



The Souvenir Card JOURNAL

FOURTH QUARTER 2021

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 4

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUVENIR CARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY



ABNC COMMUNICATION DEMO STAMP IN COLOR

Don Epp

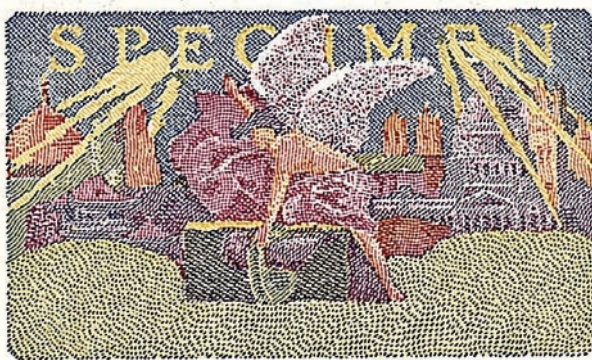
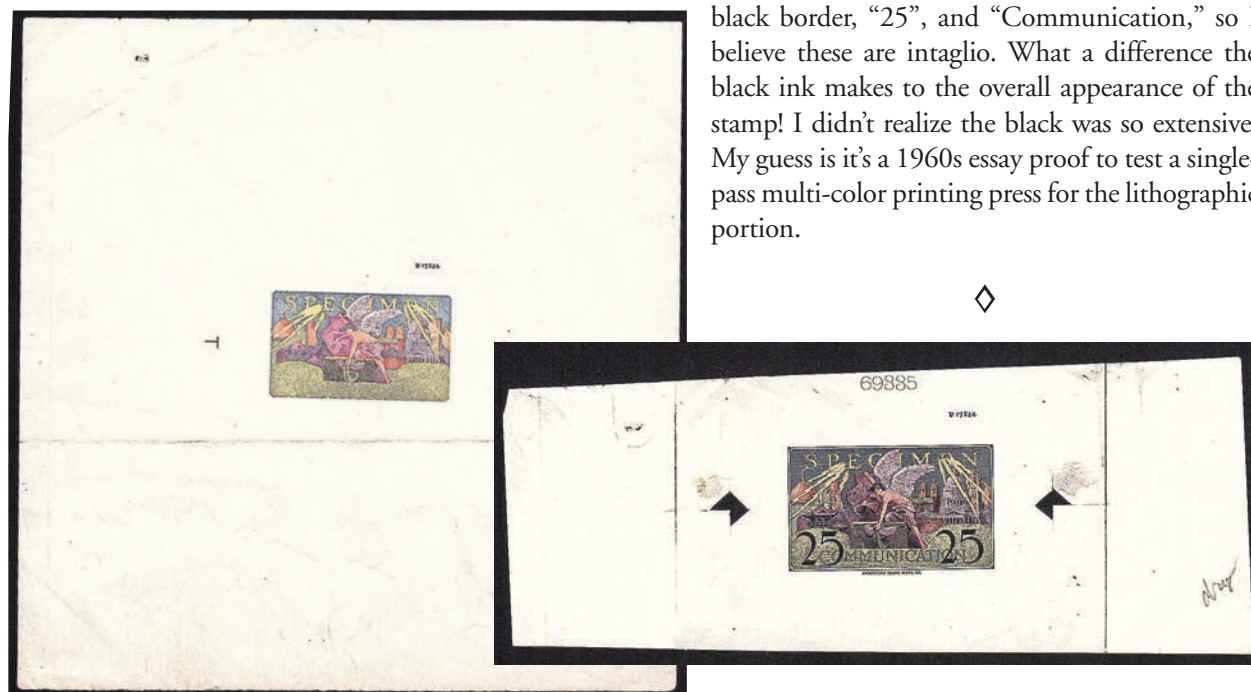
I recently purchased two ABNC “working proofs” — multi-color renditions of the Specimen Communication 25 stamps. The stamps are the same size as the mono-color example that appears in the 1931 promotional demonstration stamp booklet (see SCJ 4Q 2020, p. 10). They are on coated proof paper (somewhat soiled and creased), similar to what would be used for stamps but ungummed. It is not as thin as India paper and not as thick as bond. A hand-written file number in blue (D17524) is the same on both.

One shows the color lithographic portion only and the other shows the full rendition with the black intaglio ink added. As far as the lithographed portions, they may not be offset lithography, as I see no evidence

of dots or a lithographic screen. It may be a different lithographic process because the colors are comprised of rectangles and lines. Also, the printing of the colored portions is flat, suggesting lithography. A bit of a mystery, but I have to believe it was printed using some type of lithographic process.

I looked at the stamp under magnification from many different angles and could find no evidence of it being hand-colored. Such items typically have a pastel-like dullness to the hand-colored areas with variations as to the weight of the lines, with the heavier weighted lines having a slight shine to them. I have a number of hand-colored French proofs and the difference is discernible.

The only raised portions I could feel were the black border, “25”, and “Communication,” so I believe these are intaglio. What a difference the black ink makes to the overall appearance of the stamp! I didn’t realize the black was so extensive. My guess is it’s a 1960s essay proof to test a single-pass multi-color printing press for the lithographic portion.





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On the cover: Unissued 1869 design for \$50 U.S. Note (see article on page 16).

Back cover: 1880s winter vignettes, engraved for Baldwin & Gleason (ABNC).

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Submission deadlines for ads, articles, comments, etc. are: **Dec. 1** (First Quarter issue); **March 1** (Second Quarter); **June 1** (Third Quarter); and **Sept. 1** (Fourth Quarter). Your cooperation in meeting these goals is appreciated.

Membership information and Dues (\$25/yr.; \$45/2yrs.; \$65/3 yrs.); **please inquire with Greg Alexander (SCCS1981@yahoo.com) regarding renewals.** Requests for back issues and information concerning this Journal, including submission of articles and advertising inquiries, should be addressed to the **Editor.** Thanks!

Visit the SCCS website at www.souvenircards.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A. Stephen Patrick

The third quarter of 2021 was perhaps the most exciting three months in many years for the SCCS. I left Florida on August 7 and picked up member John Parker outside Atlanta. We visited returning member **Gene Hessler** near Cincinnati and continued to Rosemont for the ANA and APS conventions. Our VP **Greg Alexander** soon joined me to help man the Society tables and deliver our greatly anticipated 40th anniversary card.

As of this issue, all current members should have their copy in-hand. **Paul Melnick** loaned us four of his engraved printing plates and Capital City Engraving in Maryland ran seven passes with five colors to produce our card. We owe much gratitude to Greg for managing this project.

On Wednesday, August 11, we held our annual meeting at the ANA show, with about 15 present. Thursday I moved to the APS Convention in a separate hall upstairs and manned a second society table. By Sunday afternoon, we had 24 new SCCS members! The annual card for \$25 came with a "free" membership or a new membership came with a free card – you get the picture.

We also had a successful sale of Q cards designed by **Lee Quast** for Summer FUN, the ANA, and the APS conventions. The 4" x 5" engraving of Robert E. Lee was done by Mexican-American engraver Armandina Lozano, who worked for the Banco de Mexico, the Jeffries BNCo, and engraved the Columbus portrait on SO-108 for ABNC. A quantity of her engravings were eventually obtained by Lee, who overprinted the cards for the shows. He donated most of the proceeds from the cards sold this summer, which added several hundred dollars to the SCCS bank account – a big thank you goes out to Lee for his generosity.

Another thanks goes to **John and Nancy Wilson**, life members who are beginning to downsize their collections. They donated \$100 for the good of the society in recognition of the fine work that Greg is doing as editor for the SCCS journal.

I would also like to recognize **Gene Hessler** for his gift of a number of American Bank Note engravings that he obtained as a result of working for them for

10 years. These are surplus large size engraved vellum sheets that the ABNC prepared for their 1975 annual reports, but did not trim down. The theme of the 11½" x 16" sheet is the signing of the Declaration of Independence with two vignettes and eight portraits of signers. These were used as an additional show bonus to entice new members.

Speaking of shows, we will have a SCCS table at the Winter FUN convention in January 2022 at Orlando, Florida. Plans are also being made to have a society table at the FLOREX stamp show at Kissimmee, FL, December 3-5, 2021. I will be inviting the 20 SCCS members who live in Florida for a special meeting on Friday of the show, but all members are welcome. We will have one or more presentations on souvenir cards, a possible session off-floor for buy/sell/trade, perhaps a meal together and sharing experiences in card collecting. I will send a further email as plans solidify. A further draw will be a possible sale of cards donated to the SCCS. A retired New York card collector named Mike Skutinski contacted me in August and said he wanted his cards to "find a nice home" and to benefit the society. Thank you, Mike.

