



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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A MEGA ISSUE

NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

BREAKING NEWS: The Executive Committee has decided that Reading Show is cancelled due to the pandemic.

President's Message:

I hope you are all well and staying safe. The pandemic has been a blow to our club and I am sure you, like I, miss the social aspects of our gatherings. The Lancaster club has been successfully running virtual meetings on Zoom (and you are welcome to join in on these). Should we consider having our own Zoom meetings? Is there a member who knows enough about it to set it up, because I surely do not?

If anyone has ideas about how we can continue some activities as a club the officers would be glad to hear them. Maybe when it is not quite so hot in a month or two, we could have an outdoor meeting and we could yell at each other from 6 feet apart!

I am afraid it will be a while, perhaps well into next year, before we can again meet in person. I am also afraid that we will need to find a new meeting place as I think senior living places will restrict entrance to non-family members long into the future. Please be thinking about alternatives.

Dave Hunt

A NOTE FROM YOUR E-EDITOR:

Well the days merge into weeks and the weeks into months and if you are like me (which most of you are not as I still work full time) the routine each week remains the same. Although lately my wife son and I have ventured to eat out but only to two places that have well- spaced outside seating.

I hope this edition of Overprint finds you well and you have kept safe through all this craziness. Maybe like me you have spent time building a new collection or just finally putting all those stamps that are in glassines finally in an album. I have done a lot of sorting and have found a bunch of stamps and covers that I had forgotten I had purchased. I have also discovered that I have over 1,500 Stamp on Stamps in Albums and a further 1,600 to be put in albums!! Maybe when I finally get to retire I will get around to that project!

If you have discovered something interesting in you collection that you didn't realize you had share it with me and I will include it in the next Overprint.

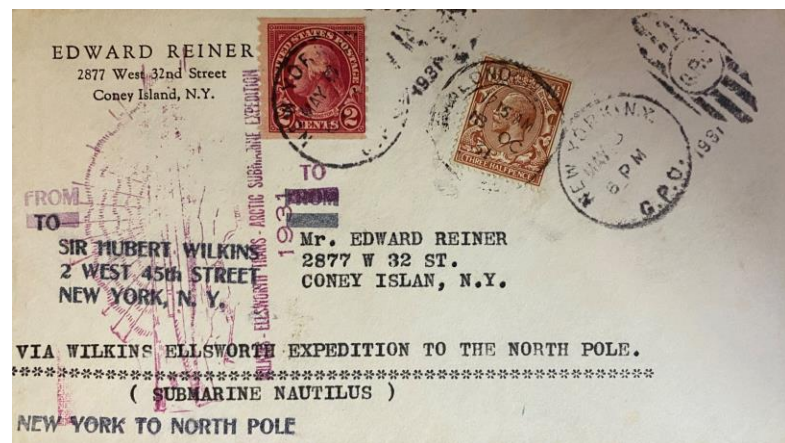
I want to give a big shout out to the Lancaster Club (PSLC) who have been doing Zoom meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday's of each month. If you have a computer with a microphone and camera join us. There are some really good main presentations, and following that there is a general show and tell session. It's a way to stay connected to fellow collectors. Who knows this may be the only way we can meet for quite a while. I am sure you will find it good to see some familiar faces too.

BREAKING NEWS: The Executive Committee has made the decision to cancel our Reading Show. With social distancing, the need for screens, no kitchen and the age of our dealers and participants (no disrespect) and the likelihood that there will be more restrictions in the fall this really left the Committee with no option. Hopefully next year.

Stay Safe

Mike Bach 07-31-2020

TEASER:



I am working on a mini-presentation about this cover that went to the North Pole (nearly) in 1931 in the submarine Nautilus. The two explorers , Sir Hubert Wilkins and Lincoln Ellsworth are quite interesting characters.

THE MARKET PLACE IS BACK

Reading's Mike Matus is offering the following Lots. If you are interested email him at Michael.matus@verizon.net or call him at 610-790-9001 (cell phone.)

