



# The PHILATELIC REVIEW

The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California  
And Federation Reporter  
January 2004

## President's Message

# Federation to meet; 60th SESCAL coming

**By William O'Connor**

Louise Christian at her wonderful home, 2461 Beacon St., Fullerton, will host our next meeting of the Federation on June 19 at 12 noon. Louise will once again provide a beautiful luncheon, with the meeting to follow. Please let us know if you plan to attend. I hope many of our clubs can send a representative to this meeting.

We are in the process of planning for the 60th anniversary of SESCAL. This great regional show will commence Friday, Oct. 1, and end Oct. 3. Special 60th anniversary events are planned, and it is hoped friends of the philatelic community will be on hand for the festivities. This is a great milestone for SESCAL and the Federation. Please set aside the dates and be ready for a tremendous time.

I would like to extend a big thank you to George Toussaint for donating a 1934 artifact of the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California quarterly meeting. We had only 10 member clubs in 1934, and A.V. Whipple was our president. The evening meeting was held at the Elks Temple, Los Angeles. Let's look into the boxes, attics, and garages for any memorabilia concern-

ing the Federation and SESCAL over these past many decades. Bring any material to the meeting June 17, or send such to me at 3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

The APS is having its big show in Sacramento, Aug. 12-15. Over 900 frames are being planned, and over 150 dealer booths are being offered. With many international, national, and regional societies present, this show has something to offer all collectors. Wishing all members of the Federation good health and good collecting in the months ahead.

*This message arrived too late for the last issue and so is being printed here. — Editor*

I would like to begin my first message to the stamp clubs of Southern California by thanking Jerry Harwood, our immediate past president. He has spent at least six long years in the trenches promoting all aspects of our hobby here in the region as an officer of the Federation. His great support for the VENPEX show in Oxnard is to be noted. We wish Jerry all the best and are sure he will continue to be a great friend of the Federa-

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## NEXT FEDERATION MEETING

**The next Federation meeting will be at noon Saturday, June 19, 2004, at the home of Louise Christian, 2461 Beacon St., Fullerton; phone (714) 524-0809. To get there, take the 57 freeway (south or north) to Yorba Linda Boulevard, turn east to Placentia Avenue, cross Batanchury Road and turn left on Mystic Avenue. The first street on the right is Beacon Street. Please advise President William O'Connor at (760) 723-7372 if you can attend. (Minutes of the last meeting didn't arrive in time for this issue; we'll double up next issue.)**

## 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](http://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](mailto:jweigle@vcnet.com)

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**SESCAL chairman:** Wallace A. Craig, P.O. Box 369, Placentia, CA 92870 [WAMCraig@aol.com](mailto:WAMCraig@aol.com)

# Farewell to Bob de Violini

Longtime Federation supporter Robert "Bob" de Violini — president, exhibitor, cachet maker, literature competition chairman, webmaster and friend to philately — died unexpectedly on Jan. 15 of an aneurysm. He was 74. There were no funeral services, although a memorial service was held Jan. 31 and attended by several Federation members. He was cremated, and he had his last airplane flight, with his ashes spread to the winds over the ocean.

In addition to his interest in philately, Mr. de Violini was an active member of the Channel Islands PC Users Group and edited its newsletter for several years.

He was an active philatelic writer and edited *The Computatelist*, a magazine that concentrates on the use of computers in stamp collecting, from January 1992 to April 2003.

He was the literature chairman at SESCAL, the Federation's annual stamp show, for several years. He was also the webmaster for SESCAL and the Federation and won awards for the SESCAL Web site in international competition.

He received the Federation's Distinguished Service Award in 1984. His wife, Lois, received the award in 1994, and the late Barbara Williams de Violini, who was also active in the Federation, received it in 1978.

Mr. de Violini had also been active in the Ventura County Philatelic Society, serving as its president, chairman of its VENPEX stamp show and in other positions. Both Bob and Barbara were active in VCPS and VENPEX and encouraged many members to exhibit, both at VENPEX and other shows.

In 1984, Mr. de Violini organized OLYMPHILEX, a stamp exhibition in conjunction with the Los Angeles Olympics that year.

He was also a stamp exhibitor, and his exhibit of stamps and covers related to Capt. James Cook and his voyages, won several awards. He also prepared a "purely for fun" exhibit called *Curves on Stamps*. The curves were those of nudes, primarily well-known works of art, pictured on stamps.

He was also active in the American Polar Philatelic Society.

He and Lois were regulars at the weekly cat adoptions at the PetSmart store in Oxnard because of their interests in the cat rescue society Cats Cradle Rescue.

Mr. de Violini was born May 11, 1929, in Los Angeles and had been a Ventura County resident for 50 years, coming from Burbank.

He was a 1956 graduate of UCLA.