We'd like to introduce a new SCCS officer! As our older members know, **William Kriebel** took a serious fall in early 2020. He is much improved, but has moved closer to his family, near Boston, and is stepping back from his SCCS duties. At Rosemont, a volunteer came forward to replace him as Treasurer: **Dr. Brian Christian**, a dentist from Centre Hall, PA, who currently serves as treasurer for two civic organizations. Brian originally joined the Society way back in 1981, then lapsed for some years, but recently decided to get more actively involved. He helped me man the tables in Rosemont, and once a new SCCS bank account is established, he will oversee our finances. Thank you, Brian, and thank you, Bill, for your many years of service. As our longest serving Journal editor (28 years), we are naming you Editor Emeritus, which comes with a Life membership.

This is the last Journal issue of 2021, so just a reminder that renewals for expiring memberships are due by January. Greg will have more on that in his Editor's Message. We have about 25 life members who may want to follow the Wilson's example and

make a year-end donation for the good of the club. With the added costs of this year's special annual card, we could use a little extra to boost our bottom line.

I became president in August 2018 at the APS Philadelphia show and have since attended the two national shows in Chicago. I may not make another trip like that due to costs and the fact I turn 75 next month. In these last few years, I have signed about 40 new members to the SCCS. I treasure the many friend-

ships I have made from our collector community. It's a great hobby. If someone else would like to take over in 2022, let me know. But these next four months will be full speed ahead.

Please keep safe and get that COVID booster shot, if you qualify.



The ANA World's Fair of Money (left) had more dealers and covered more territory, but the APS Great American Stamp Show (below) had much more exhibit space and better visibility for the SCCS booth.



New member Scott McGowan (left), secretary of the Chicago Coin Club, and Brian Christian, new SCCS treasurer.



The SCCS annual meeting, held August 11 at the ANA show, had an even dozen members attending, one of our best turnouts in recent years.



ANA Governor and SCCS member Cliff Mishler stopped by the table.



Steve Costner (left) and Greg Alexander man the SCCS table, which was tucked away near the ANA exhibit area. Upstairs at the APS show, Steve Patrick had more room to spread out (below).



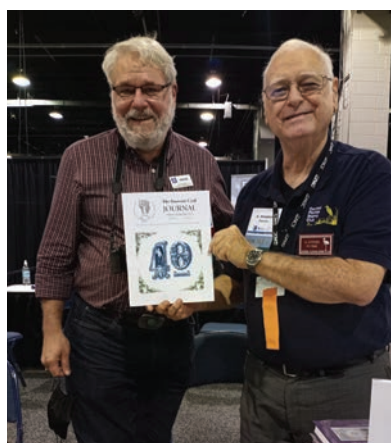
Life member John Wilson and his wife Nancy, show off the 40th anniversary card that was unveiled at the ANA show.



Steve offered educational presentations at both shows: "Currency You Can't Spend" (ANA) and "What is a Souvenir Card?" (APS).



If you squint, you can make out the SCCS in the lower right of the ANA show poster.



Philatelic editor Wayne Youngblood (left) and APS Executive Director Scott English were just two of the many visitors to the table that Steve recruited as new SCCS members.

Greetings to all — it was a great pleasure to meet so many SCCS members at the dual APS/ANA shows in Chicago back in August! As Steve mentioned, our 40th anniversary card was a big hit and a great enticement to bring some new members into the fold. We distributed these cards to all the current and new members in attendance and when I got back home I mailed out about 100 more. As a cost-saving measure, the last batch is going out with the hard copies of the Journal. Members who receive it this way (and don't already have their card) should find one tucked within the pages of this issue. Anyone who receives a damaged card, or none at all, please let me know asap.

With a small stack of the 40th anniversary cards remaining, I am doing a media push to all the major numismatic and philatelic publications, in hopes of bringing in a few more new recruits. Press releases with some historical background on the SCCS and info about the special card went out to 18 hobby news sources; articles have already appeared in *Coin World* and the *Canadian Stamp News*. Keep your eye out!

There isn't space enough to list all two dozen of our new and returning members, but there are a number of high-profile folks you might be interested to hear about. One of our early members, renowned numismatic author **Gene Hessler**, is back on the active rolls following a significant in-kind donation. At the ANA show, former ANA president **Gary Lewis** joined us, along with **Robert Calderman**, VP of the Society of Paper Money Collectors. The APS show saw APS Executive Director **Scott English** sign up, as well as **Wayne Youngblood**, editor of the official publications of the American Stamp Dealers Association and the American Topical Association. A big welcome to all our new members — I look forward to your comments and contributions to the Journal!

This being the last issue of 2021, I'm alerting members of a slight dues increase that will affect some of you starting next year. After analyzing what it costs to print and mail the hard copies of the *Souvenir Card Journal*, we discovered our expenses were exceeding

our income. The majority of members are satisfied with receiving the full-color Journal electronically, as a PDF via email. For those who prefer to get a hard copy in their mailbox, dues starting in 2022 will be \$30/year, \$55/two years, and \$80 for three years. This is our first increase in 23 years and it follows the two-tier rates of many other hobby organizations. This won't immediately affect our newest members, since your one-year memberships will cover all of next year. Expiring members will receive a dues slip and return envelope in the next month or so.

Lastly, I received a very sweet letter to the editor from **John Wilson** that I'd like to share. It's always nice to get an "attaboy" from a long-time member and those of us who put in the hours to keep the SCCS going genuinely appreciate it:

*As a charter member, I appreciate all the work you do along with the rest of our officers and volunteers to keep us viable and solvent. **John Parker** donated \$25 at Summer FUN for the SCCS to be a patron for the Chicago World's Fair of Money. Thank you, John. We also commend **A. Stephen Patrick**, our President, for working so hard for the SCCS, as he always donates his time, cards, and money for the betterment of the Society. Thanks also to our web master **Rod Charlton II** for bringing us an outstanding internet product, which is easy to open and follow. **Lee Quast** our PR Director also is a long time supporter and worker for the SCCS. Finally our best wishes for **William Kriebel** who for several years kept us going, for without him we wouldn't have a SCCS today. I wish we, Nancy and I, could do more for the SCCS but our love is with ANA which commands most of our time. In any case, we are donating \$100 to the SCCS at the WFoM to use as you see fit.*

John (LM-SCCS) and Nancy Wilson

Thanks in return, to John and Nancy, for remaining members of the Society since 1981.



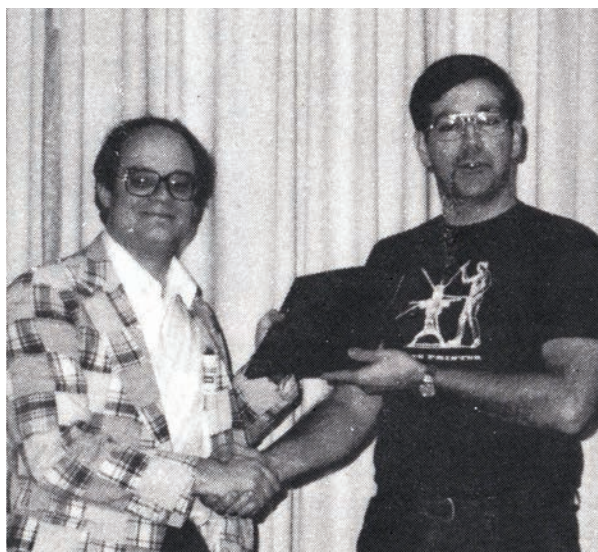
[Editor's Note: In celebration of our 40th year, I asked member #1 and SCCS founder **Curt Radford** to look back on some of his memories of starting the Society in 1981 and its early years.]

I wish my memory was better and I've misplaced my old issues of the Souvenir Card Journal, so most of this will be off the cuff. Forgive me if I leave out people or details but it has been so many years.

My soon-to-be 100-year-old father started me on collecting souvenir cards back in 1969. I had been a stamp collector since 1962. In the early days of card collecting there were three main advertisers dealing in souvenir cards: Russell Bell, Mike Armus (UNPA cards), and Herb Meisels. **Ken Barr**, Barry Fox, Mike Konnick, and other dealers later followed. These men and fellow collectors, such as souvenir card error specialist Donald Hitchcox, communicated with each other in hobby press articles and by mail.

I started work on the first issue of the SCJ while in medical school in late 1980. In 1981, I began my residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. With the support of the people above, the SCCS was launched via announcements in the philatelic press, including Linn's Stamp News, Stamps Magazine, The Bank Note Reporter, and The Essay-Proof Journal. I became the President, Editor, Secretary, and Treasurer of the newly organized Society. The SCJ was created on an old-fashioned typewriter and was printed in Rochester, Minnesota. How I did this with a busy residency in medicine and a new born baby girl is beyond me, and I have to thank my wife Kathy for putting up with it all these years.

