



THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

American Philatelic Society
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Christmas Party by Mike Francis, photos by Dr. Hemanth KN. Vasanthaiah

As is the case every year, the annual TS&CC Christmas Party was a success and fun for all. Members enjoyed the food and drink, the conversation and overall relaxed atmosphere. It was also great to see collectors trading, buying and selling parts of their collections. As has been the tradition in the past, Hemanth's beautiful daughter and future collector graced our party and had a blast.



Meeting Dates & Presentations, 2012

Jan. 10, Bob Mann, Removing self adhesive stamps	July 10, Gerry York, South African Homelands
Feb. 14, Mike Francis, Rotary Press measuring	Aug. 14, Show Your Collection
March 13, Gerry York, Cuba Revolution on stamps	Sept. 11, Hemanth Vasanthaiah
April 10, Mike Francis	Oct. 9, Single Page Exhibit
May 8, Annual Club Auction	Nov. 13, Gerry York, Ex-USSR states
June 12, Mike Francis	Dec. 11, Annual Christmas Party



Inside this issue:

<i>Christmas Party (con't.)</i>	2
<i>World Class Collection</i>	2
<i>Identity Uncovered</i>	3
<i>Identify This Stamp</i>	3
<i>Do You Have An Inheritor?</i>	3
<i>President's Message</i>	4

NOTICE:

- Annual membership dues should have been paid by the time you read this bulletin. If you have not paid your dues, please give them to Dana at the next meeting or mail him your check.
- Looking for articles for the *Postscript*. Anything that is philatelic related will do.
- Correction in Collecting Interests: Eileen Boutelle does not collect Rwanda but does collect Canada and Sweden and topicals such as birds, giraffes and dragons.
- Club member Jorge Caspary passed away December 21, 2011. He was a petroleum geologist who traveled the world. He loved to read and collect stamps. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.
- If you did not receive the "2011 Member Collecting Interest" sheet, please email or call Mike Francis for a copy. drmikef@comcast.net

Christmas Party *(con't. from page 1)*



Looking at a World Class Collection *by Dr. Mike Francis*

It is a dream of every philatelist to get a look at a premier stamp collection. Some of us in the club have seen the collection at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and the Royal Collection of Queen Elizabeth. While these are considered two of the best collections in the world, I recently had a chance to look at almost every stamp and cover of one of the world's best US Confederate States collections. It took over 4 hours to go through all the covers, both provisional, river, railroad and CSA capital covers, along with every variety of Confederate stamp issued and forged.

While the collection is worth well into seven figures based on my estimate, the most interesting part was the fact that while Scotts and respected Confederate literature say "only two known copies of this variety exist," I was looking at the two known copies. This was true for nearly every variety of Confederate stamp. What was even more fascinating was there were covers from every capital and major city in the Confederacy along with hundreds of covers from ports, train stations, French smuggling operations and a multitude of covers identified in Dietz's Catalog of Confederate Covers and Handbook.

One of the most fascinating covers was one postmarked in April, 1861, at the New Orleans railroad station. The New Orleans Jackson and Great Northern Railroad (NOJ&GN) played a role in the war between the states. When New Orleans fell during its siege by Admiral Farragut's fleet in April 1862, the railroad was used to haul troops, equipment and supplies out of reach of the Union. The cover is rare in that it has a circular date stamp of NOJ instead of NOJ&GN and is one of three earliest used rail station cancels in the field of Confederate philately. The envelope reverse has a CDS from Canton, Mississippi, which was the first major stop on the line. This is the first known Confederate Canton cancel.

After four hours of salivating over such a collection, my conversation with my friend, who owns the collection, focused on how he accumulated such a collection. He said it was a matter of focusing his collecting interests on specific areas of Confederate philately such as collecting stamp varieties and covers from specific locations. He also said such a focusing technique stopped him from collecting "every thing under the sun" like some of us tend to practice. I did ask him where are his "prisoner of war" covers. He said it may be time to start a new focus for his Confederate collection.

I asked him if he could come to Tallahassee and talk to the club about his collection and he agreed. Within the next year, we may have my friend give us a look at Confederate postal history.