Lot #1.....USA: COLMBIAN ISSUES #230 - #238

USED, LITE HINGE. CAT. VALUE @ \$142.70.
SALE PRICE \$40.00

LOT #2...USA: TRANS MISSISSIPPI EXPOSTION ISSUE #285 - #290

USED, LITE HINGE.(TEAR ON BOTTOM (INEXPENSIVE). CAT. VALUE @ \$133.00
SALE PRICE \$35.50

Lot #3.....USA: AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY ISSUE. #731

MINT, VERY LITE HINGE MARK. CAT. VALUE @ \$25.00
SALE PRICE \$7.00

Lot #4.....USA: AIR POST SPECIAL DELIVERY #APSD1 - DARK BLUE.#16c

MINT, IMPERF .BLOCK OF (4) CAT. VALUE @12.00
SALE PRICE \$3.50

Lot #5.....USA: SPECIAL DELIVERY #CE2 - RED AND BLUE #16c

PLATE BLOCK OF (4), LITE HINGE. CAT. VALUE @10.00
SALE PRICE \$3.00

Lot #6.....GREAT BRITTAIN MULTIPLE SINGLES LISTED BELOW,

#133 - CAT. VALUE \$35.00 LITE HINGE	SALE PRICE.....\$10.00
#134.- CAT. VALUE \$22.50 LITE HINGE	SALE PRICE.....\$ 6.00
#136 - CAT. VALUE \$70.00 NO HINGE,	SALE PRICE.....\$20.00
#137 - CAT. VALUE \$70.00 HINGE (PERFIN)	SALE PRICE.....\$21.00
#138 - CAT VLAUE \$40.00 PAPER HINGE	SALE PRICE.....\$12.00

Scans of the above lots on next page

Mike Matus SPECIAL REQUEST:

Mike is looking for an 8 mm film reel to reel viewer to borrow for a week or two. He has over 50 reels of film that he wants to convert to digital. Does anyone out there have one that he could borrow. See email and cell phone number above if you have.

This edition of Overprint is a selection of Articles I have found over the weeks since the last issue, but I am starting with an apology to Jim Savage as I missed his second email in June with an updated article containing his own covers. His covers are far better than the ones I put for the last issue. **Worth another read.**

So here it is on Page 4:



LOT #1 (top 2 rows)
LOT #2 (bottom 2 rows)



LOT #3



LOT #4



LOT #5



LOT #6

Articles in this Issue

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My Covid 19 Stay-At-Home Collection Article

By Jim Savage

Mike Bach asked me to contribute an article about my collecting interests. He knows that one of my collections is of Great Britain covers from December 11, 1936 to February 6, 1952, the period of the reign of King George VI. This article is my attempt to explain why I collect stamps and stampless covers from Great Britain and Offices Abroad from this era.



Figure 1: King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Commemorative Coronation Cover.

My original idea was to start a simple sideline rate collection of the colorful definitive stamps of Britain's King George VI on cover. In checking my old Stanley Gibbons catalogue for listings and prices, a complete collection seemed rather attainable and very friendly to my wallet. I discovered there are no airmail stamps and only a few commemorative issues from this period, but plenty of definitive issues of all the pound sterling denominations. So beginning about sixteen years ago, I began seeking out and buying U.K. KGVI covers, showing postal rates of ½ pence to one pound, from dealers at local shows, such as Bob Brown, Al Shaub and others. Although I had read articles on postal history and added Collect British Postmarks, Seventh Addition to my library, I had no real interest in expanding my rudimentary cover collection.



Figure 2: Cover from Czech Army Field Post in Great Britain sent at Proper Airmail Rate to U.S.A.

Well, then I had the opportunity to attend World Philatelic Exhibition, Washington 2006. One of the many dealers there, the late Michael Mead of Britannia Enterprises, from Massachusetts, had lots of classic to modern covers featuring interesting markings; they came with interesting prices as well. I don't remember having purchased any items from his stock then; but I do remember his mentioning that he had bought the complete postal history collection of Chris Miller, a British specialist in GB civil censored covers from WWII, and that he would have it for perusal at a future NYC show. Some of the stamped rate covers in my budding collection, relating to WWII, featured slogan cancels such as "SAVE WASTE/ PAPER METALS/ BONES RAGS" and "GROW MORE FOOD/ DIG FOR VICTORY", while others had economy address labels affixed to original envelopes. But I had no censored covers at all; so now my interest was piqued.

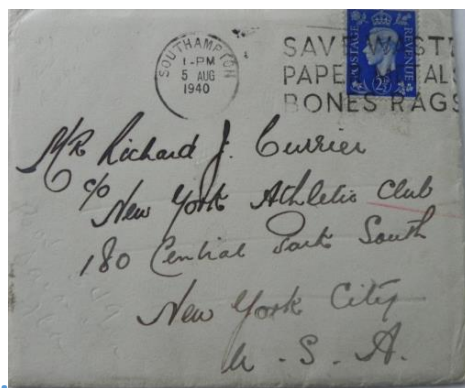


Figure 3: Slogan Cancel "SAVE WASTE/PAPER METALS/BONES RAGS".

