



Women Exhibitors
APS Affiliate #260

WE EXPRESSIONS



Supported by AAPE

Vol. 2-7; July 30, 2008

Ed., *WE Exp.*: Barbara Harrison, barbandwill@comcast.net Dirs. at Large: Pat Stilwell-Walker, psw123@comcast.net
Chair: Ruth Caswell, ruthandlyman@earthlink.net Denise Stotts, stottsjd@swbell.net
Secretary: Vesma Grinfelds, dzvesma@sprintmail.com Ed., *WE Think*: Janet Klug, tongajan@aol.com
Treasurer: Liz Hisey, lizhisey@comcast.net

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

Next Meeting: *STAMPSHOW*, Saturday, Aug. 16, 12 noon, Hartford, Conn. Program: Exhibit Basics: Materials, Classes & Divisions, by Janet Klug.

Satellite Mtgs: *PNSE*, Sat., Sept. 6, 11 am, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA; will include mini-seminar on The Basics of Exhibiting, by Barb Harrison.

Keeper's Korner: StampShow08 is just around the corner. If you are attending, please come to the WE meeting which is at **noon** on Saturday, August 16, 2008 in Room 12 (although pre-convention information indicates the meeting is at 5:00 p.m.). Janet is giving the program on *Exhibit Basics: Materials, Classes & Divisions*. You don't want to miss this. **Wear your WE buttons** during the show.

Plan now to attend the Festival for Philatelic Women, to be held at the APS Center in Bellefonte PA, May 28-31, 2009. WE, along with APS, AAPE, and several dealers, are sponsors of the Festival. There will be something for everyone, and it is a great time to get to know other women in philately. Plan to bring others with you and share transportation and lodging. Bring your exhibit so others can see your area of interest.

Looking ahead to 2010, the WE board committed us to 120 frames at RMSS (Rocky Mountain Stamp Show) at Denver in May. Yes, the number is correct. WE started this year with 40 frames at COALPEX. I'm sure Joann will be happy to have 80 frames at the Festival in 2009. The next leap is 120 at RMSS. **Start your exhibits**, as everyone will need to contribute to make the 120 frame goal. Think about **how many** exhibits you plan to enter at RMSS.

WE is sponsoring a new award, *The Sterling Achievement Award*. The objective is to recognize an exhibit that has been awarded a bronze, a silver-bronze, or a silver medal that shows notable accomplishment in the exhibit's treatment, and to serve as an encouragement to a promising exhibit. This award will be available for every WSP show and for any local/regional show that requests the award. **Ask** your local/regional exhibits chair or the WSP show in your area to include the award for their show. **Be** active in making sure this award is given if an exhibit qualifies. The award came about through discussion at a WE on-line board meeting to meet the need to encourage promising exhibits.

I've had several references in this column to *Meeting Our Goals*. After StampShow 2007, seminar attendees wanted encouragement to get exhibits started. *Meeting Our Goals* is the extension of that request. If you have met the goal you envisioned, send your name to Barb (barbandwill@comcast.net) to be included in the celebration. What now seems a long time ago, I put my goal forward telling you I needed to get a new exhibit off the shelf and into a frame. It's been a difficult year, but I do now have the philatelic material in a

frame, actually three frames. I very nearly had to mount parts of the exhibit while flying. I really don't want to try mounting on a plane, so I'm glad that the late night hours worked instead.

Last, it is the Keeper's fault that this newsletter is a bit late. Between vacation time and e-mail difficulties, I did not meet the KK deadline. I hope that you are enjoying the July newsletter, whenever it arrives in your mailbox.

See you at StampShow '08,

Ruth

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Are you able to find enough time for your philatelic endeavors? If not, why not? If so, how do you do it?

(Denise Stotts) I am fortunate to only be working part time, so a good deal of my time is mine to schedule as I want. I think the best way for me to get anything done is to actually schedule it on my calendar, or at the very least, on my weekly "to-do" list. Some how for me, having something in writing seems to impel me into actually doing it. (I even schedule in odious household chores!) I am truly impressed with those who hold down full time jobs or have children at home - I don't know how they get anything done! I think having time for philately in my house is also aided by being married to a fellow philatelist, so he understands when I say "please bring home dinner - I don't want to stop working on the exhibit - I'm on a roll!"

