

Matthew Henson, Arctic Explorer

Philately and the Peary Expedition to the North Pole 1909

By Douglas Files

Robert Peary (1856-1920) was a U.S. Navy officer who performed explorations as part of the civil engineering corps. In the late 1800s and early 1900s he completed four expeditions to Greenland, most of which had the goal of reaching the North Pole. The Navy granted him leave to perform his explorations. On the first trip he tried to cross Greenland by dogsled and studied Inuit practices for staying warm. Five years later he was better prepared; at one point he looked out on Independence Fjord. Based on his observations he presented evidence to the world that Greenland was an island. On each of his first three expeditions the group turned back before reaching the pole due to poor weather or a lack of provisions. His associate Henson began as an aide to Peary but he travelled on all his expeditions and is honored today as more of a partner.

Peary's Second Expedition

On April 6th, 1909 Peary (age 52), his associate Matthew Henson and four Eskimos claimed to have stood on the North Pole. Two years later the U.S. Congress accepted his claim and granted Peary the rank of rear admiral. At his grave in Arlington National Cemetery a granite globe with a bronze star over its North Pole commemorates his achievement. A Latin motto reads: '*Invention Viam Aut Faciam,*' meaning 'I shall find a way or make one.'



Not everyone agreed with Peary's statements. After his 1909 expedition many experts challenged his claims of having reached the pole. Dr. Frederick Cook, a competitor, claimed to have reached the — **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

Meetings and Activities
Meetings begin at 7:30 pm

Mar 2—How Do You Shop for Your Collection? (member share/tell, 4-6 minutes)

Mar 6-8—Cleveland OH, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club; March Party Show, Holiday Inn, Strongsville, 15471 Royalton Rd., Fri & Sat: 10am-6pm, Sun: 10am-4pm, 877-408-4913, www.garfieldperry.org

Mar 8—Greenville OH, Darke City Coin Club Show, 10am-3pm, Paes Bingo Hall, 88 Martin St. 937-621-0661

Mar 9—Board Meeting

Mar 14-15—Indianapolis IN, Lincoln Comm. Center, 5301 N. Franklin Rd., Sat: 10a-5pm, 317-913-9319, tchas5@sbcglobal.net, indianastampclub.org

Mar 16—Club Speakers: Topic/Presenter TBN

Mar 20-21 — Richmond IN, Centerville Stamp Club Annual Show, Friends Fellowship Comm. 2030 Chester Blvd. Fri: 11am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm, 937-456-2188

Apr 4-5—North Canton OH, McKinley Stamp Club Show, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegate St. Sat: 10am-5pm Sun: 10am-4pm, 330-832-5992, lincolnway@sssnet.cm, mksc.webs.com

Apr 6—Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm

Apr 6—Club Auction #2 (philatelic material only)

Apr 13—Board meeting

Apr 20—My Favorite Stamp (any country) selected from your Birth Year/Decade (member participation, 4-6 minutes)

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DSC NEWSLETTER

Published by: DAYTON STAMP CLUB, INC., PO Box 1574, Dayton, OH 45401
Club Meetings: Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Rd, Kettering OH ---- 7:30 PM
Editor: Bill Smith, 329 East 1st St., Suite 311, Dayton, OH 45402 Phone (937) 344-3155
Email: wesjemail@gmail.com Website: www.daytonstampclub.com

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Fédération
Internationale de Philatélie

The International Federation of Philately By Douglas Files

Many of our club members are familiar with the American Philatelic Society and its work. But did you know that the APS is a constituent group of a larger organization? National stamp collecting bodies from 95 nations belong to an international umbrella group called the Fédération Internationale de Philately (FIP). The name is normally given in French, but it is readily translatable into English (International Federation of Philately).

The FIP was established nearly a century ago, in 1926. Its origin was in Europe, hence the French name. The four stated goals of the FIP are to promote the hobby, to maintain friendly relations among peoples of the world, to maintain relations among national postal administrations and to promote philatelic exhibitions. A recent survey indicated that stamp collecting is burgeoning in developing nations and in Asia but “stagnating” or “declining” in industrialized countries. The FIP attempts to strengthen the hobby worldwide.



Phila Taipei 2016 International Stamp Exhibition
Photo from the FIP website

In 1990 the FIP developed ties with the universal Postal Union to promote philately and to discourage illegal stamp issues. The FIP also helps to sponsor international philatelic exhibitions, such as the one planned for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2020. It also sets exhibiting standards and trains and accredits judges for philatelic competitions. The organization has 11 commissions, each run by a commissioner. The topics they cover include aerophilately, the fight against forgeries, philatelic literature, postal stationery and thematic philately. They also encourage youth

stamp collecting.

The FIP’s main office lies in Zurich, Switzerland but it runs a satellite office in Singapore. Overall the FIP runs a multitude of worthwhile programs and supports our hobby.

References: Federation Internationale de Philately website, <https://www.f-i-p.ch/>, accessed 5 Nov 2019

Evaluating and Selling an Inherited Stamp Collection—by Harry L. Rinker

None of us are getting any younger. Those pieces of paper in albums and piled in boxes and glassines are treasures found and joys discovered. What happens next? This article was originally written and published in 2009. For many, today is the day it has meaning. Thank you Carol Coats for reminding us that our delightful pastime needs some thoughts about tomorrow. Several DSC members can help you if you are wishing to find a new home for your collection.

