



Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

**The James Buchanan Chapter 173 of the
American Philatelic Society
American Topical Association Chapter 118
Website: <https://lcps-stamps.org>**

**2nd Wednesday/Month-Meet in Person at Landis Homes at 6:30 p.m.
4th Wednesday/Month-Meet Virtually at 6:15 p.m.**



American Philatelic Society

The Veranda Chronicles

Club members and friends of PSLC: We are duly honored to have at our meeting this month, Scott and Kendra English. Scott has designated Lancaster as a stop on his farewell tour; he will soon embark on the next chapter of his life after a very successful tenure as Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society. He'll be leaving shortly after the conclusion of The Great American Stamp Show this summer, so please come join us on the special but bittersweet occasion of his final visit to the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County.

Many hobby activities are coming up this season with the next K² Stamp Show on June 22nd followed by another in August; The Philatelic Gathering on April 19th; Cemil Betanov's digital presentation: "Overprints on Newspaper Wrappers" on April 23rd; the PSLC's Outdoor Bourse in Millersville on Sunday, May 18th; the PSLC Summer Picnic in August; and much more. Our meeting programs are booked through the end of the year, and we already have four presentations and another "on-deck" for our 2026 calendar year. Keep tuned to the first page of our website (<https://lcps-stamps.org>) for all our upcoming philatelic opportunities.

Let me share with you an interesting question for stamp collectors that came my way; it is also a fun question to dissect due to the variety of responses it garners. It may also be a good question

for discussion, at least in part, on both scientific and/or psychological grounds, and some of the answers may positively impact the growth of philately.

Several years ago, during the break at one of my Smithsonian meetings, one of the other philatelic advisory board members remarked to me: “Charlie, you’re a geneticist, aren’t you? Well, do you think that there is such a thing as a stamp collecting gene?” To me this was a loaded question, but a good one, nevertheless. It might be best asked in operational terms: “Does stamp collecting run in families?”

I did some quick math in my head and ran through my mental Rolodex of the stamp collectors I know or have known, while trying to remember if their parents, siblings, or their offspring collected stamps. After conducting a rapid mini-pilot study in my mind, in which nothing stood out to me other than a few minor trends, I concluded that there was nothing statistically significant to support the existence of a “stamp collecting gene”. In the next minute I tried to build a research design to scientifically investigate this. Would this study be at the genetic level in the laboratory, or would I toy with Venn Diagrams and genograms to explain it in fancy statistical terms? I had no idea. Like awakening from a dream, my thoughts then returned to the business at hand, and I can’t recall how I answered this colleague. But the question of the “stamp collecting gene” has lingered ever since the day it was first asked.

We know that physical characteristics may run in families, and diseases and disorders can pass down the family line. In the latter, much genetic engineering is undertaken to address them. We know that nature is random, and a blue-eyed couple may not have a blue-eyed child. When we discuss behaviors and lifestyle choices in families, we encounter other variables and perhaps different research paradigms in our quest for this “collecting gene.” And here I need to consult, or perhaps even default to my developmental psychology colleagues for their input.

These developmental psychologists research and intervene in the growth-related constructs of intelligence, language, motor activity, nurturing, preferences, locus of control, self-esteem, and a whole host of other relevant traits. A portion of this discipline conducts their studies with animals, and interestingly, some animal models of psychopathology are congruent with that of humans, but I can say for sure that I don’t know of any animals that collect things for the sake of collecting them, except perhaps raccoons who like shiny objects. Next month I’ll discuss what the psychologists shared with me about the topic. Cheerio, Dr. Charles J. DiComo.



Upcoming Programs



"One Last Thing..." Scott English

9 April 2025, 6:30 p.m. – Landis Homes, Lititz PA

Scott English, APS Executive Director, is leaving the American Philatelic Society after nearly a decade. Before he leaves, he has a message for collectors that's part optimism and part call to action. Come join Scott and talk about the future of stamp collecting and organized philately.