(Barb Harrison) For various reasons I've run into difficulty this year in finding time to work on my newest exhibit, so it still sits only half finished. I had been running at full steam and needed to slow down. Other important things have had to take precedence, such as setting up my church library and attending activities for grandkids. Other stamp-related things took precedence over the exhibit: working on the huge task of finally organizing many years worth of collecting material on Queen Elizabeth; various writing and speaking tasks to promote picture postcards; much time involved in email correspondence with new WE members and writing the WE newsletter for the last 18 months (which is now slowing down!); stamp circuits (which seem to arrive at the most inopportune times); stamp club, PPC club, and car club activities; and life in general.

I have boxes and small cabinets overflowing with stamps in need of sorting and mounting and covers in need of organizing into albums. We won't even **mention** the boxes of stamps which need to be soaked, sorted, mounted, or given away!

When I work on exhibits (or even various aspects of my many stamp/cover collections), I discipline myself very strictly week by week. I choose which days to work, then follow through very methodically. I set up a table and my frame next to the computer, then write one page at a time, trying to meet my daily goal of "X" pages. All the while I try to ignore things around me that need to be done, like cleaning! I've had to pretty much give up garden work, my work at the cat shelter, and many of my crafts. I even gave up reading novels for a long time, but I've gotten back to that because I enjoy it so much. My problem is that my interests are so numerous and so varied that I just never have enough time for everything, so consequently I don't even get enough sleep. But I just love the stamps, covers, exhibiting, writing, and history SO much that I'm willing to make a lot of sacrifices. I only wish I could figure out how to squeeze 36 hours into each day!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: Tell us about your very first exhibit. Why did you do it? How long did it take you to complete it? How did it do? Has it been changed? What did you learn from it?

PLEASE SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR TOPICS FOR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS, AND ALSO SEND IN YOUR RESPONSES –THIS IS AN EASY WAY THAT WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER!!

HOW EBAY FUELS THE COLLECTING PASSION

by Liz Hisey

With the cost of travel skyrocketing, traveling to stamp shows other than those that are local is becoming expensive, and most of us would rather spend the money on our collections rather than support the oil industry. So I would like to talk to you about Ebay. For some of you this may be preaching to the choir, for others I hope this will encourage you to use Ebay and other auctions to add to your collections.

Living in Florida with only one WSP show (in the past several months Florex has been accredited as WSP Show) and very few local shows, accumulating material for my exhibits was difficult. In 2000 I became a member of Ebay and have never regretted the decision. I have made over 2000 purchases, and I can count on one hand the bad transactions that have occurred.

One of the great things about Ebay is that you can put in “searches” for specific stamps, covers, subjects, items -- you name it, you can find it there. For me, the best part of the “search” (although I do like looking through the boxes of covers at shows) is that I can specify exactly what I want and the Ebay computers will do the searching. In my case, I have been looking for single ingredients on stamps. Going up to a dealer and asking for say ‘chickens’ on stamps garnered a raised eyebrow and the question “which country?” As I had not spent hours pouring over the Scott Catalogs, I was unable to answer. On the other hand, type ‘chickens’ into the “searches” section of Ebay and lo and behold up comes 15-20 items, some days more, some days less.

First, to become a member (www.ebay.com) is a very easy process. You need to come up with a username and a password, enter them, and you are ready to go. When you enter the site, there is a box, “My Ebay,” which you hit, and up comes a box for you to enter your username and password. Fill this in (you can also tell your computer to save this information so that you do not need to enter each time), hit the “sign in” button, and there is your summary page. Next hit the “help” button in the upper right hand corner, and it will bring up the tutorials. It is much easier for you to go through these than for me to take you through the process with just words. These tutorials are straightforward and do not take a lot of time or require us to be rocket scientists, but they are very worth while. When you have finished the tutorials you are all set to go. The most important links and really the only ones you need to concern yourselves with are: Watching, Bidding, Won, Messages, Didn’t Win, Searches and Feedback. I will take you through each.

Watching: This is what it sounds like, a list of all that you are keeping an eye on. This also gives you a chance to think if you really want this item, and if so then you bid. Delete items as they close.

Bidding: In the tutorial they will have explained how to bid. Make sure you know what you are bidding on; do some research. (See below – Searches.) Be wary of the amount you bid, up to \$25.00 you can put in odd amounts (I usually put in something like \$7.66 or \$12.66). After \$25.00 the bidding goes up in increments of \$1.00 so you need to put in amount plus .01. There is also another site called Esnipe.com, but that is another article!! Also keep an eye on shipping and handling. These can sometimes be way off. If you pay 99¢ for an item and the s/h is \$3.00 you might want to reconsider.

