



WE Expressions



APS Affiliate #230

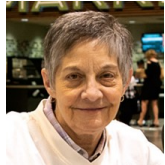
Women Exhibitors

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Freestyle Exhibiting - An Idea Whose Time Has Finally Come? (with a little push from COVID, perhaps) by Carol Costa

Q1 2021 Volume 15, Issue 1



I think of formal philatelic exhibiting as a competition, not with other exhibitors but against a standard of excellence. How close can we come to excellence in the treatment of our subject and the portrayal of its importance? How thorough is our philatelic and related knowledge? How in-depth is our display of personal study and research? How close to excellence is the condition and rarity of material exhibited, and of our presentation? These are the criteria used to evaluate a competitive philatelic exhibit. Small wonder that many potential exhibitors are scared off. At some level they may be asking, "Can I make a good showing against such a standard?"

Even if it's not our intention, is this how we are defining philatelic exhibiting? Are we, perhaps, restricting participation in this part of our hobby by using unnecessarily narrow parameters to define it? Let's compare philately to another hobby, athletics. People participate in and enjoy athletic activity for many reasons (pick-up basketball, bowling, recreation leagues, jogging, etc.), and even though there is an element of competition present in most athletics, the vast majority of participants are not competing as professionals, the equivalent

standard of excellence.

Are we missing something here? Are we willing to consider expanding this aspect of our hobby to encourage participation for reasons other than competition against a standard of excellence?

I look at freestyle exhibiting as a new dimension for our hobby which in no way demeans or threatens our current formal competitive exhibiting. Indeed, in this philatelist's opinion, formal exhibiting is the finest expression of our hobby. But both competitive and freestyle can have a place in philately and each has the potential to enhance the other.

Freestyle exhibiting is not new. Freestyle or open class exhibiting has been referenced in the literature for at least the last 10 years. It has been a feature of many local shows for even longer. In 2017, there were four freestyle exhibits at NTSS in Milwaukee. BALPEX 2019, a WSP show, included freestyle exhibiting in two formats, an open class for single and multi-frame exhibits and a "One of My Favorites" class, the latter for single item, single page exhibits. SOPEX 2019 in Oregon had 30 exhibits, 15 of which were entered as fun exhibits. Exhibits were judged by show attendees who placed colored stick-on dots on

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WSP Exhibitions

Many shows have been cancelled or even postponed. Check the APS website to confirm all upcoming shows.

<https://stamps.org/events/wsp-shows>



STAY SAFE!

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exhibits using the same criteria they would use for a “like” on social media.

As a result of the COVID pandemic, The Great American Stamp Show scheduled for the summer of 2020 in Hartford was replaced by the Virtual Stamp Show. The traditional format of judged exhibits was changed and the field was opened up to single, multi-frame, and single page exhibits with participant voting to determine awards. This change was made by the APS to encourage exhibitors of all levels of experience to participate.

SEAPEX 2020, another WSP show, became virtual due to the pandemic and exhibitors were invited to enter all types of exhibits with judging again to be done by show participants. The 2021 Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in January, in addition to single and multi-frame traditional exhibits, has invited freestyle exhibits ranging from single to 15 pages. They note in their prospectus and entry form, “what you put on those pages is open game...”

So what is freestyle exhibiting? I would like to propose a fairly broad definition: “storytelling using philately as a backdrop.” But an exhibit must have structure and guidelines, and some suggestions follow.

Freestyle exhibits should above all develop an idea or tell a story, such as a person’s life, an animal’s habitat or food, the history or rules of a sport, or even information about a famous cartoon character. A freestyle exhibit may be an opportunity for a potential exhibitor of a traditional philatelic exhibit to show material without the overhead of the formal process. Freestyle exhibits should be allowed in a variety of formats, including single or a few pages, which might be appropriate to display a number of items of which a collector is particularly proud. Freestyle exhibits should show primarily philatelic material, though ephemera can be used if it helps develop the story of the exhibit. Freestyle exhibiting should be fun, so humor is allowed. More than one person may be allowed to work on an exhibit, though the material presented should be owned by the exhibitors. Pages must be designed by the exhibitors, so commercially printed album pages should not be allowed. A show might offer a freestyle exhibitor the opportunity for feedback from an experienced exhibitor where suggestions and encouragement

could be provided. These are just a few suggestions for guidelines that might be used by a show contemplating the addition freestyle exhibits to their program.

Why might a philatelist want to do a freestyle exhibit? Stamp collecting can be a lonely hobby. I have always wondered how other people organize their albums and collections, so it can provide the opportunity to view new ways to work up a collection. I may want the chance to share what I’m doing because I put a lot of time into it and I’m proud of it. It’s fun to work a collection into an exhibit. It involves a creative process and a way to work with stamps beyond just putting them on an album page where they match the illustrations and filling all the spaces. I may just want to get my feet wet by putting my stuff “out there” before I try the “real thing” by preparing a formal exhibit. I might even want to use my stamps to educate or to attract new members. Freestyle guidelines should be fun, friendly and simple.

Greetings from Ohio!



The American Topical Association is proud to present “Greetings from Ohio,” a philatelic exhibit of the history, nature, culture and technology of Ohio.

A checklist of the stamps appearing in this exhibit, along with lists for thousands of other topics, is available for purchase from the American Topical Association. A copy of this exhibit, suitable as a reference for teachers, is also available. The copy contains additional material, “Fun Facts and Places to Visit.”

The assistance of the Dayton Stamp Club in procuring materials for this exhibit is gratefully acknowledged. The Ohio Greetings cover below was provided by the artist, Fred Collins. The American Philatelic Society’s Ohio album pages for young collectors were used for background research. This album, along with many others, is available for free on their website.

“With God, All Things Are Possible”
Ohio State Motto, adopted in 1959



Title page of “Ohio Exhibit”

In summary, I believe that formal exhibiting is a competition against a standard of excellence, while freestyle has a different focus. It has a great number of potential positive outcomes, ranging from exercising creativity, teaching, research and learning, attracting new collectors, and, my favorite, having fun!

The purpose of Women Exhibitors is to provide a vehicle through which we can encourage

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WE/APS Collaboration

Kris McIntosh submitted an article for the Christmas issue of the American Philatelist, but it did not make it in time for the printed publication but will be on the APS website in the articles section. It is about George Washington praying at Valley Forge using the 1928 and 1977 stamps. Kris noted it was "Fun to write, research and explore."

