

Philatelic Resolutions for 2018

Editor: The following is a summary of the philatelic presentation from the Nov. 25 meeting.

Nadiah Beekun: As we enter the new year, we think about what we did, and didn't, accomplish this past year. Exercise more, eat less, go on trips, stay home, be nicer, and so on.

But what about our Philatelic Resolution? What can we do for ourselves and our hobby? What can we do for our stamps? Our collections? Our flagging interest in the wall paper the USPS is putting out?

Stamp collecting is kinda like fishing ... Most of it you do alone, learning about where to go, what to look for, getting the right equipment, and then working on technique. Sometimes you get a really big one. Sometimes you regret the one that got away. And sometimes you lie about just what you had.

Just like in fishing, there are tournaments and trophies in Philately. These are called "Stamp Shows" and "Ribbons". And there are Record books that keep track of the "Biggest and the Best" whether it is a Blue Marlin or a Blue Mauritius.

But where fishing is an outdoor sport, with hooks, fishing poles, mosquitoes, and cold mornings, philately is an indoor sport with books, stamp tongs, stamps, and a comfy chair.

What are you going to do in that comfy chair this year? Are you going to sit there and just shuffle the same stamps around or are you going to prepare yourself for a wonderful collecting adventure? That is why you need to make a Philatelic Resolution this year.

If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always gotten.

Now is the time to look over your options. What can you decide to do for your stamps and yourself? Will you reorganize your collection and swap unwanted countries or duplicates? Will you remount your stamps into a better album or upgrade from a mint hinged to mint never hinged? (Remembering of course that if the best stamps are unhinged, does it follow that the best stamp collectors are also unhinged?)

Or are you going to follow an interesting tangent on your current collection that might win you the gold or vermeil ribbon in this year's show. You need to have the resolution to do it. Nadiah's list of resolutions are:

- Organize My Collection
- Swap, Sell or Donate material that does NOT belong in MY Collection
- Read more Philatelic Magazines to Educate Myself
- Research and Write and Article for the POST BOY
- Prepare and make a Presentation at the Club
- Enter an Exhibit at the Stamp Show
- ENJOY YOUR STAMPS!!!!

Stan Cronwall had a list prepared for the meeting presentation:

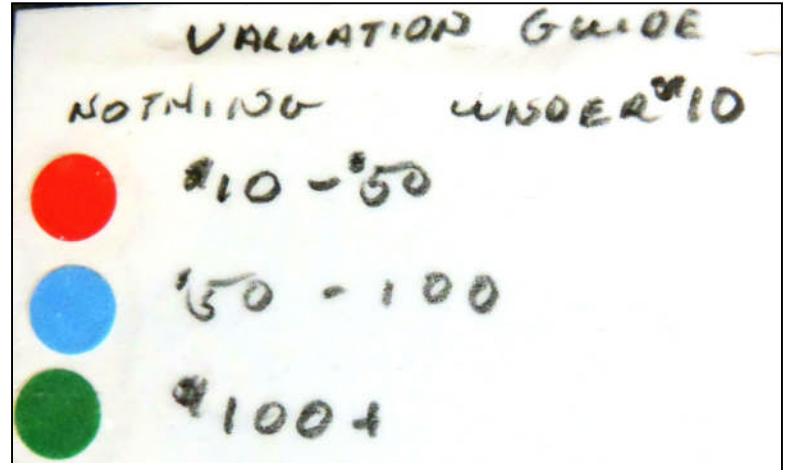
- Do some new "My Favorite Things" pages for 2018 Stamp Show
- Consider re-vamping one or two older Exhibits for 2018 Stamp Show
- Write articles for the Post Boy
- Buy a used set of 2017 Scott Catalogs for reference and quiz preparation
- Produce enough Post Boy Quizzes through 2019
- Re-file materials pulled from albums for various 2016 and 2017 projects
- Get through material set aside for "Work on First" and "Work on Second"



Gary Dahlke showed what he is doing to get his philatelic estate in order. He asked, "Do you have valuable stamps? How do your loved ones or heirs know that? Do you have an inventory of any specialized collections?" Gary is marking his valuable stamps in his St. Pierre & Miquelon collection with red (over \$10), blue (\$50+), and green (over \$100) stickers so valuable items stand out. The stickers are applied to the corner of mounts - not the stamp itself. He referred members to an Internet article "Philatelic Disposition for the Novice." As he stated "We know more about our collection than anyone else in the world," and we should make it easy for our family and heirs. APS members should obtain labels for each album with information on the APS Estate Advisory Services.



Crop of page from Gary' album with the stickers

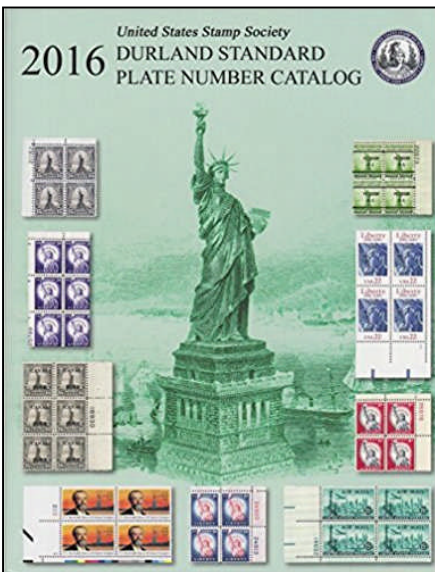


Front of album with the code used for valuations

John Walter also had a list for the meeting presentation:

- Expand the list of Display Topics used at the Vassar post office and libraries
- Make more "My Favorite Things" pages
- Develop a meeting presentation
- Update philatelic inventory
- Write an article for the Post Boy
- Maybe, getting an active group of members together to actively trade stamps at meetings

Gary Atkinson recently purchased the 2016 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog. He wanted to expand his U.S. collection into some plate block issues, coil and coil pairs, and maybe booklets and panes. The catalog is an excellent reference for all these specialty areas.



Harvey Edwards was thinking out loud, for other members, about making a philatelic resolution this year:

- Becoming a Board member
- Working on an exhibit or a new collecting interest
- Writing a Post Boy article
- Mentoring a new collector
- Making an effort to attend more club meetings.

All are doable resolutions, and we might even acquire some new philatelic skills along the way. Don't forget mentoring is always available for members when undertaking new projects both for your own personal enjoyment and for club projects.