



Postmark Atlanta

Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club
December 2004 Newsletter Part Two
by Mark Heffernan

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There's quite a bit of news to report-so this is going to be very long newsletter. The next newsletter will come out more than likely between Christmas Day and New Years. Let me take this time to wish everyone a happy Holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Thursday, December 9th-The Atlanta club's annual party will be held once again at Tony Roozen's house. We will also hold the annual "White Elephant" auction, with the proceed to be donated to the Ponce branch library. Please see the attached flyer for a map and directions. A sign up sheet was passed around during the November meetings-I have reproduced the list on the flyer as a reminder. For those who didn't get a chance to sign up-just bring something not on the list. Note: if you are reading the newsletter on the web-the flyer will be located in the item of the month area.

Wednesday, December 15th-The Button Gwinnett Stamp Club and Gordon Brick have invited the members of the Atlanta Stamp Collectors club to join them for their annual Holiday party. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Thursday, January 6th, 2005-Normal club meeting cancelled. We look forward to seeing you at the joint meeting hosted by the Cobb County Stamp Club on the 9th of January.

Sunday, January 9th, 2005-The Cobb County Stamp Club is hosting a joint meeting of the three metro Atlanta stamp clubs. Directions and more information in the next newsletter.

Thursday, January 17th, 2005-An APS slideshow will be presented, most likely on exhibiting.

Dues are now being collected. The cost of dues in 2005 is \$10.00. The dues cover the cost of this newsletter as well as the awards that the club sponsors at the Southeast Stamp Show (formerly Peach State).

Budget breakdown for 2005-assuming 50 members

Here is the preliminary budget breakdown for the Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club in 2005:

Newsletter costs

Printing (assumes 2 pages per newsletter at 8 cents a page): $\$8.32 \times 12 \text{ months} = \99.84

Envelopes: $\$2.50 \text{ per box of } 50 \text{ envelopes} \times 12 \text{ months} = \30.00

Postage: $12 \text{ months} \times \$0.37 \times 50 \text{ members} = \222.00

$\$100.00$ for sponsoring award at Southeast Stamp Show and for ad in show program

Expenses Grand Total: $\$501.84$

Revenues from dues: $50 \text{ members} \times \$10.00 = \$500$

As you can see we are just about breaking even at \$10.00 per member-right where we need to be.

Additions to the club library-The club library has received several new items-including a complete set of the 2004 Scott catalogs. It is the intention of the club to donate the 2003 set

that we currently have to the Ponce De Leon library, as they do not currently own a set. In order to do this, we need to have Volume 1 returned. If you currently have Volume 1, please return it on November 18th or if you are not able to attend the meeting on the 18th, please make arrangements with either John Coles or me to return the book ASAP. John Coles may be reached at 770-962-5888 or I can be reached at 770-784-5849 (cel: 404-285-4290, try the cellphone number first) or via e-mail at conyerscollector@aol.com.

As promised-I have included my essay on stamp shows below. Please note that this essay is only my opinion-it doesn't represent the opinion of the Atlanta Stamp Collectors club.

AN ESSAY ON STAMP SHOWS

I have had various club members ask me about various shows, especially some of the larger shows that I have attended. I recently had a member ask me about the Mega Event show in New York, since he would be attending the show. With **Peach State** just ended and the **Winter Show** upcoming, I thought the time seemed ripe to offer some thoughts on stamp shows in general. This essay will focus on US Stamp Shows while touching on English Stamp Shows (or Fairs, as they are known in England). I have included pictures of the programs from various shows-note how as one goes up the ladder that the programs get more elaborate.

There are **four kinds** of stamp shows, in my opinion- **local, regional, national, and international**. Here in Atlanta, most club members have attended local and regional shows. For the first time in quite a while a national level show; the APS Winter Show, will be held here in Atlanta.

But what makes the Winter Show a national show? Is Peach State (now the Southeast Stamp Show) a national show? And what about the APS Summer Show and Washington 2006?