In October Laura Glazer of Portland CorrespondenceCoop, Warachal Faison of ESPER, and Dr. Michele Bresso shared their stamp stories as guests on APS Stamp Chat! Michele Bresso posted on the **WE** Facebook page, "It was great fun to present my stamp story for APS. Each presenter had a unique story." APS has posted the recorded session on its YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rk5IA9SsOWg>.

World Postcard Day

The first World Postcard Day was celebrated October 1, 2020. Participants could print out the "official event postcard" from <https://worldpostcardday.com/> and send them to friends and family.

On October 1st at STAMPEX 2020, the International Virtual Exhibition there was a live Postcrosser Meet Up and presentation on the history of the Postcard in the virtual auditorium celebrating the launch of World Postcard Day. The event was recorded and can be seen at <https://stampex.vfairs.com/en/hall>.

If you missed participating, mark your calendars and be sure to send out postcards to launch Stamp Collecting Month October 1, 2021.



Freestyle...continued from page 2

each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions. The freestyle exhibiting format may be one way we can fulfill that purpose.



Title page of "Scooby"

Women Exhibitors 2020-2022 Board

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Stories and submissions for the next journal are due by March 15, 2021. Start writing and send them in now!

Literature Competition by Lisa Foster

I planned to enter **WE** Expressions in the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) and Chicagopex 2020. Not only was feedback welcomed, but literature competitions can also promote Women Exhibitors. Both GASS and CHICAGOPEX prospectuses requested a synopsis be submitted.

I had never entered a literature competition, so I looked online for examples. Finding none, I reached out to APS Writers Unit #30 to request assistance. The WU#30 representative indicated he had never heard of such a requirement, would ask around, but was unable to offer any assistance.

So, I applied what I have learned in philatelic exhibiting, and applied it to the literature exhibition. I read the [APS Manual of Literature Judging and Exhibiting](#) (*Updated 10/2019*) and in the synopsis attempted to address each area of the Literature Exhibit Evaluation Form; "Treatment", "Originality, Significance and Research", "Technical Matters" and "Production". The resulting synopsis is shown below.

Due to COVID19 GASS went virtual with the Virtual Stamp Show (VSS) but opted to not hold the literature competition. The APS offered to send the entry to Chicagopex, which was welcomed.

SYNOPSIS

Treatment:

The first page includes the Title, Table of Contents, upcoming WSP exhibitions and a lead article. The first and last page of each issue is bicolored (red/blue), with subsequent pages alternating between red and blue. The headings are in the same color as the page margin theme color.

Regular columns include "Breaking the Ice" highlighting new members, "Agitators" highlighting prominent women on stamps and First Day Covers, "**WE** Want to Know" i.e. letters to the editor, "Editor's Remarks", Sterling Achievement Award Winners, and Albums Closed, honoring the passing of women in philately.

The journal(s) includes upcoming meetings, meeting minutes, board members and contact information, treasury report, membership report, and website.

There are articles/items submitted by various members. April 2019 (nine contributors), July

2019 (11 contributors), October 2019 (11 contributors) and April 2020 (11 contributors).

The current membership is at 110 members.

Originality, Significance and Research:

The purpose of Women Exhibitors is to provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.

The e-journal **WE** Expressions is one of the main vehicles utilized to fulfill our stated purpose.

The **April 2019** issue spotlighted an individual woman exhibitor, Jean Stout and showcased the journey she traveled to become a successful philatelist (page 1, 7). This issue also included part 3 of "The Homestead Act", detailing the growth of an exhibit over time (page 4). **April 2020** had "The Missing Page Saga" (page 2).

Individual Exhibitor accomplishments are highlighted. For example, in **April 2019** the people's choice CoC contestants (page 3), CoC contestants (page 4), **July 2019** Distinguished Philatelist (page 8), and photos of exhibitors at their exhibit frames dispersed throughout the issues. **October 2019** Luff Award Winners (page 5), 2019 Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award (page 13), **April 2020** Canadian ATA member Jean Wang (page 1), and **WE** at ARIPEX (page 20).

Resources for exhibiting are noted. For example, in **April 2019** the AAPE Education Committee podcasts (page 2); **July 2019** Tools of the Trade (page 8), Stampshow 2019 Exhibiting Seminars (page 10), **April 2020** Wheel of Fortune Cancellations (page 13), The Postcard Album (page 17), AFDCS Current Cachetmakers Directory (page 20).

Instructional articles, specifically related to exhibiting are present: **April 2019** Title Page and Synopsis (page 13), **July 2019** Philatelic Rarity (page 13), **October 2019** Fun Exhibits (page 3), and in **April 2020** My First Exhibition as an APS Judge (page 19).

Lessons learned at exhibitions are covered and shared. See **April 2019 WE** at Ameristamp Expo 2019 (page 11), **July 2019** Pipex Feedback Session (page 11), AAPE Open Forum (page 15), and AAPE Panel Discussions (page 16).

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The journal also includes content celebrating women. **April 2019**, Stem Role Models (page 14), **July 2019** Peafowl Postage Stamps (page 1), **October 2019** American Women and Philatelic Literature (page 1), Cachet Makers Bourse (page 9), **April 2020** Women in Philately (page 4, Game Set Match (page 6), Honoring Women in the Hobby (page 9), and Commemorating Women Suffrage in the US (page 11).

Outreach and projects Women Exhibitors are doing to promote women in philately are covered. In **April 2019** Thank You (page 13), **WE** at the Postal Museum (page 15); **July 2019** Philatelic Survey (page 5), Vintage Toys and Collections Fair (page 9), **October 2019** Women Seeking Change (page 9), Women Exhibitors Propose APS Hall of Fame Inductee (page 10), **WE** Club Showcase Exhibit (page 11), **April 2020** **WE**/AP Collaboration (page 7), and Lets Celebrate First Day Ceremony (page 20).

I know of no other journal devoted to women philatelists.

Technical Matters:

The journal is created in Publisher. The stamp and photo images are the best available to the editor.

Production:

The journal is distributed via email. It is saved as a commercial press PDF. After receiving instructional feedback, after the April 2020 issue an effort is being made to ensure the publication is in four-page increments so that if printed and bound in double sided spreads all pages will be filled. April 2019 (17 pages), July 2019 (19 pages), October 2019 (14 pages), April 2020 (22 pages).