Initially, 212 members joined as charter members! Our membership grew rapidly. At our peak we had around 1,200 members, all who loved and collected intaglio-printed souvenir cards. Ed Beers stepped forward as vice president and became a wonderful cheerleader for the SCCS. His wife Nancy brought him to our shows and meetings in a wheelchair with his ever-present big smile. He died much too young of complications of osteogenesis imperfecta. Our long-term secretary was the loyal Dana Marr who spent decades keeping track of all our members and sending out dues notices. Our first Treasurer after me was attorney Jay Jackson. Art Benjamin was involved from the beginning and even-



Mike Bean (right) representing the plate printers union, presents Curt Radford with a set of progressive proofs for the SCCS auction at the 1983 NAPEX show.

tually became President of the SCCS for many years.

When my busy practice made it impossible to continue to publish the SCJ, Robin Ellis and later **William Kriebel** took up the mantle and did a fantastic job as editors. More recently, the editorship has been assumed by the knowledgeable **Greg Alexander**. The Alexander editions of the SCJ are packed with knowledge, articles, and illustrations much like the Essay-Proof Journal of years ago. He, too, has done an incredible job and is to be commended.

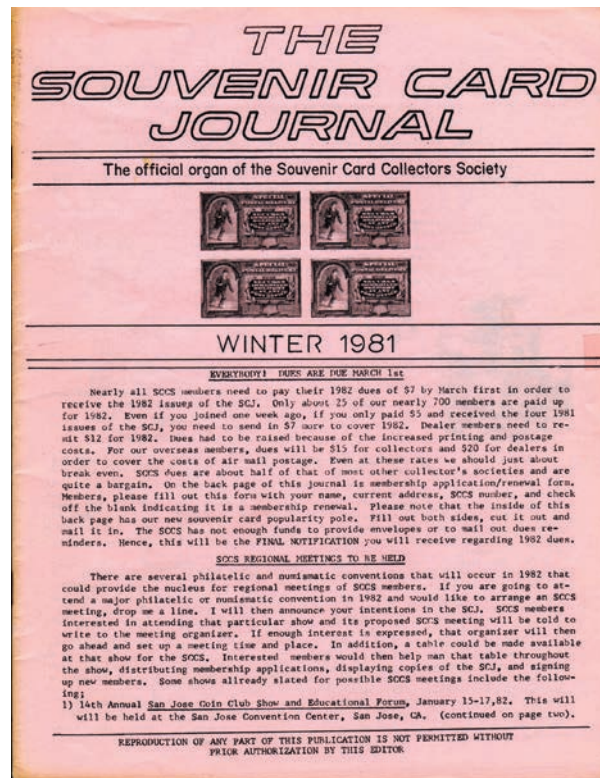
The SCCS's first endeavor was to articulate what a souvenir card was, and then to establish a numbering system for the growing numbers of cards. There were contradicting and confusing numbering systems by Scott's, Brookman, Russell Bell, and Frank Bruns. Members voted on and approved a modified system originated by Frank Bruns, who published the first catalog of souvenir cards in 1980. In 1989, with the help of Milton Friedberg, I published "The Souvenir Card Collectors Society Numbering System For Forerunner And Modern Day Souvenir Cards." Brookman catalog then listed their souvenir cards for many years using our numbering system.

The 1989 catalog was later followed by a 1992 supplement issued as Vol. 11, #2 of the Journal. Amaz-

ingly enough, this catalog is available on Amazon and Ebay today! Since that time, a number of new categories of souvenir cards have been catalogued, including many issued by the SCCS, its chapters, and its members. In 2008, SCCS president **William Kriebel** produced "Souvenir Cards: A Visual Reference" showing thumbnail illustrations of known souvenir cards and intaglio prints, which has since added several updates, the last in 2015. Now, **Greg Alexander** and others have uploaded pictures of each souvenir card to create an online visual reference guide on our web site.

The issuance of official cards peaked in the early 1990s and collector demand, particularly for philatelic cards, waned in later years. The American Bank Note Company stopped printing cards in 1996. The Bureau of Engraving & Printing no longer issues cards for specific shows and its Intaglio Print Program currently releases three or four cards a year, down from 14 in 1993. Retired BEP pressman **Michael Bean** (and SCCS Life member) stepped in to fill the niche, independently printing hundreds of intaglio cards in a variety of categories for more than 30 years. A loyal core group of members continues to collect souvenir cards in celebration of the fine art of intaglio engraving.

The souvenir card hobby and the SCCS has undergone considerable duress with the USPS, ABNCo, and ASDA no longer issuing souvenir cards. The SCCS has responded to this by creating an online presence and a discussion forum. Many of the past issues of the SCJ are down-loadable to members from our SCCS website. I think this will help again to increase interest in the souvenir card hobby and our membership. Currently, we have about 150 members.



The first Souvenir Card Journals were created on a typewriter, with colored paper covers. Within two years it had graduated to professional typesetting, a color printed cover, and content that sometimes stretched to more than 50 pages.

I sold and donated my souvenir card collection in the mid-1990s but did save a few favorite items. For the next 20 years, I enjoyed classic boating in a variety of old Chris Crafts. During that time, I was one of six founding members of the Chris Craft Commander Club (CCCC) which now has over 4,000 members all over the world. My Spanish stamp collection grew until a couple years ago when I sent it to Spain for auction. In more recent years, I have been collecting vintage audio equipment and music.

I still collect the large and quite rare World's Fair and Exposition diplomas given out since the mid-1800s until the 1930s. These were works of art by noted artists and engravers and were issued at expositions all over the world. The diplomas from 1900 and earlier were often printed in intaglio. Quite a few were prepared by security printers and a few were reprinted by the BEP. I plan on writing and listing many of them in future issues of the SCJ.

It is very gratifying to me to see the SCCS and the CCCC continue to thrive so many years after their founding. Thank you to all of you for your help, support, and encouragement over the past 40 years!



SCCS

BEP'S FIRST SPIDER PRESS CARDS

Greg Alexander

For many years I had heard that hand-pulled spider press versions of the Bureau's State Shield intaglio prints were raffled at shows in 1987 and '88, making them the first examples of this special, show-only category of cards. They are listed in the 1989 SCCS Numbering System catalog, but when it came to obtaining scans of these elusive cards, they were nowhere to be found.

There were no Souvenir Card Journals issued during 1988, instead the Society put the funds towards publishing the catalog. Consequently, any cards issued that year had no write-ups or illustrations, apart from a catalog listing, if one was warranted. Since these limited, hand-numbered BEP cards were completely new, they initially flew under the radar for any collector who didn't attend major coin shows during that time.

I was beginning to think they were a myth, when long-time member **Harry Corrigan** recently asked why they were not included in the Spider Press Gallery on the SCCS website. He then proceeded to supply me with scans of all three! I believe this is the first time they have been illustrated in the Journal.

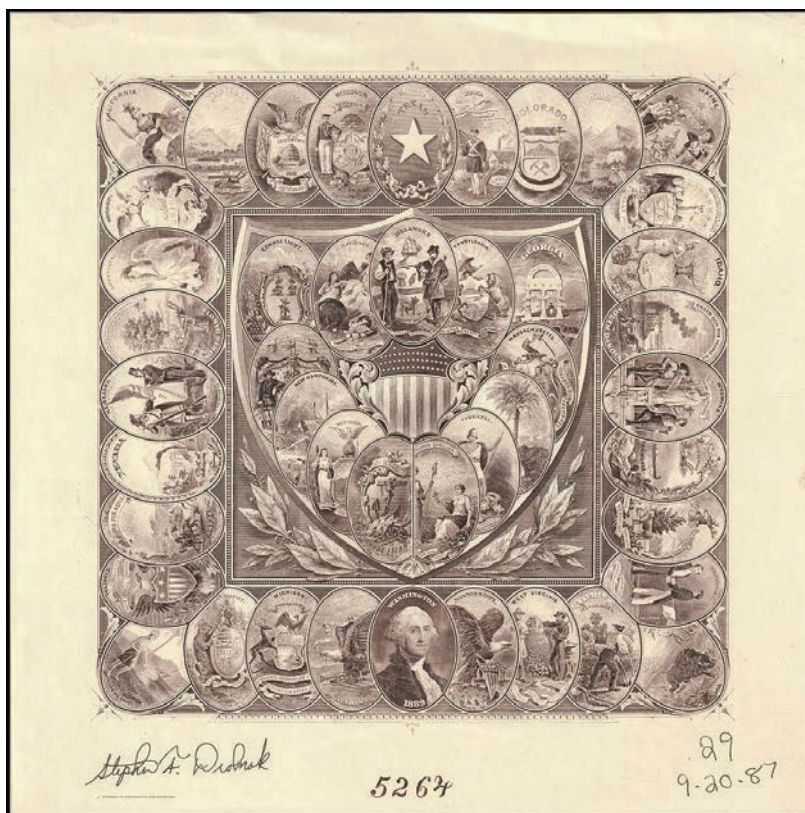
B-109A, the brown shield, was released at the 1987 Great Eastern Numismatic Association show (GENA 87) in Cherry Hill, NJ. Harry tells me this card is the only one of the three printed on slightly thinner card stock than the standard cards. B-113A (green) and B-117A (blue), were issued at FUN 88 in Orlando and ANA 88 in Cincinnati, respectively.

