uncertainty of the period when the dangers, benefits, and future of flying were still very much unknown.

In Memoriam

Thierry Delespesse, an active volunteer and member of the Postal History Foundation, passed away recently.

Thierry worked as a chef and was also a keen philatelist. He collected many specialties, including Belgium, military postal history, worldwide meter mail, seapost mail, and more. Thierry was a native of Belgium, where he met his wife, Julie, who was serving in the United States Air Force there. After marriage, they were posted in several foreign countries, including Portugal, Turkey, and Belgium.

After retiring to Tucson they spent time in China, where Julie taught English. This past year they were in Viet Nam to teach English again when Thierry fell ill. They returned to Tucson, where he passed away.

Thierry's good nature and good humor enhanced the Postal History Foundation. Many of us will fondly remember both his kindness and his wit.

He will be missed.



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New Philatelic Ranger Members Inducted



Report Submitted by John Birkinbine II

The Arizona Philatelic Rangers are pleased to welcome new members Alexander Schauss and Laura Schauss.

Dr. Alexander Schauss arrived as a child with his German family to New York City in 1953. He eventually found his way to downtown Manhattan, where numerous stamp dealers occupied shops around Nassau Street. In time, he became a runner for many of the dealers, taking valuable stamps and collections from one store or office to another. This developed into a serious interest in United States revenue stamps over several decades and the building of a major collection. In 2012, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries held the Dr. Alexander Schauss Collection of United States Revenue Stamps sale. The foundation's library holds a copy of this name sale catalog.

Dr. Schauss is a part-time world-wide stamp dealer specializing in U.S. state revenues and Southeast Asian philately with a focus on Indonesia. He is a member of the ASDA, APS, ARA, ATA, and Dai Nippon. Alex presently collects Washington State Revenues, and is now forming an exhibit of Java from 1945 to 1949. An associate research scientist in the College of Science, Department of Geosciences, at the University of Arizona, he is also a noted food scientist and a Fellow of the American College of Nutrition.

Dr. Schauss is also an avid mineral collector and has been a mineral judge at the internationally known Tucson Gem and Mineral Show for decades. He has spearheaded a legislation to have wulfenite, a beautiful lead molybdate mineral, become the official state mineral of Arizona.

Laura Schauss grew up in Renton, Washington and later Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands, off the shore of Washington state.

Her long-term interests in cartography and art led her to collect maps on stamps and nudes on stamps. She is a member of the CartoPhilatelic Society.

As a co-owner of Schauss Philatelics, Mrs. Schauss also travels to many stamp shows, meeting dealers and collectors, always in search of new items for her collections.

Laura Schauss is the Chief Operating Officer of the American Institute for Biosocial and Medical Research, headquartered in Seattle, Washington, with office and staff in several states, including Arizona.

The Schausses enjoy living in Oro Valley, Arizona, just north of Tucson.



John Birkinbine II welcoming Dr. Alex Schauss and Laura Schauss as new Philatelic Rangers



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
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Library News

Valerie Kittell library@phftucson.org**In the “Loupe”**

The basement in the Slusser Library has a new dedicated purpose: “closed stacks,” meaning a section of the library that stores library collections, but is not open to the public. In its previous life, the basement was used as a workspace, and as storage not only for library materials, but also general Postal History Foundation overflow. Over the years, as more library and archival materials were processed and less work was performed in the basement, it became abundantly clear that the area needed a new design to accommodate the archives’ holdings.



View of the new “closed stacks” in the basement. The new layout includes aisle space for book carts.



Donations would be greatly appreciated to help cover the cost of acquiring proper archival housing of these unbound journals.

The librarian/archivist, Valerie Kittell, designed, and, with help from volunteers, executed a major reorganization of the basement layout that included shifting hundreds of materials and disassembling and reassembling existing shelving. New shelving units purchased with a grant from the Arizona Historical Society provided additional space to house archival and museum collections.

Seven dedicated sections house auction catalogs, stamp show programs, journals, rare books and journals, archival collections, museum objects not on display, and unprocessed material. Each section has room for collections to grow. A large table was left in the basement for as-needed workspace.

