

THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS



Vol. XIV, No. 1
July 1966

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THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS



Vol. XIV, No. 1
July 1966

Henry M. Goodkind, Editor
Philip Silver, Assistant Editor

AEROPEX and The 6th F.I.S.A. CONGRESS

New York City June 7-13, 1966

Years ago, a famous New York City newspaper editor wrote that it was far easier to express an opinion than to accurately report an event. Being so closely associated, as Co-Chairman of AEROPEX, with all that took place in New York City last June, I shall try to render an accurate, objective report.

Started In 1961

It happened at the first F.I.S.A. Congress in The Hague, Holland in August 1961. Among the matters on the agenda were the scheduling of future F.I.S.A. Congresses and international air post exhibitions to be held in conjunction with these annual conventions of the air mail federation. F.I.S.A. patronage was given to West Berlin in 1962; Brussels, Belgium in 1963; London in 1964 and Vienna, Austria in 1965.

At that time, being a director of the *Association For Stamp Exhibitions*, I was active in the planning for the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in New York City in 1966. Noting that all of the F.I.S.A. exhibitions were being staged in Europe, the idea occurred to me that New York City in 1966 would be an ideal locale for F.I.S.A. in that year. I arose at The Hague, Holland Congress and suggested, subject to later official approval, New York City for 1966. The suggestion was met with unexpected enthusiasm. Several F.I.S.A. delegates later told me that they would commence at once to save up for a trip to New York in 1966.

During the years that followed, plans began moving ahead for New York City in 1966. At the Third F.I.S.A. Congress and also the fourth one, patronage was given to New York in 1966.

As for the *Association For Stamp Exhibitions*, several favorable factors developed to receive the official approval from over here. Mr. John J. Britt was elected the President of the *ASE*. Also several enthusiastic aero-philatelists were on the Board of Directors. Consequently, by the summer of 1964, when the F.I.S.A. Congress was held in London, England, everything was set.

Blow-up In 1965

As is known, early in 1965, the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition scheduled to be held in New York in 1966 encountered difficulties; the exhibition had to be cancelled. Later, at an *ASE* meeting in New York City, a group from Washington, D.C. appeared before the *ASE* Directors and asked that the international stamp show be transferred to the nation's capital in 1966. This was agreed to.

This raised a serious problem for the F.I.S.A. events also scheduled to be held in New York City in 1966 during the Sixth International Philatelic Ex-

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Fig. 1. The reception by Postmaster Robert Christenberry of New York. Standing (left to right): Roberto Levi-Castillo, Ecuador; F.I.S.A. President, Drs. Jon Boesman, Holland; Adolf Kosel, Austria; Mrs. Boesman; J. Houlteau, France; Herbert Rosen; Postmaster R. Christenberry; Captain & Mrs. F. Lemos Da Silveira, Portugal; Hugo Fraccaroli, Brazil; and Horst Aisslinger, W. Germany. Seated (left to right): Mrs. Levi-Castillo; Otto Stahli, Switzerland; Mrs. & Mr. Kurt Dahmann, West Berlin; Dr. Ernst Raab, West Berlin; Mrs. Aisslinger and Mr. Laslo Steiner, Hungary.

hibition. What to do? I wrestled with this problem for weeks. Friends here and abroad were consulted. Should we cancel the 1966 show for New York or try to work out another solution?

Advice from the officers of F.I.S.A. made one matter clear. If the 6th F.I.S.A. Congress could not be held in New York in 1966, it had to be cancelled, because future F.I.S.A. Congresses had already been booked through 1970.

AEROPEX Is Born

In 1961, when New York was first proposed for the 1966 F.I.S.A. Congress, there were only two American aero-philatelic societies affiliated with F.I.S.A. By 1965, two more had joined the international federation, making a total of four American aero-philatelic groups in F.I.S.A.

In the spring of 1965, during his successful 1965 INTERPEX, Mr. Herbert Rosen proposed that he would be willing to undertake the staging of the planned 1966 air post exhibition in New York City. This was taken under advisement; many meetings and discussions were held to decide if Mr. Rosen's proposal should be accepted.

Many, many questions came up. One was about a conflict with SIPEX to be held in Washington, D.C. Also, are two international exhibitions to be held so close to each other practical? Furthermore, how did the F.I.S.A. officers and directors feel about New York in 1966?

Three of the four F.I.S.A. aero-philatelic organizations in America decided that holding an air post exhibition in New York shortly after SIPEX in Washington would be an excellent idea. For instance, foreigners visiting the United States, not only want to see its leading city, New York, but also Washington, D.C. and other places of interest. Thus, many from F.I.S.A. could plan for at least two weeks in America, including both the Washington and New York shows.

Furthermore, I consulted with my old friend, Mr. George T. Turner, the Chairman of SIPEX, to learn that the maximum number of frames available

in Washington, D.C. would be about 2,000. Realizing that the four previous international air post exhibitions in Europe had an average of 500 frames, it would be impossible to have the air mail exhibition in SIPEX for the following reason. Air mails would require a minimum of 400 frames. This represented 20% of the entire international exhibition, being far too much for one section. The other specialties would correctly charge favoritism to aero-philately.

Later on, F.I.S.A. agreed to give its patronage to New York City in 1966. This was officially confirmed in Vienna, Austria. Consequently, AEROPEX was on its way.

One Year of Advance Planning

The time and efforts involved in planning an international philatelic exhibition are about the most taxing I have ever encountered. (I have served philately in many capacities from writing and editing down to helping remove years of accumulated rubbish from the Collectors Club's basement.) Space does not permit even a mention of a few of the more pressing problems and the hard work involved. But I cannot refrain from making one observation. It is remarkable to witness the strains and pressures placed upon a volunteer philatelic worker. It seems apparent that the great majority in philately do not realize how many devoted servants the hobby has, nor that *they slave "for free."*

It was Mr. Rosen's idea to have two AEROPEX Chairmen, one for the East and another for the Midwest. This proved to be practical; for some months, I enjoyed working with Mr. Earl G. Wellman of Illinois, the AEROPEX Co-Chairman with me.