All of the hand-pulled cards use the same ink color as the standard cards, but show slightly lighter imprints when compared. The engravings on these spider press cards are also shifted upward on the cards by a small amount, usually about 1/4 inch, leaving a bit more margin at the bottom. Two cards also measure a fraction smaller than the standard cards, which are listed as 9.5" square — B-113A is 9.375" x 9.3" and B-117A is 9.3" x 9.5".

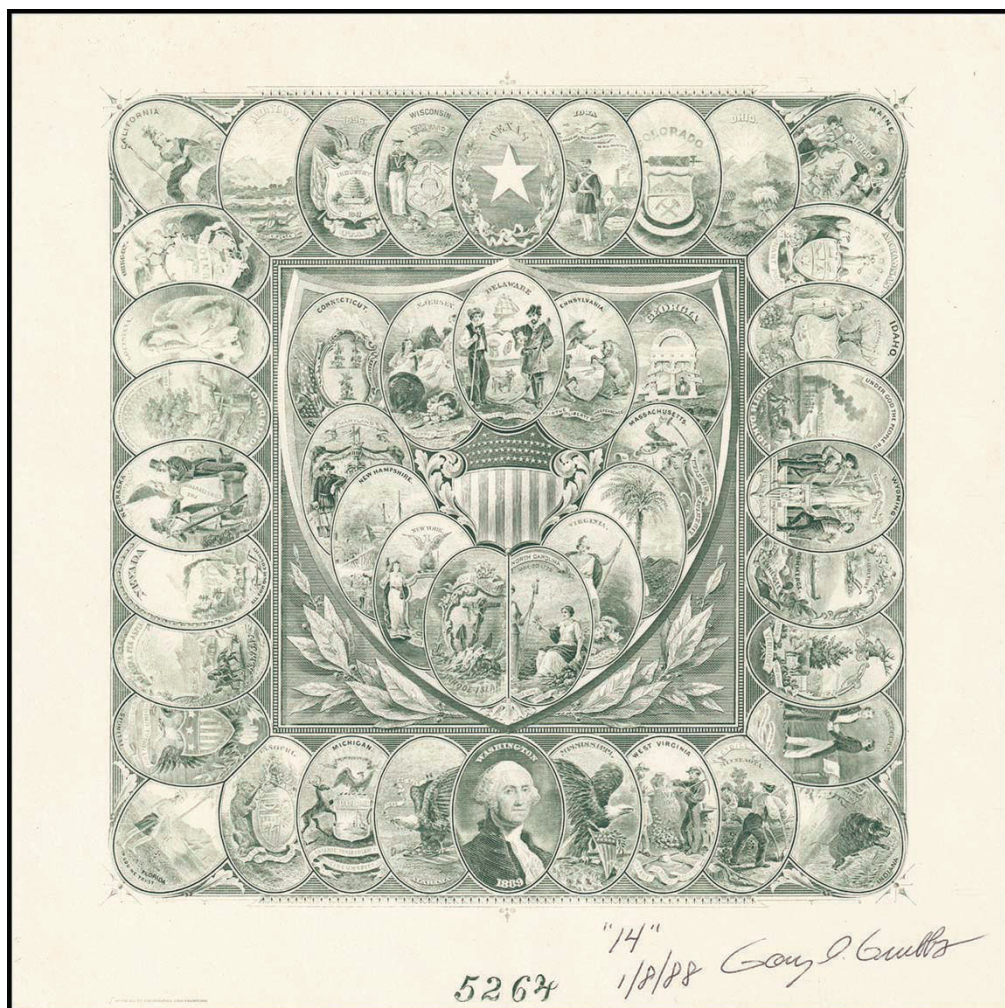
Of course, the most apparent difference is that these cards are signed and hand-numbered by the BEP pressmen who were on-hand at the shows to demonstrate the spider press. At the time, the Bureau was rotating their staff at each show, so the cards were signed by Stephen Drobnak (GENA 87), Gary Grubby (FUN 88), and **Michael Bean** (ANA 88).

Obviously, all of these cards are considered quite scarce. The SCCS catalog cites production numbers of 30 for B-109A (tying with B-128 for the rarest known BEP card), 35 for B-113A, and 50 for B-117A.

If you visit the Spider Press gallery you'll find many rarely-seen examples and you may also notice we are still seeking accurate numbers of how many hand-pulled cards were sold at the early shows. If you can provide any information that will help us fill in the blanks, please contact me.

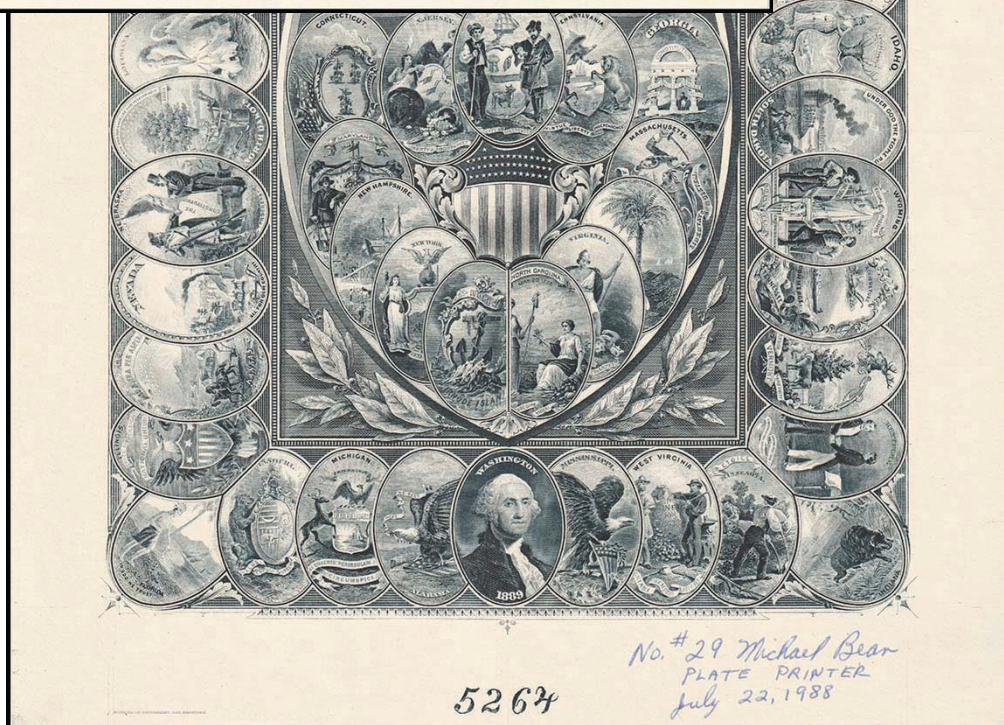


B-109A



B-113A

B-117A



LOCALLY PRODUCED USPS SOUVENIR CARDS

Don Epp

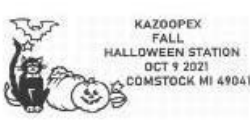
Every so often, a souvenir card appears that was clearly a product of the United States Postal Service (USPS) but was not a part of its national souvenir card program, as listed in the PS category of the SCCS Catalog. These are cards produced by a local post office to commemorate an event taking place within its postal district. Such cards are supplemental to the USPS Pictorial Postmark program, so every card distributed must receive a postmark. While not common today, quite a few of these cards were created for events that occurred during the 1970s through the 1990s. **Stephen Patrick** touched on these cards in his article, "Private Souvenir Cards," which appeared in the 4Q 2018 Journal. The following is a more in-depth look at local USPS souvenir cards and how they came into being.

The creation of local souvenir cards is tied inextricably to the Pictorial Postmark program, as described in USPS Publication 186. The postmark is the primary USPS product created for local events and the production of any additional items is left to the discretion of the local postmaster. Most times, a pictorial postmark is created at the behest of a local organization, such as a philatelic club, numismatic club, chamber of commerce, or school. The associated events may include historical anniversaries, philatelic and numismatic exhibitions, fairs, conventions, special sporting events, and other appropriate happenings. The sponsoring organization must provide a camera-ready design for the desired postmark. It must include the pictorial artwork along with the name of the temporary postal station, location (city, state, zip code), and date (month, day, year). For events that span several days, the date can be changed, as needed, but the rest of the postmark must remain the same. If it includes any copyrighted design, corporate logo, depiction of a person living or dead, or any similar reference, a letter giving specific authorization to use the image must be provided to the postal service. Examples of current pictorial postmarks, along with the names of the sponsoring organizations, is shown in Figure 1.

Upon submission and approval of the postmark design, the USPS will produce the picto-

rial postmark hand-canceling device at no cost to the sponsor. It is interesting to note the Postal Service specifically distinguishes between postmarks and cancellations. A postmark is intended to show the post office of origin and the date and time of mailing. A cancellation is intended to deface a stamp to prevent reuse. While a postmark can be used to cancel a stamp, a cancellation can never be used to postmark a stamp.

