



# THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

American Philatelic Society  
Member # C-161196

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## Single Page Exhibit by Mike Francis, photos by Dr. Hemanth KN. Vasanthaiah

On October 9th the Club held its annual single page exhibit which featured more exhibits than we have had in years. Club member Yen Chen presented multiple exhibits in a very unique format. Although the rules require each exhibit to be a single one-sided page, Yen presented an eleven page exhibit. But, other than three descriptive pages about Zodiacs on stamps, eight pages presented stamps such that each page represented Zodiac stamps from a selected country. Each of these eight pages stood on its own and presented a "single page" exhibit. This process appeared to work because the vote tally revealed that six of the eight pages received at least one vote and three pages received multiple votes.

The winner, again this year, was Jerry Davis with his exhibit containing artistic work and a philatelic subject relating to Florida's early history. Second place went to Sam Hendrix and Tom Ahlfield received third place. Thanks to all the members who participated in the exhibit.



The topics of the single page exhibits were very interesting this year. Scans of the winning exhibits will be placed on the club's website as soon as the webmaster can get the scan images from the winners. All members are encouraged to participate in the exhibit. While there are monetary prizes for first, second and third place, the exhibit does provide an educational environment and invokes collecting ideas for the members.



## Meeting Dates & Presentations, 2012

Jan. 10, Bob Mann, Removing self adhesive stamps	July 10, Gerry York, South African Homelands
Feb. 14, Mike Francis, Rotary Press measuring	Aug. 14, Show Your Collection
March 13, Gerry York, Cuba Revolution on stamps	Sept. 11, Hemanth Vasanthaiah
April 10, Mike Francis	Oct. 9, Single Page Exhibit
May 8, Annual Club Auction	Nov. 13, Gerry York, Taiwan Philately
June 12, Mike Francis	Dec. 11, Annual Christmas Party



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### NOTICE:

- The Editor can use articles for the *Postscript* so it can be issued in a timely manner. Any philatelic topic will work.
- It was good to see Larry Sharp back at the meetings. In the meantime club members offer their thoughts and prayers for Larry Benson and Frank Unger. Both gentlemen are working on recovering their health and getting back to the club meetings.
- Thanks to all members who have caught up with paying their dues. Some have even paid into 2013.
- Yen Chen has made it official. The American Philatelic Society (APS) has sent her the official membership card. Way to go Yen.
- Bob and Gerry Mann will be heading to Florida for the winter season. Bob said he would see all of us at TALPEX 2013.
- Plans are underway for TALPEX 2013. It will be held on March 23-24, 2013 at the Tallahassee Senior Center.

## Buying and Selling Prices by Dr. Hemanth KN. Vasanthaiah

Whenever I want to sell some stamps, I am always unhappy with the \$\$ offered. But, when I want buy a stamp, the price is outrageous. Why? There is no standard pricing strategy in the philatelic field. Except for investment grade stamps, you always receive less than 15-20 percent of the catalogue price. Who is benefitting from this? It is those who naturally need to make a profit - the dealers. The question is why there is such a false inflation factor in stamp values. Most of the stamps are sold by dealers are at 80 percent of the catalogue value. If you are in a hurry to sell, you will receive way less than the buy price. Imagine how long you have to keep a stamp in order to get back your buy price. This is the reason most philatelists collect instead of investing in stamps.

However, this situation is not the case when collecting coins and currencies. Although they have several collecting catalogues, coin collectors do have grey/blue/green pricing sheet and other pricing guides which are used for trading. There is a bid and ask price and most coin dealers go by bid/ask pricing. Except for few rare coins and currencies, most coin collectors seem to be satisfied with this practice.

Several club members and other stamp collectors around town are facing the buy/sell pricing discrepancy with stamps as they attempt to sell their collection. As I mentioned in my recent presentation to the club's monthly meeting, one way by which you can maximize your returns is through organizing your collection before disposing. Do it now because you are the best person to dispose of your collection. If the process is delayed, you might not be in a position to organize your collection for a higher return when it is sold. There is nearly a 100 percent chance your heirs will not know how to do such a beneficial organization of your collection.

Of course, the best way to dispose of a collection, for the benefit of the hobby is to pass it on to a family member or even a friend. Collect any philatelic subject matter you so desire. The secret to a successful and possibly a financially beneficial sale of the collection, is how it is organized and displayed. Even if the collection is passed on to heirs, the better organized and displayed, the better chance the collection will continue to grow and provide years of enjoyment.

## How To Expertize A Stamp by Dr. Mike Francis



Every once in a while there is a stamp that you simply are not sure of its identity. You can either try to expertize it yourself or send it off to one of the expertizing committees. I came across such a stamp in my collection inventory. It is the 24¢ General Winfield Scott (see image.) The process used here works on most early US stamps that have multiple issues. The used prices are from Scott 2011 US Specialized Catalog. The candidate Scott numbers for identification of the above stamp are:

SCOTT#	PERF	GRILL	COLOR	PTR	PAPER	THICKNESS	USED \$\$
142	12	H	purple	NBN	white wove	hard, thin to med. thick	7,500
153	12	no	purple (brt, light)	NBN	white wove	hard, thin to med. Thick	230
164	12	no	purple	CBN	white wove (ribbed paper)	thin to thick	357,500
175	12	no	dull pur.	CBN	very white wove	hard	22,500
200	12	no	dark vio.	ABN	soft	porous	14,000

