

Journal of the American Association  
of Philatelic Exhibitors  
Volume 32 • No. 1 • Whole No. 125  
April 2018



# The Philatelic EXHIBITOR



## STAMP SHOW PACESETTER! 17

Like Seabiscuit coming up from the outside in the Santa Anita Derby, here comes yet another potential World Series show from the 150-member Knoxville Philatelic Society! It's no surprise to us.



## Does any other stamp show do this?

What a drawing card to a stamp show! And the dealers like it because it attracts many more collectors to their show. KNOXPEX, that is. It's the amazing "big but little" show held each April in Knoxville, Tenn. The Knoxville Philatelic Society, among its myriad member benefits, runs a large and profitable (to both their members and their club) Sales Circuits for its 155+ members. At KNOXPEX, the entire inventory of circuits is featured at special tables. See more on KNOXPEX on page 5.

## Another interesting anonymous opinion...

*This lady ponders out loud about all the precious metal flying around these days!*

Well, I haven't exhibited in several years and really haven't thought much about my reasoning for dropping, temporarily I hope, from the ranks of competitive stamp collecting. I exhibited both a topical collection and another one that lacked the kind of 'organization' judges like to see—and I would imagine that the latter not rising above a silver medal was the most logical reason I'm not exhibiting right now.

"Another reason that I hesitate to get back into the ranks, though, just might be the plethora of medal levels there are right now. I mean—*what the heck??*—why in the name of Yosemite Sam do we have to have a large gold and a small gold, a large silver and a small silver...and on and on? I've spoken to six or seven judges, none of whom like the idea of this—just one more bureaucratic snafu to complicate things on the national exhibiting level just like they've become, in

my humble opinion, in the international exhibiting category. I haven't talked to a single judge who likes the idea of it. I knew Bud Sellers when, way back when, he lived in Tarrytown, New York. He had a saying he used to remark to the boys and girls who author the Judging Manual from time to time: **'If it ain't broke, don't fix it!'** Made sense then, Makes sense now. Not to mention the kind of funds show committees will have to find in order to come up with tiny medals and not-so-tiny medals for each medal bivelev!

"And say, I just thought of this: while they're ordering the various plethora of new medals, why don't they just stick in a brand new medal level to further goof up things? How about Platinum? And while they're at it, let's add some clusters like they do in the armed forces. How about a Platinum Medal with oak leaf cluster? Or a gold with ermine felicitations? Or silver with strawberries and cream? Oh my heavens!" —

### It's all about personnel!

We're proud to cover the rather amazing KNOXPEX show in Tennessee. One might easily include a wide range of shows in their category. Category? Yes, the category of "Vigorously Successful Stamp Shows." It's surprising how many there are. Seapex in Seattle, Minnesota Stamp Expo (in July, no less!), Greater Houston Stamp Show, OKPEX in Oklahoma City. There are lots more in this category. It's easy to see that, if clubs can gather a committee of solid workers, new & old shows can be sustained!

### The FIP Election, p. 36

This coming December the F.I.P., the Federation Internationale de Philatelie, will have a vitally important election. They're the governing body for international philatelic exhibitions. It's an organization that needs, quite seriously, to address the future of international exhibiting in a more fair and impartial manner—and to reconsider the factionalism and archaic politics in its ranks. Chris King, a former president of the Royal Philatelic Society is running for F.I.P. president. His viewpoints and plans for the organization are refreshing, candid, and welcoming. See page 36.

### New authors herein

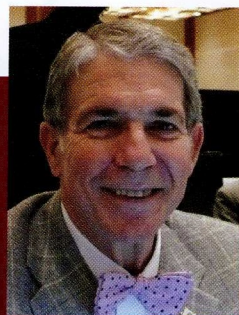
Check this issue for the unveiling of several new writers—Rob Faux and an amazing and lengthy piece about the challenges exhibitors face—then Greg Shoults and his worthy quest to make his awesome early U.S. coils exhibit climb the ladder to the CofC—and Bill DiPaolo's excellent article on apprenticing to be a literature judge.

