

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

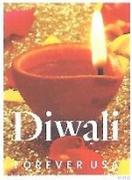
Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

January 1, 2017

Happy New Year!

Stamp of the Month



This month's stamp of the month was issued by the USPS on October 5, 2016. When you receive this PhilateliKid there may be some of the Diwali stamps still for sale at your local post office.

This is the first time that the USPS has issued a holiday stamp for the Hindu celebration called "Diwali" or sometimes called "Deepawali" or "Deepavali." It is celebrated on the 15th day of the month Kartika in the Hindu calendar, which is based on the solar/lunar year. In 2016 it was

Sunday, October 30th. The holiday falls on Ashvina Krishna Chaturdasi, which is the lunar day before Amavasya, the New Moon night. Diwali will be on October 20 in 2017, and on November 8th in 2018. Diwali, also known as the "Festival of Lights" is the first day of the Hindu New Year and honors Rama-chandra, who is the 7th avatar of the God Vishnu. To complicate matters, Deepavali falls one day before Diwali, so in 2016 Deepavali fell on October 29th. Diwali will be on October 19, 2017, and November 7, 2018. Diwali is a celebration that lasts for four days.

25th Issue

Although Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids has been around since 2001, The PhilateliKid has been around only since December 2014. This is the 25th issue, and it appears there is still a lot to talk about stamp collecting that does not involve auction results, new issues, or advertisements.

Last Issue

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York suddenly announced in its last issue (December 2016) that it would no longer be a club, and will no longer be issuing its fine quarterly magazine, *The Masonic Philatelist*. I was a dues-paying member of this club, as was my son Jason, and we are surprised and disappointed to learn of its demise. There may be an attempt to continue its website www.mscnewyork.net for a while. The MSCNY was founded in 1934 and long before almost everybody I know who is still alive was collecting stamps. Its final edition is a full-color magazine with 52 pages, and has over 130 color illustrations. The subjects covered were extensive. The last issue has interesting articles, among others, about baseball pitcher "Three fingered" Mordecai Brown, US Revenues, Painter Archibald Willard (1836-1918) who painted *The Spirit of '76*, which was featured on a trio of stamps issued by the USPS in 1976 (Scott no. 1629-1631.) If you can get your hands

on any recent copies of *The Masonic Philatelist* they are very attractive and I am sure they will soon be, if not already, scarce collectibles.

Attendance statistics.

The NY2016 World Stamp Show was expected to have an attendance of about a quarter million people, so it came as a big surprise to learn that the attendance figure was only 20,000. Being a student of statistics, I found this apparent discrepancy (about 1/12th of the expected amount) to be beyond belief, so I investigated the methodology. First, the method of calculating attendance was totally different than the method used in the past. In all previous attendance figures, the amount was calculated by a person/s who stood at the door and counted each person who entered by manually clicking on a counting device. Although not perfect, it did give a fairly accurate count of people actually entering the main hall. It did **not** include people who came to the Stamp Show but did not enter the main hall, such as people who came to the lectures, the auctions, or people who came only for the First Day Ceremonies and never entered the main hall.

The new method of calculating attendance is based on registration. This also is slightly off because there are people who register and never attend, and there are some cases of one person who has multiple registrations.

The new method however has one huge flaw. It counts as equals the person who registers and attends every minute of every day (like I did) just the same as a person who registers, comes in for 10 minutes, and never returns (like my wife did.) Obviously, counting each of those as the same is not going to result in information that is useful for dealers and others whose livelihood depends on attendance.

It is true that the "clicker" count method counts a person who attends all day and goes out of the main hall for lunch, and then returns as two people. A person who makes several forays out of the main hall, then back, as I did when I attended lectures, then went back to the main hall in between was counted each time as a separate person.

Ultimately, what is really important to determine is not how many people attended, but how many hours an attendee spent in various parts of the convention. Suppose 100 people attend a show, and 99 of them spend 7 hours a day for 8 days looking at exhibits. (That would not have been enough time at all to look at all the exhibits at NY2016, but let's just accept that as a possibility.) And suppose a 100th person attended the show and spent 5 minutes at a dealer's table and bought a stamp for \$1, and then left. That "attendance" would be counted the same as if 100 people had spent many hours at dealer's tables and spent an average of \$1,000 each, and each person then spent zero minutes looking at exhibits. And it would be the same if all 100 people were children who spent the entire time at the Youth stamp collecting area.

I suggest a high-tech solution to this matter. Counting one person as only one attendee when he/she comes every day is just as misleading as if a person went to a movie theater for 7 consecutive days, but only paid for once. In reality, that person would have to buy 7 tickets, and would be counted 7 times. So let's just give each attendee a wrist band that monitors every move, and for how long. We would then know where the attendee spent time, and for how long. Now that would be nice information to have. Of course, it would be considered by some as an invasion of privacy... (That is a whole different subject, and it starts out with the question, "Why

does anybody at a stamp show worry about privacy, when there are multiple video cameras recording every move?)

Wouldn't it be nice to know how many hours attendees spent at the exhibits? At dealers? At auctions? At beginners/youth area? At First Day ceremonies? At VIP rooms? At USPS counters? This is something that we can do with today's technology, and which will give us good "management" information. I'd like to hear your ideas and comments, so please send by mail or email before January 25th to be included in the February edition of *The Philatelikid*.

Letter to Linn's Editor

In December a letter to Linn's Editor was published where the author claimed the attendance at NY2016 was "poor." I was there for the entire show, and that was not my opinion, so I wrote a response. Since a couple weeks has elapsed (I get Linn's in Hawaii about 20 days after it is mailed) I do not know if Linn's Editor will print my response. Here is what I said (complete unedited version):

Dear Editor,

I read with astonishment the letter from S.B. Milstein, Brooklyn, NY who said he attended World Stamp Show – New York 2016 and thinks attendance was poor. I wonder if S.B. was at the same show I attended??? I arrived the day before the Show began and attended every day. I went to several auctions with good attendance - one where attendance was standing room only. I bought from at least 10 dealers, and on occasion I had to wait in line to be served. I attended a First Day of Issue Ceremony every day, and if I did not get there early enough, I had to stand at the back of over 200 people attending! I am a member of several societies and visited their booths. The APS booth was constantly busy, and waiting in line was the norm. Yes, some of the society booths were not always busy, but on at least two occasions I decided to come back later because of the long line. (The ATA booth was very busy.) I attended at least 15 lectures, and although some were lightly attended, many had good attendance. The opening ceremony was well attended with several hundred people. The lines at the USPS HUGE booth often lasted more than 30 minutes. The line to get First Day cancellations on one occasion took me 55 minutes to get to the front of the line. I was a volunteer at the beginner and youth areas, which were well attended, sometimes with no seats available. I bought stamps and got souvenir postmarks for my NY2016 "Passport" at over 50 different countries, and often had to wait my turn. At the close of each day, there were lines to get taxis. I was able to attend three evening activities, and they were extremely well attended. The Palmares ceremony was sold out and was expensive, but worth every penny. The exhibits always had dozens of people looking at them, and there were normally lines at the Special Exhibit (with the two guards) which had many famous stamps and covers including the famous "British Guiana One Cent Magenta." What does S.B. expect? Even longer lines? I went home very satisfied and can only commend the people who put together this fabulous Show. Thanks!!

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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(A full color version of this newsletter is on our website.)