Won: Well, pretty obvious. The tutorial will have told you what to do. I would seriously suggest you become a member of Paypal. There is a direct link from Ebay to Paypal, and all you have to do is enter your password. This is a very secure site, and there are more and more dealers who only want to deal with Paypal. It’s a whole lot easier than having to write checks or get money orders. Unless it is something I really want, I usually do not bid on items that don’t take Paypal. For me, I usually delete the won item after I have received it. This gives me a way to track my purchases. If something has not arrived within a couple of weeks I get in touch with the seller and ask for a reason: did Paypal not go through, have they lost the item, etc.

Messages: This is where sellers communicate with you if you have asked them a question (which I highly recommend if you are wary of an item, or want to know dimensions, etc). Also sometimes you will receive Ebay messages in your email account – before answering these, most of them are scams – check with your

Ebay Message box. **Never ever give out your username and password unless the message has come from Ebay in your message box.** They will look like an ebay message with the logo included, but when you read the message it reads like it has been translated from another language, the English is usually quite stilted, and some of the words are wrong. Only answer messages in your Ebay Message box.

Didn't win: Very obvious! It's useful to go back to item and see how the bidding went. Sometimes I kick myself when the item goes for 50¢ or a \$1.00 more than I bid, but as you will have learnt from the tutorial, you don't really know what the other bidder had bid. If you really want an item, be brave!!

Searches: The fun part. The world is your oyster, and yes you can bid on oysters!! Towards the top of the result of the "search" item is a small box that says "Advanced Search." Again, this will have been covered in the tutorial. In this section you can ask for all such items as you have listed that were sold in the last month (called Closed Auctions). This will give you an idea of what this particular item is likely to be sold at. Also, when you save a "search," it asks whether you would like an email as to when this item comes up for auction. It's okay to do this if you have only a few "searches"; I currently have 62, which would flood my email box, so I chose not to have email alerts. I check several of my searches every day, and go through them all once a week – usually Sunday morning. Auctions typically run for 7 days, so if you check once a week you will pick up all current auctions. The tutorial will have explained this also.

When you select your search items, try several spellings of the country or item since some sellers can't spell and sometimes their fingers type in wrong words. My main "searches" are Stamps (I tick the box that says "in description" -- this usually brings up the covers), Postcards, and Paper (ephemera). Sometimes if there is a lot of activity in the Ebay Stores category, I will put a separate search in for those items. Searches are divided into two sections, those items being sold by individuals and those by sellers who have on-line Ebay stores.

Feedback: A very important part of Ebay. When you select an item to watch, as you begin, make sure to check the profile of the seller. To do this you click on the seller name. This will show you how he/she performs. If there are any negatives, or the percentage of happy campers is below 90%, I would stay away from that seller. Also, it is important for you to leave feedback as to how you felt the transaction went. I personally enter my feedback after I have received the item. This lets the seller know that I have received the item and that I am happy with it, and it saves you time in emailing the seller that you have received the item. The tutorial will also tell you about the various levels of comment.

In finishing, I hope I have assuaged some worries of those who haven't discovered the wonders of Ebay. Every day is like going to the Bourse, but from the comfort of your own home. I have also found that prices are lower, as the sellers do not have to buy the booth and truck their material all over the country. But that being said, there is still the thrill of finding that missing piece at the Show. Also, unless you deal with the same seller over time, you do not set up the relationship as you do with dealers at Shows, though in my case I buy from some of the same dealers over Ebay and at Shows. If you have any questions, get in touch with me: lizhisey@comcast.net.

So to you all, Happy Ebaying, have fun and don't be scared. The Ebay world is your oyster, and there is something for everyone out there: stamps, covers, postmarks, you name it, and you can find it.

WE WILL "CELEBRATE" MEETING OUR GOALS:

Sorry, but no one has submitted their name as having met their exhibiting goals. (Last minute flash: Ruth is the only one who accomplished her goal!!!)

BARB'S BOOK RECOMMENDATION: When I first saw the ads for Lawrence Block's new book, **Hit and Run**, the idea of a hit man who was an avid stamp

collector caught my eye because I enjoy suspense and murder mysteries so much. I immediately ordered the philatelic edition and began looking forward to its publication. I later found the short story, starring the same main character (Keller), by Mr. Block which appeared in the ASDA journal and finally took the time to read it a month ago. I loved it! I then began counting down the days until publication of the new book. It arrived on July 11, I began reading on the evening of July 12, and finished it on the evening of July 13. It was such a good read that I just couldn't put it down!

