

# WE EXPRESSIONS



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APS Affiliate #260  
Women Exhibitors

Supported by AAPE

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

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If you don't have time to do it  
right, when will you have  
time to do it over?

John Wooden  
1910-2010

## PIPEX 2012

11, 12 and 13 May  
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Portland, Portland, OR

The Pacific Northwest  
Premier Stamp Show  
Details at [www.pipexshow.org](http://www.pipexshow.org) or from  
Michael Dixon ([mdd@att.net](mailto:mdd@att.net))

KK

Keepers Korner

I want to thank John Hotchner for his wonderful article in the November newsletter about the history of women in philately. It gives us all pause to realize that we have been working on encouraging women to take part in philately for quite a while.

Don't forget the next WE meeting at AmeriStamp Expo in Atlanta. WE will meet on Saturday, January 28th. My Internet service is down, so I cannot access the APS web site to give you a room number and definite time. You can do that on your own. Bring your ideas and questions to Pat Stilwell-Walker who is chairing the meeting.

Michael Dixon, chair of PIPEX, tells us that WE has not submitted ANY entry forms for PIPEX. So this is a call to ALL of us to get those forms in the mail. I'm attaching an entry form here. I'm told that some of us are having trouble accessing the PIPEX site. So take this form out of the newsletter, make copies for all of the exhibits you are entering, and get them in the mail.

WE Festival III will be at PIPEX, Portland OR, 10-13 May 2012. Have you sent in your registration? If not, why not? The schedule of events has something for everyone.

WE needs someone to write press releases for Festival III for the stamp magazines. If you would be willing to do this, please get in touch with me as soon as you can.

May the New Year bring you good health and prosperity. May your collection acquire new items, and may your exhibits win the medals you desire. That's asking a lot for the coming year, but let's hope that some of our philatelic wishes come true.

Ruth

## **Festival for Philatelic Women May 9-12, 2012, Portland ,OR**

### **Schedule of Events**

**May 10; 8-9 am: Morning Gathering/ R. Caswell & P. Walker (general session)**

**9-11 am: You Be the Judge/ P. Walker (WE members only)**

**Noon: Lunch**

**1-2 pm: One Frame Exhibiting/ L. Hisey (WE only seminar)**

**3-4 pm: Exhibiting Techniques/ V. Grinsfeld (WE only seminar)**

**5-6 pm: Display Exhibiting/ A. Harris (WE only seminar)**

**May 11; 9-11 am: You Be the Judge/ P. Walker (WE members only)**

**10-noon: Scrapbooking/ H. Griffin (open to the public)**

**Noon: Lunch**

**1-3 pm: How to Research/ T. Murray (open to the public)**

**3-5 pm: Stamp and Ephemera Printing/ B. Hisey, narrator**

**May 12; 10-11 am: WE Meeting/ R. Caswell (open to the public)**

**4-5 pm: Beginning Collectore/ H. Ness (open to the public)**

# Ode to an Exhibitor

By **R. U. Uptuit** (with thanks and apologies to W. Shakespeare)

To exhibit or not to exhibit – that is the question:  
Whether 'tis tougher on the ego to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous criticism,  
Or to take umbrage at the judges' remarks,  
And by opposing receive a Certificate of Participation.

To write up – to shove lots in a stockbook  
No more; and by an exhibit to say we end  
The aimless accumulating, and the thousand unfiled stamps  
From the circuit books. 'Tis organization  
Devoutly to be wish'd!

To write up – to exhibit.  
To exhibit – perchance to win a medal: ay, there's the rub!  
For in that striving for gold, what nightmares may come  
When we have Mastercarded off this month's pay packet,  
Must give us pause. There's the dilemma  
That makes calamity of so many marriages.

For whose spouse would bear the hours of time at eBay,  
The nights alone, the unkempt yard,  
The pangs of unfulfilled desire, the chores' delay,  
The insolvency of the checking account, and the spurns  
That the patient, waiting children take,  
When he himself might her collection burn  
With a naked flame?

Who would these drawbacks bear,  
To grunt and sweat over a computer-formatted page,  
But that the glory of something after the exhibition –  
The undiscover'd network of collectors, from whose contact  
An exhibitor finds she is no longer alone – excites the mind,  
And makes us want to read the books we have  
And search for others that we know not of?

This mental stimulation does make philatelists of us all,

And thus the onerous task of writing up  
Is occasioned by the pale cast of light  
Under the magnifying glass,  
And findings of great pith and moment!  
When these are gibbered excitedly, the spouse turns away  
And loses interest.....

Sheryll Ruecker asked the editor of Capital Philately for his permission to use this poem in the WE newsletter; he has given his permission.

By Robert G. Rufe

In October of 1955 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) produced Special Handling stamps on an experimental, low moisture-content paper. This “dry” paper has led to the terminology “dry-prints” for these stamps to differentiate them from their previous wet-print counterparts. “Dry” paper (7-15% moisture content) required increased pressure on the printing plates, resulting in stamps with both wider and taller dimensions than wet-printed stamps. (Figure 1). The October run produced fewer than a million stamps of each denomination, compared to about 40 million each of the 10, 15 and 20¢ denominations of the wet-prints. Accordingly, mint “dry-prints” are much harder to find than the readily available wet prints.