Let's start small. The **Local Show** (which features exhibits), **bourse** (buy and sell stamps only) or **stamp fair as they are known in England** is generally the first show encountered by most collectors. Here in Atlanta- the SDAG bourses would be considered local shows. The dealers are your hometown dealers, so you generally get to know them pretty well and they also get to know you. The size of local shows often depends on the area. I have attended local shows in the Northeast where a local show could have up to forty dealers. In Northern California, it would average about twenty-five to thirty. Here in Atlanta, local shows average about fifteen dealers. Some local shows also have exhibits-the Birmingham and Huntsville shows feature exhibits but the vast majority of local shows are bourses-places for dealers and collectors to get together and buy and sell.

Regional Shows are larger than local shows and generally feature more dealers and all feature exhibits. The majority of regional shows are also World Series of Philately shows. Here in Atlanta, the Southeast Stamp Show is a prime example of a regional type show. Please note-I am calling the Southeast Stamp show a regional show-the APS considers the Southeast Stamp Show to be a national level show. My definition of a national level show is just different from the APS' definition. Most regional shows have feature a larger dealer bourse (about double what one would get for a local show). Your local dealers are still there but there are also dealers from

further afield. Exhibits are generally of an overall higher quality than they are at local shows. Philatelic societies also will hold meetings during such shows. Other items to look out for include souvenir programs and special covers (although some local shows have these as well).

The vast advantage one has with local and regional shows is that because of their smaller sizes it is quite easy to visit every dealer and to look at nearly every exhibit. This is generally not the case with larger shows, unless one has time and/or the finances to do so. Local and regional shows also have an advantage in that they are held at the same time and generally the same place every year. You can also build relationships with dealers much easier at smaller shows. At larger shows, dealers may not have as much time as they would like to build up a rapport with collectors (and vice versa).

So, with all these advantages, why would anyone want to attend a larger show? To put it simply, because the bigger shows also have their advantages as well.

National Shows are even larger than the regional shows. 75+ dealers up to 200 dealers are not uncommon. Rarities will be on display (the Upside Down Jenny, the Z-Grill, etc.), and the exhibits will be of the highest quality. The APS and ASDA host the only true national level shows here in the US. The APS Winter Show and Stampshow (the summer show) travel to various locations around the country, allowing different collectors to attend. The ASDA hosts the Mega Event shows twice a year in New York and have been holding a single show in California in recent years. In England the national shows, Philatex and Stampex, are each held twice a year in London-during the spring the two shows are held on the same weekend! Dealers will be from all over the country and from overseas as well. The USPS will generally have a large booth on the show floor (Royal Mail has a large booth featured at Stampex). Society meetings, first day cover ceremonies and special cancellations are all featured. Time management is very important when attending a national show. Chances are one will not be able to visit every dealer, attend every meeting or view every exhibit. But there are so many choices, that even if one only does part of what is available, you still will feel very good about the experience. National level shows generally are 3 to 4 days long.

The other item to note is that if you do intend to shop (and if you're a collector, that is probably tops on your list)-at national shows you are less likely to find bargains than at local and regional shows. The table costs at national (and international) shows is higher and thus dealers tend to bring their higher quality stock. Bring extra money, if you can and look to fill more elusive (or expensive) holes in your collection.

International Shows are even larger still. Most international shows feature 200+ dealers and the exhibits are the elite. True rarities will be on display: items such as the Mauritius Post Office issues, the 2 cent Hawaiian missionary, Plate 77 of Great Britain Scott 33 (catalogues in excess of 100000 pounds in England!). International shows are held once every decade in most major countries and feature FIP (the International Federation for Philately) patronage. The United States has generally held their international shows in years ending in 6. (1976, 1986, 2006). Pacific 97 was an exception due to the Olympics. For many years, the US international shows were held in New York City. Since 1986, the show has begun to travel across the US (Chicago

in 1986, San Francisco in 1997 and now Washington DC in 2006). At one time-international shows would last for up to two weeks! The norm is now a week to a week and a half.