Overprints on Newspaper Wrappers Cemil Betanov

23 April 2025, 6:15 p.m. – Via Zoom

Stamps and postal stationery get overprinted for a number of reasons. When postal rates change, items that prepay the old rate are unlikely to be needed in large quantities. Instead of discarding them, surcharging them to reflect the new rate makes a lot of sense. This saves users the trouble of adding stamps to make up the new rate. It saves also postal authorities the cost of printing new items. Cemil will show why philatelic items get overprinted, however, using only newspaper wrappers as examples.

PSLC Calendar

All meetings on the second Wednesday of the month are in person at Landis Homes, and all meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month are on Zoom. Descriptions for many of these programs are found on the [PSLC website](#)

09 April: One last thing . . . Scott English

23 April: Overprints on Newspaper Wrappers. Cemil Betanov

14 May: First appearance of Lincoln on stamps. Ronald Leshner.

18 May: PSLC Outdoor Bourse, at Freedom Memorial Park in Millersville

28 May: Captain Tim Healy. Rick Barrett

11 June: Spring PSLC auction at Landis Homes

25 June: The centennial of the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake. Rob Sternberg

09 July: Crash mail. Mike Wilson

23 July: Rounding Up Texas Post Offices: Identifying and Locating all the Sites that a County Has to Offer. John Germann

13 August: PSLC Annual Summer Picnic

27 August: Civil War pension philately. Scott Ney

10 September: Fall PSLC auction at Landis Homes

24 September: Graf Zeppelin & Hindenberg: U. S. Mails. Cheryl Ganz

08 October: 3.2 Wine and Beer Taxation. Ron Leshner

22 October: Elmer Long (or) The Post Office 75 Years Ago vs. Today. Rick Barrett

12 November: PSLC Open House and One-Page Exhibition

26 November: The DC-4 Skymaster Plane. Tom Nichols

10 December: PSLC Annual Holiday Dinner

24 December: Open

PSLC's Annual Open Bourse – Sunday, 18 May 2025 – Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville

The table fee for this year's event remains \$10, which is collected at the door. Buyers are, as always, admitted free. Dealer set up begins at 9:00 a.m., and customers are welcomed to begin browsing and buying at 10:00 a.m. Contact Paul Petersen for more info or to reserve a table or sign up at Wednesday's meeting. Don't miss your chance to add to your stash or sell some of the extra material you bought last year. **Please note that** we must have at least seven tables to make the event worthwhile, and as of April 9 we need a few more dealers to join the two that have already signed up! If you would like to advertise your presence in the May newsletter, please email editor Scott Ney by May 1 with a description of the material you plan to bring.

THE PRECANCELED BATTLESHIP REPORT

“The J.C. Ayer Co.”

*Submitted by
Stanley E. Jones
Brandywine Valley Stamp Club*

Recently, Dr. Charles DiComo gave a presentation on Civil War Era Private Die Proprietary Medicine Stamps to the Philatelic Gathering of West Chester, PA. [1]. In many ways, this was a remarkable presentation. Those of us who have drifted in and out of this collecting interest appreciate the scarcity of many of the items in his collection. The condition of “Match and Medicine Stamps” from this generation is always mixed and faults are to be expected. Yet, Dr. Di Como’s collection contained some of the finest examples of this genre that we could ever expect to see, including complete packages with stamps that were free of faults. Of particular interest to me were the stamps of J.C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Massachusetts. This company persisted on past the Civil War era and into the Spanish-American War. The purpose of this paper is to report on the company’s use of precanceled Battleships during this period of time.

According to Chappell and Joyce [1], the J.C. Ayer Co. employed only one precancel style that was used on $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, $1\frac{1}{4}$, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ cent proprietary Battleships (RB 21, 23, 25, 28). The cancel on the $\frac{1}{4}$ cent was only reportedly used on July 19, 1898, thus, the stamp is very scarce and I have never seen it. However, I have the cancel on all of the other denominations, Figures 1-4.



Figure 1. J.C. Ayer precancels on RB 23, the 5/8 cent proprietary stamp.



Figure 2. J.C. Ayer precancels on RB 25, the 1 ¼ cent proprietary stamp.