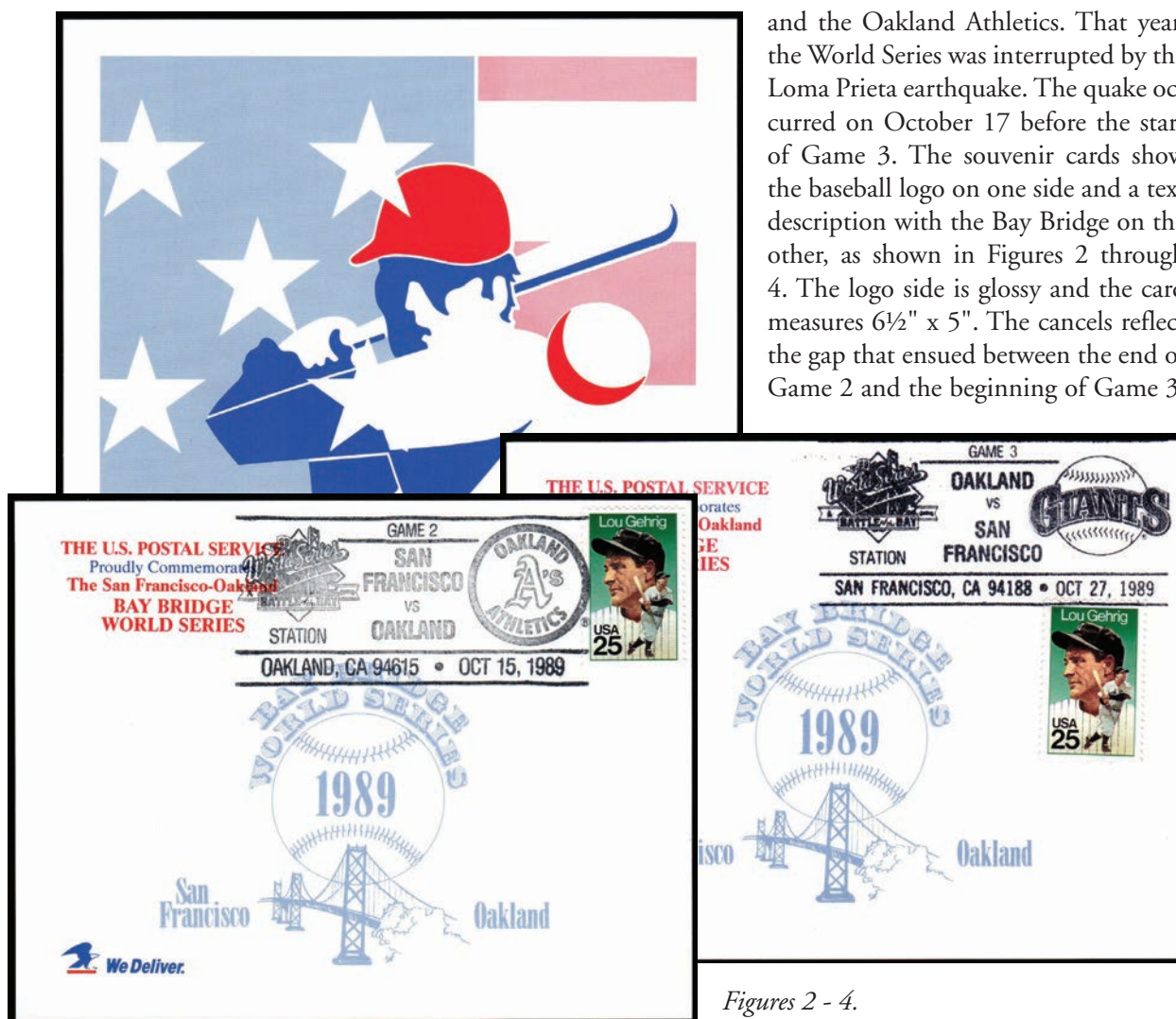
Figure 1.

	October 8, 2021 City of Peshtigo Peshtigo Fire Sesquicentennial Station Postmaster PO Box 9998 Peshtigo, WI 54157-9998
	October 8-10, 2021 United States Postal Service San Diego Stamp Show Station Postmaster 11251 Rancho Carmel Drive San Diego, CA 92199-9998
	October 8-10, 2021 Bob Evans Farm Festival Farm Festival Station Postmaster 408 West College Street Rio Grande, OH 45674-9998
	October 8-17, 2021 United States Postal Service Oil Dorado Station Postmaster 427 North Street Taft, CA 93268-9998
	October 9, 2021 United States Postal Service KAZOOPEX Fall Halloween Station Postmaster PO Box 9998 Comstock, MI 49041-9998
	October 9, 2021 United States Postal Service SW Meetup Station Postmaster PO Box 9998 Bosque, NM 87006-9998
	October 9-10, 2021 Catoctin Colorfest 57th Catoctin Colorfest Arts and Craft Show Station Postmaster 110 Water Street Thurmont, MD 21788-9998
	October 15, 2021 United States Postal Service Breast Cancer Awareness Month Station Postmaster 301 Green Street, Suite 200 Fayetteville, NC 28301-9998

At the event, the USPS will set up a retail station to sell stamps and postmark items. This may be a booth for larger events or no more than a seat at a table for smaller events. The USPS usually relies on the sponsoring organization or an attendee to provide the items on which the stamps and postmarks will be affixed. These may include envelopes with pictorial cachets, club-sponsored private souvenir cards, or any other item that is eligible to be sent through the mails. Occasionally, the USPS will provide envelopes, but these will either be blank or only show the generic USPS logo. No items from these stations are sent through the mails, however, and are only available on a hand-back basis. People who do not attend the event may submit a self-addressed stamped envelope in which an item receiving a pictorial postmark may be sent, but the postmarked item itself cannot be sent, as is, through the mails.

For major events of national interest or significant local interest, a postmaster may decide to initiate the pictorial postmark process on behalf of the local post office itself. As the sponsoring organization, the local office is responsible for providing the postmark design and the items to which stamps and postmarks will be affixed. This results in the creation of local USPS souvenir cards and cacheted covers. The same rules apply as though the USPS was a private sponsoring organization. The determining factor for the local post office to undertake this responsibility is usually whether it is economically feasible. It is expected to either make money or, at least, cover all costs. Consequently, the local postmaster often reserves such ventures to major sporting or music events or to those related to postal service history.

One such event was the 1989 Bay Bridge World Series between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics. That year, the World Series was interrupted by the Loma Prieta earthquake. The quake occurred on October 17 before the start of Game 3. The souvenir cards show the baseball logo on one side and a text description with the Bay Bridge on the other, as shown in Figures 2 through 4. The logo side is glossy and the card measures 6½" x 5". The cancels reflect the gap that ensued between the end of Game 2 and the beginning of Game 3.



Figures 2 - 4.

The Oakland A's swept the series in four games.

Another baseball event was the 1985 All-Star Game at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, shown in Figure 5. This local USPS card measures 8½" x 5½" and features the Roberto Clemente stamp.

Still on the baseball theme is a second day of issue card for the Lou Gehrig stamp, presented in Figure 6. The card was produced by the local New York post office and bears a commemorative



Figure 5.

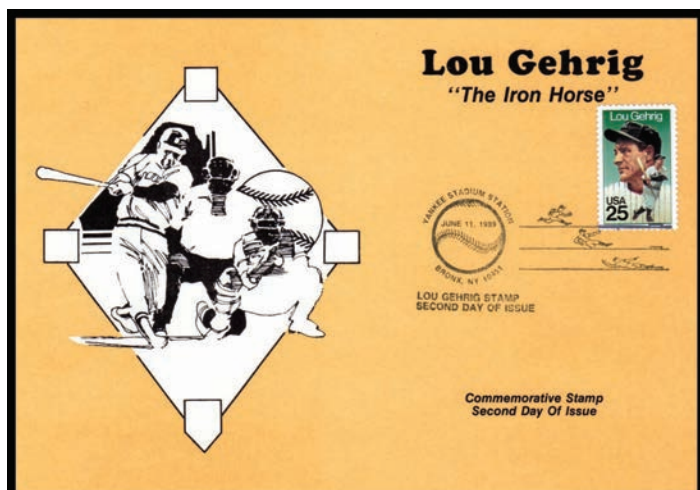


Figure 6.

postmark honoring Gehrig issued at Yankee Stadium. The card is one-sided and measures 8½" x 6". Local USPS sponsorship of second-day pictorial postmarks appears to occur somewhat frequently for both cards and commemorative covers.

Another second day of issue baseball-related card is for the 1983 Babe Ruth stamp. The front and back of the card are shown respectively as Figures 7 and 8. The card was created by the Denver post office and measures 8½" x 5½". It took a bit of research to decipher the

card and figure out why Denver would hold a stamp ceremony for a New York baseball legend like Babe Ruth. As it turns out, the Denver Bears Single-A minor league team was affiliated with the New York Yankees in 1947 and moved to Mile High Stadium the following year.