He retired in 1986 with 35 years of federal service. He worked as a meteorologist-climatologist in support of test operations at the Naval Missile Test Center, Point Mugu.

He served in the U.S. Air Force's Air Weather Service and flew weather observation reconnaissance missions over Korea. For a time, he was a part-time teacher of meteorology at Moorpark College.

His hobbies included philately, writing, editing and computers. He was a 34-year member of the American Philatelic Society and a member of many other philatelic organization. He served as president of several, including the APS Writers Unit, American Society of Polar Philatelists, the Philatelic Computing Study Group and the Federation.

In addition to the Distinguished Philatelic Service award, he received the Arizona State Philatelic Hall of Fame Phoenix Award in 1987. In 1997, the America Philatelic Society presented him with its Luff Award for service to the society. This service in-

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SESCAL chairman's message

## Is too early for SESCAL? Not on your life?

It is hard to believe, but we are now starting to organize SESCAL. You see, this is a full year of work. Each committee member does his or her work. This is the way all committees' jobs are. The only time the entire committee works in areas where they are not normally assigned is set up on the Thursday before the show opens and the teardown.

We started a number of

years ago bringing a Boy Scout troop in to tear down the frames. They do an outstanding job and help us older people in handling the frames. It is the only way to get this job completed without killing us off.

This will be a great show, and it will be our 60th year of having a show — consider the time which has gone on since 1944 and the number of people who have been workers to be

sure the show goes on.

I would be wrong to not mention our loss of Bob de Violini. He did a lot of work to keep me and the rest of the crew getting things done. I will tell you I did meet Bob de Violini last week. Now, do not think I have lost my marbles. This was his son. He was a delight to talk to and he was enjoyable to be around.

— Wallace Craig

## More on Bob de Violini obituary ...

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cluded 12 years as the society's affiliates coordinator.

In 1988, he served as U.S. commissioner for OLYMPHILEX 88 in Seoul, Korea. He also served as secretary for PACIFIC 97, the world philatelic exhibition held in San Francisco, where he oversaw the first international display of philatelic computer software.

He was an accredited philatelic literature judge.

Robert was preceded in death by his mother, Frances Treutler of Burbank; and father, Roberto de Violini.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Evans-de Violini; sister, Lisa Curry of Toluca Lake; stepsons, Mark, Peter and David Evans; stepdaughter, Nancy Williams Quast; three step-granddaughters; two step-grandsons; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations, in Robert's name, may be made to the American Philatelic Research Library, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803; The Postal History Foundation, 920 N. First Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719; Cats Cradle Rescue, P.O. Box 5774, Oxnard, CA 93030; or the Spay and Neuter Clinic of Ventura County, 2252 Craig Drive, Oxnard, CA 93030.

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## More on president's message ...

*(Continued from page 1)*

tion.

It is with great pleasure that I announce Charlotte L. Gulsby as our new secretary. She has been very active in her local club and will be a great asset to all of us. I have another announcement to make concerning our new APS representative and webmaster. Jerome Kasper has taken on both of these tasks. He

has been very active these past few weeks, and we are most fortunate in gaining his considerable talents. Jerry is most involved in exhibiting; his airmail exhibits are first rate, and hopefully he will continue to present these wonderful exhibits to the stamp world.

One very sad note to report to the membership is the passing of Robert de Violini. He was a

great friend to all in philately, but was especially involved with SESCAL and the Federation. We will miss him tremendously.

In closing, I would like to urge all members to get involved with their local clubs. Please contact me with any advice and or offerings of help to promote our hobby here in Southern California.

Editor's corner

## SESCAL anniversary a tribute to many workers

If you've been paying attention, you know that the Federation's annual show, SESCAL, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. That milestone is a tribute to the hard work of many people over many years, some of whom are listed on the SESCAL Web site as recipients of the Philatelist of the Year Award and some of whom the current members never heard of.

I have no idea how long the current crew has been working on the show — it probably seems like 60 years to some of them at the end of a SESCAL — but it's obvious that none of them were here for the first show.

I can't help but wonder what the organizers of the first show were thinking or what was happening in the world around them when they decided to put on a stamp show (I don't know if the first 59 shows were consecutive, although I assume that World War II led to the cancellation of at least one). Did that group of collectors have any idea what would happen by 2004: the flood of new issues from countries that didn't exist then; the development of self-stick stamps; the popularity of topical and thematic collecting; the rising interest in postal history; color pictures in stamp catalogs; the growing

amount of philatelic information on the Internet; and more?

Despite all that, though, some things haven't changed. Stamp collecting still provides pleasure and a way to relax for many people; it's still an easy way to learn about your own and other countries; stamps are still used to show that the sender paid for the delivery of letters and packages; collectors still examine new issues for freaks and errors; and we still rejoice when we find an expensive item in a packet or bulk lot.

— **John Weigle,**  
**editor**

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**TO:**