Figure 3. Early usage of J.C. Ayer precancels on RB 28, the 2 ½ cent proprietary stamp. These stamps are all rouletted 5 ½, which, along with the dates, indicates usage early in the tax period.



Figure 4. J.C. Ayer precancels on RB 28, the 2 ½ cent proprietary stamp. These stamps are hyphen-hole perf 7, indicating later use in the tax period.

According to Hoyt [2], the J.C. Ayer Co. evolved into the Ayer Co. and marketed five major products: Cherry Pectoral, Cathartic Pills, Sarsaparilla, Ague Cure, and Hair Vigor. It is interesting to note that only Hair Vigor was a patented product. However, all of these products were successfully marketed and advertised (see Figures 5-7).



Figure 5. Advertising Cards for Ayer's Cherry Pectoral



Figure 6. Advertising Cards for Ayer's Sarsaparilla.



Figure 7. An Advertising Card for Ayer's Hair Vigor, the only patented Ayer Product.

The Ayer Co. survived the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 and continued to do business in the twentieth century. The company left Lowell, Massachusetts, around 1939. After the move, it appears that the company did not continue to produce medicinal products or hair tonic, thus closing the page on one of the most iconic companies of the era of patent medicines.

REFERENCES

1. Charles J. Di Como, ["Who Needs a Doctor? This Elixer Will Do! A Primer on U.S. Revenue Private Die Proprietary Medicine Stamps and Nostrums,"](#) Presentation to the Philatelic Gathering in West Chester, PA., February 24, 2024.
2. Cliff and Linda Hoyt, "A Century of Cures: J.C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. U.S.A.," *Lowell Historical Society*, 2018.



[USPS Forever® Stamps](#)

A request from the Boston 2026 International Philatelic Expo committee

The Boston Expo's planning committee requests off-paper stamps, worldwide and U.S., to be used for a host of programs during the event: junior collectors, adult classes, Stamp Collecting Merit Badge sessions, and other miscellaneous promotions and giveaways. Their goal is a lofty one: 3,000,000 stamps!

The PSLC is participating in collecting stamps for the event, and Len Kasper has agreed to be the point person. As you work on your collections and come across duplicates in your accumulations, please consider setting them aside to donate to Boston 2026. As your pile grows, Len will be happy to collect them at our meetings.

Please note on the package or wrapper of your donation that these stamps are for the Boston 2026 show. We'll be collecting stamps each month until the end of the year, but don't wait – start filling a cigar box now! You can contact Len at hotrodparts33@aol.com with any questions. Paul is also more than happy to field any questions.

[Boston 2026 World Stamp Show, Inc. – The Twelfth International Philatelic Exhibition of the United States](#)

PSLC Member Anniversaries

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date Joined</u> | <u>Years</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Steve Brooks | 4/05/2021 | 4 |
| Roger Cadenhead | 4/19/2018 | 7 |
| Anthony Coccio | 4/25/2015 | 10 |
| Barbara Edwards | 4/05/2021 | 4 |
| Harold Hand | 4/27/2019 | 6 |
| Wayne Heim | 4/10/2018 | 7 |
| John Hostetter | 4/30/2016 | 9 |
| Robert Larson, Jr. | 4/26/2014 | 11 |
| Michael Marino | 4/13/2016 | 9 |
| Douglas Milliken | 4/11/2012 | 13 |
| Scott Ney | 4/10/2018 | 7 |
| Tom Pantano | 4/26/2013 | 12 |
| Carol Petersen | 4/29/2007 | 18 |
| Robert Rufe | 4/25/2021 | 4 |
| Fred Sargent | 4/28/2012 | 13 |
| H. Dennis Shumaker | 4/27/2008 | 17 |
| William Skelly | 4/25/2015 | 10 |
| Rob Sternberg | 4/27/2019 | 6 |
| Alan Warren | 4/15/2019 | 6 |
| David Weichert | 4/27/2019 | 6 |
| Robert Witkosky | 4/28/2018 | 7 |

