



The PHILATELIC REVIEW
Of The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California
And Federation Reporter
September 2004

Happy 60th to SESCAL



SESCAL turns 60 this year, and the show will feature three national conventions — China Stamp Society, United Postal Stationery Society and the Society for Hungarian Philately — an observance of the 60th anniversary of D-Day and outstanding exhibits and dealers.

The United States Postal Service and the United Nations Postal Administration will also have booths.

The one thing missing — for this year only, the committee promises — is the literature exhibit. The death earlier this year of Bob de Violini, the literature chairman, made it impossible to prepare the exhibit this year.

Speaking of Mr. de Violini, his

Capt. Cook: Pacific Pathfinder exhibit will be shown in the court of honor.

The basic details of the show — time, place, etc. — are in the adjacent box.

Additional information, along with any late-breaking details, will be posted on the SESCAL Web site at <http://www.sescal.org>.

SESCAL is one of the APS World Series of Philately exhibitions, and the 2004 Grand Award winner is eligible to compete in the APS Champion of Champions exhibition at Stampshow 2005, Aug. 4-7 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Two special events, the Arizona Philatelic Rangers dinner and the SES-

(Continued on page 2)

SESCAL in brief

WHAT: 60th annual SESCAL, stamp show of the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California.

WHEN: Friday-Sunday, Oct. 1-3, 2004.

WHERE: Radisson Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

HOURS: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS: China Stamp Society, United Postal Stationery Society and the Society for Hungarian Philately

FEES: Free admission, validated parking.



About us

The Philatelic Review is published three times a year by The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California.

The SESCAL Web site, which also includes information about the Federation and a list of member clubs, is at www.sescal.org

News about Federation or club events and other articles should be sent to the editor, John Weigle, at P.O. Box 6536, Ventura, CA 93006-6536 or, by e-mail, to jweigle@vcnet.com

Officers:

President: William O'Connor
Fallbrook, Calif.
(760) 723-7372
conocon@aol.com

President elect: Vacant
Vice President: Jerome Kasper, Los Angeles, Calif.
(310) 474-4771
jerome.kasper@verizon.net

Secretary: Charlotte Gulsby
Huntington Beach, Calif.
(714) 960-5272
lindyec@netzero.net

Treasurer: Waltraud Helms
Norwalk, Calif.
(562) 868-7304

SESCAL chairman:
Wallace A. Craig
Placentia, Calif.
WAMCraig@aol.com

More on SESCAL 2004 ...

(Continued from page 1)

CAL Awards Banquet, are also on the calendar.

The Rangers, primary supporters of the Postal History Foundation in Tucson, Ariz., will hold their next dinner at 7 p.m. Friday at The Proud Bird restaurant, 11022 Aviation Blvd. For reservations, at \$33.50 per person, contact the Postal History Foundation at phf3@mindspring.com or phone (520) 623-6652.

The Awards Banquet will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Top of the Radisson overlooking the LAX south runways. To ensure seating, the committee suggests buying tickets by Sept. 27. Banquet tickets are \$35 each and can be ordered by mail from Mrs. Betty Green, 15125 Arlette Drive, Victorville, 92394-2001. Tickets won't be mailed and should be picked up at the show. Anyone with dietary requests or restrictions should so indicate when making the reservation. Changes can't be made the night of the banquet.

Here's a partial schedule of events scheduled during the show. The complete details will be in the program, and any changes will be posted at the show site.

Friday	
Time	Event
10 a.m.	Exhibition Opens Michael Rogers Auction viewing (all day)

2 p.m.	Society for Hungarian Philately Board Meeting
6 p.m.	Exhibition Closes
7 p.m.	Arizona Philatelic Rangers Dinner — tickets required

Saturday	
Time	Event
10: a.m.	Exhibition Opens Michael Rogers Auction viewing (all day) U.S. Philatelic Classics Society United Postal Stationery Society General Meeting The China Stamp Society United Postal Stationery Program Canal Zone & COPAPHIL Columbia Panama Philatelists
11 a.m.	The China Stamp Society United Postal Stationery Program Canal Zone & COPAPHIL Columbia Panama Philatelists
12 p.m.	The China Stamp Society Plate Number Coil Collectors Club American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors
1 p.m.	Society for Hungarian Philately Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Philatelic Jury Exhibits Critique Society for Hungarian Philately
2 p.m.	Quarterly Meeting, Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California
3 p.m.	Exhibition Closes
6 p.m.	Awards Banquet (advance ticket sales only)
7 p.m.	