Early in the Fall of 1965, just when the actual work for AEROPEX was commencing, Mr. Wellman was taken seriously ill. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a long illness, forcing him to the sidelines. To Mr. Wellman's credit, he remained in touch through correspondence with Mr. Rosen and myself. His encouragement and advice were most helpful; no important decision was made without his prior knowledge and consent. But unfortunately, he could not do any of the work we had anticipated that he would do through his many friends in Europe. The illness of my Co-Chairman was a serious handicap.

But as the month of June in 1966 neared, the work seemed to get done. The volume of correspondence soared. Many more conferences had to be held. The number of matters needing attention for an international stamp show is beyond the comprehension of all those who never have done such work.

The First Days June 7-8, 1966

AEROPEX officially was to open on Friday, June 10th. But long before this, the foreign visitors began arriving as early as June 1st. It was practical, therefore, that events were scheduled to commence on June 7th.

On the morning of that day, AEROPEX opened an office in the Hotel Americana in New York City and the visitors came to register, to receive a printed program of events and tickets to many affairs. *Over 100* foreign aero-philatelists with their families registered. They had come from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Ecuador in South America; from Austria, Belgium, England, France, West Germany, Portugal, Scotland and Switzerland in Europe and as far away as India in Asia.

In the afternoon of June 7th, there was a reception in the office of New York's postmaster, Mr. Robert Christenberry (*see Fig. 1*) followed by a tour of the world's busiest post office at 34th Street and 8th Avenue, New York, N. Y.



Fig. 2. The Collectors Club's S. G. Rich Memorial Room on the night of June 8, 1966. This shows just the rear quarter of this meeting room. (Photo by Boutrelle).

The second day, June 8th, began at 9 a.m. with a long 8-hour sightseeing tour of New York.

June 8th closed with a terrific success. Beginning at 8 p.m., the regular Collectors Club meeting had been scheduled long in advance as "A Salute to AEROPEX." First, there was the customary Collectors Club meeting at 22 East 35th Street with exhibits and lectures by three members on air mails. This was supplied by Messrs. Herbert J. Bloch, Philip Silver and myself. A detailed report of this will appear in the September number of "The Collectors Club Philatelist."

After the meeting closed, a reception tendered by the Collectors Club's Board of Governors was held on the club's second floor. This turned out to be great, because it allowed the foreigners to mingle informally with the American philatelists.

As is generally known, few stamp club meetings anywhere in the world, are better attended than those of the 70-year Collectors Club in New York City. In the opinion of the oldest Collectors Club members present on June 8th, the AEROPEX meeting had the largest attendance in their memory. The illustration, (see Fig. 2) shows this. This is a shot of only the rear portion of the Meeting Room, showing many standing, because every seat was taken.

The most pleasing aspect to this Collectors Club night was by the great number of later favorable remarks made to me by the foreign visitors. They so enjoyed the hospitality and the opportunity of meeting so many New World collectors. As one European put it: "I have been to many places. But I now saw that the finest stamp club in the world is the Collectors Club in New York."

June 9, 1966

The 6th F.I.S.A. Congress convened at 10 a.m. in the Princess Ballroom of the Americana Hotel. It lasted for approximately an hour and a half. As

the AEROPEX Co-Chairman, I opened the Congress with a few brief remarks, welcoming all to our country and city. Then, I turned the meeting over to Drs. Jon Boesman of Holland, the F.I.S.A. president. He introduced all the delegates of the societies present and some of the visitors present.

In the same room, after the Congress, a luncheon for the F.I.S.A. delegates followed. As this was nearing its end, President Boesman arose for another speech. He asked Vice President, Dr. Ernst Raab, and Secretary, Kurt Dahmann, both of West Berlin as well as Treasurer, Ilia Braunstein of Brussels, Belgium to join him for the presentation of the annual *F.I.S.A. Medal of Achievement*. For the first time, two medals were presented—to two long-time American aero-philatelic editors—this writer and Mr. Bart Gatchell of Upper Montclair, N. J.

On this day, the United Nations had issued an 11-cent air mail postal card. Therefore, at 5 p.m. all were invited to a reception in the Delegates Lounge at the United Nations, N. Y. Each visitor received a postal card with a first-day cancellation. Very tasty refreshments and hors d'oeuvres were served. Several hundred people attended.

The night of June 9th was devoted to the mounting of the AEROPEX exhibits in Albert Hall, the Americana Hotel.

AEROPEX'S Opening Day

Mr. Rosen arranged the official opening of AEROPEX at 10 a.m. The photograph (*Fig. 3*) reports this better than any long written description. All of the gentlemen at the speakers' table, with the exception of Mr. Rosen, spoke.

In the afternoon of June 10th, a F.I.S.A. symposium was held. Being occupied with judging the exhibition, I could not attend. Those who did later reported that a few matters of interest to air mail flight collectors were discussed at length, but no conclusions were reached.

At 6 p.m., Mr. Georges Medawar of the Nicolas Sanabria Co. Inc. of Ridge-

MEETING NOTICES

Chapter No. 1 — New York, N. Y.

Meets second Thursday each month at 8:00 P. M. in the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N. Y.

Chapter No. 5 — Philadelphia, Pa.

Meets third Thursday each month at 8:00 P. M. in the Liberty Federal Savings & Loan Assn., 202 North Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.

No meetings are held during July or August

Members, friends, guests, and all interested collectors
are cordially welcome



Fig. 3. AEROPEX'S opening ceremonies on June 10, 1966. Postmaster Robert Christenberry is the speaker. Others are (left to right): Mr. Stanley Hodziewich, Curator, United States Post Office Department; D. T. Clements, Chief, United Nations Postal Administration; Dean Herbert R. Woodward, President, The Collectors Club, who was the Master-of-Ceremonies; Henry M. Goodkind, AEROPEX Co-Chairman; F.I.S.A. President Drs. J. Boesman and AEROPEX'S Executive Director, Herbert Rosen.

field, Conn., the editor and publisher of the sole surviving air mail stamp catalogue, gave a champagne party. It was so enjoyable that it lasted for several hours; no one wanted to leave.

