

The PhilateliKid

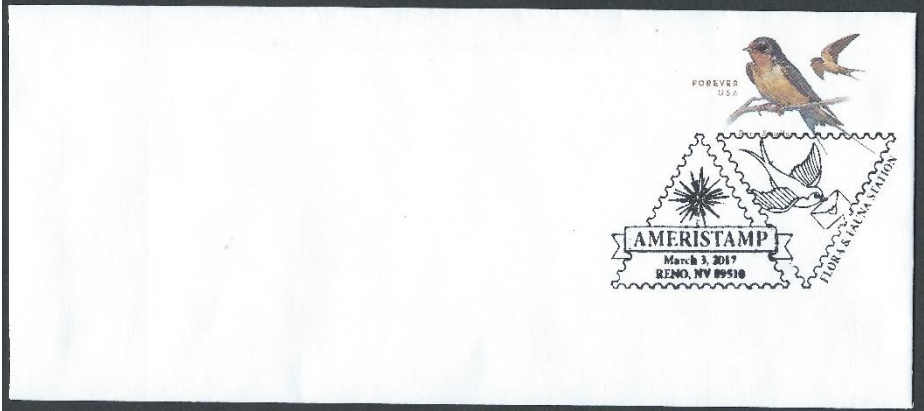
The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

April 1, 2017

Dear Fellow Stamp Collectors,



Stamp of the Month

INDICIA

There are still a few remaining among us who as a course of their education were required to learn Latin, a “dead” language. The language is

termed “dead” because it is no longer spoken anywhere on earth as a main language. Yet it remains with us everywhere. Take a course lately and receive a *curriculum*? Read a book and find something at the end called an *addendum*? Get a short message written on a small piece of paper – a *memorandum*? Attend a sporting event at a *stadium*? Buy an envelope at the Post Office with a pre-printed stamp, and *indicium*?

Some of these words are used primarily in the plural sense, and some are used primarily used only in the singular sense. Some are used both ways. We hear of *curricula*, and *memoranda* (plurals) but almost never do we hear *stadia*. (“Stadiums” is used.) Rarely heard today is *indicium*. When heard at all, the plural *indicia* is heard.

The stamp of the month this month is actually not a stamp. It is an *indicium*. It was on a piece of postal stationery that had its First Day of Issue on March 3, 2017. A First Day Ceremony was held at The APS StampShow in Reno – “Ameristamp.” The USPS post office at the show was selling mint copies on different sized envelopes, and also window envelopes. I purchased ten of the envelopes (51¢ each) and had two of them canceled as souvenirs. They never actually went through the mail. I handed the mint envelope I had just purchased to the Postal clerk, who canceled it for me as a “favor” and immediately handed it back to me. As you can see, there is no addressee written on the envelope, so it would have been impossible for the Post

Office to deliver it. One of the canceled envelopes had the First Day cancel, and the other shown above, had the “show” cancel. This little procedure is known among stamp collectors as obtaining a “favor” cancel. First Day Covers sold by the USPS are actually “favor” cancels because the envelope was never addressed, and it never actually went through the postal system and was delivered.

So, what was the occasion last month that had a library room full of kids shouting the Latin word *indicia*?

Here’s the story. After obtaining the two souvenir cancelations on the newly issued Barn Swallow postal Stationery at the Reno show, I brought them back to the local stamp club and showed them to the kids. I explained that the picture on the envelope is NOT a stamp because it is pre-printed on the envelope. I hand carried the two covers around to each table and showed each child up close what they looked like, and then I did what many may consider to be unthinkable. I rubbed (lightly) the image with my finger, and then had each student rub the indicium with his/her finger to see that it is actually printed on the envelope, and not a stamp.

I explained that these are called indicia, and then I said, “Everybody say ‘indicia’ .” Whereupon 25 voices shouted “indicia.” Now you know.

(p.s. the kids know that if they mumble a word that I am teaching them, or speak it too softly, that I will insist that they say it louder, by saying something to them like, “That was pitiful. Louder!” I believe the kids get a thrill out of shouting in the library, something they can do only during stamp club.)

The Impossible to Contact Stamp Collector, a/k/a The Invisible Stamp Collector

It occasionally comes as a surprise to us when we “discover” a person we’ve known for a long time --- unbeknownst to us, is a stamp collector! It is especially surprising when we find out that not only is he/she a stamp collector, but has been one for a long time and is deeply involved in the hobby, sometimes for decades. If we learn that someone we have heard about in philatelic circles lives nearby, when we had no idea that ANY stamp collector was nearby, it not only is surprising, but disheartening. Many missed opportunities. It is just plain awful to read an obituary about somebody we know, perhaps from a business relationship or other non-philatelic way, and learn that he was an avid stamp collector. What is a person to do?

We live in an age of communication, which really blossomed when more people became literate and could actually write letters, and simultaneously better postal systems allowed for

prompt and dependable delivery. I consider this era to have begun around 1840, with the introduction of cheap postage and pre-paid stamps. Fast forward to the end of the 20th century, when the Internet became a big deal, because simultaneously computers became small, inexpensive, and user-friendly.

Last week at the stamp club meeting, we had a group of 3rd and 4th graders present when one of their teachers stepped into the meeting. This is pretty common, but this time the teacher stopped and talked with us for a while. One surprising thing she shared was that she has a 19-year-old daughter who had NEVER in her life MAILED A LETTER! Her mother (the teacher) found it hard to believe, but the realization came to her when her daughter asked where a person is supposed to get the stamp to mail the letter! Her daughter was no stranger to texting, communicating by Facebook, or emailing – she just had never *mailed* a letter!

As stamp collectors, we probably use the postal service more than the average person. I know I try to avoid using the internet when a letter can be mailed instead. I have heard from more than a few people that these newsletters are one of the very few hand-addressed pieces of mail they receive each month that is first class mail, with a stamp(s).

Whenever I learn of a person I believe may be interested in promoting our hobby, and growing membership, I add them to the growing list of people who receive *The Philatelikid*. (Currently over 100 people.) However, more and more people today are reluctant to have their mailing address given out. The biggest philatelic organization in America, APS follows a strict policy of refusing to let one member have an address of a fellow member. No roster is published, and according to our Executive Director, Scott English, APS policy is that no information will be given out, even upon written request.

At the Reno StampShow, the APS held its semi-annual Members' Meeting. These semi-annual meetings, open to the public, are always held on a Saturday morning, starting an hour prior to the opening of the Show. At the end of these meetings the floor is opened up to questions and comments from the audience. At the Reno StampShow I counted the people in the room. There were 52, which is the smallest turnout I have ever seen. When one considers that about 10-12 were either Officers or Trustees of the APS or the APRL, and that about 10-12 more were there to receive their 25-year or 50-year membership certificates, and a few were there just to keep their spouses company, the rest of us numbered only about 25 people. I stood and explained my concerns about the fact that we members really have a very hard time communicating with each other. The response we got was to contact Scott English, who would help. I thought that meant that he could provide the information, but I was wrong. I think

others also may have left with the same impression I got. I was completely disabused of that notion a few weeks later when Scott personally told me in no uncertain terms that he would not under any circumstances provide any mailing information, that the only way he would help is for a member to send a letter to him, and then he would forward it on the recipient. I was interested in contacting a published author (in the APRL quarterly magazine, *The Philatelic Literature Review*) regarding his interest in the future of our hobby, specifically in regard to beginners and children, but nope – not happening. So, I thought, well maybe a Google search would work. It took about 20 seconds, but I got what I needed. Thank you Internet!

So, in an attempt to strengthen our hobby by facilitating easier communication among us, I have come up with a possible solution, completely outside of the APS or any other philatelic organization. We could establish a website, where interested stamp collectors, dealers, authors, etc. could place their contact information, and philatelic interests, as much or as little as they wish. A person who does not want to provide the information, of course, should know that anybody who tries the Internet could probably get the same information and a lot more, including prior addresses, bankruptcies, criminal records, and I have been told sometimes even annual incomes. But, to make it easier, a completely voluntary website could be extremely useful. Anybody out there who might be interested in setting this up, please feel free to contact me. (My information is listed at the bottom of the last page, and also is available on our website. Don't try to get it from the APS, though.)

If you have something relating to stamp collecting that you think might be appropriate for this newsletter, please feel free to send it to Robert W. Martin, P.O. Box 1809, Kihei, Hawaii 96753-1809. It should be written as if the reader knows nothing about your topic, so beginners can understand it.

Visit our website at www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501 C (3) organization. All donations are appreciated and if \$10 or more are provided written receipts. You also can donate via PayPal on our website.

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