Sunday	
Time	Event
10: a.m.	Exhibition Opens
11 a.m.	Michael Rogers China/Asian Auction
12 p.m.	American First Day Cover Society, Claude Ries Chapter (to 3 p.m.)
1 p.m.	Michael Rogers U.S./World Auction
4 p.m.	Exhibition closes

SESCAL 2005 will be Oct. 7-9.

SESCAL chairman's message

This is it: SESCAL is 60 years old

The time is drawing near for SESCAL. We are looking forward to a great show. We have three societies this year, which should give you a great show. This year, we are having the China Society, United Postal Stationery Society and the Society for Hungarian Philately. There will be interesting exhibits from these collecting areas. The United Postal Stationery Society will have its Marcus White Show Case. This is the Champion of Champions in the area of Postal Stationery.

We will have the United States Post Of-

fice as well as the United Nations Post Office. This will allow one to purchase both the United States and United Nations stamps at post office prices.

This is the 60th year of SESCAL as an APS show. In addition, we are honoring the 60th anniversary of D-Day. I understand there may be a show envelope this year.

This is the show which belongs to all of you. Please come and help use celebrate and enjoy yourselves.

**Wallace Craig,
Chairman**

A trip to the APS Match Factory

By Louise Christian
and Wallace Craig

On June 23, we took off for the opening of the Match Factory. What's that? you say. Well, just sit down and listen. Many know and many do not know the American Philatelic Society (APS) and American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) had grown out of the building they were using. The library was increasing in size by leaps and bounds. There was no end in sight of this growth. Something had to be done. But what?

This caused the officers of both the APS and APRL to conduct a number of meetings to discuss the best action to take. The groups decided a new facility was required. With that decided, the next question was where? It would not be practical to move to an area far from State College. The moving of a major library and a large number of employees to another area would be costly and not practical. It would also cause many problems for the employees and their families. Plus the trained employees might not have been able to move because of family problems, and those who would have moved would have to have had their moving expenses paid.

Consequently, it was determined to locate a facility in the general area of State College, Pa. Then the question comes up to where? A place had to be found which could be expanded and is relatively near. This then caused a lot of effort to find a facility. Do you purchase an existing facility or do you buy land and build?

Then the Match Factory in Bellefonte, Pa., was brought into the picture as a potential place. This was a factory built in the late 1800s to manufacture matches. The factory was used until after WW II, when it was closed. There was some minor manufacturing that did not last. Finally, the owners allowed the once proud factory to be given up for taxes to the city of Bellefonte. The building was closed up and sat and sat. The city was not happy with this growing eyesore. It was a big building that required a lot of work and looked worse

each passing year. To make matters worse, there was \$600,000 of back taxes still owed the city.

We must admit it took a lot of imagination to think this building would be something for the APS/APRL expansion. There were many who believed this was a dumb move that would not work. There were groups who ran for office who really believed this would never be something that would work.

Being on the West Coast, we never could really obtain a good understanding as to the good and bad of this move. There were hundreds of words both positive and negative about the use of this building. We will admit we were all over the place as to the positive or negative of the project.

Then it was decided the project should go. We will admit we still had doubts about the whole thing. The past president of the APS, Peter McCann, gave a talk at SESCAL with drawings about the project. This was great, but one could not get a real handle on what they were talking about. We could only hope they were doing the right thing.

The project started and a date to move into the new facility was set, along with a date for the grand opening. All along, we were hoping this would be a real improvement to the present facilities. We really wanted to know how it came out. So we decided to go to the grand opening.

We arrived at our hotel in State College on June 24, 2004. This was an area we have never seen before so we managed to get lost until two nice ladies in an insurance office gave us a little hand-drawn map showing where we should go to find my hotel. After a little more driving, we located our hotel. This ended up being a very nice hotel. Louise had a room on the first floor just off the lobby so she did not have to walk much. I was given one on the fourth floor. The hotel was across the street from the old APS/APRL facility. This gave me an idea of the size of the old facility. The area was wooded, and there were a number of hotels which looked as though they were made of one company. They were all beautiful and looked well-

appointed.