Saturday June 11th

In the morning, another F.I.S.A. symposium was held. Again, because of my judging work, I could only attend for a few minutes. This was a business session. Also official patronage was given for the 1967 F.I.S.A. Congress and air post exhibition to Budapest, Hungary in September of next year. Mr. Laslo Steiner, one of the AEROPEX judges, will be the chairman.

In the afternoon, there were three separate meetings with informal discussions of three of the F.I.S.A. affiliates in the United States:— The Jack Knight Collectors Federation, the Rocket Mail Society and AERO PHILATELISTS.

At 5 p.m., the Directors of AERO PHILATELISTS, in honor of our organization's 20th year, gave a reception. Everyone seemed to enjoy this. The arrangements had been made by Messrs. John Britt, Stanley R. Rice and Philip Silver.

The Awards Banquet

On the night of Saturday, June 11th, the banquet took place. As far as a philatelic affair goes, this one was marked by good food, music, singing, conviviality and an especially friendly atmosphere. After the dinner had concluded, Mr. Herbert Rosen presented to each of the foreign F.I.S.A. Directors a special medal in appreciation of their coming to AEROPEX.

Next Mr. Rosen presented to each of the nine judges a gold AEROPEX medal.

This was followed by the presentation of AERO PHILATELISTS' *Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award* for 1966. Mr. Ilia Braunstein of Belgium received this "for distinguished services to aero-philately." (See AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS of January 1966 pp. 59-60.) Mr. L. N. Staub, as president of AERO PHILATELISTS, made the presentation.

The banquet closed with the announcement and presentation of the AEROPEX awards by the Chairman of the Board of Judges. Those present came to the front of the hall where the awards were displayed, to personally receive their honor, accompanied by loud applause from the audience. (More about the awards later.)

Sunday June 12th

An unusual and very pleasant event opened AEROPEX's final day. At 9:30 a.m. the Metropolitan Air Mail Cover Club invited many to a breakfast, followed by a meeting of this club. It was a very well arranged affair; at the meeting M.A.C.C. medallions were presented to several of the prominent people connected with AEROPEX and F.I.S.A.

Before the closing at 5 p.m., the Jack Knight Collectors Foundation and the Rocket Mail Society had invited many to a fine reception. As with those of Friday and Saturday, this one, too, was thoroughly enjoyed.

Then came the end at 8 p.m., as AEROPEX closed its door and the exhibitors began dismantling their frames.

AEROPEX Court of Honor

Thirty frames with invited exceptional air mail material were on display. Outstanding was the left margin block of four of the very famous United States 24-cent air mail inverted center exhibited by the Raymond C. Weill Co. of New Orleans, La. The United States Post Office exhibited its rare proofs of the 1918 air mail issue, including a proof sheet made later of the inverted center. Since AEROPEX was an air post exhibition, it was decided to feature what is probably the most famous air mail stamp. Therefore, a very fine single copy also was shown. All in all, the block of four, the government's proof and a single copy constituted an exceptional display of this very valuable error.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Irwin Heiman, New York auctioneer, President Dwight D. Eisenhower exhibited a torn cover and letter enclosed that was in Discoverer XVII when it was launched into space on November 15, 1960. Also, Mr. Rosen exhibited his page of what is considered the oldest existing piece of aero-philately, a woodcut published in 1482.

The Philatelic Foundation showed four frames of selected pages of Latin American air mail stamps from its well-known John N. Luff collection.

Two of the AEROPEX judges displayed material from their collections. Mr. Ilia Braunstein showed his complete sheet reconstruction of the 1922 Consulate Issue of Russia (Sanabria Russia Nos. 1-8), while Chile's Alvaro Bonilla Lara exhibited Guatemala's 1935-39 air mail issues. Cardinal Spellman showed some pages of India air mails.

Aviation Exhibits

Both the United States and the United Nations Post Office had exhibits with air mail stamps. Besides, some of the foreign airlines, Air France and Alitalia, had displays.

Outstanding was the one from the Berlin Aviation Museum. It was the famous Otto Lilienthal's glider that he built and used in 1890.

AEROPEX Cachets, Cancels and Flights

Mr. Herbert Rosen had arranged for some special flights with distinctive

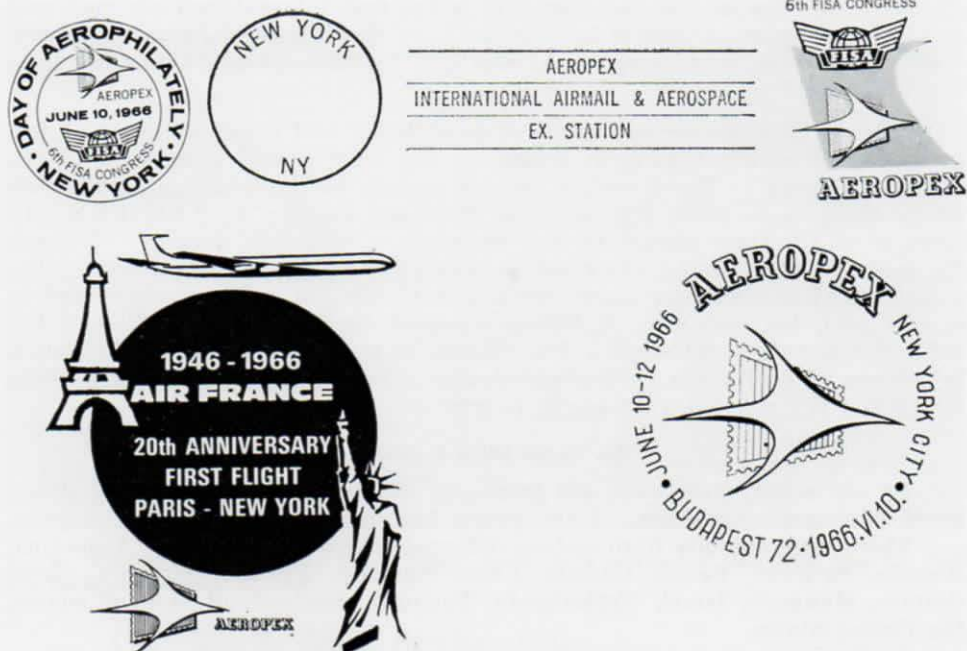


Fig. 4. Examples of some of AEROPEX'S special cachets and cancellations.

cachets and also some special AEROPEX cancellations (See Fig. 4).

Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York had proclaimed June 10, 1966 as the "Day of Aerophilately." In addition, Hungary and Haiti prepared special AEROPEX covers for this special day. The most popular item of AEROPEX, Mr. Rosen reports, is the "Around the World Flight" (Fig. 5).

The Judges

Nine prominent philatelists composed the AEROPEX Board of Judges. Four were from the United States — Herbert J. Bloch, Stanley R. Rice, Ira Seebacher and the writer. The five overseas judges were — Alvaro Bonilla Lara of Chile, Ilia Braunstein of Belgium, H. R. Holmes of England, Hermann W. Sieger of West Germany and Laslo Steiner of Hungary.

At its first session, the judges voted to select a Chairman and Secretary. The writer was chosen the Chairman, and Mr. Sieger, Secretary. The discussions were conducted in two languages, English and German. As the Chairman, I would speak in English and Mr. Bloch translated my remarks into German. This worked very well.

In rendering its report at the banquet, the following remarks were written:

"The AEROPEX Board of Judges wishes to comment upon the high quality of the exhibits. The selection of the awards was not easy. They are the unanimous choice of the entire Board of Judges.

"Limited to three classes — gold, silver and bronze — The jury often was hampered in reflecting the subtle shadings of its opinions. Thus, a very fine silver collection, not quite gold, could not be awarded a medal any higher than silver.

"The judges wish to express their sincere thanks to Mr. Hermann W. Sieger, who served so efficiently as our secretary.

“In view of the fact that this is the first international air mail and aero-space exhibition held in the U. S. the Board of Judges congratulates the organizers of AEROPEX for the splendid job they have done.”

Since exhibitions are so important to philately and those exhibiting, I feel compelled to comment more at length on the brief second paragraph in the “Judges Report.” Three medals are not enough for international exhibitions where there is so much fine material displayed as seen at AEROPEX. In fairness to all, there should be five awards — a silver-gilt (vermeil) between the gold and silver, and a silver-bronze between the silver and the bronze. The judges of AEROPEX saw many exhibits that were not quite strong enough to earn a gold, but still were of higher standard than the silver exhibits. The AEROPEX judges did select a few exhibits to give them an added distinction by adding “Felicitations.” But practically, a number of silver medal exhibits in AEROPEX merited a silver-gilt (vermeil).

The Competitive Exhibition

By my count, there were 406 frames in competition at AEROPEX shown by 80 individual exhibitors. A few people had more than one exhibit.

There were exhibits from *sixteen* different countries as follows: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland and, of course, the United States.

In the Literature section there were twelve entries — six handbooks, three periodicals and three catalogues.

Out of the 92 exhibits, the judges made the following awards:

- 1 Grand Award
- 3 Major Awards
- 9 Gold Medals
- 27 Silver Medals
- 30 Bronze Medals

Thus, a total of 70 awards were given; in addition eleven *Diplomas* were selected for AEROPEX exhibits.

The Four Top Awards

The Grand Award, Best-in-Show, went to the exhibit of *Pioneer Flights* shown by Mr. Jean Gravelat of France.

Semi-Official Stamps of the World by Dr. R. H. Shrady of Englewood, N. J. earned the AERO PHILATELISTS' Trophy.

United States Air Mail Stamps by Philip Silver of Brooklyn, N. Y. won the special medal presented by the Clube Filatelico de Portugal.

Pioneer Aero-Postal History of the British Isles by H. Eric Scott of England won the AEROPEX Gold Medal With Felicitations.

Thus, it is seen that the United States took two of the four top awards, but the wonderful collection from France was judged to be the best in the show.

Gold Medals

Only nine exhibits earned gold medals. Three of these went to exhibits from South America. The six others were awarded to United States exhibits. The gold medal winners were:

The History of Human Flight, Otto Kallir, New York, N. Y.

Airmail Essays & Proofs of the World, John J. Britt, New York, N. Y.



Fig. 5. AEROPEX'S "Around the World Flight" cover. It is postmarked New York June 10, 1966 and backstamped June 12, 1966.

Chile, Joaquin Galvez, Santiago, Chile
 Austria, Ernest Rosenfield, New York, N. Y.
 San Marino, Sebastiao Amaral, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Italy & Colonies, Louis Staub, Jericho, N. Y.
 Ecuador, Dr. Roberto Levi-Castillo, Guayaquil, Ecuador
 Uruguay, Philip Silver, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Graf Zeppelin, Bernard Fink, Hempstead, N. Y.

Silver Medals

Of the 27 silver medals, two went to Literature.

Also, two silver medal exhibits were cited by the judges for their excellence and, in addition, received *Felicitations*. These were:

United States, Henry C. Dupont, France
Zeppelin Mail, Jose Gonzales Garcia, Portugal

The other silver awards were:

Venezuela Essays & Proofs, Henry Kraemer, New York, N. Y.; *Hungary*, Antal Frank, Hungary; *Panama*, Dr. James B. Helme, Nashville, Tenn.; *Uruguay*, Nathaniel Litt, New York, N. Y.; *Asia*, Sam Rodvien, New York, N. Y.; *French Pioneer Flights*, Maurice Brossier, France; *Italian Aeronautica*, S. L. Bayer, Dumont, N. J.; *Australia*, Frank E. Adams, Philadelphia, Pa.; *Austria*, Harry A. Holman, New York, N. Y.; *Polish Flights After 1920*, F. Lemos Da Silveira, Portugal; *Libia-Fezzan*, Peter H. Herdman, England; *Airmail of the Holy Land*, Alfred Goldschmidt, Switzerland; *Siam*, Mrs. John H. Nortum, Seattle, Wash.; *Uruguay*, Robert Hoffmann, Argentina; *Honduras*, Irving I. Green, Newton, Mass.; *Colombia*, John N. Myer, New York, N. Y.; *Early Flights By Famous Aviators*, Geoffrey Solomon, England; *Zeppelin*, Gotthard Mehren, West Germany; *Artic Air Mail*, Johannes Schneider, West Germany; *Crash Covers*, Hans Werner, West Germany; *Crash Covers*, Joseph L. Eisendrath, Highland Park, Ill.; *Rocket Mail*, Raymond N. Young, Philadelphia, Pa.;

World War I Leaflets, Peter H. Robbs, England; *Literature*, Horst Aisslinger, West Germany and *Literature*, the Sanabria Catalogue.