On the Publishing Scene

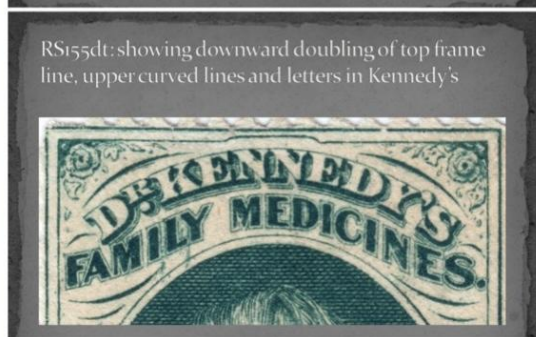
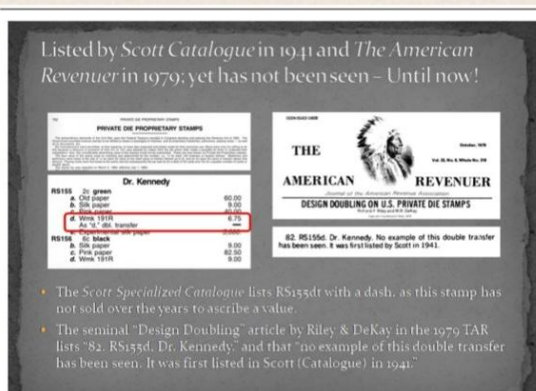


Charles J. DiComo, PhD
ESPHS & PSLC President
USPCS Life Member
PaPHS Board



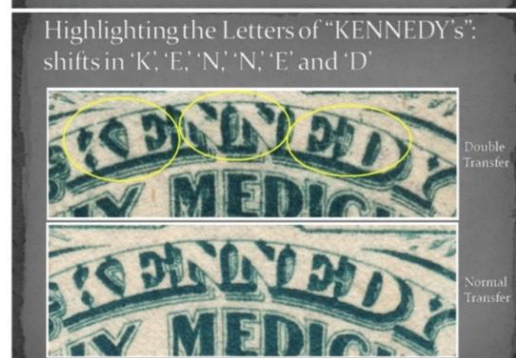
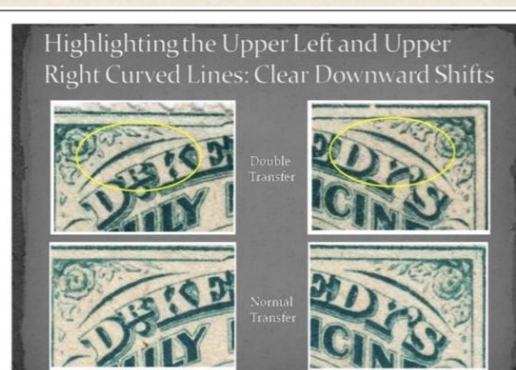
The American Revenuer

**“The Elusive Double Transfer on Dr. Kennedy’s
“Family Medicines” U.S. Private Die
Proprietary 2¢ Revenue Stamp RS155dt.”**



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The American Reviewer, First Quarter 2025 (Vol. 78, No. 1)



The American Reviewer, First Quarter 2025 (Vol. 78, No. 1)

The American Revenuer, Journal of the American Revenue Association,
First Quarter 2025, Whole No. 637, Vol. 78, No. 1, pp. 23-26.

Full Article Here: <https://lcps-stamps.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-01-TARQ1V78No1-DiComo-DrKennedyRS155dt.pdf>

Upcoming Regional Stamp Shows

2025 K2 Lancaster Stamp Shows: These are held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster 17601. The first show of 2025 was held on Sunday, February 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **The next show will be on June 22**, followed by shows on August 3, October 12, and December 20 and 21, 2025.

For more info about the K2 Lancaster Stamp Shows, visit the [PSLC homepage](#), or contact Kevin Kellman at k2stamps@gmail.com or +1 (301) 524-9562.

