



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 17 Issue 9  
April 2018

*Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293*



**Philately** - is the study of stamps and postal history and other related items. It also refers to the collecting, research, and enjoyment, of stamps and other philatelic products.

**Contact Information;** Please update your email address so we can notify you quickly with any urgent matters.

## New U.S. Forever Airmail Stamps



United States Postal Service will honor the beginning of airmail service by dedicating two United States Air Mail Forever stamps this year. The first, depicted here in blue, commemorates the pioneering spirit of the brave pilots who first flew the mail in the early years of aviation. The first-day-of-issue ceremony will take place May 1, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., Washington, DC. The event is free and open to the public. On May 15, 1918, in the midst of World War I, a small

group of Army pilots delivered mail along a route that linked Washington, Philadelphia, and New York initiating the world's first regularly scheduled airmail service. The United States Post Office Department, took charge of the U.S. Air Mail Service later that summer, operating it from Aug. 12, 1918, through Sept. 1, 1927. Airmail delivery, daily except on Sundays, became part of the fabric of the American economy and spurred growth of the nation's aviation industry. The red stamp will commemorate this milestone with its first-day-of-issue to take place later this summer. Both stamps, are printed in the intaglio print method, a design transferred to paper from an engraved plate, depict the type of plane typically used in the early days of airmail, a Curtiss

JN-4H biplane. The biplane was also featured on the stamps originally issued in 1918 to commemorate the beginning of regularly scheduled airmail service. The stamp designs evoke that earlier period. The stamp designer and typographer was Dan Gretta; Greg Breeding was the art director



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## Notable People on Stamps:

**Maxim Gorky**  
Alexei Maximovich Peshkov, primarily known as Maxim Gorky, was a Russian and Soviet writer, a founder of the socialist realism literary method and a political activist. He was also a five-time nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature. Fifteen years before success as a writer, he frequently changed jobs and roamed the Russian Empire; these experiences would later influence his writing. Gorky's most famous works were *The Lower Depths*, *Twenty-six Men and a Girl*, *The Song of the Stormy Petrel*, *My Childhood*,

*The Mother*, *Summerfolk* and *Children of the Sun*. He had an association with fellow Russian writers Leo Tolstoy and Anton Chekhov; Gorky would later mention them in his memoirs. (Information source Wikipedia)



Russia  
9/20/2000



Soviet Union,  
USSR  
4/3/1958



DDR  
3/28/1953



India  
3/28/1968

## Club News

Volunteers needed to help set up at Gateway Hall Friday April 13th, 2018 at 7 PM. No need to call, just show up!

Election was held for the two year positions of president and recording secretary. Andy Novotny will continue another term as President. Danielle Weaver will now be recording secretary making a position of Secretary/Treasurer until her time as Treasurer expires, unless reelected to that post. Andy and Danielle will be installed at the meeting in June.

### New Members;

*John and Joyce Harding*

Collect Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Belgium, and US "Love" stamps. Member of APS *Tom D. Smith* New Jersey US and World Wide

A winning Cachet & Souvenir Sheet idea was discussed for 2019 WILKPEX based on the new Mr. Rogers Stamps, it was discussed to order stamps and

first-day covers for 2019

New forms for the Phlea market at WILKPEX are now available.

Club received a donation for stamp related items, these and other items will be included in the Phlea Market at the WSC show April 14th & 15th..

Laura gave an informative talk on Exhibiting, which enticed several people into exhibiting this year for the show, Good going Laura!

It was once again discussed to try to find a bigger building, so we can support more dealers at our 2020 Show.

We will be have a table at the Churchill Community Day August 11th 2018. If you would like to help contact Danielle Weaver [dmm742000@yahoo.com](mailto:dmm742000@yahoo.com)

## WILKPEX - WSC 68th Annual Stamp Show

**SAT, APRIL 14, 2018  
10 AM - 5 PM**

**SUN, APRIL 15, 2018  
10 AM - 3 PM**

Sports Cachet & Cancellation  
"World Famous

Satirical Souvenir Sheets"  
Exhibits

Philatelic Phlea Market  
50/50 Raffle  
9 Dealers

*Engler Stamps*

*Geezers Tweezers*

*R J Associates*

*Mickey's Stamps*

*K2 Collectible Stamps*

*John's Philatelics*

*The Cover Connection*

*Richter Stamp Company*

*Tom's Stamps*

(dealer information see  
website at: [http://](http://www.wilksburgstampclub.com)