Note the instructions on the back indicate the local postmaster failed to follow USPS regulations in the handling of these cards. They were sold without postmarks at the post office and



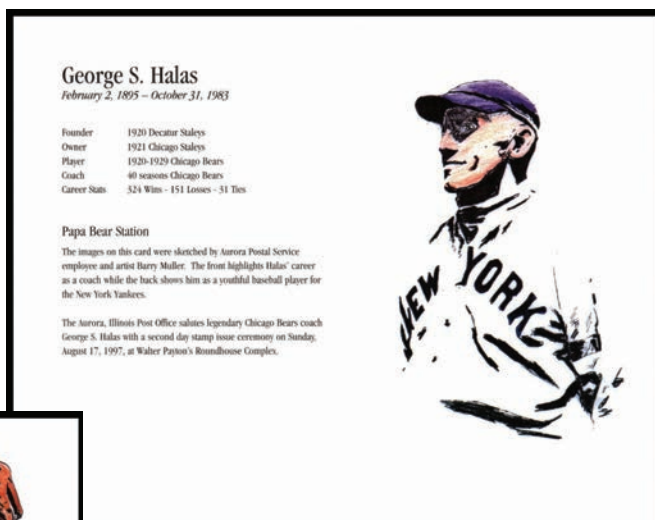
Instructions

1. Pick up card at Post Office.
2. Bring card to Mile High Stadium on Sunday, July 10, 1983—Ceremony will be 1:00 P.M.
3. Purchase Babe Ruth Stamp at stadium (location will be announced at game).
4. Affix stamp to card.
5. Clerk will postmark with special Philatelic Cancellation.

Figures 7 - 8.

relied on the purchaser to bring them to the stamp ceremony, have a stamp affixed, and have the card postmarked. The method of distributing this card suggests it was available in mint condition.

Another second day of issue card was produced by the Aurora (IL) post office for the 1997 George Halas stamp. This colorful card is two-sided and measures 10" x 8". It portrays "Papa Bear" Halas as the Chicago Bears great on the front side and as a New York Yankee (not so great) on the reverse.



Figures 9 -10.

Who knew George Halas was a New York Yankee! Both sides of the card are shown in Figures 9 and 10, respectively.

Another sporting event that generated the production of local USPS cards is horse racing. Figures 11 and 12 show two cards from the 1993 and 1994 Belmont Stakes races. The 1993 card is linen-finished with gold metallic enhancements. The 1994 card has a faux-laid paper finish with a printed black border and insignia. Both cards measure 7" x 5" and were contained in a USPS Triboro District folder. It is likely similar cards were produced by local post offices for the Kentucky Derby and for the Preakness Stakes races.



Figures 11 - 12.

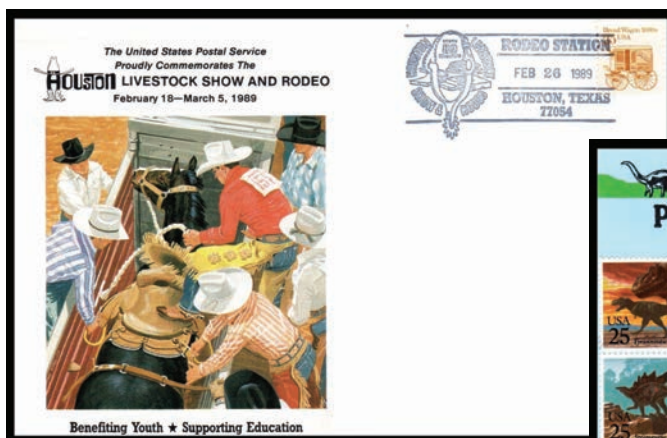


Figure 13.

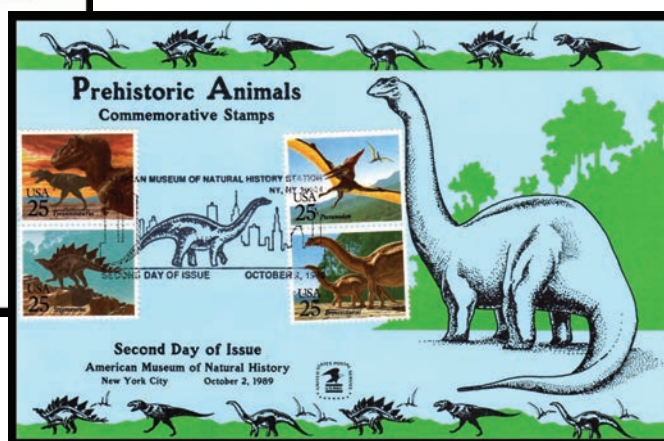


Figure 14.

Keeping with the animal theme is a card for the 1989 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. The card pictured in Figure 13 features a cowboy about to mount a bucking bronco in the chute and measures 8½" x 5½". The graphic design of the word "Houston" with the "H" as a cowboy is stylish and inventive.



Figure 15.

And how about a few more animals – in this case, prehistoric ones. The card in Figure 14, measuring 8½" x 5½", shows the four Prehistoric Animals stamps issued in 1989. It was produced by the New York post office and features a dinosaur second-day postmark presented at the American Museum of Natural History.

The USPS also produces souvenir cards for public service campaigns it promotes. The 1990 card shown in Figure 15 conveys the New York Letter Carriers Union's support of racial harmony. It features the "We Deliver" stamp and measures 8" x 4½".

The final locally produced USPS card shown (Figure 16), measuring 8½" x 5½", is for the 1984 Republican National Convention. It was held at the Dallas Convention Center and the postmark includes a stylized GOP elephant in the design. The card subsequently received an Inauguration Day cancellation for the 1985 inaugural of Ronald Reagan.

There are undoubtedly many more souvenir cards out there that were produced by local USPS offices. It would be interesting to see if any were ever released that did not receive a postmark.



Figure 16.

It has always seemed odd that we have souvenir cards issued by the Washington (DC) Chapter 1 of the SCCS and by Metro (NYC) Chapter 4, but nothing in between. There must have been chapters established for two other regions at one time, but when and where?

While paging through some of my old Souvenir Card Journals I happened upon the answer, as described in the article below from the Fall 1985 issue.

SCCS Chapters 2 and 3 were formed following the lead of the DC chapter, which was organized in July of 1985. Soon after, member Frank Clark started Chapter 2 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This inspired Robin Ellis, our Journal editor at the time, to form another chapter for the southern part of the state, which he named the "Republic of Texas" Chapter (Robin lived in San Antonio).

In retrospect, two chapters in one state seems a bit

optimistic, even in a large state like Texas. In any case, by the time the Society's metro New York chapter was launched in January of 1992, it was designated Metro Chapter 4.

So what became of Texas chapters 2 and 3? In short, nothing. While the Washington chapter was quite active for many years (owing to the proximity of the BEP), Texas didn't seem to have the enthusiasm to support regional SCCS chapters. After the initial announcement there was little mention of them and as the years passed the chapters were generally forgotten.

I suppose an enterprising Texas member (we have 11) could revive either or both, if they felt compelled. However, Florida seems to be the state currently leading the pack for most members with a total of 19. Do I hear a motion for Chapter 5?



LOCAL CHAPTERS FORMED

Three local chapters have been formed by members of the Society - one in the nation's capital, one in north Texas, and one in south Texas.

Doug Hall ("Washington Scene"; SCCS 331) told me in mid-July, that local members in Washington had formed a chapter so they were accorded the title of Chapter 1. No officers, positions or policies have as yet been confirmed, I believe, but, as details are given to me I shall pass them on.

On 30 July I received a letter from Frank Clark (SCCS 264) to tell me of the formation of the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex Chapter, at a then-recent meeting of local members. Again, no specifics but these too will come, I expect. They are Chapter 2. Frank may be contacted at (214) 270-9905 or P.O. Box 25248, Dallas, TX 75225.

After Frank's letter, and thinking about my part of the world, I decided to form a chapter, also, so along came Chapter 3. Covering a large part of the state, with general area beginning at the Louisiana state line near Nacogdoches and then going on to Waco, San Angelo and dropping to Eagle Pass, on the U.S.-Mexico border, it is the "Republic of Texas" chapter. The name is fitting because all the included territory was heavily involved in the early formation of the state. The nine members living in this area, without including myself, were invited to become founding members of the chapter. Probably, due to area involved, formation of the chapter will be very loose and meetings few (annually?). For officers, I have suggested one position only and Charles E. Blankenship, of San Marcos (SCCS 317) has volunteered. He will be our recording secretary and the Chapter is now in his hands.