LITERATURE CONTEST RESULTS

WE Expressions received a Large Silver with 71 points. Review of the Literature Exhibit Evaluation Form (LEEF) showed that for Treatment, the score was 17 of 30 points possible with the comments of, “Illustrations in many cases have no text or identification of persons shown.”, “Many articles are of topical/stamp interest and less about actual exhibits – please check this carefully.”

For Originality, **WE** received 40 of 50 possible points. Comments included, “The concept of the publication is excellent and really highlights the

activities and major accomplishments of women in the hobby. Please continue – but the publication could improve technically. Put is some articles about actual exhibits and how the owners developed them.” Technical Matters “Could be improved” with a score of 10 of 15 possible. The publication itself was noted with “No major problems” and earned a score of 4 our 5 possible.

Ken Trettin, Chicagopex Literature Exhibits Chairman stated that, in addition to the regular LEEF, the jury also made use of an experimental form being developed at the literature exhibition for philatelic articles being held at the show in Sarasota, Florida. The criteria used are the same on both forms with a check list of basic evaluations and a place for comments rather than just comments on the newer form. We are sending both to provide you with more feedback.

Experimental Evaluation Form

Review of the Experimental Literature Evaluation Form did show the publication’s strengths. For example, **WE** received “A” rating for “Appeals to audience”, “Importance to the hobby”, “Different perspectives”, “Accurate”, and “Content/author diversity, substantive articles, columns/features”.

Congratulations to all of you who submitted content to **WE** Expressions in 2020, and please continue to do so in 2021. I hope we can all learn from the feedback and increase our points and medal level in future literature competitions.

Stamp Releases



The USPS announced the release of a 2021 stamp commemorating Chien-Shiung Wu.

Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997) was one of the most influential nuclear physicists of the 20th century. During a career that spanned more than 40 years in a field dominated by men, she established herself as the authority on conducting precise and accurate research to test fundamental theories of physics. Art Director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with original art by Kam Mak.

The United Nations Postal Administration revealed its 2021 stamp program will include a definitive stamp featuring **Mother Teresa** (1910-87) which is scheduled to be issued Sept. 3.

November 11, 2020 Pakistan Post issued a **Breast Cancer Awareness** stamp.



The Digital Philatelist

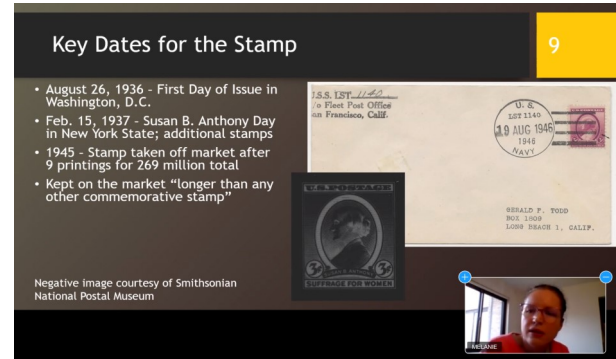


Putting their stamp on history

Women Holocaust Rescuers, Resisters, Martyrs and Victims, commemorated on postage stamps.

The 20-minute presentation is available at:
https://thedigitalphilatelist.com/hmcec-women-on-holocaust-stamps/?fbclid=IwAR1vHxlHLfcORSgk_Izkz9Lf76iGzmQdI7-vI0AG9BeW7t3VgxY7ZcWMK6g

Chicago Philatelic Society Presents...



Late usage demonstrating popularity of stamp

At the Chicago Philatelic Society zoom meeting on 11/21/2020, Melanie G. Rogers gave an informative presentation on the “1936 U.S. Susan B. Anthony Stamp”. Topics covered included a “Timeline for US Women’s Suffrage”, “Susan B. Anthony’s Biography”, “About the Stamp”, and “Usages of the Stamp”. Melanie shared items from her own collection and provided insight into the methods she used to research information and acquire philatelic items. A broad range of topics were incorporated throughout the presentation, appealing to a variety of philatelists, and collecting interests. Following the presentation, attendee comments included, “You did a great job bringing together those elements”, and “Very nice presentation.” The presentation was taped and available for viewing on the American Philatelic Society YouTube channel.



Exploring Philatelic Exhibiting: APS Class Offers First-time Exhibitors Advice, Practice

by Michele M. Bresso, PhD



I'd carefully selected just the right stamps, covers and ephemera to tell a story about my favorite philatelic collection of typewriters. Awaiting review of my work simultaneously agonized and thrilled me as time seemingly stood still . . . And it wasn't even a real stamp show!

What was real, however, was all the study, planning, and anticipation, thanks to the American Philatelic Society's (APS) recent Beginning Exhibiting Class. The three-week virtual workshop this past November enticed 20 APS members to participate in the program designed to introduce newcomers to the world of philatelic exhibiting. The workshop included tips on digitizing material, preparing image captions, composing a title page, building a layout in display pages, and formulating an effective synopsis.

The APS course began with a look thematic versus topical exhibits as participants introduced themselves and shared their exhibit ideas. Participants proffered possible exhibit topics such as the first stamps printed in Cuba, the U.S. Red Cross issue of 1931, worldwide coats-of-arms, and mail processing center postmarks. Enticing titles promised the allure of interesting exhibits with names like "Five Unique Lighthouses for Your Bucket List," "Did 'Ewe' Know...? Fun Facts about Sheep," and "A Fiancée Goes to War."

I kicked my own proposed title to the curb by the end of the first workshop session as being too unwieldy: "The Typewriter Image as Substance and Symbolism on Philatelic Material of the 20th and 21st Centuries."



Left In 1913, a typewriter was used to assign postage value to this handstamp from Albania.

Clearly, I'm new at this.



Left: An early postal card touted the new Oliver typewriter models being employed at the front by the French and British armies in WWI.

Another class participant, also a **WE** member, said the class built in her a stronger desire to exhibit ...eventually.

"I learned that I'm not ready," said Jennifer Miller, who serves as executive director of the American Topical Association. "I now understand the idea of presenting a story with your exhibit, but I realized I didn't have what I needed to tell that story. I have a lot of stamps, but I'll have to find other materials to do that story justice."

Cathy Brachbill, APS director of education, facilitated the course and talked about the program's larger goal.