Identity Uncovered? by Dr. Mike Francis



As in the last "Identify" stamp, to the collector of worldwide issues, identifying this stamp is not that hard. The language is Arabic therefore the initial focus is on the Middle Eastern countries.

With no Latin inscription on the stamp the first step is to look in Linn's Stamp Identification book and try to find the stamp or something close to it. Unfortunately, nothing in the Linn's book lends itself to the identity of this stamp. With Arabic writing and numerals, the Middle East is still the focus of the search.

If one looks carefully at the stamp and is familiar with geography, the map outline on the stamp is the Saudi Arabian peninsula and the Red Sea including the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez. This narrows the search down to the African countries bordering the Red Sea or Saudi Arabia and Yemen. There are six countries bordering the Red Sea and the two gulfs: four African countries being Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti; and two Middle East countries being Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

A serious collector would immediately focus

on Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The French, Italian and British nature of the early African nations do not have stamps that look like this one. A beginning collector would look at the Scott's Catalog for these African countries and would not find any stamp looking like this stamp. Next, with its Arabic writing, if the stamp was from Yemen then it would have come from South Arabia, the predecessor to Yemen. A quick catalog search will eliminate Yemen. This leaves Saudi Arabia.

Searching Scott's Catalog for Saudi Arabia reveals nothing in the general issue area including the two empires that composed Saudi Arabia; Hejaz and Nejd. The next place to look is in the back-of-the-book area. There is an exact image of this stamp and it is a Postal Tax Stamp, RA4Be and the mint value is \$67.50 but the used value is not shown because Scott has no market data. It has been seen on the internet to cost between \$45 and \$125 depending on the clarity and date on the postmark.

For the serious Middle East collector, the country of origin for this stamp is extremely simple. The coat-of-arms at the top middle of the stamp is Saudi Arabia.

Identify This Stamp



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

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Do You Have An Inheritor? by Dr. Mike Francis

Over the last six months, I have dealt with 13 different estate collections because I am one of the APS estate representatives for the North Florida, South Georgia and South Alabama area. In most of the cases the collector did not make provisions for the disposal of his/her collection. In one case the collector had willed the collection to one of his granddaughters and in another case the collection was to be sold at auction and the proceeds placed in a trust for the collector's disabled son. In the other 11 cases there were no provisions. In several of these cases, there were family fights because one side of the family thought the collection was "worth a fortune" while the other side said "they knew it was worthless." The reader can imagine the fight brewing over the value. Since the deceased in this case, which was quickly heading toward Armageddon, was an APS member, I was called in to offer advise and report back to the APS.

A quick review of the thirteen boxes of stamps, albums, stuffed envelopes and the like revealed what our dearly departed friend Professor Homer Black called an "accumulation." With some nice stamps and a ton of modern US mint, I placed the value around \$2,300. There were no investment grade stamps in the "accumulation." The reasonable side of the family, the collector's wife, the inheritor by law, was rather happy and the collection was sold to a dealer in Atlanta for \$2,685. The collector's children, were extremely unhappy and even threatened legal action against their mother, me, the Atlanta dealer and anyone else that walked down the street.

The bottom line of this story is that a collector should be honest with his/her family about the value of their collection. More importantly, the collector should let the family know what to do with the collection after he collector departs this planet. Have you made plans?

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President's Message *from Mike Francis*

We are now into a new year, 2012, with two new members, Bob and Gerry Mann. We had a great presentation from Bob at the January meeting about removing self-adhesive stamps from envelopes.

The TALPEX 2012 is scheduled for March 24-25 at the Senior Center. At the February meeting, Show Chair Ed Walters called on members to volunteer for various show tasks. In the past, member participation and help with the show has been outstanding. This year looks like we will have the same level of enthusiasm. We are going to go slightly overboard with the advertising in order to attract a multitude of collectors, old and new to the hobby, and enough collector traffic to help the dealers feel the trip to

Tallahassee is worth their effort. This is our third show and the dealers have told us that they give a show three tries and if the profit margin is not enough they will not come back. Since Tallahassee is such a small stamp collectors market, extensive promotion of TALPEX is our best bet to keep the dealers coming back.

A big thank you to all who brought food, bread and desserts to the Christmas Party.

See you at the March meeting and at TALPEX 2012. Mike