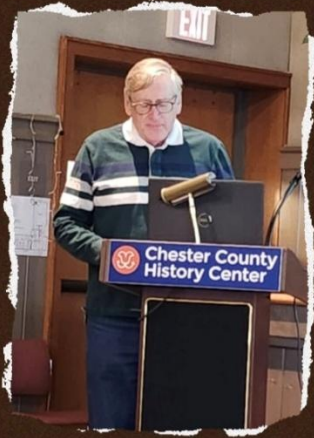
August 14 to 17, 2025: Great American Stamp Show '25. LOCATION: Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL, 60173. HOURS: Thursday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. COST: Admission is FREE! Pre-registration is recommended to help you save time and avoid on-site registration lines. Co-hosted by the American Philatelic Society (APS), the American Topical Association (ATA) and the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS). Sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

For more information, visit the [APS website](#).

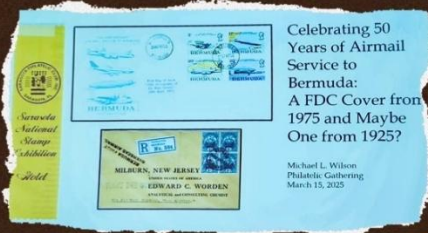
The March Philatelic Gathering

March 15, 2025... Members gathered at the Chester County History Center in West Chester, Pa., to hear two fantastic lectures. **Mike Wilson** gave a presentation based on an article he wrote for *First Day* titled, [*“Celebrating 50 Years of Airmail Service to Bermuda: A FDC Cover from 1975 and Maybe One from 1925?”*](#) Mike described flights of the airship *USS Los Angeles* from Lakehurst, New Jersey to Bermuda in February and April 1925 and the preparations made to carry mail to and from the island. He then described his research into whether a cover from April 1925 carried on the *Los Angeles* and labeled as a Bermudian “First Day Cover” was the real deal. He offered three pieces of circumstantial evidence that supported the assertion, but he couldn’t prove it definitively. He concluded by describing the impact that the airship *Los Angeles* made on Bermuda, including the fact that it has been commemorated on two Bermudian stamps.

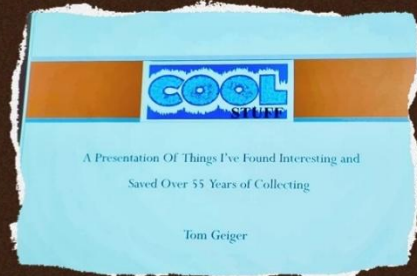
Our second speaker was **Tom Geiger** who described some *“Things I’ve Found Interesting and Saved over 55 Years of Collecting.”* These included the first stamp he collected – the 1966 Johnny Appleseed U.S. commemorative, covers cancelled on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, a first day cover signed by Peanuts cartoonist Charles Schulz, several envelopes addressed to Dwight D. Eisenhower, and a number of humorous messages seen on postcards, among others. Tom also commented on his ongoing efforts with eBay projects that take up his time and a lot of space in the house!



March 15, 2025



Photos: A. Warren
& Kean Spencer



Mike Wilson gave a presentation based on an article he wrote for "First Day" titled "Celebrating 50 Years of Airmail Service to Bermuda: A FDC Cover from 1975 and Maybe One from 1925?"

He described flights of airship USS 'Los Angeles' from Lakehurst, NJ to Bermuda in Feb. & Apr. 1925 and the preparations made to carry mail to and from the island. He described the impact that the airship 'Los Angeles' made on Bermuda.

Tom Geiger described some "Things I've Found Interesting and Saved over 55 Years of Collecting."

These included the first stamp he collected – the 1966 Johnny Appleseed U.S. commemorative, covers cancelled on XMAS Day & New Year's Day, a FDC signed by Peanuts cartoonist Charles Schulz, several envelopes addressed to Dwight D. Eisenhower, & a number of humorous messages seen on postcards.

Montage by Dr. Charles J. DiComo

PSLC officers for 2025

The slate of officers for the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County remains the same for 2025. We are here to serve you, our members, and welcome you to contact us whenever we can be of service to you. We're always looking for members who would like to get more involved with the business of the society; your talent and enthusiasm are the PSLC's greatest assets! Thank you for all that you do for the PSLC and for philately.