"APS wants to meet the needs of our members so they can grow as philatelists, as collectors and as people," Brachbill said. "Our instructor did a great job. He worked extra hours to help participants between sessions and showed his own work as an example. He was building an exhibit along with the class."



Left: The earliest stamp depicting a typewriter is the 1935 stamp from Turkey (Scott #B57) commemorating the 12th International Suffragist Congress.

Instructor David S. Ball knows his way around a pair of stamp tongs. With 40 years of stamp col-

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lecting under his belt, Ball serves as president of the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs and is the astrophilatelic delegate to the Federation Internationale de Philatelie. His book, *American Astrophilately: The First 50 Years*, features his (forgive the pun) astronomical collection of philately related to space exploration. Several years ago, Ball created a digital exhibit titled “In Their Prime,” an astrophilatelic study of the naval vessels that recover NASA astronauts and spacecraft from human spaceflight missions. The work was one of the very first digital philatelic study exhibits at the American Stamp Dealers Association 2006 Fall Mega Show and earned the coveted Viewers’ Choice Award for best exhibit at that show. A certified APS exhibit judge, Ball’s approach to the class was open and relaxed. The best first question for some newcomers, he said, is “Where do I start?”

“Once you see that (exhibiting your philately) is manageable,” Ball told participants, “you’ll enjoy it and realize that it’s doable. You’ll have fun with it.”

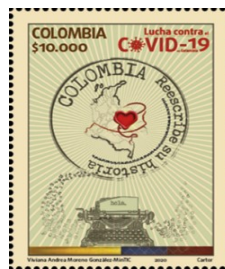


Above: Typewriters on stamps often represent authors. This 2002 issue (Scott #897a) commemorates the 30th anniversary of the death of Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad, a Malaysian writer and linguist who modernized the Malay language with the publication of a series of grammar books.

In the early stages of the workshop, participants like me may not have yet been convinced of the “fun” Ball said was waiting. As a new member of Women Exhibitors, I know my exhibiting experience is at a different level than others in **WE**. No matter how experienced at exhibiting we are, however, we’ve all shared that moment of wondering how to start a new or a first exhibit. I’m convinced that any of us could leave the course enlightened, just as Jennifer Miller said she was. “Exhibiting isn’t as intimidating as I thought it was,” Miller admitted.

Such knowledge, along with a newly developed openness to exhibiting, evidenced the immediate benefits of the workshop, which was offered at the affordable price of \$25. The real-time interaction,

as participants learned how to create exhibit pages and then shared them with the group, proved to be an even bigger advantage. We commented on each other’s work and learned from the instructor’s remarks. Seeing different topics and dissecting them in an academic and nonjudgmental setting lent immediate personal growth and knowledge.



Left: Although replaced by the personal computer, the typewriter exhibits staying power in philately as a symbol for reframing one’s experience through the written word. This COVID-era stamp exhorts the reader to “rewrite your story.”

When this class is offered again in the future, it holds the promise of value for exhibitors of every experience level. For that reason, I will take the class again.



Above: This 2007 Belgium mini sheet shows the progression of typewriter use from journalism to personal and commercial communication and the evolution to the computer. In a potential exhibit, this piece helps tell the story of the evolution of the typewriter as a communication tool.

Breaking the Ice... Joan Harmer

JH Hello, my name is Joan Harmer from the New York City area. I collect Nova Scotia stampless covers, and now thanks to Liz Hisey and my husband, Disaster Ship Postcards. My problem is I am more of a postal historian that finds most everything exciting and collectable. I always shied away from WE. I felt that being a philatelist should be gender-neutral, but I reconsidered after greater involvement in the hobby and attended an APS talk. I have exhibited some of my Nova Scotia covers. I had an expert write them up; it was well written, but it was not me. My husband and I have a slight difference in the direction I should take the accumulation. The story on how I became involved with Nova Scotia stampless is a long one best told over a bottle of wine.

I do have a new bug. I absolutely love the play "Hamilton." I also love "free franks" and stampless covers, so I would like to develop "Hamilton - The Exhibit." My new fetish, as my husband calls it, leads right into the most daunting thing about exhibiting. I like to buy covers, hold them and explore them; my husband is an auctioneer. He wants to sell items that he feels are superfluous. He argues that I should sell my extra items to get the ones I want. I guess that is a philosophy, but so is polygamy.

I am fortunate to be married to an "in house" expert who I can call on for help. I can sit with

him for hours looking at auction catalogues. Whenever he said, "I have not seen one of those in a while", I take note. Keith's help with identifying items and explaining their philatelic relevance is a marital privilege.

I have no set subject area, I enjoy the research, be it historical or technical. As a business consultant, a hyperspectral imaging company called me to help sort them out. Serendipitously, Bob Markovitz, a brilliant dealer/collector, was also connected with the company. Of course, we were always looking to see how we can apply spectrometry to philately. Today I was able to attend John Barwis' group on Analytical Philately. Now all I want for Christmas is a VSC6000 (actually I want an XRF. If Santa is listening).

The last question you ask in your introduction is, "How can **WE** help me?" I would have to answer, by getting more people involved in Philately and Postal History. One of the aspects I try to stress at the Collectors Club is to make philately open and accessible. Most of the old-time collectors are more than willing to help any level of collector; there are some "posers" who will snark if someone asks what a Prexy is. I am hoping to find in **WE** more people like my husband, who genuinely are supportive of diversity in the hobby.

Save the Date!



Chicago 2021: Great American Stamp Show

Co-hosted by the [American Philatelic Society](#), the [American Topical Association](#), and the [American First Day Cover Society](#) is scheduled for August 12-15 in Chicago, Illinois.

We will be monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2021, should any lingering impacts prevent an in-person show.

Visit the [GASS website](#) for updates.

Breaking the Ice... Michele Bresso, PhD



The worldwide pandemic has been a bane to us all, but it's also been a boon in allowing philatelists around the globe to connect with one another. Thanks to philatelic organizations' use of technology to present this year's conferences, I attended several events including SEAPEX and discovered Women Exhibitors. Experiencing the robust dialog and lively camaraderie of **WE** members at that meeting, I knew immediately that I wanted to join this august group!

Connecting with others is a passion based on my extroverted nature and a predilection of my profession. As a college professor of communication, I relish assisting students to hone their skills to communicate in personal, professional and casual settings. In lectures and class activities, I present stamps from around the world as a catalyst for those discussions. It's a fun way for me to share the stamps, philatelic materials and ephemera I've been collecting since my fourth grade teacher in South San Francisco gave me my first set of stamps.