Since we have Washington 2006 coming up-I thought I would offer what one should expect to find when and if one attends. I can't guarantee that all this will be available, but having attended the Stamp Show 2000 in London and World Stamp Expo 2000 in Anaheim (a USPS hosted international show that- I'm not totally sure on this-did not feature FIP patronage.)

A large booth by the United States Postal Service.

Booths by major post offices from around the world. Countries to expect would include- the UK, France, Germany, Russia, China, Italy, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the Vatican, Israel, Mexico, Canada and many others. You will also find agents who carry stamps from other nations around the world such as Crown Agents. One of the more fun things to do at an international show is to buy a philatelic passport and visit the various post offices-purchase stamps and have them specially cancelled. I did this at WSE 2000, the passport isn't worth much of anything but that really isn't the point.

Ultra high quality exhibits. I have already heard that part of the Queen's collection will be on display at Washington 2006. At Stamp Show 2000, both the Queen's collection and the British Museum's rarities were on display. Collector exhibits are of the highest quality as one must actually win at the lower level shows to be eligible to display at the international shows.

You will find dealers from all over the world. Whatever your speciality-there is likely to be a dealer or dealers who will cater to your needs.

There will be so many society meetings and first day ceremonies that one cannot possibly attend them all. Time management is critical at an international show-especially if you are just attending for one or two days. As I mentioned when talking about national shows, don't go looking for bargains, but spend your time looking for those more elusive items missing from your collections.

Programs from four different shows:

The first program is from GAPEX 2002-the Augusta, Ga stamp show held every year in late October.

The second is from World Stamp Expo 2000-Anaheim, Ca, an international level show. The program here was printed by Stamp Collector magazine.

The third program is from Spring Stampex 2003-a National level show held twice a year in London, England.

The fourth program is from the Stamp Show 2000-London, England-the once every ten years international show held in Britain.

Note the rather simplicity of the Augusta program in comparison to the more elaborate programs of the bigger shows. This is not meant to put down the Augusta show or any local show for that matter. It just goes to show you how the bigger the show gets- the more elaborate things become-even simple things like the show program.

Conclusion. With the upcoming APS Winter Show here in Atlanta and Washington 2006, Atlanta area collectors have a rare chance to attend a national and an international show with very little traveling involved. I would recommend attending both, I don't think you will be disappointed.

GAPEX 2002
26th ANNUAL
AUGUSTA STAMP SHOW
October 26-27, 2002
-AT-
ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL HOME HEALTH CARE CENTER
(DANIEL VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER - WRIGHTSBORO ROAD)

HIGHLIGHTING
Augusta's
"Natural beauty in an urban setting"
PHIMIZY SWAMP
Nature Park
Developed by Southeastern Natural Science Academy

SHOW ACTIVITIES

- Bourne of Stamp Dealers
- Competitive Stamp Exhibits
- Special U.S. Postal Sub Station
- Cachet Envelopes, Show Cards
- Surprise Gifts For Young Collectors
- Information about Stamp Collecting

FREE ADMISSION & EASY PARKING
October 26th SATURDAY 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
October 27th SUNDAY 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Sponsored by
The Greater Augusta Stamp Club
711 Hwy. 141/13 - Augusta, GA 30909

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SPRING Stampex
The British National Stamp Exhibition

26th February to 2nd March 2003

Stamps 50th Anniversary Year.
Free postcard and Anniversary Stamp for the first 7,500 visitors.
Plus special Stamps cancellation available each day.

APEX - a superb display on the Village Green by members of the British Aerophilatelic Federation. Anniversary display by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

THE STAMP SHOW 2000
PERSPECTIVES ON OUR WORLD

POSTAGE 25
ONE PENNY 20

CATALOGUE