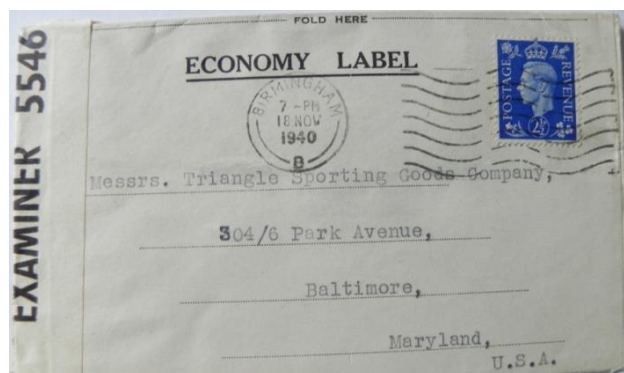


Figure 4: Original Envelope Overlaid with Economy Label for Reuse of Old Envelope.

The bus trip to NYC, sponsored by RSCC, was awesome. I had come to buy and spent nearly all afternoon at Michael Mead's booth examining the Miller collection. Not only did I come home with surface and airmail covers with (to me) unusual markings, but also a newly discovered area of investigation. On Mead's advice, I bought British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, United Kingdom, the "Bible" for collectors of GB civil censored covers. This volume is the best source I know of for learning about the British civil censorship system during WWII, which, for the UK, lasted from September 3, 1939 to August 14, 1945, a period of almost six years.

So, since that fateful bus trip to NYC, I have been fortunate to add interesting covers, only one or two with contents, to my collection. These items include censored stampless military mail, mail opened and examined by the British Philatelic Association, POW mail and mail to Axis countries and military forces abroad. My collection, however, is far from complete, if "completeness" is defined as having one of every known example of a usage. Also, military mail during the war is really a separate collecting area in order to do it proper justice.



Figure 5: Civil Censored Letter to Switzerland in 1940 with Returned Label
Affixed at Bottom.

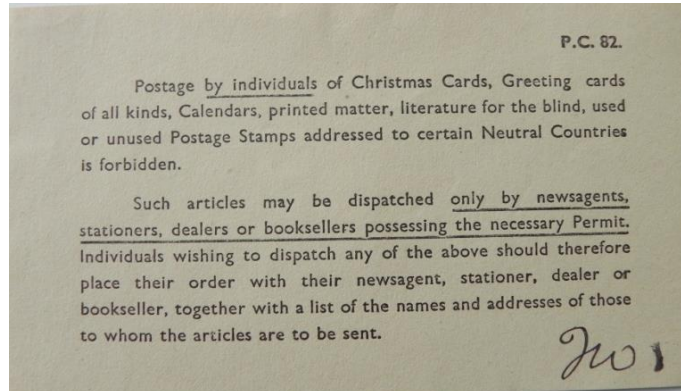


Figure 5, 1: Printed Memorandum Stating Reason for Rejection Inserted Inside Returned Cover.



Figure 6: 1941 Civil Censored Airmail Envelope to Budapest; handstamp "NO SERVICE/ RETURN TO SENDER"; London CDS on return. Slogan cancel reads: "GROW MORE FOOD/DIG FOR VICTORY".



Figure 7: 1945 Registered Cover to British Military Mission to the Egyptian Army; Inspected by British Philatelic Association (dated & signed oval handstamp) & Civil Censored (Red Handstamp) for Philatelic Contents; Note: Blind Rubber handstamp cancel.



Figure 8: Registered Internal Jersey Cover Postmarked January 29, 1942; Endorsed: “Per Registered Post/on First Day Jersey/Halfpenny Issue”.

Examples of GB WWII items that I would love to add would be: (1) more mail to occupied territories (I have very few and none to France); (2) mail addressed to P.O. Box 601, Amsterdam and to P.O. Box 506 Lisbon, points of neutral exchange, and/or showing the oval Thomas Cook & Son handstamp; (3) covers with contents to the Channel Islands; (4) a non-philatelic cover/wrapper with the one pound sterling brown Royal Coat of Arms stamp (SG 512) affixed; and (5) items addressed to East Asia during the conflict (preferably with contents). Now then, I don’t want much, do I? But if anyone reading this while staying at home, or otherwise, should know of any of these illusive wish-list items....