Bronze Medals

Four of the bronze medals went to Literature. The list of the 30 bronze medals winners is as follows:

U. S. Graf Zeppelin Issue on Covers, Lawrence S. Fisher, New Castle, Pa.; *Canada Semi-Official Stamps*, William F. Harris, Poland, Ohio; *World War II Overprints*, William N. Mead, Philadelphia, Pa.; *1870 Papillons of Metz*, Louis Lutz, France; *Canadian Flight Covers*, Richard K. Malott, Dayton, Ohio; *Air Races*, James Wotherspoon, Scotland; *German Pioneer Flights*, Joseph Koch-eisen, Staten Island, N. Y.; *Dornier DO-X*, Alfred Szebel, Des Plaines, Ill.; *Greece*, Aristides D. Xanthopoulos, Greece; *Algeria*, W. A. Mayes, England; *Madagascar*, G. Y. Carnat, France; *Uruguay*, Herman Kerst, Des Plaines, Ill.; *Palestine Zeppelin Mail*, Dr. Martin D. Garfinkel, Yeadon, Pa.; *Zeppelin Flights*, Hans Nothman, Philadelphia, Pa.; *Polar Flights*, Imre Szekely, Hungary; *Zep-pelin Flights*, Dr. Kalman Pogany, Hungary; *Crash Covers*, W. Baron Six Van Oterleek, Holland; *Rocket Mail*, Izechak Burak, Israel; *Rocket Mail*, Joseph Nagl, Jr., Searsdale, N. Y.; *Rocket Mail*, Miss M. I. Watson, Scotland; *Israel Aero-grams*, Dr. M. Allan Greenwood, Staten Island, N. Y.; *Propaganda Leaflets*, Joseph Nagl, Jr., Searsdale, N. Y.; *F.I.S.A. Air Mail*, Gunther Kraeber, West Germany; *Jet Flights*, Lawrence De Mars, Minneapolis, Minn.; *Astronomy*, Miss M. I. Watson, Scotland; *Pilot Autographs*, Jesse G. Johnson, Norfolk, Va.; *Literature* to Kurt Dahmann, West Berlin; Henry C. Dupont, France; Paul Maincent, France and "Vliegende Hollander," Holland.

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Fig. 6. AEROPEX'S Board of Judges. Standing (left to right): Alvaro Bonilla Lara, Chile; Hermann W. Sieger, West Germany, the Secretary; Stanley R. Rice, Greenwich, Conn. and Ira Seebacher, Roslyn, N. Y. Seated (left to right): H. R. Holmes, England; Laslo Steiner, Hungary; the President of the Board of Judges, H. M. Goodkind, New York, N. Y.; Herbert J. Bloch, New York, N. Y. and Ilia Braunschtein, Belgium.

Diplomas

The judges also awarded eleven *Diplomas*, seven to exhibits and four to Literature.

Conclusion

In closing this report, I sincerely believe that the week of June 7 to 13th, 1966 in New York City was a success, in most respects. The measure of success of an international exhibition and congress of a philatelic specialty must be gauged differently from a large, general international or national philatelic exhibition.

The greatest asset was the ability of AEROPEX and the F.I.S.A. Congress to attract so many foreign visitors and exhibitors. It offered the opportunity for the American collectors to get to know their foreign colleagues and see, for the first time, what the overseas aero-philatelists collect.

Many of the foreign visitors were here for the first time. Some told us that they came with a feeling of cautious fear. They had heard that America was a cold, expensive and unfriendly land, where everyone is interested only in material matters. This unfortunate misconception not only was completely dispelled, but the pendulum swung the other way. The foreigners were overjoyed and extremely happy with the friendship, the warmth, the good-fellowship and the fine programs of entertainment that were given.

The measure of success I use is quality, not quantity or bigness. I think that it is appropriate to quote the advertising of a New York bank that one hears on the radio, i.e., "Bigness and large size is not the true measure of excellence." (H. M. G.)

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United States

Siderographers' and Plate Finishers' Initials

By Philip Silver

As a collector of United States air mail stamps, the writer long has been intrigued by certain marginal position pieces bearing initials in the lower left and lower right corners. While these do not constitute great rarities, such pieces are fairly elusive; many years of searching have turned up scarcely more than twenty.

These initials were placed on the plates by siderographers and plate finishers employed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C. The initials were placed only on plates for flat bed presses, and only for a comparatively short period of time. The siderographers' initials usually appear in the left sheet margins of the Post Office panes; the initials of the plate finishers are normally found in the right sheet margins of the panes.

Siderographers, also known as transferrers, are the technicians operating the transfer presses used to transfer the design of the hardened die on to a transfer roll. This roll then transfers the design upon the printing plate.

The job of the plate finishers or cleaners is to burnish or erase any transfer marks found on the plates. In a sense, the plate finishers tidy up after the siderographers.

Period of Use

Although the writer's collection of these items starts with the twenty-four cent air mail stamp of 1918, on several occasions, he had seen many earlier postage stamps with plate makers' initials, specifically on blocks of the 1908-1909 issue. To determine the period of actual use, all sources which could shed light on the matter were consulted.