Robin Ellis

FLORIDA MEMBER ALERT

Steve Patrick is planning to host a club table for the SCCS at the upcoming FLOREX show, set for Dec. 3-5 at the Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee, Florida. There will be a souvenir card issued at the show and at least two PowerPoint presentations with show-and-tell sessions. Steve is also working on setting up a buy/sell/trade session off the floor. Shows details can be found online at www.florex-stampshow.com or contact Steve at spatrick3@cfl.rr.com.

In 1994, the BEP used the theme “Unfinished Masterpieces” for their souvenir card series. These cards featured currency designs that were never completed and remained unissued and largely unknown to the collector world. These included a \$10 battleship silver certificate (B-182), which was eventually modified into the famous 1901 “Bison Note.” There were other denominations and currency forms that, for various reasons, did not make it into production.

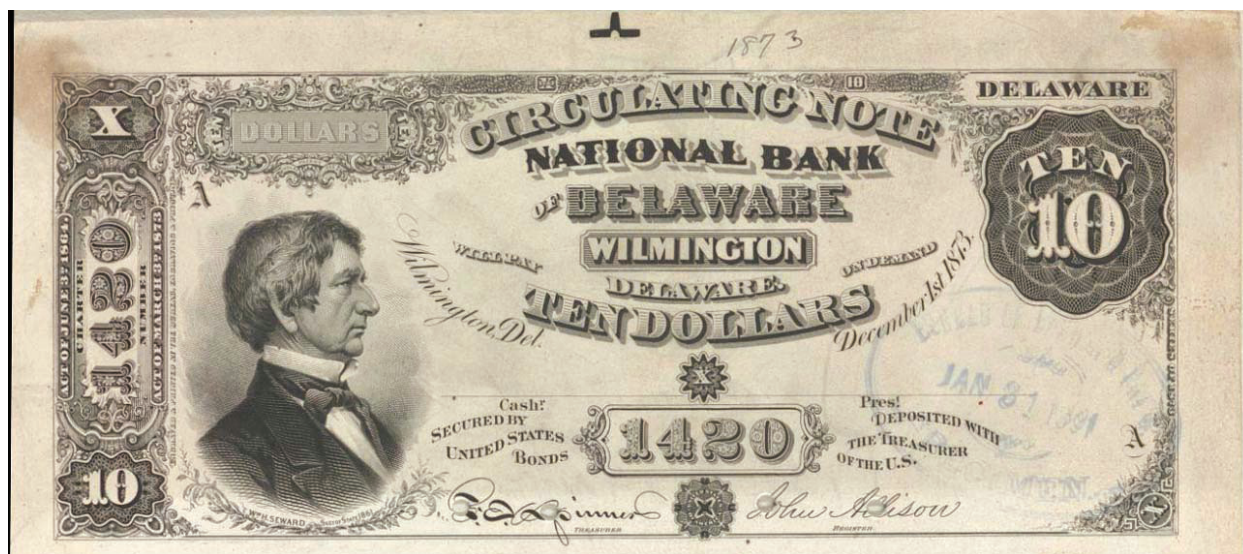
In my ongoing exploration of the Bureau’s Certified Proof Collection (see 3Q 2021 SCJ, p. 22), I have come across a couple of these designs in proof form. However, most of the unfinished currency from the 1994 cards was put on hold early in the process. The certified proofs, as their name suggests, had reached the late stage of certification, meaning they were very close to being printed and put into circulation.

What I’ve been pleased to discover is that there were a good number of other currency examples that *almost* made it into the nation’s banks and pocketbooks — but were held back by the Treasury at the last minute. Full plates were prepared and approved by the BEP,

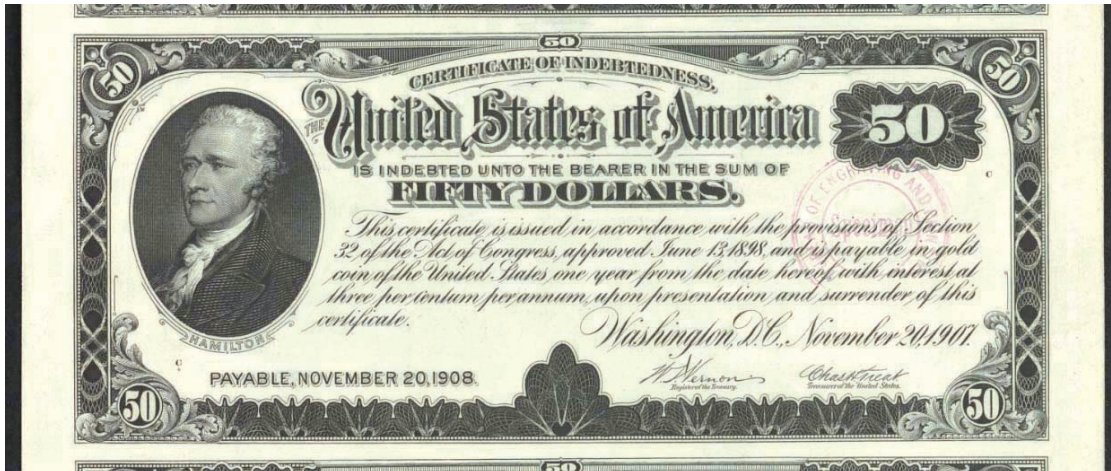
but never used. Rather than unfinished masterpieces, these would more appropriately be called “Unissued Masterpieces.”

Because much of the Smithsonian’s digital collection of these BEP proofs is not easily searchable, I have been posting new finds online at PaperMoney-Forum.com (the host of our souvenir card forum). But for members who don’t spend much time online, I thought I’d compile some of the more interesting discoveries in an article. And as you browse, consider how nice these might look on future souvenir cards.

Let’s start with the Series of 1869 \$50 U.S. Note, shown on this issue’s cover. There is a single four-up sheet among the certified proofs. According to **Gene Hessler’s** “U.S. Essay, Proof and Specimen Notes” this was a design suggested by Spencer Clark, the first chief of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, when it was in its infancy. Ultimately, the design was altered in favor of the larger head portraits. The vignette of “The Return of Peace” was slightly re-engraved and moved to the left side, with Henry Clay’s portrait to the right.



Circulating Notes, ironically, never reached circulation. This unissued form of national bank notes was hurriedly designed following a bit of chaotic legislation passed in March of 1873. \$1, \$2, \$5, and \$10 designs were prepared, but only the \$10 was close to completion by June 1874, when the National Bank Act was amended and work on this series came to a halt. Four-up face plates for a total of 10 different national banks were prepared.



These \$50 Certificates of Indebtedness resulted from the Panic of 1907 as a way to shore up the national banks during a narrow window of time. Although they looked like currency, they paid 3% interest so they were more akin to a bond. Technically, these certificates were “issued” but they were never intended to circulate among the general population, instead being held for a short time by the national banks. The immediate banking crisis was soon averted and these were quickly withdrawn.

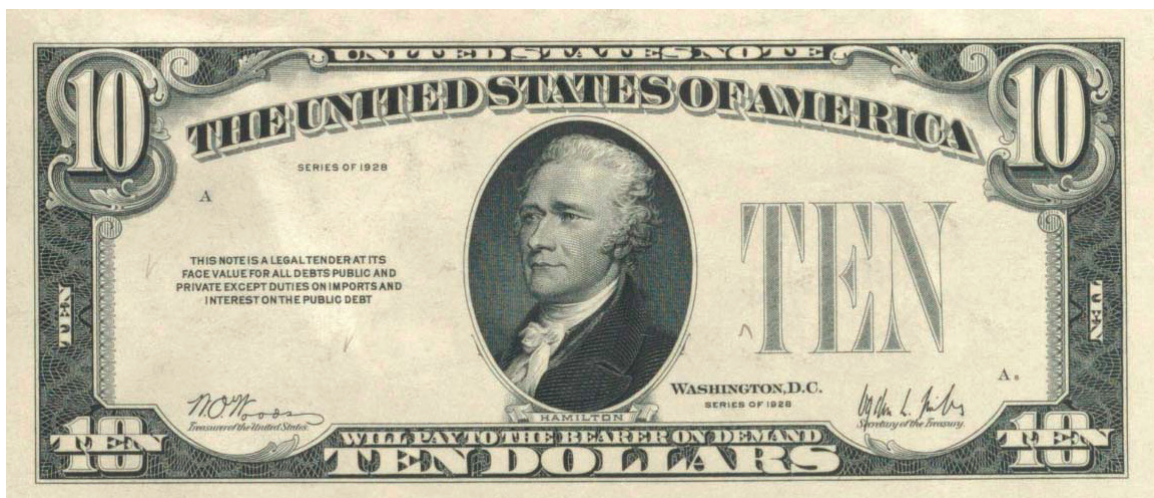


Numeric seals are known on the \$5 to \$100 small size 1928 Federal Reserve Notes, but not the \$500. Full plates had been made for 8 of the 12 FR banks when they switched to the alphabetic designations now in use.