Teaching myself to type in the summer after fifth grade launched a lifelong love of typewriters. Naturally, then, I collect typewriters on stamps. This 2002 (Scott 2841) stamp from Japan tributes Aikitsu Tanakadate, a physicist who invented a system for transliterating the Japanese language into the Latin alphabet.

Today I reside in Bakersfield, California where I struggle to find adequate space for my stamps, philatelic paraphernalia, and all the accoutrements I'd like to add to the endeavor. Sound familiar? In spite of not having my dream stamp library, I still manage to collect two countries and several topical categories. US stamps represent my mainstay, and I've added the stamps of Pitcairn Islands to the fold. The rich history of that island made me want to know more. Its stamps tell a fascinating story.

Recently seeking to start a new country collection, I chose the Pitcairn Islands because of its rich history and remote isolation. Pictured is the 1964 Pitcairn Islands Scott # 40.



Beyond the two countries, my topicals are numerous, representing my interests and experiences. I collect cats on stamps including sub collections of tigers and Maine Coon cats on stamps. I own two Maine Coons, and they are the inspiration for finding stamps that bear their impressive, furry visage. Other topical collections cover typewriters, baseball, Ronald Reagan, the State of Maine, and pinecones.



Featured in my Maine Coon Cat on stamps collection, this 2020 souvenir sheet from Slovenia represents the majesty of the breed. The real inspiration for this collection, however, are my own Maine Coons. Maddie, a calico, and Dexter, a big orange tabby are named after Maddison, Maine and Dexter, Maine, respectively.

I haven't exhibited yet, but I'm amazed by those of you who have done so. I have much to learn from you! I'm gathering materials for potential exhibits on the history of typewriters, women's fencing in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. My biggest concern about exhibiting is whether I'll be able to collect the depth and quality of material that would make for a competitive exhibit.



Representing a potential exhibiting interest, this 1983 cover promoted Women's Fencing set for the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. I attended the finals match for that event and experienced the awarding of medals and the playing of national anthems.

Fortunately, our hobby's move into the virtual world resulted in my building philatelic friendships near and far. I often reach out to others to get their advice and opinions about adding to my

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collection. Memberships in associations help, too. Besides joining **WE**, I am a member of the American Topical Association, the Cats on Stamps Study Unit, the Knoxville Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Society. As a matter of fact, my interactions with APS recently catapulted me to my 15 minutes of fame when I was invited to be one of several collectors to tell their personal stamp stories on Stamp Chat. You'll find me to be the first speaker on the Stamp Chat session archived here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rk5IA9SsOWg>



Finally, because I think pinecones are one of the most beautiful elements in nature, I collect them on stamps. At top is a 1979 German semi postal specimen stamp. Immediately above are 2007 sheets featuring two types of conifers from Bosnia Herzegovina.

All in all, I'm awed by the helpfulness of other collectors—like the members of **WE**—who love to share about their treasured stamps and offer welcome doses of wisdom and insight. I'm so pleased to be a part of it all!

McIntosh Lesson Plans available on C3a

Kris McIntosh provided the American Philatelic Society US History lesson plans she developed. The section includes a six-page introductory article, "Hook Students to History With First Day Covers Warm Up Lessons Using Stamps, Postmarks and Artwork" written by Kris to assist the reader in understanding how to use first day covers in education. There is a wide variety of lesson plans, under various topics to choose from. Topics include, but are not limited to, "Women's Rights History", "Black History", "Innovations, Inventions and Culture", and "The Triumphs and Trials of the 20th and 21st Century."

They are available on the APS Collecting and Connecting Central Academy (C3a) learning platform (<https://stamps.org/learn/c3a-online-learning>). Under the "Videos and Resources" link, there is a link entitled, "Bridges - Activities for Sharing", with a subfolder, "Lesson Plans Using Covers and Stamps".



Discover More and Register Online at:
www.AmericanTopical.org/events

WARM UP TO TOPICALS! VIRTUAL PROGRAMS THIS WINTER FROM ATA

Navigating eBay.com for Topical & Thematic Collectors
with Wayne Youngblood

Navigating DelCampe.net for Topical & Thematic Collectors
with Tom Broadhead

Involving Youth in Stamp Collecting
with Aimée Devine

Art Deco! The 1925 Paris Exposition
with Tom Broadhead

The Bird That Cries, "HELP!"
with Carol Edholm

My Mom's Favorite Stamp - The 150th Anniversary of Mississippi
with Félix L. Pérez-Folch, Jr.

100 Year Journey: The Story of People & Events of Eastern Europe Through Philately
with Alan & Diane Bauer

Let's Get Social! Connecting with Collectors through Social Media
with Martin Kent Miller

Do You Think You Might Like to Try a Thematic Exhibit?
with Dawn Hamman

Extraordinary, Ordinary Black Women on U. S. Postal Stamps
with Charlene Blair

Have Fun With a Mini Topic!
with Michele Bresso, Susan Jones & Jennifer Miller

Susan B! A Zoom Play by Lisa Foster



We enjoy the theater and have missed going out to shows during the lockdown. When I saw there was going to be a live production in honor of Susan B. Anthony, I knew we had to get tickets to attend. Pattie McAleer Hamaguchi wrote the play as a musical, but with the pandemic, theaters closed, and the century of the vote, the writer decided to go virtual. Although tickets were free, they were accepting donations. We attended October 17, 2020 from the comfort of our living room, with my iPad Zoom screen shared to the big screen television.

They did a good job, considering each participant of the play was in their own homes. At first the lighting and sound quality variations from individual computers were distracting, but quickly forgotten as the story progressed. The director had to be actively involved, switching between speakers, screens, and the red curtain. Some of the nine actors played multiple parts and had to change between acts. They used virtual backdrops for the set which added to the story, but also the occasional pixilation.

The play was about two hours, followed by a question and answer session with the actors, director, and writer. The story appeared to be factual, despite the use of contemporary language and occasional humor to keep attendees entertained. There was a 10-minute intermission, during which songs from the musical version played and Susan B trivia scrolled across the screen. There were also periods with vintage photographs of the US Suffrage movement shown.



WE Sterling Achievement Award Winners

If your show has competitive exhibits and is interested in awarding the WE Sterling Award please contact Bill Johnson at williamdaddy51@yahoo.com or call him at (785) 925-1789.