Covid-19 lockdown fuels demand for stamp collecting

The Covid-19 lockdown has fuelled demand for geeky hobbies including stamp and coin collecting, in a boost for collectibles seller **Stanley Gibbons.**

In an update about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the business, AIM-listed Stanley Gibbons, which has temporarily closed its shop on the Strand, said it is offering online and telephone orders.

The company said it has seen a “material increase” in website users, and evidence of more people showing an interest in coin and stamp collecting.

Stanley Gibbons added: “We have seen a gratifying increase in both new and 'lapsed' customers coming back to the hobbies, and believe we are taking some market share from those who are unable to operate as effectively through this period.”

But revenues since the penultimate week of March, when the crisis intensified, are down by around 45% versus what was initially expected.

The higher end of the stamp market has seen a “more pronounced” impact from the current situation, the firm said.

STAMPS AND SPIES: THE CIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN POSTAGE DESIGN

MATIN MODARRESSI

JULY 21, 2020

COMMENTARY



In 1960, many Americans sent mail to Czechoslovakia, wrote the correct addresses, and paid the proper postage, but nevertheless found their envelopes returned undelivered. The envelopes were still sealed, so no one had opened them and decided on the basis of what was written inside to send them back. Instead, the problem was stuck to the front of the envelopes: All the returned envelopes had a postage stamp featuring Tomáš Masaryk, the leader of Czechoslovak independence. The stamp was part of the 'Champions of Liberty' series honoring non-Americans who had struggled for political freedom in their homelands.

The stamp's message was not lost on Communist Czechoslovakia. In a letter to the State Department, the Czechoslovak embassy accused the United States of "not issu[ing] the stamp to honor Masaryk as it had alleged, but to use it as a propaganda means against the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic."

In response, the State Department insisted that issuing stamps of "honored personages of various nationalities is an accepted international philatelic practice."

Missing from this response was a fact about postage stamps that governments have long recognized: Stamps, in addition to carrying mail all over the world, carry designs that reflect the issuing country's cultural ideals, historical narratives, and even political ideologies. Stamps are government-sponsored art. They are like political posters in their concentrated visual rhetoric, yet they are more like internet ads in their ability to spread that rhetoric across international borders, even if it contravenes the prevailing politics of the countries to which they travel.

Art, literature, and music were all means by which the United States tried to portray itself as more culturally refined than, and therefore superior to, the Soviet Union during the Cold War. While the CIA's covert funding of cultural front organizations has received a lot of attention, declassified U.S. government documents reveal that the designs of the 'Champions of Liberty' series and other Cold War-era stamps were similarly co-opted by the nation's top intelligence and military officials.

In the United States, proposals for stamp designs are evaluated by members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee appointed by the postmaster general. The original founding committee in 1957 consisted of seven members: three philatelists (people who study stamps), three artists, and one representative from the U.S. Information Agency, then the lead institution for public diplomacy. This representative, Deputy Director Abbott Washburn, attended monthly meetings of the stamp committee. At the same time, he or his boss attended meetings of the Operations Coordinating Board of the National Security Council. This unique arrangement gave the U.S. government a valuable tool in its communication arsenal.

After the Soviet Union issued an ultimatum demanding the withdrawal of Western armed forces from West Berlin, the Operations Coordinating Board recommended issuing a stamp symbolizing the U.S. commitment to the divided city on the front lines of the Cold War. This commitment had been reaffirmed by President Dwight Eisenhower in his televised address of March 16, 1959. According to CIA Director Allen Dulles' memo of a Board meeting two days later (attended by other high-level officials from the White House and State and Defense Departments):

The Board discussed at considerable length a number of possible choices for individuals to be honored in the "Champions of Liberty" commemorative stamp series. Discussions centered particularly on Ernst Reuter, late mayor of West Berlin. A number of members of the group felt that Reuter would be an admirable choice at any time but that he might be a particularly good one during this period of tension over the Berlin situation.

It was agreed that the USIA representative on the panel considering individuals to be so honored would submit Reuter's name, but that if there was determined opposition from other sources, he should not insist to the bitter end.

The meeting minutes indicate that the next stamp in the series was originally supposed to feature Sun Yat-sen, the first leader of the Kuomintang, but that the Operations Coordinating Board proposed Reuter instead. (Sun's turn would come three years later, coinciding with a politically significant anniversary for Taiwan.) The minutes also suggest a broader discussion about the use of stamps as a foreign policy tool through a "discussion of the entire question of the issuance of commemorative stamps and OCB interest therein."