Reference was made to two articles on this subject which had appeared previously in the philatelic press (see "Bibliography" at the end). One source states: "When the practice began of placing on the side margins of sheets the initials of the platemen and plate finishers, is *unknown to this writer*^{*}, but most of the sheets before 1926 bear these markings." The author also refers to ". . . a group of initials on the *top margin*^{*} of Plate No. 77, Series of 1894-1895, Scott's E4 and E5."¹ From this latter description, it would seem that the initials were not the siderographers or plate finishers.

The other source states that the earliest postage stamps which bore such

*Italics are mine.



Fig. 1. (Left) D L — David Lorenz, Siderographer and (right) A B — Andrew Black, Siderographer. (Photos by Boutrelle)



Fig. 2. S De B — Samuel DeBider, Siderographer.

initials were those of the regular issue of 1908-1909. It also states that the last time these initials appeared was on plate numbers 19658-19661 of the 5c Aeronautics Conference commemorative issue of 1928.²

Recently, a block of twelve stamps of the 5c Jamestown Exposition commemorative issue of 1907 with siderographer's initials, "M. R. G.," was noted in an auction sale catalog. Since 1907 was at least one year earlier than information previously recorded, our search of available records was intensified. Our inquiries finally led to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., which has custody of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's file of certified proof impressions on all cancelled plates. A letter dated June 29, 1965 received from Mr. Carl H. Scheele, Associate Curator in Charge, Division of Philately and Postal History, was most informative and is quoted in part as follows:

"Our search indicated that the earliest plates on which initials appeared were Plates Numbers 3080 and 3083, both approved on May 19, 1906. The initials 'C. V.' (most probably Charles Vermeule, siderographer) appear on Plate Number 3080. The initials 'J. A. M.' (undoubtedly John A. Mooney, siderographer) appear on Plate Number 3083. Both plates were of the 2-cent ordinary stamps, Series of 1902 (the 'shield' design, first issued in 1903), cor-

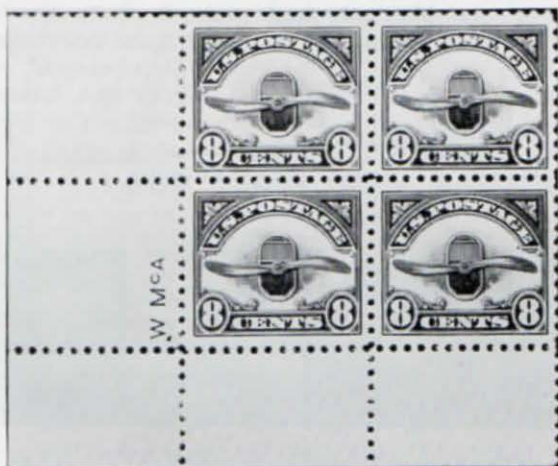


Fig. 3. W Mc A — William McAleer, Siderographer.



Fig. 4 J H S — John H. Silbert, Jr., Siderographer.

responding with Scott number 319.

“Our search also confirmed that the last initials to be used were ‘A. B’ (Andrew Black, siderographer), appearing on Plate Number 19663, approved December 5, 1928, for the 2-cent Aeronautics commemorative issue, identified as Scott number 649.”

Thus, the earliest period of use has been definitely established as 1906, two years earlier than previously believed. Likewise, the latest use was on plate number 19663 for the 2-cent Aeronautics Conference commemorative issue of December 12, 1928. (Fig. 1.)

Where The Initials Were Placed

For the regular issues, on plates of 400 subject stamps, divided into four panes of 100 each, siderographers' initials, reading up, were usually placed on the lower right margin of the plate. When the sheet was printed, the initials appeared in the left sheet margin of the lower left pane of 100, adjacent to stamp number 91. On plates of 200 subjects, divided into two panes of 100 each, these initials appear in the left sheet margin, adjacent to position number 91 of the left pane.



Fig. 5. C V De B — Clyde V. DeBinger, Siderographer.



Fig. 6a. J C F — James C. Filgate, Siderographer.

However, this practice was not uniformly followed. In the writer's files are two photographs of the one-cent green Franklin postage stamp of 1908, Scott No. 331. On one, the initials "C. A. H." appear in the left margin of the lower left Post Office pane of 100 stamps, adjacent to position number 91, reading up. On the second, these same initials of the siderographer, Charles A. Hall, appear in the bottom margin of the pane reading horizontally, presumably under the same left pane position number 91. Unfortunately, the left selvedge is missing on the latter photograph so the position number of the stamp cannot be positively identified. Obviously, these two examples are from two different plates. The siderographer simply rocked in his initials in different positions of the two plates.

Other deviations from the norm are found on the 50c violet stamp, Scott No. 341, and on the \$1.00 violet brown stamp, Scott No. 342, of this same 1908-1909 issue. For both of these stamps, the initials "J. P. P." of John P. Perry have been seen on the bottom selvedge below position number 100 of the right pane reading horizontally. (The 50c and \$1.00 denominations were printed from plates of 200 subjects in two panes of 100 each.) Since Mr. Perry was a siderographer, his initials should normally have appeared under or adjacent to stamp number 91 of the left pane.



Fig. 6b. D W Mc C — Daniel W. McCallum, Siderographer.



Fig. 7a. A B — Andrew Black, Siderographer.

On commemorative stamps issued during the period from 1906 to 1928 there appears to have been no uniformity in the placement of the siderographers' initials. Thus, for the five cent Jamestown Exposition issue of 1907, printed from plates of 200 subjects in two panes of 100 each, the siderographer's initials have been noted in the bottom selvedge of the left pane of 100, under stamp number 91, reading horizontally. On the other hand, on the five cent denomination of the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary issue of 1924 printed from plates of 200 subjects in four panes of 50 each, the siderographer's initials have been found on the left sheet margin of the lower left pane of 50, adjacent to stamp number 46, reading up.

