

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

May 1, 2016

Stamp of the Month



The stamp of the month this month is not a postage stamp. It is what is called a “revenue stamp,” or, for short, a “revenue.” This stamp was issued in 1862 and used by J.C. Ayer & Co. on bottles of patent medicine it sold. The stamp has a face value of 4 ¢, and is listed in Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers as RS9a. This stamp has a current catalog value of \$10.50. However, if it were a purple color, instead of blue, its catalog value would be \$17,500.00 !

J. C. Ayer & Co. was founded by Dr. James Cook Ayer and was located in Lowell, Massachusetts. Dr. Ayer is estimated to have been worth over \$20 million. The town of Ayer, Massachusetts, located 30 miles northwest of Boston, is named after him.

Think You Have Seen Everything?

This is the 14th year for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids, held in public Elementary Schools. After 14 years, a person might think he has seen everything related to stamp clubs for kids. Well, here's something I had never before seen, or heard. A couple weeks ago, during the second shift of our regular weekly stamp club meeting, a teacher, Mr. Hanson, was assisting by passing out stamps to the 2nd and 3rd grade kids. At every stamp club meeting we take turns looking in the stamp bins that are on each table to find interesting stamps. We then hold the stamp high, using tongs, of course, and ask if anybody wants it. I had my back toward him and was not paying much attention to what he was saying. All I remember was that he was holding up an 18¢ US definitive stamp (Scott 1891) that featured a flag, a lighthouse, an ocean, and had the words “from sea to shining sea.”

After giving short speech about it, as we always do, he then asked if anybody wanted it. When more than one student want a stamp, we choose a method of determining who will get it. I call this the “lottery.” Normally, I ask a question appropriate for the group in that session, and the first kid to answer correctly gets the stamp. For younger kids it might be as simple as “I am thinking of a letter of the alphabet between M and Z.” For older children I ask more challenging questions such as “I am thinking of a country in South America.”

Mr. Hanson saw that several children were holding up their hands, wanting that stamp, and apparently he asked what song it was from, and could anybody sing it. Within about one second,

all 30 children present began singing aloud *America the Beautiful*. The kids all know that they are allowed to talk in the library, where the stamp collecting club meetings are held, and upon this occasion, they got REALLY LOUD. That was a first time for me (to experience singing at a stamp club meeting)! You had to be there, but by the end of the song I know I had a big smile and was very proud to be part of the stamp club.

In case you have been living under a rock the past couple years, there will be an outstanding International Philatelic Exhibition in Manhattan beginning the end of this month – May 28th to be precise – and lasting for a week until June 4th.

If you are planning on attending **ANY** stamp show in the next ten years, this is the one you will want to attend. There will be First Day of Issue ceremonies every day. There are thousands of exhibits, hundreds of stamp dealers, dozens of booths for various philatelic societies, a Youth booth, dozens of lectures and about 50 foreign governments will have “post offices” selling their stamps and providing souvenir cancelations. If you want more information, just look it up at www.NY2016.org. You will there find information also about lodging and other activities in New York and neighboring New Jersey

See you there!

These colorful stickers are not postage stamps, nor are they revenue stamps. They are used to promote the NY2016 stamp show.

Note that there are five (5) distinctly different stickers. The border colors are red, green, brown, blue and black.

The logo is the same on each sticker, but the words are different.

If you have something relating to stamp collecting that you think might be appropriate for this newsletter, please feel free to send it to Robert W. Martin at the address listed below.

Comments? Write Robert W. Martin, P.O. Box 1809, Kihei, HI 96753-1809.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501 C (3) organization. All donations of \$10 or more are provided written receipts.

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