The designs being contemplated by these U.S. officials, who were normally responsible for coordinating and implementing national security policies, reflected the dual nature of the Cold War as a period of both geopolitical upheaval and scientific and cultural rivalry. In one instance, after the chief of the CIA's clandestine service learned that the Soviet government was planning celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of Leo Tolstoy's death, he wrote an internal CIA memo on Feb. 9, 1959 endorsing the idea of a Leo Tolstoy stamp as part of the 'Champions of Liberty' series. After all, Tolstoy's writings on non-violence as part of his Christian beliefs were reminiscent of how the United States tried to portray itself. (Three Soviet stamps featuring Tolstoy, but no American ones, were issued the following year.)

Similarly, one of the topics discussed during a meeting of the Operations Coordinating Board on Oct. 8, 1958 was the possibility of a stamp commemorating the first U.S. satellite. This idea was proposed

by the Army, on whose rocket Explorer 1 was launched into space earlier that year — nearly four months after Sputnik. Hence, according to Dulles' [memo](#) of the meeting, “the majority of the Board felt that it might be unwise to issue such a stamp in view of the obvious disparity which now exists between our accomplishments in the satellite field and those of the USSR.” Ironically, the [first country](#) to issue a stamp commemorating Explorer 1 was Soviet-allied Poland! (The global popularity of [stamps with space-exploration themes](#) no doubt played a role in the issuance of this [10-stamp set](#) titled ‘Conquest of Space.’)

In addition to having these brainstorming sessions, the Operations Coordinating Board and CIA even got involved in the seemingly bureaucratic task of publicizing new stamps. Minutes of a Board meeting on May 22, 1957 state that “the OCB Working Group on the Philippines would coordinate a draft Presidential announcement in connection with the commemorative stamp” featuring Ramon Magsaysay, the anti-communist fighter and president of the Philippines who had just died in a plane crash, and the first in the ‘Champions of Liberty’ series. Dulles himself accepted a personalized [invitation](#) from the postmaster general to attend the release ceremony of a 1955 Atoms for Peace stamp.

Between 1957 and 1961, ten leaders of foreign lands (including South America, Hungary, Poland, Finland, Italy, and India) became rare exceptions to the [tradition](#) of primarily featuring Americans on U.S. stamps. Functionally, these stamps represented proof of postage. Symbolically, they portrayed the United States as continuing those leaders’ legacies and political struggles. This aspect of the ‘Champions of Liberty’ series advanced U.S. policy objectives, as Sen. Thomas Dodd [explained](#):

Many millions of people, cut off from the normal free press, nevertheless receive letters from abroad and study the stamps affixed to these letters. They recognize the person pictured on the stamp and remember his role in their national life. The memory of freedom is thus strengthened, and the will to freedom thus encouraged.

Such capacity for visual storytelling has ensured stamps’ continued relevance even in this age of electronic communication. In May, Serbia’s foreign ministry [denounced](#) a North Macedonian stamp that displayed an outdated map cutting into present-day Serbia as “a hostile provocative act aimed against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Serbia.” Two years ago, a set of Pakistani stamps with the caption, “Atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir,” led to the [cancelation](#) of a high-level meeting between two nuclear-armed countries. On the other hand, India’s foreign ministry once [tweeted](#), using the hashtag #StampOfDiplomacy, about how the United States was the first country after India to issue a stamp honoring Mahatma Gandhi — part of the ‘Champions of Liberty’ series.

As politicians debate the future of the U.S. Postal Service, history shows that the message inside the envelope is not the only one the stamp delivers.

Matin Modarressi’s research on philately and foreign affairs has appeared in the Journal of Cold War Studies and Wilson Center’s History and Public Policy blog. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins SAIS. He works in law enforcement in New York.

Why Stamp Collecting Is Suddenly Back in Vogue

Wall Street Journal June 5th

GORGING ON HBO in Washington, D.C., whereas ready for the town to unlock itself, my eye wandered from TV to the media cupboard shelf the place my long-forgotten stamp albums sat.

An inveterate traveler now marooned by pestilence, I started leafing by means of them, each postmark a childhood touchstone: The Belgian king, dyed an unflattering rose, that I had nicknamed “pink head.” The Czech hockey workforce that appeared unhappy to be trapped behind their Iron Curtain. The tiny Laotian mahout atop his huge elephant sparked goals of jungle journeys throughout Southeast Asia. Every stamp was a ticket to a vacation spot I’d, and did, later go to.

