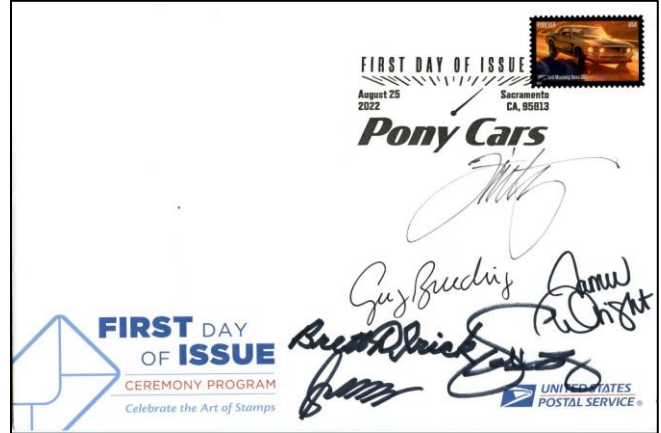


Great American Stamp Show

By John Walter

About 10 NSSS members attended the show in Sacramento. A few members stayed overnight for the entire show. The big event at the show was the first day ceremony for the Pony Cars on Aug. 25 at 11:00. The USPS had a large booth next to the presentation stage, so it was easy to request first day cancellations. The people participating in the unveiling of the stamp and speakers at the ceremony were kind enough to stay and sign memorabilia. Personally, they all signed my FDC and the dedication program. Great souvenir.



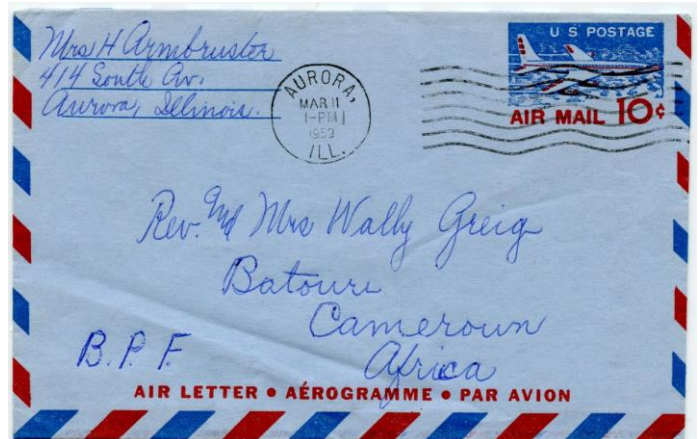
There will be more in-depth reports in the *American Philatelist*, and other philatelic publications, but here are a few thoughts and observations. The first two days of the show were very well attended, and the dealers were busy. Saturday and Sunday seemed quiet with less attendees. Many national and some local stamp clubs/societies had a booth and information on many specialty areas. I hung out at the Universal Ship Cancellation Society booth and met many interesting people with stories to tell.

Many of the societies were offering special membership deals like 50% off first year and a free catalog of their specialty area. For instance, The Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society offered \$10 membership plus their Christmas Seal catalog as a freebie.

While walking around the exhibit frames, I witnessed young philatelists discussing their one-frame exhibits. All the exhibitors displayed a passion for the topics presented. I then looked at all the exhibit frames and enjoyed reading a few exhibits of interest.

The one dollar or less tables, mainly with covers, seemed to be busy throughout the show. I heard one dealer mention he just sold \$256 of 25-cent covers to one customer. All the dealers that were at the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show were present at GASS. It was nice to say hello as I walked around the bourse area.

One area I collect is used U.S. aerograms to foreign destinations. I stopped at the Young Philatelic Leaders booth and found three aerograms for 25-cents each. What a nice find. The letters were addressed to a missionary in Cameroun, Africa which discussed bible themes and some family stories. I like them for the unusual destination address.



I also purchased some Navy hospital ship covers and then found a stack of Japanese postal cards with pictorial cancels dated in the 1920s. These will require further study.

I represented our stamp club at the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies. **Larry Crain** is creating a program to help local stamp shows with exhibits which can be hand delivered from show to show. More about this in the next Council Courier newsletter.

John Walter collects U.S. Navy ship covers & used U.S. aerograms addressed to foreign destinations & Japan.

Pictures from the Great American Stamp Show



Dedication & unveiling ceremony of the stamp pane of Pony Cars.



Youth Champion Christina Esbeck explaining her "Cupcakes" exhibit.



Youth Champion Sjon Brejtfus discussing his exhibit "Railroad Perfin Used on Covers."