A special congratulations to the following Sterling Achievement Award winners for their fine exhibits at recent stamp shows:

Due to the worldwide COVID pandemic, stamp shows were cancelled and therefore, there are not any winners to announce at this time. With luck and time, stamp shows will start up again and we will then have more winners to share with everyone.

Stay safe and stay tuned for the next round of Sterling Achievement Award Winners!



KnoxPEX 2021, scheduled for March 6-7, 2021 is planning to go on with a bourse and live auction. In the event the live show is cancelled due to the pandemic, Michele Bresso, Carol Costa and Tom Broadhead are working to develop virtual content, including exhibits and presentations to be hosted on the KPS web page - www.knoxstamps.com.

Although the virtual exhibition will not be officially judged, there will be a most popular award. If you are new to exhibiting or want to try out virtual exhibiting, consider exhibiting at KnoxPEX 2021.



KnoxPEX 2021 Cachet Vignette

WE Annual Article Contest 2020



In a continued effort to ensure women and people of color are represented in philatelic publications as authors, and in the topics represented, the **WE** Board of Directors with member input developed guidelines for an annual contest for the best philatelic article submitted to **WE** Expressions in a calendar year.

A committee consisting of Ruth Caswell, Susan Jones, and Lisa Foster developed an evaluation form to be used by committee members judging articles submitted to **WE** Expressions. Articles published in 2019 were used to test the form, resulting in the form being revised three times. The committee wanted to create a form that was in line with the contest's intent, that assisted the jury to be consistent in judging, and cued the judges for areas of importance. The reliability of the form will continue to be tested as it is used in future years and may need to be further developed and edited.

The Evaluation Form consists of the name of article, author, **WE** Expressions issue published, and Jury/committee members. In addition, there are three evaluation sections:

Relevance to philately and exhibiting: The primary focus of the article on one or more aspects of exhibiting and philately. Higher points should be awarded to articles that address ideas and advice specific to women exhibitors; problems encountered by women related to exhibiting; and solutions that will improve the overall exhibiting experience for women.

Originality in topic and/or approach: The article displays a new way of thinking about the subject matter. Higher points should be awarded to articles that explore a subject in greater depth, explore a new subject, or have application to a broader range of exhibitors. Have not been previously published in print, digital or online.

Technical merit: The article uses philatelic terms correctly with minimal undefined jargon. Illustrations and graphics support the author's purpose. The article is well-organized and grammatically correct. Higher points should be award-

ed to articles that clearly identify source material (e.g., references, credits) and provide additional resources for readers.

A judging committee then identified all the articles that met the contest criteria, from all 2020 issues of **WE** Expressions.

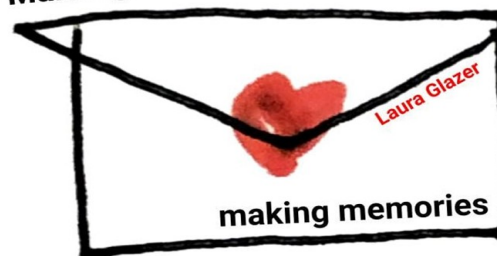
The **WE** 2020 Article Contest winner was Kathryn Johnson. Her article, "Virtual Philatelic Competitions", was felt to provide overall value to the membership as it was a timely topic due to COVID-19 restrictions on in person exhibitions. In addition, it provided insight into a current topic and a glimpse into the differences between international and US exhibitions. In support of the mission of **WE**, Kathryn shared her own first-hand experience, noting pros and cons with virtual judging and the process.

The winning Philatelic Article of Distinction, with permission of the author, will be sent to the American Philatelic Society (APS), where the article will be posted on the APS website, and archived. In addition, the author will be provided a certificate of achievement from the APS.

The article which placed second, "Chicago Philatelic Society Embraced International Women's Year", written by Marjory J. Sente, was also a timely topic as **WE** celebrated the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2020. In addition, the article showed how women have historically participated in organized philately as judges, exhibitors, speakers, and organizers.

Both authors will receive a year of membership to Women Exhibitors.

Marking time,



Artwork by @stampisendit

You can watch Laura Glazer's Stamp Story on the [American Philatelic Society](#)

YouTube Channel! ❤️

<https://youtu.be/Rk5IA9SsOWg?t=1602>



Fall into Topicals:

Nurse Philatelic Stories with a Sampling of Exhibit Elements

by Lisa Foster



On 2020 October 15, 40 participants joined zoom to listen to Ann Byerly, ATA Chapter Coordinator presentation on Philatelic stories in a Nurse Thematic collection.

Zoom host William DeWitt explained the basics of zoom and introduced the speaker and her history of collecting nurses on stamps. Ann started collecting at six years old, was licensed as a RN in 1978, and began her thematic nurse collection in 1993.

Ann shared an informative, colorful PowerPoint which included many stories of nurses depicted on stamps. She showed various philatelic elements throughout the exhibit and discussed how to broaden the collecting perspective in relation to exhibiting.



Ann shared how she stores her material on album pages she creates. For example, she chose archival gray flecked pages to bring out the colors on the stamps. Ann has over 3,000 stamps with nurses from 271 countries.

In 2020, there have been many new releases of stamps with nurses on them. In addition to the pandemic, 2020 was the 200th Anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, so there were many new releases added to her want list.

As a nurse myself, the section regarding "Who is a Nurse?" was interesting. What stamps depict nurses? Those where the person is wearing a white dress/white hat or based on education which did not exist in earlier years or based on what the individual was portrayed as doing and so on. Ann showed stamps where it was not obvious they de-

icted nurses, and discussed the research needed to know if to include them or not in the collection. Research methods included polling nurses, forming study groups, reading articles, looking at websites, exhibits and programs.

The presentation was followed by a Q & A session, with questions such as "Why did Clara Barton refuse to go to nursing school?"

Jean Wang shared her knowledge about a personalized stamp that was previously shown and noted that it had been made by a stamp club. She also informed attendees of a Florence Nightingale stamp from Maldiva with a COVID overprint.

John Groves asked what the criteria was for the ATA Nurse checklist how it has evolved. Ann noted that it was broad, it is still kind of fluid and based on what the collector wants to define for the parameters of their collection.

Barbara shared that the ATA has a "Taste of Topicals" for Nurses available for sale at their website for \$7 with album pages and 30 Nurses stamps for those who wanted to begin a collection of nurses on stamps.