The next day, we met in the lobby and enjoyed a great breakfast. We asked how to get to Bellefonte from the hotel. I have to give the girl the benefit of the doubt. She gave us directions that made me drive all over the place with left, right, straight ahead and others. I kept track of where I was going, and we got there. On the way, we passed under a freeway which had a sign saying "State College." This made us wonder.

Finally, we saw a sign that said "Bellefonte." We needed gas since we drove from Philadelphia. We saw a gas station, pumped the gas and went in to pay. While in paying I asked, "Where is the Match Factory?" The lady was very nice but looked at me funny. She pointed across the street and said, "That's it." So we made it.

We turned and drove into a parking lot, which really looked very nice. At one side of the lot were some new buildings. But next to the building was a typical eastern red brick building. It did not seem as though parking out here was the place with Louise's handicapped parking permit. So we drove around to the back and saw a nice handicapped parking space, which we took.

Then we saw the remodeled area, and it looked outstanding. There was a large white tent across the way, but more of it later. We went into the building, and we were impressed. The lobby was nicely decorated, and the red bricks were combined with the new construction so it looked as though it was always that way.

We were given a tour by a nice lady whose name we do not remember. The first place was the library, which is to the left as one goes through the lobby. And what a library it is. There is plenty of light with very comfortable chairs. I could spend hours in this place. We next went through the offices and the employee lunch room. Everything was well-appointed. We were able to see an area that was cleaned but not remodeled. We were told this is what everything was like before remodeling. Let me tell you, the difference was amazing. It was

(Continued on page 4)

More on the Match Factory ...

(Continued from page 3)

kind of damp and not nice looking.

One can understand the need for the added library space. The books in what we would normally call the stacks are huge. They seem to go on forever. We were really impressed. We were told that when the facility was in State College it was the second largest facility in the city for the quantity of mail. The only one bigger was Pennsylvania State University. In Bellefonte, they are the largest. From this area, we went to the sales department and saw how it is organized. For a stampaholic like me, this is no place to be — but I did spend a delightful hour there. One should see the organization of the computer sales area. Someone really did an outstanding job in organizing it.

It is really hard to do justice to describe what we saw. Everything was well done, and we contend the money was well spent. Those who planned and organized this remodeling have a right to be proud of themselves.

**FPCSC Philatelic Review
c/o Waltraud Helms
11925 Ringwood Ave.
Norwalk, CA 90650**

On Friday night, we went to the banquet for the officers and city fathers of Bellefonte. This was in the big white tent. It was a nice occasion, with good food. A letter from President Bush was read. They also had the local representative. It was a great evening.

Saturday was the opening day. However, before that happened, I was able to go on a train ride. That was great fun. It was one of those self-propelled types that was used to move commuters. We took a drive around Bellefonte, which is highly recommended. It is a little town with a lot of interesting, old buildings. The town looked old but interesting. Therefore, we just drove around and really enjoyed the area.

The grand opening was held on Saturday at 1 p.m., which fortunately was after my train ride. We were entertained by a German umpha pha band that played a lot of great German music as well as others. During the opening ceremony, the Match Factory was declared a historical building by the state of Penn-

sylvania. This included a very nice memorial to be mounted on the building. Everything was positive and upbeat, which all in attendance agreed was the way it should be.

The observation was the attendance of those from the West Coast was small. Unfortunately, there were only five. They were Steve Schuman, John Berkimbine and his wife, Louise Christian, and myself. I also understand many of those attending could drive there in four to seven hours. This saves the air fare even with the price of gas.

In the evening, there was the Tiffany dinner which was 100 percent stamp collectors and their wives or husbands. One nice thing happened. It was my birthday, and I had everyone sing me happy birthday. That was a big thrill to have everyone know I am getting older.

I would summarize this as the greatest three-day trip for both of us. We do contend the APS/APRL officers have done the right thing with the taking over and remodeling of the Match Factory.

TO: