

Stamp Tracks



NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Online Treasures Await

Online libraries and digital exhibits provide not only more access to more information for people conducting research, but also have a vast array of really cool stuff that will interest even the most casual web visitor.

Two new Library pages on our website provide guides to finding these online sources. “Research Tips” breaks down philatelic research into three basic categories: stamps, other philatelic material (such as covers and associated aspects) and the postal service. If you’re wondering what your stamp is worth, or what is so special about a cover you’ve discovered, or in what year a specific post office was established, Research Tips breaks down for you where you might find that information, including links to online sources.

The other page, “Handy Links,” links to sources that provide access to out-of-copyright print and audio-visual material, postal service history, and Arizona history. These sources provide a wealth of information, both for the researcher and the general public who just want to look at neat stuff. The Library of

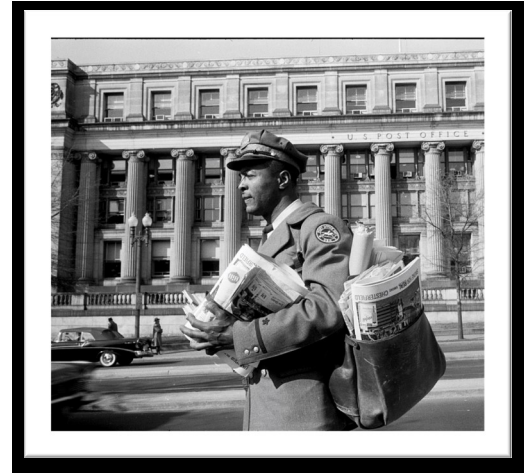


Image from Library of Congress.



SANTA CLAUS'S MAIL.

Thomas Nast drawing accessed at Hathi Trust.

Congress (LOC) Digital Collections are displayed and accessed via a digital exhibit format, where browsing by subject, collection, and original format is fairly straightforward. While many of the maps, photographs, audio and video recordings, newspapers, and more in the collection are contributed by LOC, others are contributed by other organizations. Want to hear man-on-the-street commentary the day after the Pearl Harbor attack? The LOC has twelve hours of recorded interviews! Want to see a film of a mail streetcar and a horse-drawn mail delivery wagon from 1903? The LOC has one! The Slusser Library has used the online collection of Tucson “Sanborn maps” as part of a research request. Digitized images, such as the one pictured above of a letter carrier, would be a great addition to a future library exhibit.

The HathiTrust is a consortium of academic libraries who share catalog records and digital scans for people to access in one

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Postal History Foundation

920 North 1st Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
520-623-6652

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Email us at: info@phftucson.org

Officers:

Chair: Bob Davis
Vice Chair: Mike Wood
Treasurer: Ted Maynard
Secretary: Steven Hamann

Staff:

Education Director: Lisa Dembowski
education@phftucson.org
Librarian/Archivist: Valerie Kittell
Postmaster: Lori Payne
Education Assistant: Linda Wynn

Post Office Hours:

Monday through Friday except
Federal Holidays
8:30am-2:30pm

Slusser Library

Remote Services Available

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in good standing
Services are free of charge.

Call 520-623-6652x107 or
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Philatelic Sales by Appointment

520-623-6652
General sales: Mike Wood
sales@phftucson.org
eBay sales: Bob Davis
ebaysales@phftucson.org

Message From the Chair

Activity continues apace at the Postal History Foundation — albeit with Covid constraints.



Although student field trips to the PHF have not been feasible, the Stamp Discovery Program has again reached 14,000 students this last school year (via U.S. Mail) with orders from 10 countries.

The Slusser Library has actively fielded research requests, continued archiving items, and successfully been awarded two grants for new work.

Our Philatelic Sales Program has processed the significant backlog of philatelic donations received in recent months, expanded online sales, and continued to build stock for our in-house store for sales by appointment.

We welcome our new Postmaster, Lori Payne. She is happily retired from a career in the USPS and hails from Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Bob Davis

Treasurer's Update by Ted Maynard

Thank You to our 2021 Members.

Your generosity helped PHF to maintain
a solid financial position through
this difficult time.

Membership renewal information for 2022
will be coming in October.

For those who "missed" the opportunity this year,
please renew your support and rejoin PHF in 2022.

Please Be Generous
and raise your participation level next year.

The children,
teachers, and parents
will be grateful!



Celebrating Lena Rogers

Long time postmaster and administrative assistant Lena Rogers was fêted on Friday, August 27th, here at the Postal History Foundation. Food and happy memories were shared by all in attendance. Many volunteers, former and current, showed up to greet her and wish her well. Volunteers Ann Arent and Marilyn Hawley organized the party and group gift.

Lena served the PHF for 23 years, and, as a result, has many wonderful memories and people in her heart. She talked with our volunteer Andy Mosko about them for *Stamp Tracks*.

People from all over the world walk through the front door of the foundation, and Lena enjoyed meeting and learning about them. In the earlier days, she enjoyed attending the stamp shows and getting to know people in the philatelic world. She was not a stranger to philately, as she actually worked for the United States Postal Service a few years before starting at the PHF in 1998. Lena was enthusiastic about learning different aspects of philately, as most everyone who works or volunteers here are philatelists.



Lena Rogers at the PHF 50th Anniversary celebration. 2010

When she first started working here, she had to drive over to the Tucson Sun Station post office to pick up and deliver the mail for the PHF. Most of us here today did not realize she had to do that. Today mail carriers drop by, sometimes twice a day. Lena was also the person who thought up the name of our newsletter, first published in 2005. She was the winner of the contest with the name "Stamp Tracks."

Lena has very fond memories of the many people who worked here over the years. Regarding her many years at the PHF, Lena said, "We became family. You get attached to everyone." Some of our volunteers are "snowbirds," people who live in other parts of the country except for the winter, when they come here to enjoy the climate. She remembers that they were always so "happy when they were here."



Volunteers, customers, and staff came by to give their best wishes to Lena.

Lena is looking forward to the future when she moves to Prescott where her daughter resides. She is a very proud grandmother and enjoys sharing in the accomplishments of her grandchildren in their advancing education.

Lena is a very affectionate person with a wonderful sense of humor. She gave 23 years of dedication and loyalty to the PHF. We thank her for all the good times.

"We all miss her dearly, and I hope we can all meet together again in the near future," said Andy Mosko.

Library News

Valerie Kittell library@phftucson.org

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place. It is organized very much like an academic library online catalog, but is still very user-friendly. The Slusser Library has accessed it many times. For example, HathiTrust was used to locate specific Thomas Nast cartoons, once for the 2012 Hail to the Chief! The Elections Collection exhibit, and another for the 2015 exhibit Letters to Santa (see picture on page one). The digitized index of *St. Nicholas: a Monthly Magazine for Boys and Girls* was consulted at HathiTrust to find the volume number which contained an article written by Patti Lyle Collins about the Dead Letter Office (for the 2015 Halloween exhibit), which could then be accessed on either HathiTrust or Archive.org! In fact, there is some redundancy with scanned material, which means more access and (hopefully) better preservation.



Illustration from Patti Lyle Collins's article, accessed at Hathi Trust.

Archive.org, a non-profit dedicated to "Universal Access to All Knowledge," archives digital items submitted by various organizations and individuals worldwide. Archive.org also contains many types of items, such as image, document, audio and visual. The Slusser Library has used digitized print materials in exhibit research and display; most recently in our current exhibit, on display is an anti-slavery tract by Samuel Tobey, a prominent Quaker and Rhode Island doctor whose children's names are on the oldest known Tucson territorial cover. Film clips of early flights were used in our Love for Arizona Airmail digital exhibit from 2017. The entire *History of Arizona*, by Thomas Edwin Farish, in eight volumes, can be accessed on Archive.org! This was used to research for the 2018 Wickenburg Murder Mystery exhibit.

These are just three of several content-rich, accessible websites available for free to the general public. Visit our website under Library —> Handy Links to see the entire list. Good luck on your research, and happy browsing!

*Now more than ever the Slusser Library is here to serve you. We offer remote services (scanning, photocopying, research, and (for local members in good standing) book check-out. **Services are free of charge.** Call 520-623-6652x4 or email library@phftucson.org.*

Sales Department Specials

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

- **Individual World Wide Stamps** — 50% SCV or less
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Mounts

Spotlight on Two Thursday Regulars

This issue we highlight two volunteers at the Postal History Foundation who have helped the foundation with their knowledge and expertise in various areas. We are grateful for their five plus years of service.

Jack Mount found his way to the PHF via his attendance at ARIPEX 2015. He strolled up to the PHF table and the rest is history. Already living in Tucson, Jack had retired in 2004 as the librarian for the University of Arizona Science and Engineering Library. He was responsible for the subjects of geology and mining. Jack has masters degrees in geology and library science.

When he visited the PHF, he was impressed “with the wonderful youth education program and the preservation of postal history at the PHF.”

He had started collecting stamps at nine years old, and soon found that he preferred special covers from events, First Day Issues, and First Flights, as opposed to the “endless” stamps that every country in the world issues. Jack collects covers from Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and California. He also collects National Parks and areas that were originally in the park system.



Jack Mount

Jack's first volunteer work at the PHF started with sorting topicals, most of which ended up in the Stamp Discovery program for kids. He then transferred to the cover area in the sales department. He is the first step in the process when covers are donated. He sorts for value, topic and type (e.g. FDCs, military, U.S. states, RPOs), as well as foreign covers. He enjoys it because the learning never ends due to changes in politics and history that consistently affect philately.



Paul Czopek

Paul Czopek helps the PHF in various ways. Because of his 26 years of experience with the United States Postal Service in Arizona and California, he works in our USPS contract station when needed. He also helps us by doing other tasks in the PHF philatelic sales department which include stripping albums, sorting, cataloging, pricing, and helping to inventory donations.

Paul started collecting when he was a kid and, like some, his collecting was put to the side when he became a teenager. But, for the last 40 years he has been very involved in his collections. He has two specific collections: A pre-1940 World collection that he doesn't spend much time pursuing, but if he happens to see something to add, he does; and WWI German Colonies. Paul is always on the hunt for items to add to the latter collection. He specializes in town postmarks, many of which are very rare. He hunts those down via European auction houses or eBay. His degrees in library science and geography support him well in his research of WWI German Colonies. “You have to research a lot. You have to educate yourself,” Paul says, about knowing what to look for in a very specific collection.

Paul enjoys the interaction with other volunteers at the PHF and the fact that it keeps him up to date with the constant changes in philately.

Follow the PHF on Social Media



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Warm Memories of these Volunteers

As the years go by, we, unfortunately, have to say goodbye to more volunteers. These two men were very kind and generous people whom we will miss. Both were Arizona Philatelic Rangers.

After serving 29 years in the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force, Ralph Montaña became interested in stamps, and, eventually, found his way to the Postal History Foundation. When visiting the PHF in 2005 with his wife, Bertha, Lena Rodgers asked him if he wanted to volunteer. After taking the tour, he couldn't resist.



Ralph Montaña

At first Ralph started by sorting stamps, and later his job morphed into maintenance man due to his previous experience in jobs after retiring from the military. He enjoyed fixing things and doing general maintenance. He was incredibly helpful, moving filing cabinets, fixing door knobs, changing out lights, and other necessary tasks.

Ralph was very enthusiastic about the philatelic treasure trove here at the PHF. When interviewed several years ago he said, "I was floored with what I found here!"

Ralph collected stamps and covers about the Vatican and WWII era. He also created his own cachets for special events when a stamp was issued. Ralph collected, as he said, whatever "attracts my eye."

Ralph cared very much about the PHF and the "family" of staff and volunteers. He was appointed an Arizona Philatelic Ranger in 2008. We miss his happy, helpful, and caring ways.

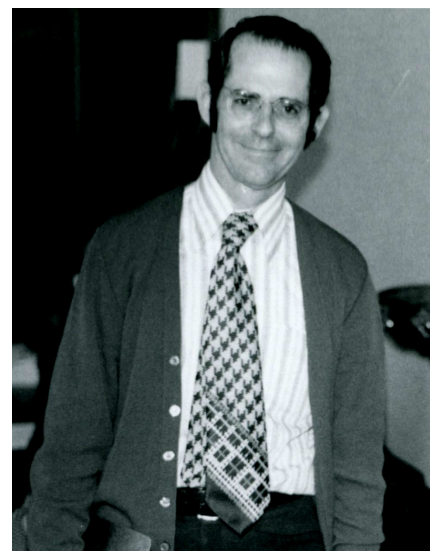
Tony Benz arrived in Tucson in 1968. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1955 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He spent most of his career at St. John's Seminary in Little Rock as library director and history teacher. After arriving in Tucson, he worked for the Public Library system until his retirement in 1998.