The following steps are the ones used on a regular basis that will yield the basics about the stamp. Here are some absolutes: the stamp, using the finger flick test near the ear, is made of hard paper because it has a very positive "flick" sound whereas soft porous paper will not produce a "flick"; there is no grill which elimi-

## Identity Uncovered? by Dr. Mike Francis



This stamp is a tricky one. At first glance one sees the “noyma” on the top. This

is easily recognized as Cyrillic nomenclature and points toward Eastern Europe as the source of issue. At second glance there is a right-side up “Y” next to an upside-down “Y” repeated across the bottom. The “noyma” on top of the stamp is Cyrillic and is pronounced “pomta” meaning “mail” and is found mainly on Soviet Russian stamps from 1927 to 1934. It is generally not listed in any of the standard stamp identifier listings on the internet or in books such as Linn’s Stamp Identifier. The more common Cyrillic notation found on stamps, especially of Russia, Serbia or Ukraine, is “noyta” pronounced “pochta” meaning “post.”

Before one goes looking in Russia, Serbia or Ukraine for this stamp, further examination of the bottom of the stamp is necessary. Buried in-between the up and down turned “Y” letters, are the letters CCCP. While some think these letters stand for Central Committee Communist Party, they actually are a Cyrillic abbreviation for Союз Советских Социалистических Республик

by Dr. Mike Francis

notes #142; the paper is definitely not “ribbed” which eliminates #164; and the stamp is not dark violet which eliminates # 200. This leaves Scott number 153 and 175. Is the stamp a light purple or dull purple? It sure is not a normal solid purple such as Scott 153 usually appears. But, Scott 175 is a Special Printing issue and, according to the Macerilli Identification Guide to U.S. stamps, the 175 is printed on very white paper. In fact, the guide says 175 can be identified by the “extreme whiteness of the paper.” As you can see from the scan, the paper is not of the very or extreme white variety.

The issue comes down to color which is most subjective at best. In my US album, I have a Scott 153 (naturally, because it is the cheapest of this issue) which has a purple color that is brighter and clearer than the stamp being examined. Yet, the stamp is not a dull purple on extremely white paper. The only option left is that the stamp is Scott 153.

It should be noted that the longest part of this process is being sure that the Scott 142, General Winfield Scott, and all its varieties are known to the person studying the stamp. Most collectors know that many early US stamps have multiple varieties. Just be cautious. The lighter side of expertizing is when someone calls me up and says I have a \$14,000 Winfield Scott 24¢ stamp. They may have but most of the time they have the same stamp we all have—Scott 153.

which translates into USSR.

Three different people looked at this stamp and all three missed the CCCP buried in the bottom rows at first glance. Yes, one of the three was this author.

Armed with the fact that CCCP pretty well guarantee’s this to be a stamp of Russia and one that was issued after 1917, all one has to do is search Scott’s Catalog of Russia to find it.

The stamp was found as part of a set of 21 issued in 1933 known as the “Peoples of the Soviet Union” and is listed as Scott 505. It is a 15k or 15 kopecks stamp but there are six different 15K stamps. They are distinguishable by color and this one is known as the gray black issue. In the Scott 2011 catalog it is valued at \$9.25 mint and \$1.25 for the used copy.

It can be noted here that the value of early Russian stamps as risen considerably over the last several years. It is not until the late 1950s that the value of Russian stamps turn to “junk” or “cheap collectable” status. By the way, Russia has issued more stamps than any other country. In 2010 issues, the Scott number entered the 7200 range.

## Identify This Stamp being discontinued!

Now that most club members receive this publication through email I will be also be forwarding the monthly APS newsletter to each of you. The “Identify This Stamp” column is being discontinued because the APS monthly issue has this feature built-in. Editor

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*The Postscript is the quarterly journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club. Articles may be reproduced provided credit is given to this*

### Postscript Note:

The *Postscript* is now being emailed in a pdf format with each page of the *Postscript* being a separate page.

Thirteen *Postscripts* have been added to the website archives: 4 each for 1999, 1998 and 1997 and 1 for 1995. If you have other *Postscripts*, that can be scanned, let the Editor know about them.

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## President's Message *from Mike Francis*

This issue of the *Postscript* is late simply because I had no articles or items to put in the issue and I have been traveling way too much. Once I have the articles, putting the issue together is rather simple using Microsoft Publisher 2010. The software does most of the formatting work. All I have to do is some editing and emailing. Speaking of emailing the *Postscript*, there are only 10 members that do not have an email address. If you receive the *Postscript* in the regular USPS mail and have an email address, please send it to me so you can receive the *Postscript* by email. Since I have been donating the stamps, paper and ink to the club this year, it would save me a few dollars.

As those who attended the October meeting heard from the Treasurer, the TS&CC is in sound financial condition again this year with a small growth in membership. I would like to thank all the members who participate in the monthly raffle at the meetings. While each raffle doesn't add up to major dollars, it adds \$150 to \$200 per year to the account. This helps keep the club financially sound especially this year when we had had no major sales events.

With TALPEX 2013 looming on the horizon, Gerry York will be looking for members to help with the mailings in early February. Let him know if you can assist.

Mike