Three examples that prove, conclusively, that there are some outstanding writers out there needing a forum—and that we're the place for them!

## On Defying the Naysayers...

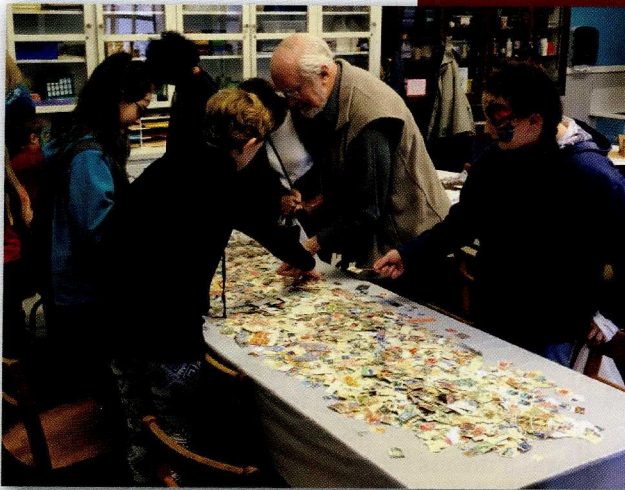
**Knoxville Philatelic Society's KNOXPEX**

**opened my eyes to what the hobby's future can truly be like.**



Randy L. Neil  
Editor  
neilmmedia1@sbcglobal.net

**Kids of all ages throcked to KNOXPEX** for activities that spanned the entire realm of philately—from a huge club-staged public auction, to exhibits, seminars, high quality bourse, excellent venue with free parking, and best of all, crowds and more crowds of its two days.



## ViewPoint

only that, but the club fully embraces on-line methodology for gathering like-minded people to enjoy a pastime.

It has 157 members because I decided to become the 157th. The club produces a very colorful, especially well-edited newsletter and I wanted to be sure to get it every month. And I wanted to be a part of something doing bold things in this hobby!

The weather was sunny and mild both days of the show—and more than 20 people were waiting at the door when it opened on

Saturday morning. And then, all day folks kept coming in...aisles were packed nearly the entire time.

Perhaps most exciting of all was the packed-to-the-gills public auction that began on part of the show floor at closing Saturday evening. (See our front cover) Bidding was vigorous, offerings were eclectic and numbered into the hundreds. It took more than a dozen club members to run it! I got a bidder number, sat down and proceeded to acquire some things.

Finally, when ATA president Dale Smith and his wife, Andrea, and I sat down to dinner later, we all agreed that, being newbies to Tennessee philately, we all had discovered a real show-stopper of a stamp show. The ultra-friendly, hard working (understatement) show committee is on the way to ushering in what one might hope will one day soon become a Deep South addition to the World Series circuit. You think it couldn't happen?? The KPS is solidly proving that stamp collecting can be, if we make it happen, on an upward spiral, not the opposite.

All it takes is simple enthusiasm and fellowship. KPS has those commodities in abundance.

### Talk about a really pleasant experience!...

in early March I headed over to Knoxville, Tennessee for KNOXPEX. I first decided to travel there using two modes—plane from KC to Nashville, then from there, a rental car to Knoxville. A delightful pre-spring drive ensued with time to ponder what kind of small stamp show awaited me. I wasn't exhibiting, but going there to give a seminar and meet some friends coming down from Connecticut. A big NYC snowstorm hit so the friends couldn't show up—but no matter, this great "little big show" captivated me the minute I walked through its doors.

First of all, the Knoxville Philatelic Society, the sponsoring body, grabbed my attention bigtime! Show chairman Bruce Roberts, an old friend, gave me a personal indoctrination into certainly one of the largest and most imaginative, vigorously active and happiest stamp clubs in America. Largest?? I was in a state of amazement when Bruce said that, in addition to all he had told me, this 157-member club has a members-only sales circuit darned near as elaborate as the APS Sales Division! As my old TV hero Jack Paar used to say, "I kid you not!" Not