

# MAIL FIRST CLASS

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The Postscript  
Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club  
1904 Nanticoke Cir  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

## President's Message from Mike Francis

We start a new year with membership increasing at a regular rate. The influx of young adults into the club is a positive sign. I would like to thank all the members who have been talking with friends and family in order to help attract new members. Of course, we have lost members. Most of them dropped out because they have moved on to other interests or they have left the area. For whatever reason, we all enjoyed their participation in the Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club.

We have our second annual stamp show this March 26-27 and another successful show is expected. The official name of the show is TALPEX 2011. Although we don't have competition exhibiting, we will have exhibits. If you have any money left after purchasing that recent tank of gas, bring it to the show and have some fun.

Give me a call or send an email if you have any issues with the club, changes you would like to see to the meetings, the *Postscript*, or anything else. Feedback of any kind is welcomed and appreciated. I have tried to introduce varied events into our yearly schedule to reduce the need of having a speaker each month. This means you don't have listen to me all the time.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the \$.25/ticket raffle. It has become a popular and fun event. I will try to keep cleaning out my collection to find raffle items and finish up with the items Mickey left us for the raffle and auction. Some of the raffles lasted too long, as fun as they were, so I will try to keep the meeting on schedule and end at a reasonable time.  
Mike

# THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

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### Inside this issue:

<i>Ernest Rutherford, Nobel Physicist</i>	2
<i>Market prices for bulk US stamps</i>	
<i>Identity Uncovered</i>	3
<i>Identify This Stamp</i>	3
<i>President's Message</i>	4

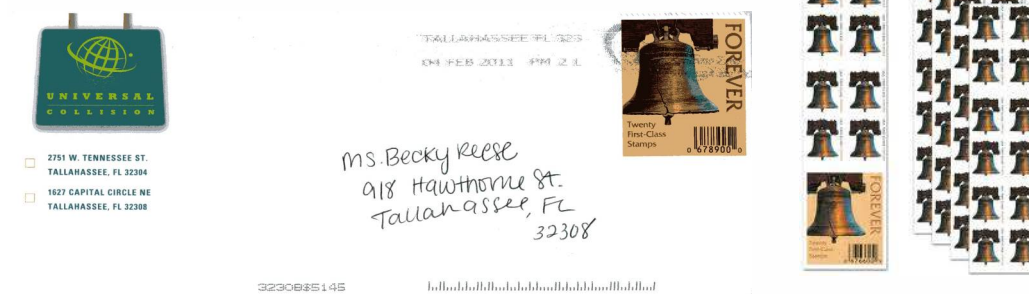
## Two Covers That Survived by Dr. Mike Francis

Every once in a while a cover comes through the mail that is either interesting or a complete surprise. Here are two covers with each one covering the interesting or surprise category. While both of them can be considered a "surprise" the cover with all mostly three cents stamps is the real surprise. With the USPS using all the high speed scanning and sorting equipment, it is rare for a cover to come through the mail unscathed, or at least having a corner or two ripped away from one of the stamps by the machines. This cover, from a friend of mine, actually made it through the system even when the machines placed the routing code on the bottom of the envelope. Fortunately, I received a nice cover in the mail. There is no real value for this cover but it was sure made for an interesting trip to my mailbox.



The cover below is one club member, Secretary Becky Reese, showed those present at the February meeting. Instead of a stamp, the mailer used the booklet cover label for a stamp. The image of the booklet shows that the label is much larger than the stamp

itself. It passed through the sorting machines because the label has the same phosphorus coating as the stamp and that is all the scanning machines require to let the envelope pass down the production line. This is not legal of course but it is easy to see how a person, especially elderly, would use the label as a stamp.



## Meeting Dates & Presentations, 2011

January 11, Mike Francis	July 12, Hemanth Vasanthaiiah
February 8, Mike Francis	August 9, TBA
March 8, Gerry York, Pitcairn/Norfolk Islands	September 13, Gerry York, ex Russia states
April 12, Annual Club Auction	October 11, Single Page Exhibit
May 10, Mike Francis	November 8, Member Bourse
June 14, Annual Auction	December 13, Christmas Party

### NOTICE:

- There are still a few members that have not paid their 2011 dues but we probably broke a record for members paying on time this year. Thanks to everyone.
- We have two new members in the club: Zachariah Dhanaragan and Rui Chen. A big welcome to Zach and Rui!
- Still looking for more members to contribute articles for the *Postscript*.
- We still have an auction scheduled for the April club meeting. Please let me know if you have any items to donate for the auction. All proceeds go to the club and eventually some will go to the Senior Center for all their support.
- If you have any stamps that you are having trouble with their identification, get them to the Editor of the *Postscript*. They might show up in a future issue.

## Ernest Rutherford, Nobel Prize Physicist on Stamp Collecting by Dr. Mike Francis

Ernest Rutherford, the Nobel Prize Physicist and Chemist, known for developing the planetary model of the atom that we are all familiar with today, once stated: All science is either physics or stamp collecting.

There is no evidence that Rutherford collected stamps or, for that matter, anything. If something didn't have anything to do with physics and couldn't be explained clearly to a barmaid, then whatever that something was had no purpose in life.