[www.wilksburgstampclub.com](http://www.wilksburgstampclub.com))

YOUTH AREA

FREE PARKING

FREE ADMISSION

Location;  
GATEWAY HALL  
MONROEVILLE FIRE CO.  
NO. 4  
4370 NORTHERN PIKE,  
MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

For more Show Information  
Visit our website at;  
<http://www.wilksburgstampclub.com>  
or  
Contact;  
Danielle Weaver  
Phone;  
412-727-1096  
E-Mail;  
[dmm742000@yahoo.com](mailto:dmm742000@yahoo.com)

## Worlds Smallest Country sends most mail per person

### Vatican City

Size: 0.17 sq. mi.

Population: around 783

Located in Rome, Italy, it is the size of a golf course, and considered the smallest country in the world. It a walled enclave inside of the city of Rome, Italy

For a country that has no street address, the Vatican City has a very efficient post office: an international mail dropped in the Vatican mail will get to it's destination faster than one dropped in Italy just a few hundred yard away - in fact, there is more mail sent annually per inhabitant from this country (7,200 mails per person) than anywhere else in the world.

On 1 August 1929, the Vatican released its first stamps, a definitive series known to collectors as the

*Conciliation issue.* It consisted of thirteen regular issues and two special delivery stamps

In 1938 the Vatican released its first airmails, distinguished by the inscription *Posta Aerea*.

For more information visit the Vatican Philatelic Society web site;  
[http://](http://www.vaticancitystamps.org)

[www.vaticancitystamps.org](http://www.vaticancitystamps.org)



## WSC Meetings

**Visitors are welcome!**

2nd and 4th Sunday

*No Holidays*

Next meetings

April 8th & April 22nd

*Summers Meetings*

June thru August

2nd Sundays only

Doors Open 12:30

Meeting starts at 2PM

Churchill Borough Building,

2300 William Penn Hwy

Churchill, PA 15235.

*Free light lunch available*  
**DUES ARE ONLY \$8.00 PER FISCAL YEAR (JULY-JUNE)**  
Members that haven't paid your dues, can send payment to: Wilksburg Stamp Club and sent to:

*Wilksburg Stamp Club*

*P.O. Box 10552*

*Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0552*

## Upcoming Shows

### SPRING STAMP EXPO

April 7, 2018  
Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society  
Eugene Clarke Center, 235 S. Third Street, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 17202  
Contact: Quinn Witherspoon,  
rspran32@gmail.com  
717-264-1252

### WILKPEX

April 14, 15  
Wilksburg Stamp Club  
Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146  
Contact: Tom Donohue  
wilksburgstampclub@yahoo.com  
Phone: 412-373-8697  
Website: <http://www.wilksburgstampclub.com>

### TUSCOPEX 2018

April 14, 2018  
Tuscora Stamp Club  
Tuscora Park, 161 Tuscora Avenue, NW, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663  
Contact: Jim Shamel  
jim-helenshamel@hotmail.com  
Phone: 740-922-4610

### TRI-STATE MONTHLY COIN & STAMP SHOW

April 22, 2018  
10 am—4 pm  
Sheraton Bucks County  
400 Oxford Valley Langhorne, PA 19047  
Contact: Allen Brock  
305-852-7678

### MONTROSE STAMP BOURSE

April 29, 2018  
Sun, 10-4.  
Lincolnway Stamps Event

Holiday Inn Akron  
West 4073 Medina Rd.  
Ohio 44333  
(I-77 Rt. 18 exit).  
Contact: David G. Pool,  
Lincolnway@sssnet.com,  
Phone: 330-832-5992.

### LANCOPEX 2018

April 27-28, 2018  
Philatelic Society of Lancaster County  
Farm & Home Center,  
1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601  
Contact: Lou DiFelice,  
loudifelice@gmail.com  
Phone: 717-572-3419  
<http://www.lcps-stamps.net/>

## WSC Newsletter

It's your newsletter!  
Help Make it special

Original articles for the newsletter may be submitted by any of the membership to Deb Foltyn at a meeting or emailed to  
Quest4moos@msn.com  
Snail mail:

Deb Foltyn  
1023 Brintell Street  
Pittsburgh, PA15201-1637

Ideas or content suggestions are welcome.