Another special situation is found on the two cent and five cent denominations of the 1925 Norse-American issue printed from 100 subject plates, one pane to a plate. There, the siderographer's initials are found in the bottom sheet margin, under stamp number 91, reading horizontally. Because these are bi-colored stamps, the initials of the siderographer appear twice on each sheet: once in red and then in black for the two cent denomination, and in blue and black for the five cent stamps. The second set of initials, in black for the frame plate, are below and positioned slightly to the right of the



Fig. 7b. E H — Edward Hein, Siderographer.



Fig. 8a. A E F — Albert E. Fischer, Siderographer.

colored initials for the vignette plate.

Surprisingly enough, the twenty-four cent air mail stamp of 1918 and the five cent Beacon air mail stamp of 1928 do not have two sets of siderographers initials on their margins. Though both are bi-colored stamps, the initials of the siderographers appear only on the red frame plate of each of these issues.

Plate Finishers' Initials

On sheets of 400 subjects, plate finishers' initials appear in the right margin of the lower right pane reading down, adjacent to stamp number 100. On sheets of 200 subjects, the initials are in the right margin of the right pane adjacent to stamp number 100, as well. The writer has never seen plate finishers' initials in the bottom sheet margins of the right panes. Of course, that possibility exists but documentation must await the submission of proof.

Some Characteristics of Plate Makers' Initials

One point of interest, that should be mentioned about plate finishers' initials, is that they are punched on to the plate with a die punch. Because the die may slip in the process of punching, a doubling of the initials occasionally



Fig. 8b. G F H — George F. Henlock, Siderographer.



Fig. 9. J H S — John H. Silbert, Jr., Siderographer.

will be noted. This cannot happen with the siderographers' initials because

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Fig. 10a.

E M E — Edward M. Earle, Plate Finisher.
J M c F — Joseph McFate, Plate Finisher.



Fig. 10b.

J M c F — Joseph McFate, Plate Finisher.

these are rocked on to the plate from a transfer roll prepared by the siderographer. Of course, double impressions are possible in the transfer process.

Occasionally, two sets of siderographers' initials will be found on the same plate. This is unusual, however, because only one siderographer normally worked on transferring the roll to the plate. It is normal, however, for two sets of plate finishers' initials to appear on one plate. From examples examined, this is more prevalent than a single set of initials on the one plate.

Positions of Initials on Air Mail Stamps

The 1918 air mail stamps (Scott C1-3) were printed in sheets of 100, 10 x 10. Of the three denominations of that issue, only the twenty-four cent stamp (Scott C3) is known with siderographer's initials, "S. De B." of Samuel DeBinder. These appear in the bottom sheet margin below stamp number 91. The six cent (Scott C1) and sixteen cent stamps (Scott C2) are not known with siderographers' initials because the bottom sheet margin, where the initials might be found, were cut away to make the sheets fit the Post Office folders.

As a matter of fact, the siderographer's initials are found only on the first of the three printings of the twenty-four cent stamp. On that first printing, the top margin was cut away leaving the bottom margin showing the initials "S. De B." (Fig. 2.) On the second and third printings of the twenty-four cent stamp, the bottom sheet margins were cut away. Thus, for these printings, no siderographer's initials can exist.

Surprisingly enough, no plate finishers' initials are known on the 1918 air mail stamp issue. This also might be because the bottom sheet margins were cut away on the six cent and sixteen cent stamps, as on the second and third printings of the twenty-four cent stamp. Since the siderographer's initials on the first printing of the twenty-four cent stamps are found in the bottom sheet margin, one might conclude that the plate finishers' initials would likewise be found in that margin. This would preclude finding these initials on the six cent, sixteen cent as well as second and third printings of the twenty-four cent stamp.

Why are there no plate finishers' initials on the first printing of the twenty-four cent stamps? Full sheets of stamps of this first printing have been examined and no such initials were found. Two possible reasons exist. First, the plate finishers' initials may not have been entered. Second, they might have been placed in the right sheet margin which had been cut away on the six cent, sixteen cent and first and third printings of the twenty-four cent stamps.

Since the second printing of the twenty-four cent stamps has the right sheet margin attached, the left having been cut away, the initials should be there if the second possibility noted above were valid. But it can be reported that examination of a full sheet of this second printing failed to disclose any plate finishers' initials.³ One may conclude, therefore, that for the 1918 air mail issue no plate finishers' initials were entered on the plates.

Starting with the 1923 air mail issue, both siderographers' and plate finishers' initials are found. For easy reference, a table is given of the various stamps and the positions where the initials are placed:

Siderographers' Initials

<i>Scott Cat. No.</i>	<i>Number of subjects on plate</i>	<i>Initials adjacent to stamp number</i>	<i>Figure</i>
C4	400	#91, L. L. pane	Fig. 3
C5	400	#91, L. L. pane	
C6	400	#91, L. L. pane	Fig. 4
C7	200	#46, L. L. pane	Fig. 5
C8	200	#46, L. L. pane	Fig. 6a, Fig. 6b
C9	200	#46, L. L. pane	Fig. 7a, Fig. 7b
C10	200	#46, L. L. pane	Fig. 8a, Fig. 8b
C11	100	#46, Left pane	Fig. 9

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149-53	Calchedon	(160.00)	90.00
155	— Roman States	(27.00)	20.00
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156-57	Maria Goretti	(27.00)	17.50
158-68	E13-14 Popes & Basilicas - Exp.	(30.00)	25.00
239-42	— Brussels Fair	(25.00)	18.00
242A	— Brussels Fair souvenir sheet	(20.00)	22.50
C9-15	2nd Airmail	(40.00)	35.00
C16-17	— Tobias	(1000.00)	P. O. R.
C18-19	UPU	(400.00)	P. O. R.
C20-21	registered with cachet	(400.00)	P. O. R.
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Fig. 11. C H R — Charles H. Roll, Plate Finisher.
W E S — Walter E. Spring, Plate Finisher.

