

Stamp Tracks



NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Post Office Museum Transformation

By Valerie Kittell, Librarian, Archivist, and Museum Collection Manager

Volunteers and post office customers may have noticed some activity in the old Naco post office. Last year, we received a grant from the Arizona Historical Society to create a self-guided tour inside the old post office front. While the plans may still be revised as the project unfolds, I wanted to update everyone on the work being done. I am directing the project and am performing the majority of the work, but am still soliciting input and assistance from the Education Director, Lisa Dembowski. That's because one of the most important parts of this project is deciding, from the very beginning, what are our exhibits and activities trying to teach people? What is it we're trying to say through our displays?

The answer is, we want to explore the historical, cultural, educational, and recreational significance of philately, with philately here defined as the collection, study, and appreciation of stamps and anything postal-related. The next question to answer is, how do we *do* that? What *aspects* of philately should we use to explore the above?

Since we defined philately so broadly, to include not only stamps but anything postal-related, the aspects of philately we want to address are wide-ranging:

- Technology and Transportation of the Mail
- Cultural and Economic Impact of the Mail
- The Hobby and Business of Collecting
- The "Value" of Postage Stamps
- The Future of Philately

The Naco post office exhibit will mainly focus on the first two aspects. The planned displays inside and near the Naco post office are described briefly below. Please note that for brevity's sake, many of the details of the planning and execution of the exhibits were left out, but I hope this gives you a general idea.

Keeping the heart of the community going: Operating a post office

Cultural and Economic Impact of the Mail

This section will discuss turn-of-the-century post offices in the West in general terms and specifically delve into the Naco post office during this time period. Post office operations in general will also be discussed (not limited to the Old West). Objects in this display include the post office front, office supplies, and stamp vending machines, such as pictured above.



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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

Post Office Hours:

Monday through Friday except
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Slusser Library

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Philatelic Sales by Appointment

General sales: Mike Wood
520-623-6652

sales@phftucson.org

eBay sales: Bob Davis
ebaysales@phftucson.org

<https://www.ebay.com/usr/postalhistoryfoundation>

Message From the Chair



You will find when reading this issue that we are very busy here with many projects that we are trying to achieve before a full re-open.

The Stamp Discovery program is filling orders everyday from teachers and parents across the country.

Our librarian/archivist is working on a much-needed upgrade of the old Naco Post Office museum. If you are a collector call Mike Wood at 520-623-6652 for a sales department appointment or to place a mail order.

Online sales have been strong. Link to our Ebay store through the Philatelic Sales section of the PHF website or <https://www.ebay.com/usr/postalhistoryfoundation>

As always, we thank you for your membership and support of our constant efforts to spread the joy of philately to collectors and youth.

Bob Davis

Treasurer's Update

Thanks to your generosity, the PHF has been able to maintain a healthy financial position through the tumult of the past two years.

Special Thanks to our 2022 Members

*200 renewals
so far this
year!*

For those who are not currently 2022 active members, please rejoin us in the quest to continue our good work in the world of philately.

**Please Be Generous
Raise your participation level!**

The children, teachers, and parents will be grateful!

Ted Maynard



Linda Wynn Day Celebration

By Lisa Dembowski, Education Director

Recently, in January 2022, many of us were able to gather safely to give a much-needed send-off to our Education Assistant, Linda Wynn. Linda decided to fully retire at the end of this past year.

We celebrated Linda Wynn Day outside in beautiful 67 degree sunshine on the patio of the Postal History Foundation. It was wonderful that so many were able to get together to talk and catch up, especially as our Annual Luncheon has not been held due to the COVID pandemic for the past two years. We enjoyed a luncheon and presentations during our Linda Wynn Day celebration.

Linda has made several stops along the journey of life, and we were so lucky that one of her stops was here at the PHF. Her career was in education. She graduated from Auburn University and spent 32 years teaching the subjects of English and Spanish in Florida and Alabama.

A secret that she kept from us all these years is that she is a Captain in the Alabama State Militia. It came about when she taught boys at Lyman Ward School in Camp Hill, Alabama. Known today as Southern Preparatory Academy, it is still a private military school for boys. The school wanted the boys to give due respect to Linda. During that time period; George Wallace was the governor; he signed off on appointing Linda a Captain in the Alabama State Militia. There would be no misbehavior allowed by the boys, and they had to salute her. She jokes that she is “still sworn to protect the state of Alabama to this day.”

Linda started volunteering in the Slusser library over 10 years ago, and it became very apparent that she was a valuable asset. At the same time, it also became apparent to the board of directors that I needed an

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Linda Wynn in front of many of the volunteers she has worked with over the years.