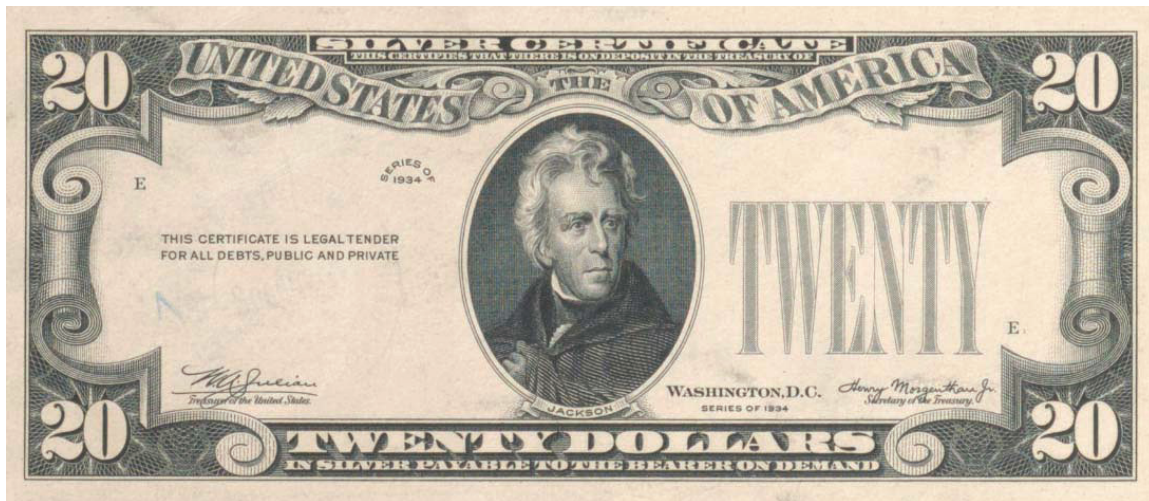




Front and back plates had already been prepared for the Third Issue 15¢ fractional currency notes when, in 1866, Congress passed an act prohibiting the portrayal of living persons on federal currency. Since generals Sherman and Grant were still alive, this design had to be scrapped. But not before the Fractional Shields had been assembled for sale to banks, as anti-counterfeiting comparison devices. This odd 8-up layout was probably used to print face proofs for the shields, with ultra wide margins that prevented the signatures from extending into neighboring notes.



It took some time for the Treasury to figure out which forms of currency would appear on which denominations, following the reduction to small size notes that began with the Series of 1928. In anticipation, the BEP created 12-up production plates for a \$10 U.S. Note, which would have been issued with a red Treasury seal. Plates for a \$20 U.S. Note were also created. Instead, Federal Reserve Notes were used and no red seal \$10s or \$20s were ever issued.



In 1934, when silver certificates were printed for the \$1, \$5, and \$10 denominations, the Bureau also prepared plates for the \$20 and \$100, just in case. These higher value “blue seals” were never put into production.



Starting in the '90s, U.S. currency has included a darker Federal Reserve System seal on the \$5 notes and up. But, as shown on this 1975 experimental FRN, the Bureau was considering new designs much earlier.

MEMBERS' EXCHANGE

Membership

Wanted: Your free ad here! Contact the Editor at **SCCS1981@yahoo.com** or by snail mail (see Board of Directors, page 1). Ads will be repeated four times, unless you request otherwise. There is NO charge.

3

Want to Trade, Buy or Sell: Assorted ASDA issued souvenir cards mint, SC and FDI from 1974 to 2010. Contact: **hhweber@att.net** or **Hans Weber, 6555 Rycroft Dr., Riverside, CA 92506-5314, 951-318-8684.**

C

For Sale: Washington Chapter One is offering computer-generated color cards. Send a SASE (55¢) for the full-color list. **John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309-0035**

C

BUYING selected BEP, ABNCo., USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir cards. Please see the "Buying List"

on my website www.kenbarr.com or write for a hard copy. (Selling, too!) **Ken Barr, P.O. Box 32541, San Jose, CA 95152.**

C

For Sale: SO-164 Gross Gallery Opening Souvenir Card, mint, \$4 ppd. Send Check to Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005. For multiple copies contact **LCB1941@att.net**

Wanted: BEP Portrait-Vignette cards of the three most recent Supreme Court Chief Justices: Warren Burger, William Rehnquist, and John Roberts. Please email **Greg Alexander** at **SCCS1981@yahoo.com**

Wanted Trade or Buy: Assorted BEP, Veterans, SO, USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir or non-souvenir cards — Duck, Private, etc. Please contact **Fredemw@gmail.com** or **Fred Geissler, 11681 Kahns Road, Manassas, VA 20112.**

Souvenir Cards Available from Issuing Organizations

The first official souvenir cards of 2021 were issued earlier this summer and others were released at the ANA/APS Chicago shows in August. Many cards from previous events remain on sale at original prices:

American Philatelic Society

stamps.org; search for "Souvenir"

Available: Most cards issued from 2011 to 2017 (APS-44 to 57), including show-cancelled and sets, from \$2 to \$8.

Ameri-Show Cards

www.souvenircards.org/gallery/Q/Q.html

Available: 30+ intaglio card varieties from past shows at original prices, most \$5 to \$10 (see list on SCCS website). Show cards for the Chicago APS show were issued for \$5 each, w/\$3.50 postage. A similar card for FLOREX in December is being planned.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing / U.S. Mint

catalog.usmint.gov/shop/engraved-prints

Available: B-245 (MLK print) \$5/per card; B-279 (Cherry Blossom print) \$9.95/per card; B-320/324 (Defenders of Democracy) \$85/set of 5; \$20/per card. Many cards remain out of stock.

Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society

www.seal-society.org/literature

Available: More than a dozen card varieties from past shows, ranging from \$2 to \$20. August 2020 APS cards remain available for \$10/set, \$3.25 shipping at https://bit.ly/2020_CS.

Duck Stamp Cards

Available: 2021 duck stamp cards were issued in June. These can be found online at www.duckstamp.com; Artist commemorative cards (\$70) are at <https://bit.ly/2021DuckCard>.

NAPEX

www.napex.org/souvenirs/

Available: Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows, many intaglio and/or show cancelled, from \$5 to \$8 per card. NAPEX has chosen **not** to issue a card for the 2021 show in October.

SCCS Washington Chapter #1

John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309

Available: Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows; early cards intaglio, recent cards computer printed. Send large SASE for list.

A recent check-in with Kevin Brown, Marketing Manager for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, confirmed what most of us had assumed: the BEP's public sales offerings are still on hold, as they continue with COVID restrictions. According to Kevin, "We have the inventory, but not the replenishment." In other words, orders for anything that is already in the Mint's inventory, which does the shipping, can be filled. But the contractors that do the restocking for the BEP products are still not being allowed back into the Bureau's buildings. Like many other industries, their supply chain is under a lot of stress.

As evidenced at the Chicago ANA show, the brakes are still on for the Bureau to attend hobby events. With many of their collector products in short supply this is understandable — it's hard to justify the expense without the income. Kevin said it's highly doubtful that the Bureau would attend the January FUN show and that's as far ahead as they are looking. President Biden's vaccine mandate is now in place for government employees, including those at the BEP, so Kevin is hopeful that the risk levels will soon begin dropping. At that point they can reassess and hopefully restart the show program. "We do miss meeting with

the collector community," he said.

In the meantime, work continues on product development. Although the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII is well past, the three-card commemorative set that was in the works for 2020 is still likely to be released ... eventually. Rather than rolling out the cards individually, it will probably be put out as a full set without a specific date tie-in. It might be retitled "Service and Sacrifice" or "Remembrance."



Another intaglio design being contemplated is the back of the 1886 \$5 silver certificate (featured on B-54), with a foil embossed Morgan silver dollar also on the card. This

could be cross-marketed with the restrikes of the Morgan dollars that the Mint came out with this year.

Lacking our typical in-person meetings with BEP staff at shows, Kevin suggested he would be interested in doing a Zoom video call with the SCCS in the near future. I think that would also be of interest to some of our members. If this comes to fruition, look for more news in the next issue of the Journal.



IN MEMORIAM



Richard Freyser

Recently, the SCCS lost two life members. Richard Freyser of Mechanicsburg, PA, died on August 23 at age 79. Dick joined the SCCS in late 1980s and was also a lifelong member of the American Philatelic Society and the American Numismatic Society. He was a retired US Air Force Master Sgt. and a member of the Air Force Association and Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

On Sept. 14, Larry Leyser passed away in Shaker Heights, Ohio at the age of 71. Larry had been a

member of our society since about 1990 and remained active. He frequently submitted scans of forerunner cards for use on the SCCS image gallery and in the Journal. In the 2Q 2020 Journal he wrote an article on ABNC "Compliments" cards. Larry was a collector of political ephemera and a stamp collector, as well as a past scoutmaster and active Mason.



Larry Leyser

It's always sad to learn of the passing of our members, but losing two long-term members within one month is a bitter pill.