*Note\* articles submitted may be edited for content or to fit the Format.*

*Club members get a free hard copy of the newsletter.*

Non-members can receive copies of the newsletter by sending \$1 per copy to the above address, checks should be addressed to  
“Wilksburg Stamp Club”

## What are Fancy Cancels?

Fancy cancels include any stamps or covers marked with an interesting cancellation design to indicate the postage is used. While many use the terms postmark and cancel synonymously, the earliest postmarks served only to denote the date a letter was accepted at an official post office; it wasn't until the advent of adhesive stamps in 1840 that a separate system for indicating used stamps was required.

Some of the most interesting cancellations are the hand-stamps created before the advent of mail-processing machinery. Many local post offices designed and carved their own stamps, resulting in an array of diverse cancels to serve the basic purpose of

obliterate the postage. Besides frequent variations on geometric forms like stars, crosses, and circles, some rare cancel marks featured initial letters or imagery like skulls or moons. In 1840, Great Britain standardized its postmark system by adopting a generic “Maltese Cross” design for all districts. However, the mark conveyed no additional information beyond the country, so the British Royal Mail soon incorporated numbers associated with specific postal routes, and finally date marks.



**Junior Corner**

**The Tools** of the Philatelists or Stamp Collector; This month we will discuss **Watermark Detector.**

Watermarks are another way to recognize differences in similar stamps. A watermark is a design (maybe a letter, a number, or a picture) that is pressed into the paper that a stamp is printed on during manufacturing. Watermarks are used to make it harder to counterfeit stamps. Sometimes watermarks are visible, or can easily be seen by looking at the back of a stamp as you hold it up to the light, or by placing the stamp face down on a black background. If these methods don't work, a watermark detector can be used. A watermark detector is a shallow, glass black cup or dish. Simply place your

stamp face down in the detector, and pour watermark fluid over it; if there is a watermark, it should become visible.



**The Slobbo Gazette**

*The people of Slobbovia, having survived the great spaghetti famine by means of a great fish harvest will celebrate the seasons catch with a new edition of the Wilksburg Stamp Club Satirical Souvenir Sheet, and new special envelope to be issued April 14th 2018.*

*In celebration the countrymen are having the annual Shark Games, including shark sledding, shark toss, and Shark curling. All are welcome to attend and join in the fun.*

**News Flash:** *Bruzilla Brown's Bagel Bakery Burnt Brightly Before Breakfast, Fifty-five Firefighters Fiercely Fought Flames from Fireplace and Flue.*

**WSC Officers**

**President:**  
Andy Novotny  
novoand@hotmail.com

**Vice-President:**  
Laura Kaczynski  
laurakac13@verizon.net

**Recording Secretary:**  
Lorraine Vincent  
LVincent04@aol.com

**Treasurer:**  
Danielle Weaver  
dmm742000@yahoo.com

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Deb Foltyn  
quest4moos@msn.com

**Mailing Coordinator:**  
Danielle Weaver  
dmm742000@yahoo.com

**Web Tech:**  
Deb Foltyn  
Quest4moos@msn.com

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[wilksburgstampclub.com](http://wilksburgstampclub.com)

**WILKSBURG STAMP CLUB**  
**Home of the Famous Satirical Souvenir**

**50 Years ago - April 1968**

On 1 April 1968 thirteen stamps of Nigeria from the 1965 issue were issued overprinted with the Biafran coat of arms and the words SOVEREIGN BIAFRA.

The 1/2d and 1d values from the same 1965 Nigeria series also exist surcharged with new values and overprinted BIAFRA-FRANCE FRIENDSHIP 1968 SOVEREIGN BIAFRA but these stamps are not believed to have been used for postage.

Wildlife Provisionals. Issued 1 April 1968. Overprinting on several of the large-format Nigeria definitives was performed in two stages and in different colors resulting in the loss of either the red crest and obliteration bars or the black

'SOVEREIGN BIAFRA' inscription.

All are scarce as typically single sheets of 25 stamps were affected.

Eastern Nigeria separated from the Nigerian Federation in 1967 after military coups precipitated ethnic violence across the country, particularly in the North. The new state of Biafra issued its first stamps on February 5, 1968. Biafran stamps were mainly used on internal mail but some international mail was sent out by air via Libreville, Gabon. The civil war ended on January 15, 1970.