Tony caught the stamp collecting bug as a child and gradually matured into an internationally-known expert on Mexican stamps and postal history. He would buy lots at auctions and focus on errors, city overprints, and inconsistencies of Mexican stamps. Tony also owned and operated his own mail-order auction business, and created professional catalogs that featured Mexican philatelic items for sale. He was elected to the Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (MEPSI) Hall of Fame.

Tony volunteered and was very supportive of the PHF. He donated philatelic items to the PHF and the Stamp Discovery program. Throughout the years, Tony purchased large amounts of philatelic items from us and he was a member in good standing at the *patron* level.

Tony was a Life Member of the Tucson Stamp Club. He would walk into a meeting and give everyone there a packet of Mexican stamps. In 1971, he was appointed an Arizona Philatelic Ranger.

"Tony was a stalwart member of the Tucson Stamp Club. He was generous with his time and knowledge," said Mike Wood, PHF Vice-Chairman.



Tony Benz in 1974.

Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

The Stamp Discovery program finished the past school year with excellent participation from across the country. Orders for topicals on stamps, lessons, stamp kits, as well as other support, were received from 48 states and ten countries. The pandemic prevented a lot of classroom participation this past year but home school family and scout orders doubled (see graph below).

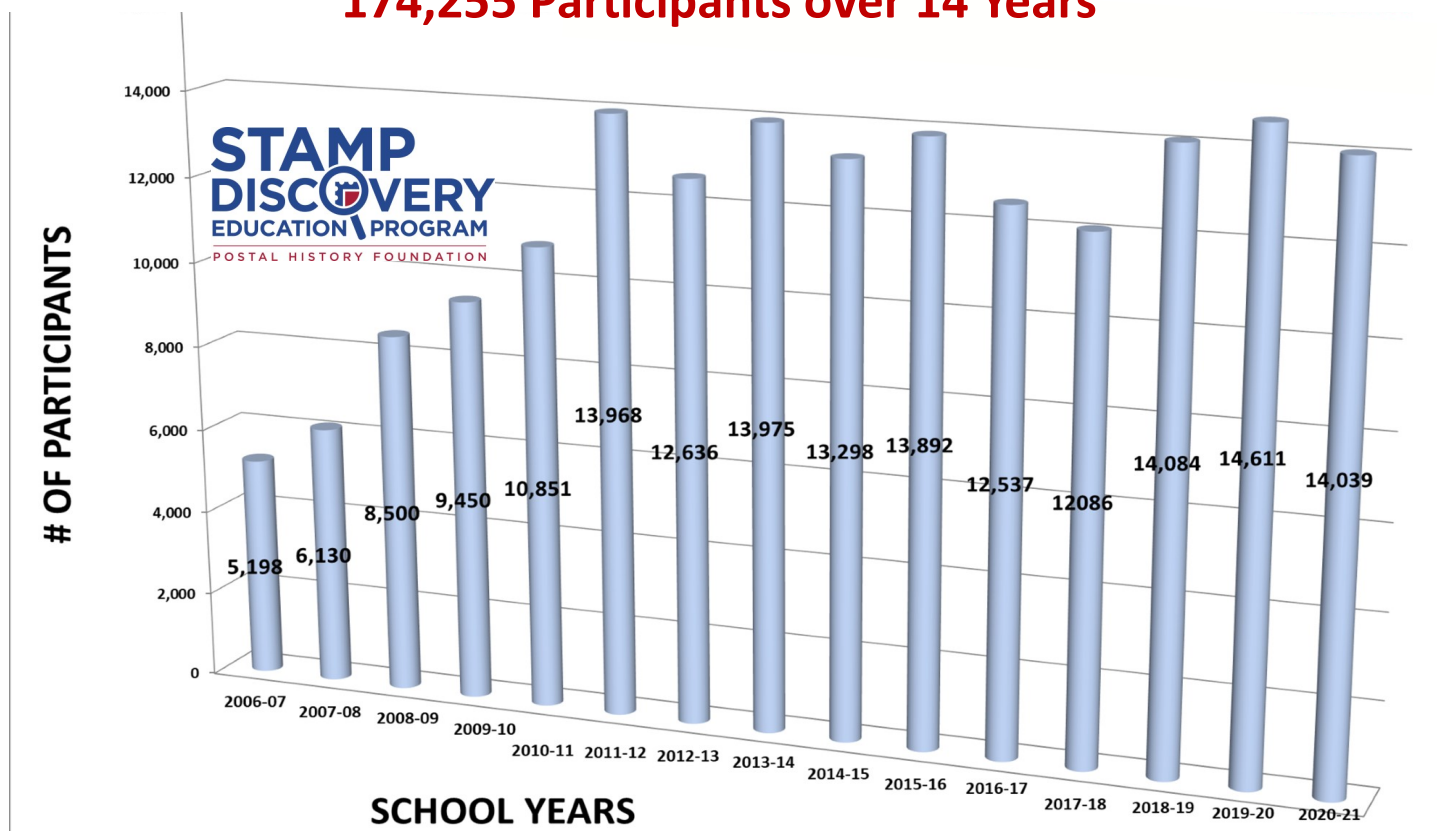
Because of an incredible demand for topicals and lessons this past spring, Valerie Kittell, our librarian and web designer, created a Store for Educators on the website. This allows us to limit the amount of daily orders and get them done in a timely manner. One of the reasons that we were able to catch up from the huge influx of orders this past spring and summer is that we have two regular, dependable, volunteers that fill the orders and help our Education Assistant, Linda Wynn, keep the process going without delays. The education program is very efficient due to the efforts of Linda and her direction of the education volunteers. We very much appreciate all of our volunteers at the PHF, but I particularly want to recognize Judy Yoder and Mary Bennett, who were able to come in weekly this past spring and summer to help us catch up.