Scott Cat. No.	Number of subjects on plate	Plate Finishers' Initials	
		Initials adjacent to stamp number	Figure
C4	400	#100, L. R. pane	Fig. 10
C5	400	#100, L. R. pane	
C6	400	#100, L. R. pane	
C7	200	#50, L. R. pane	Fig. 11
C8	200	#50, L. R. pane	Fig. 12
C9	200	#50, L. R. pane	Fig. 13a, Fig. 13b, 13c
C10	200	#50, L. R. pane	Fig. 14a, Fig. 14b
C11	100	#50, Right pane	Fig. 15

The siderographers' initials on the air mail stamps listed above are always found in the left sheet margins. None are ever found in the bottom sheet margin. The plate finishers' initials for the above air mail stamps are, likewise, never found in the bottom sheet margins. They always appear in the right sheet margins of the panes mentioned.

(To Be Continued)

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BOLIVIA

Scott C215, Sanabria No. 252

The Unissued "1961" and the Error "1661" Overprint

By LUDWIG HORN FLACH

There is a footnote in the "Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. I" under the 1960 World Refugee Year series C212-216. This reads: "No. C215 exists with '1961' overprint in dark carmine, but was not regularly issued in this form." Also, the "Sanabria 1966" catalogue has the following footnote: "#252 exists with overprint 1961 in dark carmine. An error 1661 for 1961 exists in positions 56-60 in each sheet. Prepared but not issued."

As an active philatelist residing in La Paz, Bolivia, I believe that I can shed some light on this matter.

A Deal For Unsold Reminders

In about the middle of the year 1961, certain Government Officials of Bolivia thought that they had come upon a scheme for a good source of revenue for the country. At that time, there was a large stock of unsold postage stamps stored in the vaults of the National Treasury. A plan was started to offer these remainders for sale. Advertisements were placed in newspapers, requesting that parties interested in buying this unsold stock of Bolivia's postage stamps should contact a specific Government name and address.

There were replies to the advertisements, mostly all from stamp dealers. One New York City stamp dealer expressed great interest in the contemplated sale. In order to have no criticism, a Ministerial Resolution No. 313 was issued and published on August 31, 1961. This Official Resolution called for the overprinting of 15,000 complete sets, both the postage and air mail stamps, of the remainders of the 1960 World Refugee Year issue with a new face value.

The error "1661" instead of "1961".
(Photo by Boutrelle)





DIRECCION GENERAL DE CORREOS
BOLIVIA

Sección _____

Cita No. _____

RESOLUCION MINISTERIAL No. 313.

COPIA LEGALIZADA.

RESOLUCION MINISTERIAL No. 313.

La Paz, 31 de agosto de 1961.

VISTOS Y CONSIDERANDO: Que, mediante Resolución Suprema número 105079, se ha dispuesto la habilitación y carga de las estampillas postales de la emisión "Año Mundial del Refugiado";

Que, asimismo, por Resolución Suprema número 105437, se ha encomendado la ejecución de este trabajo a "Litografías e Imprentas Unidas" de esta ciudad;

Que, al efecto, se hace necesario determinar la cantidad de sellos a sobrecargarse, a fin de que el Tesoro Nacional, haga entrega de dichos valores.

SE RESUELVE: La habilitación y carga de las estampillas de la emisión "Año Mundial del Refugiado", se efectuará conforme al siguiente detalle:

CORREO DE SUPERFICIE.

15,000 piezas de Bs. 50.-	habilitadas a Bs. 600.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 350.-	habilitadas a Bs. 900.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 400.-	habilitadas a Bs. 1,000.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 1,000.-	habilitadas a Bs. 2,000.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 3,000.-	habilitadas a Bs. 3,900.--

CORREO AEREO.

15,000 piezas de Bs. 600.-	habilitadas a Bs. 1,200.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 700.-	habilitadas a Bs. 1,300.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 900.-	habilitadas a Bs. 1,400.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 1,800.-	habilitadas a Bs. 2,800.--
15,000 piezas de Bs. 2,000.-	habilitadas a Bs. 3,000.--

Las estampillas que se consignan en el detalle siguiente, llevarán la leyenda "1961".

CORREO AEREO.

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83,608 pzs. Bs. 700.-
26,108 pzs. Bs. 900.-
100,000 pzs. Bs. 1,800.-
100,000 pzs. Bs. 2,800.-
346,896

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21,608 pzs. Bs. 50.--
100,000 pzs. Bs. 350.--
100,000 pzs. Bs. 400.--
100,000 pzs. Bs. 1,000.--
100,208 pzs. Bs. 3,000.--
424,806

La Dirección General de Correos, efectuará los trámites correspondientes, para que el Tesoro Nacional, haga entrega del total de sellos señalado, para su habilitación y carga.

Regístrese, comuníquese y archívese.
(fdo). MARTO SANJINES URIARTE.

Es conforme.
(fdo). J. Soriano Badani.
Oficial Mayor de Comunicaciones.

A copy of Ministerial Resolution No. 313 of August 31, 1961.

Another paragraph in the Resolution called for the rest of the 1960 World Refugee issue to be overprinted with "1961."

In view of the Ministerial Resolution, a stock of the stamps was delivered to the printers. The first part of the Resolution was never carried out. The printers began some work by overprinting the air mail stamp (Scott C215) "1961."

In the meantime, however, word of this became public knowledge. There were many objections to the sale of these unsold remainders from many sources, not only stamp collecting circles. Bolivian newspapers condemned the scheme, writing that it did not reflect well upon the reputation of Bolivia.

Consequently, the President of the Republic stepped in. He refused to sign the contract with the prospective purchasers of the overprinted stamps and the printers; he ordered all the stamps in the hands of the printing house be returned to the National Treasury. Furthermore, the President ordered that all the overprinted sheets should be destroyed by incineration.

As has happened so often in the history of Latin American philately, the letter of the law was not carried out; a few sheets escaped destruction. Later, of course, these came into philatelic hands.

Before breaking up the sheets for sale, philatelic examination revealed that in each sheet of 100 (10x10) positions 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 have an error in the date "1661" instead of "1961." Therefore, there are five errors, "1661" instead of "1961," in every sheet.

Some philatelists in Bolivia sent this information to many catalogue editors throughout the world. This explains the footnote in the two American catalogues, Sanabria and Scott.



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Sanabria 1966

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