Dawn Hamman encouraged attendees, who were not already members, to join the ATA. Those who joined in October during Stamp Collecting Month were entered in a drawing for the new book Topical Adventures.



Thank you to all nurses, doctors and first responders for all you gave in 2020. You are appreciated by many!

WE Want to Know

Have you ever wanted to give feedback on what you read in **WE** Expressions or share a thought or just say thank you to one of our members? Well now you can....because "**WE** Want to Know"!

After receipt of the January 2020 **WE** Expressions, Women Exhibitors email box was filled with kind words of encouragement. The journal would not be possible without the submissions for publication from our members.

You provided me with great reading today! Your publications are among the best in our hobby. So much variety and "meat" at a time when it isn't easy to fill pages.

I thank you very much for your coverage of ATA events. We are seeing more cooperation among organizations than ever.

I admire your commitment and enjoy your creativity.

Best,

Dawn

President

American Topical Association

dawnthephilatelist@gmail.com

Thank you for the kudos about my article in the July AP. It was much appreciated.

I am missing stamp shows and our local club gatherings. Hope that 2021 has life returning to something closer to normal.

Stay safe.

Kristin

GOOD GRIEF!! How can you keep putting out increasingly fantastic issues - full of information and so readable! (yes, I like the 2 columns also). **THANK YOU!!** Really surprised to see my letter in there.

Thanks again - miss seeing you guys!

Nancy

I thoroughly enjoyed this newsletter, though I have not been able to read all of the articles yet. The two-column style is perfect for not so young eyes. It is great to have links you can go to and view something interesting that you missed. The mixture of articles is another asset. The word seek at the end was a great bonus. Thank you for all your hard work.

Betty Lewis

Thanks for an interesting and informative issue. I was surprised and very happy with Lisa's coverage of the AZNMPHS meeting

Take care,

Marj

Remember, send in your comments and remarks to be published in future journals...your words may just make another persons day!

Comments to: womenexhibitors@gmail.com

Editor's Remarks by Laurie Anderson

Finally we say good-bye 2020 and if you ask me, it was not soon enough! And I gladly welcome 2021 with hope for a better year, in everything.

We missed so much this past year and many shows cancelled. But what I missed most was seeing all of you at the shows! I find enjoyment in the "hunt" for that special something that inspires me to create an exhibit...and 2020 did not allow for any of that!

But everyone's health and safety was the most important. I wish for all of you a healthy and safe return to the "new normal" where friends and fellow philatelist can gather together, in person.

This journal is a bit sparse in content so I did my best to create something enjoyable. I have said this before, and I am saying it again....the journal is only as good as the members who contribute to it. So, get busy members and send in your stories, whatever they are. I am just the assembler but without content, there can be no journal. Please consider submitting an article to share with the others!

Happy New Year!

Stampex: The First International Virtual Stamp Show by Lisa Foster

Stampex 2020 was held October 1-3. The website was attractive, fun to explore as they set it up like a real exhibition with a booth hall, auditorium, lobby, information desk and so on. It reminded me of entering NY2016. Even so, I did find it challenging to find what I was looking for at times.

They had a downloadable show guide which helped. Reading the guide for “in the Booth Hall”, I noted B1.Art Stamped, “Your one stop shop for philatelic gifts, stamp art, beautiful postage, and stamp art craft supplies.” I quickly headed into the Hall. I enjoyed the visit, and loved these heart Stamped Cards (<https://www.artstamped.com/gallery>). The Chat room was set up so attendees could chat directly with booth holders.



Stanley Gibbons in booth A2 gave Stampex attendees their three most recent issues of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, and Philatelic Exporter as free downloads to read. As a US collector they are not publications I subscribe to, but I did enjoy reading them and the articles on my topics of interest. I could not figure out how to save or print articles of interest, which may have been a safety feature or my own ignorance.

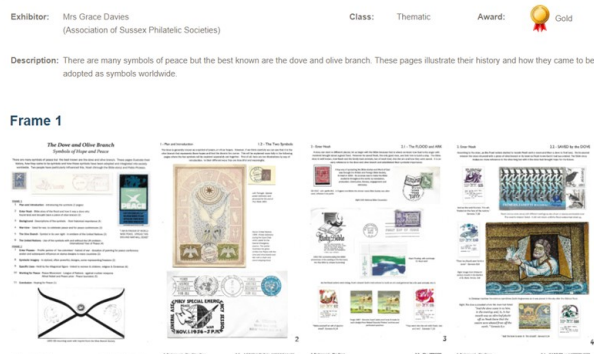
Under “Resources”, they had flyers, auction catalogues, stamp mount order forms, pricelists, journals and more that the visitor could add to their “swag bag.” Reading the Spink Insider, Spring 2020 I found a great philatelic article which I could print by Guy Dutau, “Quarantines, From Plague and Cholera to Covonavirus COVID-19”.

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The Auditorium had scheduled talks. I was not able to attend any of them live due to the hours they were held. Thankfully they were recorded and available in the auditorium for 28 days following the show closure.

The Museum of Philately showed world class, multi-frame exhibitions. They also highlighted “Rarities”, many from the exhibits or collections on display. The website was set up so the items could also be observed by country if the visitor so chose.

I could not find the competitive exhibits until one of the daily emails directed me to the ABPS at booth B16. There they had a One Frame Competition, and an Inter Federation Competition. The ribbons/medals were posted next the exhibit too! The exhibits could be viewed by frame, and by individual pages. I did find the exhibits difficult to read due to the pixilation.



The Museum of Philately had a page devoted to “Collectors”. Scrolling through the many photos, I noticed only two women. Below is the information that was posted on the website (<https://www.museumofphilately.com/collector/118>):



Louise Boyd Dale (1913 to 1967) an American philatelist and the daughter of the famous philatelists Alfred F. Lichtenstein, was the first lady to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1956, and in the same year the first lady to serve as a judge at an international philatelic exhibition (FIPEX), and just a couple of years later Dale was appointed to the jury of the London International Stamp Exhibition 1960. And probably the most touching and symbolic was in 1962 when Dale was awarded the Lichtenstein Medal for services and dedication to philately. Dale served the

Philatelic Foundation, which her father was a founder member, where she was Chairman of the Board and of the Expert Committee from 1953 to 1967. She was of course honored by being named in the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame in 1968.