After an absorbing afternoon, I questioned if a revival is due for this fusty pastime the place historical past, graphic design and unique landscapes commingle on a little bit of sticky perforated paper.

Scott English, govt director of the nonprofit American Philatelic Society (APS) that serves as a useful resource for stamp amassing and collectors, says on-line search outcomes itemizing the APS have roughly doubled to 1.2 million since March. Gerard McCulloch, whose weblog Punk Philatelist explores stamps and popular culture, has noticed extra millennials and girls taking over the passion within the pandemic. Each males assume stamp amassing’s nondigital nature is compelling. “It’s a really analog approach to spend your day,” mentioned Mr. English.

‘Generally you want the Zen of admiring a tiny piece of art work.’

Within the 1970s, my father, a Detroit hospital administrator, introduced residence airmail envelopes offered by his worldwide medical employees. Captivated by these overseas stamps, I purchased extra from a neighborhood retailer. My budding passion schooled me in geography and political iconography. Spanish dictator Francisco Franco’s bald pate resembled that of Reddy Kilowatt, a goofy cartoon character with a lightbulb for a head who promoted electrical utilities. Queen Elizabeth II’s postal profile got here in each the younger (Claire Foy) and middle-age (Olivia Colman) variations whereas the Queen Mom and husband King George VI popped up on postage of now extinct British colonies like Nyasaland. My favorites, nonetheless, had been lavish and colourful commemoratives: hyenas (Mauritania), Olympic athletes (Poland) or the famed 1934 sequence on America’s nationwide parks rendered in carnelian, violet and indigo. Revisiting them now quickly banished the tough realities exterior. “Generally you want the Zen of admiring a tiny piece of art work,” mentioned Mr. McCulloch. True sufficient. Whenever you’re housebound, philately will get you all over the place.

Collectors Club, APS and other groups offer free online stamp seminars

Jun 25, 2020, 10 AM



By Linn's Staff

A number of philatelic organizations around the world have taken innovative steps in recent weeks to keep the hobby accessible to those obliged to stay at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Collectors Club in New York City and the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pa., have been at the forefront of this trend. Groups in the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy have also gotten in on the act.

Since late March, it has been possible to find a free philatelic webinar, or web-based seminar, happening online several times a week, sometimes two or more on a single day.

Typically these involve a well-known collector giving an informal chat and presentation on a favorite subject from the safety and comfort of the living room or stamp den, via an online platform such as Zoom, WebEx or Google Chat.

The talk is often followed by a moderated question-and-answer session, allowing attendees to interact with the presenter in real time.

The webinars generally last about an hour. After they end a lightly edited video of the event is often posted to a platform such as Vimeo or YouTube, allowing it to be watched later.

Many organizations post links to their videos on their websites and allow them to be freely viewed even by nonmembers for a limited time.

The combination of intimacy and erudition afforded by these novel philatelic events has made them an instant hit.

Larry Haber, president of the Collectors Club, said that more than 270 people joined the club's webinar on June 10, at which Wade Saadi showed and discussed one of his

favorite topics, United States fancy cancels of the 19th century struck on the 5¢ Franklin and 10¢ Washington stamps of 1847.

By comparison an in-person presentation at the club's Manhattan townhouse would normally attract a maximum of about 50 people.

The Collectors Club has been hosting a new webinar every other Wednesday at 6 p.m., leaving each video up for two weeks until the next webinar. A schedule of upcoming talks is [available on the club's website](http://www.collectorsclub.org). <http://www.collectorsclub.org>

Club members can log in to view previous videos, as well as to access the extensive video archive of pre-pandemic presentations.

The virtual program is scheduled to run through the fall and seems likely to become a permanent feature of the club's offerings in the future, Haber said.

The APS, for its part, has been hosting virtual club meetings for a number of affiliated societies, including the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club and Nevada Stamp Study Society. A full list is on the [APS website](http://www.stamps.org). <http://www.stamps.org>

The Royal Philatelic Society London, which has been running its own series of webinars, has a page on its website listing a variety of stamp and postal history webinars from around the world. This list can be found on the [RPSL website](http://www.rpsl.co.uk/news-events-meetings/online-presentations).

<http://www.rpsl.co.uk/news-events-meetings/online-presentations>