Just to eliminate confusion, the 25¢ stamps are not part of this discussion, since they were only made by the wet-printing process during two production runs, one in 1925, the deep-green first printing, and another in 1928, the yellow-green second printing (Figure 2).

For seven years I had quietly been trying to find the dry-printed variety of Special Handling stamps on an in-period cover – and finally succeeded in the fall of 2010 with the discovery of a 15¢ dry-print on a 1957 cover – an August 1 FDC for the Scott C49 6¢ Air Force stamp (Figure 3). In parallel with this search, and presumably an easier challenge, I also tried to find study examples of used stamps – again, the dry-printed variety - only to find out that these are rare (10 and 15¢ stamps) or non-existent, as is the current status for the 20¢ stamp! As recently as four years ago, the Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers listed both wet- and dry-prints, used, at the same price level, about a dollar apiece (Figure 4). No one had apparently studied this issue to realize how rare these dry-printed stamps are – USED! Now, the dry-printed stamps, used, are priced with a dash, indicating they do not trade frequently enough to be priced accurately (Figure 5). I contend they do not trade at all, are rare to nonexistent, and are largely unknown to the philatelic public...there are no album spaces for them, and their rarity is not known, nor appreciated. From a pricing perspective, there is no demand – there is no supply! One ponders “If there were a supply, would there be a demand?” Complicating this situation is the fact that used stamps are difficult to identify. Add to this the possibility that fake cancels could be added to mint stamps to deceive collectors, and my challenge now is to find – even one – of the 10¢ or 20¢ dry-prints on cover.

So, can you find one of these covers, franked with a Special Handling dry-print stamp, used commercially during the period from October, 1955 through 1959? On September 11, 1959, all these stamps were withdrawn from both the post offices and philatelic windows. The author is backing up this challenge with a cash reward for any certifiable example submitted (Figure 6). Technical details and questions from anyone interested in this search are welcomed at the email address [rrufe1@aol.com](mailto:rrufe1@aol.com).

Figure 1. Differentiate dry-prints from wet-printed Special Handling stamps by comparing their design dimensions. Horizontal width, progressively, top to bottom: QE1a (dry); QE2 (wet – 1928 special booklet paper); QE4a 1928 (wet) same as QE4 1925 (wet); QE2 (wet – typical 1940s to mid-1950s printings). Vertical width, progressively, left to right: same order as above – QE1a is much taller than the other four, which are essentially the same height.

Figure 2. The QE4 and QE4a 25¢ stamps were printed in 1925 and 1928, respectively, on “wet” (15 – 35% moisture content) paper. Design dimensions are the same – only the ink color changed. QE4 is deep-green, whereas QE4a is yellow-green.

Figure 3. Discovery piece – the only dry-printed U.S. Special Handling stamp found so far on an in-period cover. Albeit a philatelic cover, it is the only known cover to-date.

Figure 4. The 2007 edition of the Scott US Specialized catalog listed Special Handling dry-printed stamps the same as “wet-printed” – \$1.50 each.

Figure 5. Based on evidence this author presented to the editors, the 2008 edition of the Scott US Specialized catalog began listing Special Handling dry-printed stamps with a dash. The catalog numbering was also changed to make the first printings – the common stamps – the main catalog numbers.

Figure 6. This ad has appeared in a few trade publications, but has yet to “tease out” the desired commercial cover – one franked with a 10¢ or 20¢ Special Handling dry-print stamp!



2a, 2b - 25 cent stamps

1a, 1b - design dimensions



3 - C57 FDC

QE3 PP13 20c yellow green, 1955	3.25	1.50
Never hinged	5.25	
Block of 4	14.50	11.00
PF block of 6	47.50	
Never hinged	70.00	
a. Wet printing, June 25, 1928	4.50	1.50
Never hinged	7.75	
PF block of 6	37.50	
Never hinged	55.00	
First day cover		45.00
First day cover, Nos. QE1a-QE3a		350.00

4 - Scott 2007 Cat listings

Never hinged	75.00	
QE3 PP13 20c yellow green, wet printing, June 25, 1928	4.50	1.50
Never hinged	7.75	
Block of 4	19.00	
PF block of 6	37.50	
Never hinged	60.00	
First day cover		45.00
First day cover, Nos. QE1-QE3		300.00
a. Dry printing, 1955	7.50	
Never hinged	12.50	
Block of 4	32.50	
PF block of 6	37.50	
Never hinged	85.00	

5 - Scott 2008 Cat listings



6 - Wanted Ad

## INFO

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If you are not yet an AAPE member, contact Liz Hisey, AAPE Secretary at [lizhisey@comcasr.net](mailto:lizhisey@comcasr.net) Or go to [aaape.org](http://aaape.org) and click on Join the AAPE. Liz Hisey also has the WE buttons.

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