ARIPEX 2022



Jack Mount at the PHF tables

The Postal History Foundation participated in ARIPEX 2022, in Mesa, on February 18-19. Chairperson Bob Davis and volunteer Jack Mount were the sales people for the weekend. The show was attended by a moderate size group of collectors, many of whom stopped at the PHF tables. The ten-cent covers area was almost always busy, and approximately 2,000 covers were sold. Many postcards and about 250 twenty-five cent covers were sold, as well as an extensive German States collection.

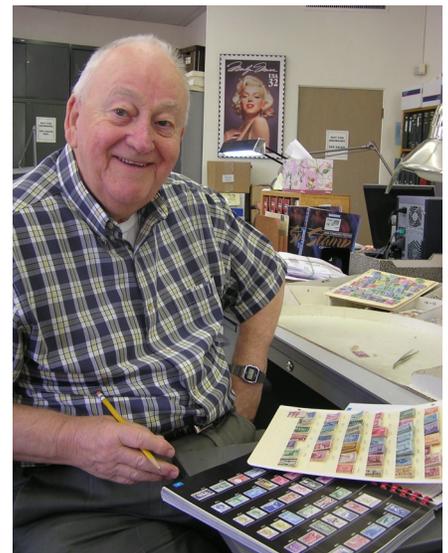
Thank you, Bob and Jack, for the hard work and time spent at ARIPEX this year.

Grateful for Geoffrey Wadman

Geoffrey Wadman, a loyal Thursday volunteer, Friend of the PHF, and Philatelic Ranger, passed away in March of 2021. He made his way to Tucson from England, where he had served in the British Army and the City of Bristol Police. Geoffrey and his wife, Patricia, started their life together in 1958 moving to the United States and living in New Jersey for over 30 years. They retired to Tucson in 1992 after a daughter attended the University of Arizona.

Geoffrey's personal stamp collection included Great Britain and the British Empire, especially Queen Elizabeth II.

He volunteered in the foreign area at the PHF, stripping albums of world-wide stamps that were donated to the Foundation. Those stamps would then be used in the sales, or as topical for the students in the education program. Geoffrey was extremely friendly and willing to share philatelic information and interesting trivia about life in England. We miss his loyalty, support, and warm personality.



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Valuable Tuesday Volunteers

This issue we highlight two volunteers who help in the Stamp Discovery program at the Postal History Foundation. They both toured surrounding-area museums before deciding they wanted to volunteer at the



Lois Blanco sorting through stamps.

PHF. Linda Wynn, our Education Assistant at the time, decided they were good candidates. They have each given 10 years of work to the PHF.

Lois Blanco, and her husband, George, reside in Green Valley, Arizona during winter months. Every week, she drives 25 minutes north to the PHF and works all day in the education rooms. Lois has been trained to do a variety of tasks over the years. She knows which stamps we use in our lessons and topical files. She can easily sort through a donated box of stamps, of which many are received throughout the year.

When the Blancos head back to their home state of Michigan for the summer, Lois soaks stamps off paper, or trims very recent United States stamps that cannot be soaked for the files. YES, we send her homework during the summer.

She has an “appreciation for everything sent out to the schools” because she knows and understands all the steps it takes to sort and organize the stamps for the lessons and/or topical requests that are ordered across the country.

After retiring from the maintenance department of Amphitheater School District in 2014, **Bill Mizner** took a PHF tour with his wife, Susan. Linda recruited him to soak stamps and other tasks twice a week. The PHF receives 1000s of stamps on paper every month, and the U.S. issues are moved on to the Stamp Discovery program. Students are given used stamps with their lessons or topic requests.

After soaking them in warm water for 5-15 minutes, Bill gently removes them from the water and lays them in a very orderly fashion on plastic placemat needlepoint sheets for drying. He places another needlepoint sheet on top so they don’t curl. He has to do this gently without pressing on the plastic sheet so that no indentations are left on the stamps. It takes him a couple of hours to do about six needlepoint sheets covered with stamps. He soaks over 1000 stamps per week. Because of our dry air in Tucson, the stamps are done by the end of the day.

Bill says, “It gives me something to do, and I enjoy meeting people and making friends.” He also has fun trying out jokes while here. “You’ve got to have a sense of humor in life.”

We appreciate these two valuable education volunteers. They have done so much for the Stamp Discovery program and are a joy to work with.



Bill Mizner soaking stamps.

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Library News

Valerie Kittell library@phtucson.org

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One less thing to worry about: money orders and inexpensive, reliable communication

Cultural and Economic Impact of the Mail

This section will discuss the extraordinary impact of mail and money order services on the development of western territories and states. It will also take a look at the change in postal rates and money order usage over time. Objects in this display will include rubber hand stamps used for money orders and postal scales.

A day in the life of a mail carrier

Technology and Transportation of the Mail

This section will tell the story of how mail is/was delivered in different time periods and by different methods (e.g. city delivery, star routes, railroad) through the lens of persons who did just that. Objects in this display will include uniforms, badges, hats, and mail bags.