These dedicated sections, along with ample aisle space, allow for easy access to collections and an improved workflow.

New on the Shelf

Courrier Recupere: Accidents et Incidents d'Avions, 1937-1988 = Recovered mail: airplane accidents and incidents 1937-1988 by H.L. Nierinck

High in Desert Skies: Early Arizona Aviation by William D. Kalt III

The Founding of El Paso, Texas by John Birkinbine II

The One-cent Magenta: Inside the Quest to Own the Most Valuable Stamp in the World by James Barron

British and Foreign Exhibitions and Their Postcards: Part 2 1915-1979 by F.A. Fletcher & A.D. Brooks

Catalog of the 20th and 21st Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States (2017 edition)

Super Summer Student Volunteer



For the past three years, the education department of the Postal History Foundation has enjoyed visits by Joaquin Rico as a collector and as a volunteer. The last two summers, Joaquin has come in specifically to help soak some of the many thousands of stamps on paper we have waiting to process for the Youth Education thru Stamps department.



Joaquin Rico

Joaquin is now thirteen years old and attends Esperero Middle School in Tucson, Arizona. He is involved in track and field, boy scouts, and the school band in which he plays the bassoon.

Every time he visits during the summers, he soaks stamps, and then, before grandpa picks him up, takes a few minutes to go through the stamp files to find new additions to his collections. His main collection topic, which he used for completing his scout stamp collecting merit badge at our workshop here, is dinosaurs. He likes "foreign dinosaur stamps because they are so different than the US ones." His other interests on stamps are birds of prey, fossils relating to dinosaurs, insects, and other wildlife.

A few years ago when Joaquin's grandparents brought him in for a tour of the PHF he was "really amazed at how many kinds of stamps there were. They weren't just heads of presidents." Ever since that first visit he has made numerous trips to the PHF to collect and volunteer. We very much appreciate his help and enjoy his visits.



Joaquin soaking stamps.

Joaquin is a very responsible, diligent worker, and does an excellent job. We are going to miss him now that school is starting again. He has specific goals for himself, and, no doubt, he will accomplish them. He wants to earn his Eagle Scout by his sophomore year in high school, and at this point is thinking about earning a PhD in Paleontology.

No grass will grow under the toes of this very focused young man. We will continue to enjoy his visits and his support of our foundation. It is always enjoyable watching students grow and mature over the years.

Stamp Collecting Kits for Youth and Adult



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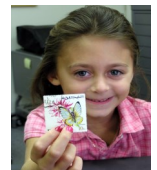
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Library Book Sales

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.



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Tucson Stamp Club

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

August 19, 2017

Education Topicals

September 2, 2017

Space Topicals

September 16, 2017

Deep Sea Topicals, Clothesline

October 7, 2017

Broadway Show Topicals
Anniversary of the 1982 premiere of
the Broadway Show **CATS**

October 21, 2017

Nobel Prize Winners
Bring in material about Alfred Nobel
Auction lots are due

November 4, 2017

Lunar Topicals
Clothesline, Newsletter out

November 18, 2017

Fall Auction
Previewing from 12pm—1pm
Auction begins at 1pm
Dan Sherry, auctioneer

Planning to research in the Library?

Please check our website for library closures due to scheduled field trips and other events at:

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

In Memoriam

David Bize Jr.

Member and Ranger

Thierry Delespesse

Member and Volunteer

Waltraud Helms

Ranger

PHF Calendar

August 18, Friday

Unveiling Ceremony for the
Tucson Birthday Stamp Design Contest
10am
Slusser Library

Tucson Postcard Club

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

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

September 10, 2017

October 8, 2017

November 12, 2017

New Members

Steven Elsasser
Tucson, AZ

Robert W. Martin
Kihei, HI

Delcinda Saito
Honolulu, HI

Shirley Sitrick
Phoenix, AZ

Michael S. Turrini
Vallejo, CA

Dawn Vandaveer
Tucson, AZ

William Ward
Oro Valley, AZ

Civil War Roundtable

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

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

September 8, 2017

October 13, 2017