He also had other comments about stamp collecting that are enumerated in the book *Rutherford at Manchester* (1962) by J. B. Birks:

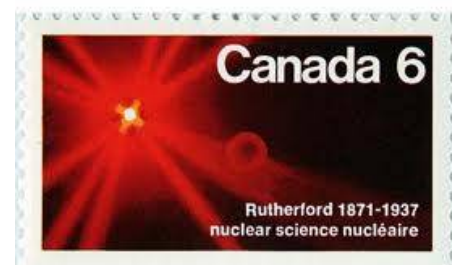
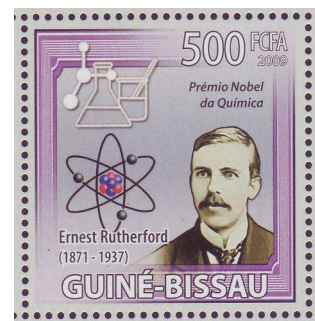
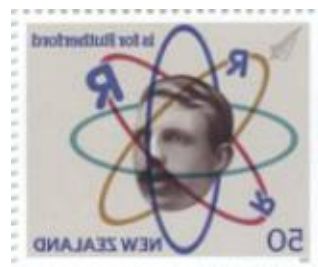
That which is not measurable is not science. That which is not *physics* is stamp collecting.

Physics is the only real science. The rest are just stamp collecting.

It is obvious that Rutherford had no respect for hobbies especially stamp collecting. It is unclear why he used stamp collecting as the hobby that epitomizes the insignificance of society compared to physics.

The words *alpha*, *beta*, *gamma*, *proton*, *half-life*, and *neutron* were coined by Rutherford. Ernest Rutherford is credited to be the first to split the atom in 1917 and two of his students were the first to split the nucleus in 1932. He died in 1937 and is buried between Sir Isaac Newton and Lord Kelvin in Westminster Abbey. In 1997, the international scientific community named the element rutherfordium (element 104) after him.

He was knighted by King George V in 1914 and in 1931 became First Baron of Nelson, New Zealand and Cambridge. He probably holds the record for most honorary degrees (20) for any scientist, and medals. As much as he sort-of trashed stamp collecting, the hobby has seen his image on more than 8 stamps of England, New Zealand, Russia, Sweden and other countries.



## Identity Uncovered? by Dr. Mike Francis



No one has uncovered the identity of this stamp as of the start of this publication. I will start the process as I am writing this section of the *Postscript*. First step is to grab Linn's Stamp Identifier and look through the images. Although I can not read the inscriptions on the stamp, there is a clue. Next to the number 50 is the symbol found on Asian stamps such as Japan or China. Next step is to check the images in the Asian Inscriptions section of the book searching for this symbol or anything close to it. No luck other than to verify that the text on the bottom of the stamp is Chinese.

A look in the Locals Section of the Identifier failed to identify this stamp. The next step is to look in the Revenue stamps section of the Identifier. Nothing there either. Short of asking Yen Chen to come over to my house or send her an email with an image of the stamp so she can read the inscription, I resorted to the Scott Catalog volume for China. Most collectors recognize this as an older Chinese stamp therefore is most likely is not of the more modern People's

Republic of China issues. Checking Scott's Catalog under China produced nothing. Checking all the provinces of China produced nothing. Checking everything in the Scott's catalog produced nothing.

The assumption here is that this is a revenue, charity, or some other stamp that Scott's does not list. One needs a specialty catalog. Or, in my case, I sent an email to club member Yen Chen and she responded. Yen did not know what the stamp really was but she translated the inscription on the top into something like "the stamp to help save money to build the country" which points to a fiscal issue to raise funds. This is much like the Arab countries issuing fiscal stamps to build railways in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Probably the only way to formally identify this stamp is to purchase the very expensive Chan catalog of Chinese stamps. The latest copy is sold by Michael Rogers, Inc. for \$145. Maybe someday I will get the set of six stamps which this is one and have them classified and inventoried. Not this year!

## Identify This Stamp



See if you can identify this stamp. Its identity will be uncovered in the next issue.

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*The Postscript is the quarterly journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club. Articles may be reproduced provided credit is given to this publication.*

## Dave Barry

Club Treasurer Dana Bryan thought Dave Barry's quote about stamp collectors would provide a chuckle and it does: "It would be hard to conceive of any activity more useless than stamp collecting." This is from Dave Barry's *Bad Habits* book. Stamp collecting is the single largest hobby in the world with China having the most collectors followed by India and the United States.

## Market Prices for Bulk US Stamps by Mike Francis

Bob Edwards in Port Charlotte, Florida, periodically mails his flyer out listing US and Foreign bulk stamp sales for on and off paper. Scanning the internet, his prices appear to be representative of the stamp market in general. For example, for 1lb. of US off paper he charges \$50 plus \$4.95 S&H. A Foreign 1lb. stamp mixture, off paper, costs \$45 plus \$4.85 S&H.

The collector can find mixtures cheaper or more expensive and ones that have a good variety. When you purchase by the pound or kilo there will be many duplicates. When a dealer lists "good variety" it means that the duplication has been reduced so 10,000 stamps in the one pound box does not have 9,000 copies of the same stamp.

Give Bob Edwards a try if you are looking for mixtures at 21553 Augusta Avenue, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Disclaimer: I do not know Bob Edwards and have not ordered from him but let him know you read this in the *Postscript*.