We receive orders year-round and a new school year is upon us, so there is never a lull in requests.

People across the country and world appreciate and enjoy what can be learned through stamps. We receive requests from home school coordinators and parents, classroom teachers, librarians, scout directors and scouts themselves, kids from across the country, educators at museums and universities, and more. Please consider a monetary donation to support our educational work across the world.

Learning from postage stamps is unique, intriguing, educational, and enjoyable for people of all ages!

174,255 Participants over 14 Years



PHF Calendar

The **Post Office** is open
8:30am-2:30pm
M-F except federal holidays

Message from the Slusser Library

Now more than ever, the Slusser Library is here to serve you. We offer remote services (scanning, photocopying, research,) and (for local members in good standing) book check-out.

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Board Meeting
October 23, 2021

Civil War Roundtable

For a zoom meeting invite, email
tucsoncivilwarroundtable@gmail.com

Support PHF Through Amazon Smile

Follow these easy directions:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com and select the Postal History Foundation as your charity.
2. Replace your old amazon.com bookmarks with smile.amazon.com.
3. Your Amazon account is unaffected by buying through Amazon Smile.

Go Shopping!

Tucson Postcard Club

The Tucson Postcard Club is meeting the second Saturday of every month with the Tucson Stamp Club. Contact Jack Mount for more info at 520-490-4709

STAMPS, COVERS AND POSTCARDS We've got them!

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520-623-6652

Or email

sales@phftucson.org

In Memoriam

Ralph Montañó
Member, Volunteer, Ranger

Tony Benz
Patron, Volunteer, Ranger

John A. Pimental
Friend

Tucson Stamp Club

The club is currently meeting at
the Fraternal Order of
Police Lodge on
3445 N Dodge Blvd, 85716

For more information about the
current schedule and times
please contact:

Edward Ejek
edwardwejk@earthlink.net
520-574-5535

New Members

Shirley L. Birkhimer
Fair Oaks, CA

Robert Lee
Tucson, AZ

Douglas Parker
Peoria, AZ

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