

## Bonus Raffle Prize by Howard Grenzebach

At the meeting of April 10<sup>th</sup>, I was fortunate enough to have won two items from the raffle table and, since I now had two yellow numbers for the final drawing, I won that too. What a day, huh?

The prize was wrapped in plain brown wrapper so I thought maybe I should wait until I got home to open it. I opened it at the clubhouse anyway. Inside was a Pacific Coast Rain Forest sheet with First Day cancels. I'll put that one on the table at the next meeting. The other was a "Stamp Collecting Folio" from the Postal Commemorative Society.

The first thing I noticed was my favorite issue of a U.S. set, the stamp collector's issue, #2198-2201. What I didn't know about the set is that it was issued in conjunction with a similar set printed by the Swedes, #1585-1588. Both sets are included in this folio along with a first day of issue (ArtCraft cachet) cover using the high values from each country. The other page has several stamps from different years showing various aspects of collecting like stamp shows, post offices and, of course, Benjamin Franklin our first postmaster.

**USA 20c**  
George Washington  
1732-1799

**USA 5c**  
Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition (SIPEX) in the nation's capital. First Day City was Washington, D.C.

**USA 3c**  
This 3c stamp marks the 100th anniversary of the issuance of the first U.S. postage stamps. Its First Day of Issue was May 17, 1947 in New York, N.Y.

**Interphil '76**  
USA 2c  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was the site of the 1976 Interphil philatelic exhibition. It was also the First Day City for this 13c stamp first issued on January 17, 1976.

**USA 8c**  
This 8c stamp collecting issue reproduces "U.S. #1," the 5c Benjamin Franklin stamp of 1847. First Day of Issue was November 17, 1972 in New York, N.Y.

**USA 3c**  
FIPEX, the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, was held in New York, N.Y. This was also the site of the First Day of Issue for this 3c stamp on April 30, 1956.

**USA 22c**  
AMERIPEX '86  
Issued on May 25, 1986, this 22c stamp promotes AMERIPEX '86, the largest philatelic exhibition ever held in North America. First Day City was Rosemont, Illinois.

**USA 2c**  
The first American Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin, is honored by this 2c stamp. It was first issued on January 17, 1956 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Stamp collecting began casually in the 1840s. It is said the world's first stamp collector, a young London woman, used her collection of 16,000 used Penny Blacks and Two Pence Blues to paper the walls of her dressing room. Others saved stamps in boxes and in drawers.

A more formal collection system began to evolve within a few decades. By the 1860s, nearly 2,000 different stamps had been issued by 85 postal administrations around the world. To allow collectors to classify and organize them, stamp albums appeared, along with other tools of the collecting trade. In 1863, George Herpin of Paris gave a name to this exciting, fast-growing avocation. He called it "philately," a combination of Greek words meaning an interest in things on which taxes have been paid.

The "Father of American Philately," John Walter Scott, arrived in New York from England in 1861. Within a few years, he had established a thriving stamp business that included the publication of monthly price lists. He also held the world's first auction sale of stamps, founded the Collectors Club of New York, and was the prime mover in organizing the first stamp exhibition held in America. No doubt the highlight was Charles Corwin's display of the 2-cent British Guiana "Cotton Reel," the first stamp to be sold for more than \$1,000!

The first competitive exhibition of international caliber was also held in New York, in 1913. Since then, similar shows have been held in the United States every decade. New York continued to play host through 1956, after which the exhibition moved to Washington, D.C. and then to Philadelphia. AmeripeX '86, the eighth and largest philatelic exhibition staged in the United States, is being held in Chicago, Illinois.

### STAMP COLLECTING FOLIO

The entire stamp collecting joint issue project was designed under the direction of Richard Sheaff. Sheaff also designed the three stamps that are unique to the U.S. booklet. The Swedish booklet, including the stamp that is the common-design in both nations' booklets, was designed by Sweden's Eva Jern.

**USA 22c**  
**USA 22c**  
**USA 22c**

**STOCKHOLMIA 86**  
**2 kr SVERIGE**  
**2 kr SVERIGE**  
**3 kr SVERIGE**

The common-design stamp pictures a 1938 stamp issued by the U.S. and one issued by Sweden, both commemorating the tricentennial of Swedish-Finnish emigration to America.

The U.S. booklet was first placed on sale on January 23, 1986 at State College, Pennsylvania, home of the American Philatelic Society. The Swedish booklet was issued on the same day in Stockholm, Sweden.

Official First Day of Issue  
STATE COLLEGE, PA  
JAN 23 1986  
16801

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**USA 22c**  
**USA 22c**

**STOCKHOLMIA 86**  
**4 kr SVERIGE**

**Stamp Collecting**  
COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET  
1986

**STOCKHOLMIA 86**  
**4 kr SVERIGE**

This special Cover bears an important "double postmark" — the official single stamp First Day of Issue postmark for both the U.S. stamp booklet and the Swedish stamp booklet.

**Howard Grenzebach** is currently a Director of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.