Marking up the mail: postmarking, canceling, labels, and other marks

Technology and Transportation of the Mail

This section will discuss the reasons for and the changes to mail markings and mail marking devices over time. Objects in this display will include handstamps (pictured above), dies, kits, ink bottles/pad, and machine cancelers.

The displays will include both “interactive” and “no-touch” items, the latter of which will be behind a protective barrier. Each section will also include printed labels and “QR codes” (smart phone links) to audio files that read the labels out loud and provide even more information. Additionally, a video display will allow those without access to the same information provided via the QR codes, and also more ways to learn through video presentations. A security camera rounds out the technology!

You will see fewer objects displayed at once, exhibited with a purpose, and in context. There will also, hopefully, be more room to move about in the post office, including for those in wheelchairs.

I truly hope you will enjoy the changes being made to our museum area. It should be finished no later than May 2022. When we open again to the public, please come by and take a look.

New on the Shelf

British Post Office Numbers by County by Ken Chapman. (1985)

Color Kit: Contains ISCC-NBS Centroid Color Charts and Color: Universal Language and Dictionary of Names by the United States National Bureau of Standards. (1985)

A Guide to Rare British Letter Boxes by Martin Robinson. Second edition. (1988)

Notes on 19th Century U.S. Postal History: A Special Service prepared by Stanley B. Ashbrook. (1951-57)

Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

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assistant due to the increasing growth of our education program across the country. Linda accepted the part-time Education Assistant position, and immediately got to work.

Because of Linda, our education rooms are well organized, and the process of filling orders and requests runs smoothly. Over 100 lessons are in separate boxes with copies of lessons for teachers and parents, answer keys, packets of stamps for each student, lesson research documentation, and more stamps to make future student packets.

Every cabinet, closet, nook, and cranny has been organized. Stamps were always soaked and sorted in the past, but Linda has taken it to another level, where we have an repository of stamps to use in future for lessons. (What is unbelievable is that we still run out of certain stamps used in popular lessons because of the hundreds of orders we fill throughout the year. So, yes, we still need stamps, some older, but especially more recent issues.)

Linda was very fun to work with over these past 10 years. She made quick decisions, was fantastic at delegating work to volunteers, and had a wonderful sense of humor. She was helpful to all, and the volunteers enjoyed working with her and completing the assignments she gave them. She was very helpful with editing lessons and *Stamp Tracks* due to her experience teaching English. She is also known for her kindness and creation of artistic cards and little gifts of chocolates in fancy packages that she made for all.

Linda's impact on the PHF has been very positive over the years. So, as expected, many people are sad to see her go. But there is consolation in that we get to see her once in a while when she visits to buy stamps and say hello. She has earned her rest and relaxation, but, if you know her, she really doesn't relax. She has projects that she does for local charities, including making dog blankets for Pima Animal Care Center, and creating cards for Youth on Their Own.

At the end of her party, we presented her with a proclamation listing just some of the many reasons why she is so special to us, one of which is that her smile lights up the foundation.

I will be forever grateful to Linda for keeping our Stamp Discovery program running smoothly. It allowed me to get other tasks done, such as writing lessons, visiting classrooms, administration duties, hosting field trips, and attending community events, some of which she also helped with.

Oh, and by the way, Linda has left the lesson boxes well-stocked with over 40,000 student lesson packets, ready for the orders I receive daily in my inbox!

Our wish for you, Linda, is that you enjoy a healthy, happy retirement.

We love you!



One of many beautiful cards Linda has created.

PHF Calendar

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

Board Meeting

April 23, 2022

Slusser Library

Black Americans on Postage
Stamps Digital Exhibit

This new exhibit is a work in progress and will be added to periodically.

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

New Members

Boulat Bash
Tucson, AZ

Lois Blanco
Green Valley, AZ

Donald Chiappetti
Paradise Valley, AZ

Michael Finkelstein
Tucson, AZ

Holly Floden
Tucson, AZ

Donald Hill
Vallejo, CA

Mary Anne Mills
Tucson, AZ

Lori Payne
Marana, AZ

Alan Severn
Colorado Springs, CO

Kenneth Steidley
Scottsdale, AZ

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—> Current Exhibit

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Robert Peck
Friend, Ranger

Laurie Prescott
Member, Ranger

Peter Salomon
Patron, Ranger

Geoffrey Wadman
Volunteer, Friend, Ranger

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Tucson Stamp Club and the Postcard Club

Meetings are at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge on the 2nd Saturday of each month

3445 N Dodge Blvd, 85716
For more information contact:

Stamp Club: Edward Ejk
edwardwejk@earthlink.net
520-574-5535

Postcard Club: Joyce Kagarise
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