Boonkrong Indhusophon (September 1935), FRPSL is a Thai philatelist who signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2001.

Known internationally as "Ad", Boonkrong Indhusophon's interest in philately started in the early 1970s, when she married the late Prakaipet Indhusophon. She travelled to world stamp exhibitions regularly with her late husband, who was an avid stamp collector and exhibitor, and later an International FIP Juror. Ad supported and assisted her late husband whenever she could. In 1989 her husband's "Prakaipet Classic Siam" collection won the Grand Prix d'Honneur at New Delhi. Prakaipet Indhusophon then began to develop a second collection, Classic New South Wales, but cancer overtook the fulfilment of this ambition, and he passed away in April 1991.

Immediately, Ad Indhusophon decided to form the "Second" collection that her late husband had dreamt of forming. After much thought she decided to sell Prakaipet's collection at auction so that Thai collectors could have the opportunity of purchasing the pieces and hopefully many would be retained in Thailand; this was her late husband's specific wish. With the proceeds from the auction, in early 1993, Ad decided to make the Cape of Good Hope Triangular stamps as the subject of her new collection. By 1995, the collection was so impressive that it was invited to the Court of Honour in the first World Stamp Exhibition in Singapore. It was exhibited competitively for the first time at Jakarta'95, where it won a Gold. Many rarities were added over the next year, and by the time it was shown at "CAPEX'96", it was probably the best ever Cape of Good Hope collection to be exhibited competitively. The exhibit won the Grand Prix International, Exhibit: Cape of Good Hope "Triangulars", 1853-1864.

When the South African Philatelic Federation decided to hold an International Stamp exhibition in 1998 with FIP support it was natural that they requested this exhibit to be exhibited there. An entry form was sent directly to Ad Indhusophon to participate in this exhibition. Although Ad declined to participate initially such a request through the FIP Coordinator for the exhibit could not be refused in the interest of promoting philately worldwide. The Cape of Good Hope "Triangulars" won the Grand Prix National and Ad's companion exhibit, the Cape of Good Hope Revenues from the 17th to 19th Century won a Gold and the Best Revenue Exhibit Award.

One of Ad's greatest contributions to philately was her establishment, in 1993 of the Youth Corner in the Bangkok National Library, and forming the Prakaipet Foundation for Philately, in memory of her late husband. Youth philatelic events are organized weekly, and competition prizes and other financial support are provided through her Prakaipet Foundation. Boonkrong Ad Indhusophon was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2001. This honour was a fitting reward to someone who was ever willing to put her country on the philatelic map, as did her late husband in the 1980s.

Ad gives her full support whenever a request is made for one of her collections to be exhibited; no matter how large or small the show. In total, Ad has won of over 30 awards in 10 years, with six different exhibits.

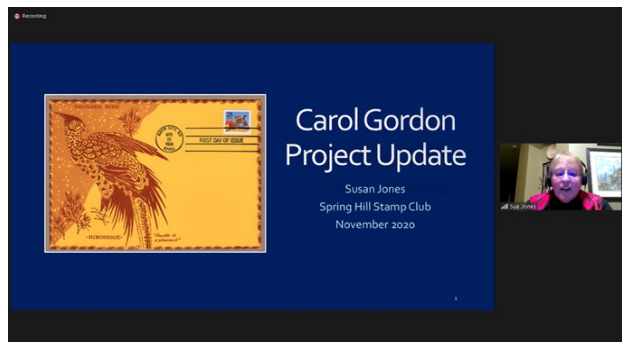


"Agitators"

by Kris McIntosh

This regularly featured columnist is taking a short break but she will join us again in a future issue.

Spring Hill Stamp Club

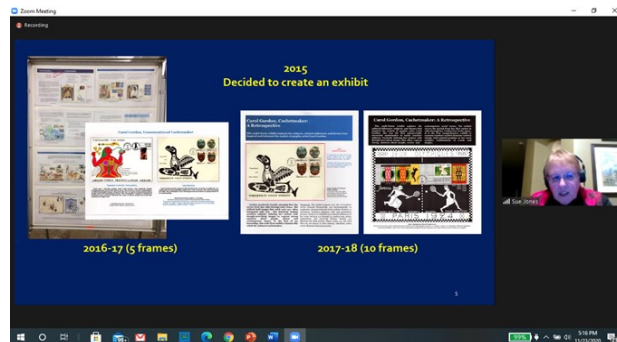


On 2020 November 23, Susan Jones gave a presentation, “Carol Gordon - A Sneak Peak” at the Spring Hill Stamp Club Zoom meeting. Susan is a dynamic speaker, and the presentation was quite informative.

Susan shared how her interest in the cachet-maker was an outgrowth of two topical collecting interests: Paleontology and Native American Art. She explained how she progressed from exhibiting to creating a catalogue of Carol Gordon with the evolution of the new exhibit guidelines and judges’ feedback.

Susan provided explanations and examples regarding how she conducted the research required in compiling the catalogue. It was interesting to see how she catalogued the colorful cachets and information in her computer data base as well. The catalogue is expected to be available later this year.

The presentation is available for viewing at www.tinyurl.com/shscmeetings



Album Closed

Dalene Thomas

(June 5, 1942 – October 23, 2020)



Dalene Thomas, 78, of Lakewood, Colorado, passed away on October 23rd, 2020. An avid collector, she was passionate about philately, lighthouses and much more. Dalene was the founder of the Lighthouse Stamp Society and published the Philatelic Beacon for 27 years before retiring at the end of 2019.

Dalene was a long-time member of the American Topical Association (ATA) and the third woman to serve as President. In 2001 she was named the American Topical Association’s Distinguished Topical Philatelist.

Dalene was an AAPE Diamond Award Recipient for winning 10 Gold medals at a National Level show for the exhibit “Pharos: Lighthouses of the World”. Other award-winning exhibits included, “Laundry Day 1880-1920”, “Circus Wagons”, and “Trinidad, Colorado Postal History 1860-1899.”

Memorials may be sent to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library at 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver CO 80224. Tributes may be posted online at <https://www.horancares.com/obituary/Dalene-Thomas>

Carol Edholm, **WE** Membership
4404 – 224th Place SW
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Statement of Purpose: *To provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.*

WE is on the web at www.aape.org/weweb.asp or WomenExhibitors@gmail.com