Treasurer's Report: January and February

Submitted by Lou DiFelice, Treasurer

Financial Report: Jan 01--Jan 31, 2025

Opening Balance: Jan 01 @ 7025.20

Opening Balance Jan 01 @ 7025.20

Income @ 647.00

Expenses @ 1,526.60

Closing Balance Jan 31 @ 6145.60

CD's total @ 6091.99

Financial Report: Feb 01 -- Feb 28, 2025

Opening Balance: Feb 01 @ 6145.60

Income: N/A

Expenses: N/A

Closing Balance: Feb 28 @ 6145.60

CD's Total @ 6091.99

Member Requests and Notices

Members of the PSLC may submit a notice of collecting interests and requests for research at no cost. Please email your requests to the newsletter editor for consideration. We will run your items for a minimum of three months unless otherwise directed.

Doug Keefer is looking for postal history items with the following Cumberland County Pennsylvania small town cancels: Grantham, Bowmansdale, Huttonsville, Shepherdstown, Williams Grove, and Williams Mill. Please contact Doug via email at keefers@yahoo.com.

Research Request: U.S. Private Die Proprietary 'Match & Medicines' Revenues, issued stamps, post-tax labels, facsimiles on original packaging (bottles, boxes, tins), wrappers, product inserts, almanacs, billheads, etc. Looking to see images and also acquire. Contact Dr. Charles J. DiComo at charlesdicomo@gmail.com or +1 (914) 450-3791

The Philatelic Relic: I maintain a modest kiosk “The Philatelic Relic” on eBay. I am a philatelist, researcher, collector, postal & social historian, lecturer, editor, award-winning author, etc. My archive of stamps, postal history, ephemera, etc. is available to all. Reach out to me anytime at charlesdicomo@gmail.com with your wants & needs. The accompanying montage shows just a few of the thousands of artifacts searching for new homes. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Link: [The Philatelic Relic | eBay Stores](#)



PSLC Officers

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| President Dr. Charles J. DiComo 914-450-3791 charlesdicomo@gmail.com | First Vice President John Hostetter 717-285-2484 jhostetterjr@gmail.com | Second Vice President Bill Greiner III 717-471-2354 sunfighter@verizon.net |
| Secretary David Weichert 717-342-3120 stampsbydave@gmail.com | Treasurer Lou DiFelice 717-572-3419 loudifelice@gmail.com | Publicity Len Kasper 717-723-1864 hotrodparts33@aol.com |
| Membership Chair Wayne Heim 717-725-7192 heimwayne@gmail.com | Program Manager Paul Petersen 717-299-5640 pcpcetersen@comcast.net | Website Coordinator Dr. Charles J DiComo 914-450-3791 charlesdicomo@gmail.com |
| Newsletter Editor Scott Ney 717-383-1736 stnst2@aol.com | APS Rep Paul Petersen 717-299-5640 pcpcetersen@comcast.net | ATA Rep Paul Petersen 717-299-5640 pcpcetersen@comcast.net |

General Information

Visitors are Always Welcome!

PSLC dues are \$10.00 a year. For existing members who want to renew their membership for 1 or more years, and/or make a donation to support our Society activities and programs, you can use PayPal-Friends by remitting payment to President Charles J. DiComo, PhD at charlesdicomo@gmail.com and denote in Notes section the reason for payment, your name, and how many years you are paying. Venmo can also be used @charlesdicomo. For new members, please mail/email your [Membership Application](#) along with a check or money order to Treasurer, Lou DiFelice.

We meet in-person on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (Except August & December) at 6:30 p.m. in the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17542. See our website for directions.

We meet virtually on the 4th Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. For society information and meeting links, contact Paul Petersen (pcpcetersen@comcast.net).

Visit us on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@philatelicsocietyoflancast7393>

Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/philatelicsocietylancastercounty>

Our mailing address is: PO Box 6053, Lancaster, PA 17607



The PSLC is honored to be selected as a winner of the 2024 APS Star Route Awards for our website and newsletter. The Society website (lcps-stamps.org), our 24 – 7 virtual presence where philatelists all over the world can access our resources, is the winner of a Large Gold award. Our monthly [newsletter](#), which exists to inform you of upcoming Society events and give you a creative outlet to provide interesting philatelic content, is the winner of a Large Vermeil award.