I knew it was a winner as soon as I read the first two paragraphs: "Keller drew his pair of tongs from his breast pocket and carefully lifted a stamp from its glassine envelope. It was one of Norway's endless Posthorn series, worth less than a dollar, but curiously elusive, and missing from his collection. He examined it closely, held it to the light to make sure the paper hadn't thinned where a hinge had once secured it to an album page, and returned it to the envelope, setting it aside for purchase.

"The dealer, a tall and gaunt gentleman whose face was frozen on one side by what he had explained was Bell's palsy, gave a one-side-of-the-face chuckle. 'One thing I like to see,' he said, 'is a man who carries his own tongs with him. Minute I see that, I know I've got a serious collector in my shop.'" (quoted by permission)

I won't give away the story, but it is quite different, loaded with stamp references, and so good that I will now order the earlier books in the Keller series. I confess that this is the first time I have ever found myself rooting for the "killer." He's a wonderfully likeable guy! If you enjoy a good mystery, I highly recommend **Hit and Run**, although it may not be possible at this point to purchase your own philatelic copy. You may want to contact Lawbloc@aol.com or DT@lawrenceblock.com (David Trevor) for further information on this and other Keller books.

HOLD THE DATE: Festival for Philatelic Women

Save these dates: May 28 – 31, 2009

Remember that Women Exhibitors (WE) will be conducting a Festival for Philatelic Women at the American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, May 28 – 31, 2009. (You need not be a WE member to attend.)

There will be seminars, "how-to" demonstrations, workshops and other programs to help women get the most from their stamp collecting hobby. If you have suggestions for topics to be included, please contact the Festival address below.

There will have ample time to make use of the American Philatelic Center and all it has to offer stamp collectors. The cost to attend the Festival for Philatelic Women is \$85 and covers daily lunch, dinner, and all activities. Hotel and travel expenses are on your own.

For more information contact Women Exhibitors, 7277 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33875. Email: WEfestival@comcast.net.

WE (Women Exhibitors) is open to all, but philately is explored from a woman's point of view.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL WE MEMBERS: WE Festival is looking for exhibits: If you are planning to attend the festival in Bellefonte in 2009, please also consider bringing an exhibit for other attendees to see. WE hopes to have a variety of exhibits displayed which will provide opportunities to share ideas and to ask questions about the various types of exhibits and exhibiting in general. Please contact me if you have questions or want to volunteer an exhibit. (Joann Lenz; joann@stampsjoann.net)

GENEROUS DEALER SUPPORT FOR FESTIVAL: Here is our list of dealers to date who have been most generous by giving financial support for the Festival. If you happen to see any of these dealers at an upcoming show, please be sure to thank them for their support:

Charles Deaton, Fredericksburg, TX
Bejco of Florida, Arnold Selengut, Temple Terrace, FL
Greg Sutherland, Freeman's Stamps, Dayton, OH
Triple S, Urbana, OH
Crown & Eagle Stamps & Coins, Stan Bednarczyk, Columbus, OH
Robert M. Sazama, Marion, IL
William H. Hatton, Piqua, OH
Elwyn Doubleday & Anne Sell, Alton, NH
John Wright, Vandalia, OH
Lincolnway Stamps, Dave & Ginny Pool, Massillon, OH
Michael Mead, Orleans, MA
James Lee, Cary, IL.
Douglas Weisz U.S. Covers, McMurray, PA
Cover Connection, Buffalo, NY

Other donations: Ann Triggler

WHO IS EXHIBITING WHERE????

There will no longer be a WHO list maintained or attached as of this month. Comments have been made that some members were unhappy that not ALL names were included. Apparently, it was not clear that members were responsible to submit their own names along with show information to be included in the list. This feature has now been dropped as it is impossible to get copies of and read ALL Palmars in order to include every member on the list.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- Welcome to Peter Butler, a Director of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Peter's collecting interests include Western Europe, Scandinavia, Canada, USA, Japan, and about 40 thematic topics such as lighthouses, railways, RCMP, polar bears, Antarctica, Vikings and picture postage. Peter has done various presentations on exhibiting at Summer Seminar, Chicagopex, and the Royal (Canada), among others. We look forward to having Peter share his expertise with WE/us.

