

WE EXPRESSIONS



Vol. 5-11; November 25, 2011



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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A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth
the first time he bites off more than he
can chew.

Herb Caen
1916-1997

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 or from
Michael Dixon (mdd@att.net)

KK

Keepers Korner

The next WE meeting will be at AmeriStamp Expo, 27-29 January in Atlanta. Our meeting will be on Saturday, January 28th, and Pat Stilwell-Walker has graciously accepted the call to lead the meeting in my absence. Put this date on your calendar. WE hopes to see you there. Bring ideas for WE, questions about exhibiting, and any other issues you want to raise. These meetings are good discussions about our organization, exhibiting, and collecting. I hope that WE members attending will take advantage of this opportunity and bring friends with you.

Catch your breath after Atlanta, and then make plans for Festival III at PipeX in Portland, OR, 10-13 May 2012. Your registration should be in the mail soon. The schedule of events has something for everyone. Don't forget to send in your entry form for exhibits at PIPEX and check the box/line for WE. More about Fest III in upcoming newsletters.

If you want to enter a non-competitive exhibit at PIPEX, please get in touch. It would be great if WE could fill the 10 frames requested, and, at this time, we have only five taken.

WE had a very successful Club Showcase (frame of one-page exhibits) at SEAPEX. My thanks to all who made this possible. Lisa Foster took charge of mounting and dismounting the one-page exhibits, and her son Marcus supplied us with pictures. Members Lisa F., Janice W., Nancy S., Anne H., Tim B., Vesma G., Ann D., Cathie O., Sheryll R., Lyman C., and Ruth C. supplied the exhibits. This was a great way to introduce the public to exhibiting and to our organization. There were lots of viewers with many comments and questions. Now that WE has accomplished this for one show, why not try it for others. I'll let the pictures speak for themselves. I'll see if Sheryll will let us publish the Ode to Exhibitors in the next newsletter. Some pictures are included here; there will be more in the December newsletter.

By the time I write the column for the December newsletter, many of the holiday festivities will be over. Best wishes for a Happy Holiday season, and a peaceful New Year.

Ruth

SEAPEX
SHOWCASE

Women Exhibitors

Club Showcase

Non-Competitive

WE

Women Exhibitors

The purpose of WE is to provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can maintain and offer through display information, ideas, inspiration, advice, problems, and solutions.

WE provides a forum for women to discuss and explore their collecting, exhibiting, and displaying interests and activities. Exhibiting, collecting, and displaying are not separate activities, but rather they are interrelated and should be considered as such.

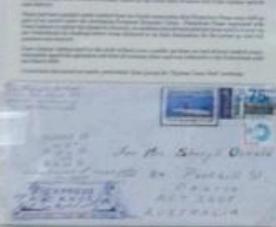
WE provides an outlet for all the activities and interests of women exhibitors.



Phis is an Exhibit

Phis is an exhibit is a collection of items that are displayed in a way that is both informative and visually appealing. It is a great way to showcase your collection and share your knowledge with others. The exhibit should be well-organized and easy to navigate, with clear labels and descriptions. It should also be visually appealing, with a mix of colors and textures. The exhibit should be a reflection of your collection and your interests.

ITALIAN CANOE MAIL



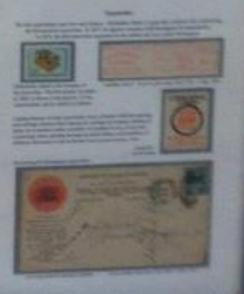
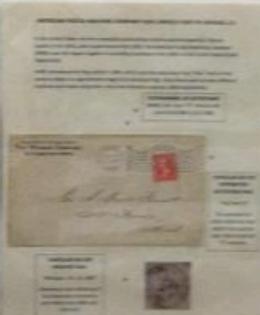
A SCOTTISH MAIL



Touring Castilla y Leon



ZAL TRANSVAL



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)

Retrospective of women in the hobby

It has been a while since we looked at the volatile subject of women in philately. In fact, it was 1977.

As a comparison, in late 1978 there were five women among the 80 officer and major appointive positions of the major nationals, the American Philatelic Society and the Society of Philatelic Americans. That includes one individual holding three positions! Today, there are four individual female incumbents among 73. This is not much improvement!

I don't propose to go into the whys or wherefores of this situation. Instead, let's take a look back, an 85-year retrospective, at one of yesterday's burning issues. Why are not more women involved in stamp collecting, specifically in organized philately?

My vehicle consists of several issues of Clifford W. Kissinger's *The Pennsylvania Philatelist*. Let's peek into the May 1893 issue, at an article entitled "Philatelic Suggestions for Miss Columbia" by Maud Charlotte Bingham:

"If I only could write something to induce more of the young ladies of the United States to take up stamp collecting...If you only will try it, you can hardly resist the fascination and interest that

is sure to follow.

“It would take a fortune to induce me to part with the pleasure and benefit I have received in eleven years of stamp collecting. It has been weeks of genuine fun, months of geographical research and years well and most interestingly spent.

No, let the Astors, the Vanderbilts and the Drexels amass their millions, and let fame and cymbals sound the praises of presidents and statesmen, but give me the searching, the striving after, and the obtaining of, rare stamps and curios, and that is glory enough for me.

“But please do not consider me so far gone on our science as to say that there is no nobler achievement of life, for there are many.

“But to make gladsome many a dull hour; lift burdens off many a dear girl’s (or boy’s) weary shoulders, I commend stamp collecting, with its hundred and one delightful and interesting connections.

“Yes, dear Miss Columbia, if you have never tried any of the sweets of stamp collecting, please take just as much of my advice as you have in mind, only try it,”

Imagine the man of the house passing his copy of “The Pennsy” to his beloved and suggesting that she pursue his interest with him. Would the lady have responded positively? Would she be more likely to respond positively today?

“A Plea for the Ladies,” by Mame A. Keene in the October 1893 issue, makes a more specific point. Women are, it seems, collecting stamps. They are not, however, manning 10 percent, let alone 50 percent of the battle stations in organized philately. Ms. Keene wants to know why:

“In all the arts, professions and sciences that require skill, genius and brains, women have shown the ability, genius and a wide scope of comprehending power.

“In the sciences women have been the shining light. In the professions she has been the cause of many of the brighter ideas. In the arts she is equal to man, and in many cases his superior.

“Taking them, all in all, they are being recognized as the guiding star, and the hope of future success.

“Now then why not recognize them in philatelic circles? They are admitted as members, true, but are they consulted on the many subjects which relate to the advancement of these state and national societies or organizations? Are they even asked for an opinion?

“Why is it? Are we too inferior in ability? Are we too weak in ideas? Are we lacking in knowledge? Are we so dead to the interest of the science as not to be able to form an opinion as to its advancements?

“Are we ignorant of the means and the wherewithall to build up philately and make it the grandest and most interesting subject of deep study in the universe?

“No, I answer, we are not guilty or cannot be charged with being unable to answer a single one of the above questions. Woman’s world is a grand one and will be until God makes the world miserable by taking her out of it...

“Then why not give her a chance in the philatelic field? Invite her to join in your philatelic career. Nominate her and vote for her as an officer.

“Be guided by her as an expounder and an administratrix of laws and rules, for to a woman nothing is impossible, and philately will never reach its height until it is ruled and managed by the hand of a woman.”

This piece is recognizable in today’s terms as a call for affirmative action. While the last line of

it may be a bit overstated, the thought is accurate.

Philately will certainly not “reach its height” until the talents of women are fully welcomed and brought to bear on philately’s problems. Are they welcomed today?”

Eva Earl wrote “Give the Girls a Chance” in the November 1893 issue. She states:

“I don’t mean by this...that we of the weaker sex complain of any special degree of unfair treatment in the Philatelic world, for this would be to cast unmerited slur on ye of the sterner sex in our land; and certainly a more courteous or more chivalrously gallant race, does not, I think exist.

“But what do I complain of, and I wish to do it in a weak tone of voice, for I wish not to draw down upon my devoted head measures of wrath, which, for aught I know, may be in reserve for any girl bold enough to make her complaints known, therefore I complain, as it were, pianissimo, that we are even more than unfairly treated - we appear to be entirely ignored...

“Therefore I ask - why do you seek to ignore us? Is it intentional, or is it an oversight? Why is it?”

Ms. Earl goes on to ask that the “Philatelic Sons of America” include a woman on the next slate of officers.

Mame A. Keene is heard from again in the issue of December 1893. In “A Plea for the Ladies (Second Paper)” she details a number of means by which women can be a useful addition to philately. One of the items is just wonderful and has been borne out by the progress we have seen:

“Again she would make a convention what it should be, a convention of gentlemen. I do not mean by this that other gentlemen attend conventions, but I mean to say were the ladies present, the conventions would be very different and more properly conducted.

“The true gentleman always respects the lady, and he would be as gentle, kind and graceful at a convention as he ever is in the drawingroom. Men care less for each other and sometimes lose control of themselves in a heated discussion, so it takes the presence of a woman to recall him to his proper sphere.”

Ladies are indeed, “civilizers” when it comes to keeping meeting on track and orderly.

Mr. Kissinger himself took pen in hand in the January 1894 issue to say: “It has frequently been a source of wonder to many philatelists why a greater number of the fair sex is not enrolled under Philatelia’s banner. It certainly is true that the number of ladies actively engaged in the study of philately is lamentably small.

“The ladies are rarely heard from in the Philatelic press, and but few of our societies are fortunate enough to possess membership rolls which include the names of lady stamp collectors...

“We might think out a score of reasons for this deplorable state of affairs, but, frankly, I can conceive of no other reason than this” the ladies have not received sufficient encouragement at the hands of the sterner sex.

“Nearly all of us owe our allegiance to Philately to the fact that we have been encouraged in our collecting career by one who was experienced in the various phases of Philately, and, profiting by this counsel, we soon became ardent collectors and enthusiastic champions of our cause. With the fair sex, however, it seems to be different...

“I have located the blame on our own heads, but without further detailing, let us right here endeavor to find a remedy for these existing circumstances...

“Surely, this will not prove itself to be a difficult matter. Our hobby must appeal favorably to the feminine taste, and the pleasing colors of many of our stamps, together with their handsome designs, makes the absence of the ladies the more surprising. I maintain that the ladies have been selfishly treated by the sterner sex.”

Well, there it is: “encouragement.” The concept is as valid today as it was 85 years ago. We “oldtimer,s” male and female, should seek opportunities to encourage anyone who shows a spark of interest. And don’t write off women before you try!

If you want to look at it selfishly, the more women - the more human beings - who collect, the greater the “demand” in the supply and demand equation. Every new recruit helps to raise the value of your collection.

If you are of a philosophical turn of mind, observe only that the more people involved in researching, in writing, in keeping our organizations vital, in combating unethical practices, etc., the more desirable philately is as a hobby.

Women are, as in many other areas of human endeavor, our greatest untapped resource.

What can you do to make the situation better?

From LINN’S STAMP NEWS, MONDAY, JULY 5, 1982, with John’s permission.

INFO

DUES: When paying your dues by mail, please send your checks ONLY to our Treasurer, Liz Hisey, 7227 Sparta Rd., Sebring, FL 33872. Dues may also be paid with Paypal at lizhisey@comcast.net

If you are not yet an AAPE member, contact Liz Hisey, AAPE Secretary at lizhisey@comcast.net Or go to aape.org and click on Join the AAPE. Liz Hisey also has the WE buttons.

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