

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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The first International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX) held in the United States was in 1913, but no commemorative stamp was issued. The second IPEX in the United States was held from October 16 to October 26, 1926. The Post Office Department (POD) issued a commemorative sheet featuring 50 stamps of a stamp already issued, but with the difference being the markings in the margins. Commemorative sheets like this are called "souvenir sheets." (s/s) The stamp featured was the "Battle of White Plains" and the s/s is known as "The Battle of White Plains Souvenir Sheet." This was the first s/s ever issued by the POD, and has always been a highly collectible item. It has 25 – 2¢ stamps, so the original cost was 50¢. One of these s/s in good condition today retails for \$350.00 to \$600.00 ! The same stamp, not in a souvenir sheet, would retail today for just a few cents. The value is in the selvedge!



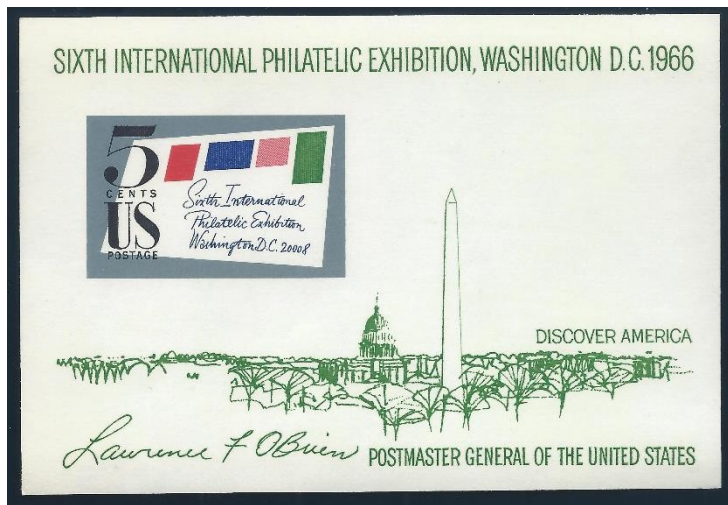
Inexpensive single

Little known, the Battle of White Plains was one of the battles where General George Washington's Revolutionary Army was attacked by the British General George Howe. It occurred on October 28, 1776 near White Plains, New York, a small community about 22 miles north of what is now Manhattan. Each side lost a few hundred troops – exact figures are not known. As a result of losing the battle Washington's Army was forced into continued retreat across New Jersey into Pennsylvania.

Other than the printing in the selvedge of the souvenir sheet, there is no connection between the subject of this stamp and the Philatelic Exhibition.

NOJEX

The North Jersey Philatelic Exhibition (NOJEX) was held in Newark, New Jersey from



September 8-10, 2017. I was able to attend only the last day, but found quite an interesting and friendly group of collectors and dealers, and several hundred interesting frames on exhibit. I met stamp dealer Todd Caverly of Union, Maine and bought from him several hundred stamps which I will be giving to kids in the local Stamp Collecting Club for Kids. Todd not only gave me some really good prices, but he also donated to

SCCFK approximately 440 mint copies of the SIPEX souvenir sheet, Scott #1311. Thanks, Todd!

Spreading the Word of Philately

Although it is frequently heard that people today have little interest in stamp collecting, facts speak otherwise. Of course, people rarely have interest in something they know nothing about. If there exist collectors who specialize in collecting various fabrics used for airplane seats, most of us would know nothing about that hobby because it has not been promoted. There are few people today speaking about and writing articles for the general public about stamp collecting. Those who do speak on the subject often get into the educational aspect of stamp collecting, which is true, but how many of us would start collecting fabrics from airplane seats if all that could be said about it is that it is educational?

Last month I had the opportunity to speak in Pennsylvania to a group of 40 non-stamp collector adult men (about half of whom are retired) about our hobby. I brought along an excellent Power Point presentation, with examples of all different kinds of collecting, from topicals, to precancels, to coil stamps with plate numbers, to booklets, to 19th century, to modern self-adhesives. Unfortunately, at the last moment, the projector could not work, so I had to give an “off the cuff” speech. For 10 minutes I spoke about the **fun** aspect of stamp collecting, and some of the many benefits of our hobby. I then opened the floor to questions and was surprised at the interest shown. I gave each attendee one of the SIPEX souvenir sheets I had just received at NOJEX. That alone created quite a lot of interest and questions. Of the 40 men present, only one had ever seen a souvenir sheet issued by the U.S. Post Office, and most knew little or nothing about philately. In talking about our hobby the problem lies in how to make the speech short! I encourage fellow collectors to let it be known that you are available to speak about stamp collecting.

Just off the top of my head, I can think of dozens of interesting topics that we could talk about for 10 or 15 minutes, with very little preparation. Each of us can talk about our own particular areas of collecting, and introduce the subject by defining some of the words unique to philately, starting with the word philately! Most non-collectors are not aware of terminology such as the meaning of perforations, coils, plate numbers, first day issues, commemoratives, definitives, gum, and even hinges and tongs. Recently issued stamps are always a popular subject. How to protect stamps from moisture, sunlight, pests, etc. is also a topic most of us could talk about for a few minutes. And the various clubs, literature, and organizations can easily take several minutes just to briefly touch upon. How to buy stamps also is a popular subject. In short, there are lots of interesting aspects of stamp collecting that many people have never heard about, and there are lots of clubs and organizations that always are looking for interesting speakers. Of course, bring along a few items for “show and tell.”

The July issue asked for what you think pvvp stands for. One person correctly identified the abbreviation as “peak valley valley peak” referring to the die cuts separating self adhesive stamps. However, my favorite guess was “Philatelist very very pleased” from Sam Morello.

What do you think? Thoughtful comments are welcomed and will be published, so please feel free to write! (150 words or less, please.) Mail it to Robert W. Martin, P.O. Box 1809, Kihei, Hawaii 96753-1809. It should be written as if the reader knows nothing about your topic, so beginners can understand it.

Visit our website at www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org for a full color version of this issue.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are needed and are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more are provided written receipts. You also can donate via PayPal on our website.

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