I wrote a column about how to evaluate and sell a coin collection about a decade ago. The column entitled “I Have A Bunch of Coins” was selected by Writer’s Institute Publications for inclusion in its “Voices in Today’s Magazines: How 76 Authors Found Publishing Success,” published in 2009.

At least once a year, I receive an email from a Rinker on Collectibles reader asking how to evaluate and sell a stamp collection that belonged to a deceased family member. I often encounter stamp albums, boxes of loose stamps, and unused stamps during walk-through appraisals. Most were created by mid-20th century males who cut their collecting teeth on the big three—coins, rocks, and stamp. Occasionally, they represent the efforts of a serious stamp collector who could not face disposing of his/her collection while alive.



Before tackling the question of how to begin evaluating the collection, it is necessary to face some harsh realities. First, the number of stamp collectors is in serious decline. The National Philatelic Society’s membership has dropped over fifty percent in the last 20 years. Life members are dying at an alarming rate. The continuous membership decline clearly indicates these individuals are not being replaced.

Second, stamp collecting is in trouble. Articles such as Eugene Meyer’s “Stamped Out” which appeared as an Op-Ed in the “New York Times” (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/29/opinion/stamp-collecting-philately.html>) are more realistic and on point than the upbeat “Why People Collect Stamps” found on Stamp World (<https://www.stampworld.com/en/articles/why-people-collect-stamps/>). Attendance at the national and regional philatelic shows is greatly reduced.



Third, the standards by which stamps are collected and graded have changed. Collectors now focus on mint, unused stamps. Canceled stamps, the primary source for beginning stamp collectors, are passé. Hinged mounting, the old standard, is now viewed as damaging a stamp rather than preserving it. Grading a stamp has become sophisticated. Even established collectors have trouble following the guidelines objectively. In a general collection, the vast majority of stamps are not at a condition grade that attracts the serious collector.

Fourth, most stamp collections consist of commonly found stamps, stamps where supply exceeds demand. This especially applies to foreign stamps.

Finally, evaluating and preparing a stamp collection for sale is time consuming. Usually, the person faced with the task will work for less than the minimum hourly wage. Collecting the stamps was a labor of love. Disposing of a stamp collection is an onerous task.

When I encounter a stamp collection during a walk-through appraisal, I do a quick, simple evaluation to determine if the collection is worth the time and effort to dispose of it. More often than not, I suggest the collection be passed down to a younger member of the family who might be interested (good luck with that) or donated to a local stamp club (good luck with that too).

Most clients do not take my suggestion. They dream of that one stamp that is worth thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands of dollars that has been overlooked. They have watched one too many episodes of the “Antique Roadshow.” The fear of making a mistake haunts every seller, whether collector or private individual.

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— Selling Your Stamp Collection Continued from PAGE 3

I do everything in my power to convince the client not to evaluate the collection himself/herself. The client is convinced he/she can do the job because of the large number of stamp price guides available at the local library. On the surface, they look easy to use. They definitely are not.

Evaluating any antiques or collectibles collection requires a high level of expertise. If the client does not have their expertise, he/she needs to find someone who does. There are three possible appraisal sources: (1) a local member of the American Philatelic Society, (2) a local stamp auctioneer, or (3) a stamp dealer. Avoid dealers who are not active members of the American Stamp Dealers Association or National Stamp Dealers Association.



Before approaching any of them, take time to group the stamps. Put the albums in one pile. Create piles for plate blocks, stamp sheets, first day of issues, stamps still on envelopes, unused stamps, and canceled stamps. If a large collection, divide the piles by country or region. Gather all ephemera related material such as catalogs, price lists, and philatelic publications and put them on a pile. The more piles the merrier.

Part one of two part article — will continue in next newsletter

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Societies and Organizations for Collectors of Stamps of Ireland

For Collectors of stamps of Ireland. There is a society or organization for you. One has meetings in the US. The others have journals and auctions that can be helpful and have meetings in Ireland.

North of Ireland Philatelic Society



Northern Ireland's oldest Philatelic Society, the North of Ireland Philatelic



Éire Philatelic Association

The Éire Philatelic Association is a non-profit philatelic organization specializing in the collecting, study, and enjoyment of stamps and other postal items of Ireland. According to website "America's premiere Irish philatelic group. which specializes in all aspects of Irish philately?"



The Irish Airmail Society was founded in 1989, following interest in Irish airmails shown by several philatelists, some resident in Ireland and others in Great Britain, Switzerland, Canada and USA.

May 4—Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm

May 4—Club Speaker: Dennis Collison, presentation on Watermarks and Grills

May 11—Board Meeting

May 18—Club Members Bourse #1 (aka, Sell, Buy, Trade)

June 1—Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm

June 1 My Other Hobby: show & tell about your other (or previous hobby with us) member participation, 4-6 minutes

June 8—Board Meeting

June 15—Philatelic Trivia: Open Book Quiz (on your own or work as team)

July 6—Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm

July 13—Board Meeting

July 20—Club Auction #3 (philatelic material only)

Aug 3—Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm

Aug 3—Media Show (subject TBD) Appoint Nominating Comm. For 2021 DSC Officers

Aug 10—Board Meeting

Aug 17—The Oddity I Couldn't Resist: share a philatelic item outside the norm of your collection

Aug 20-23—Great American Stamp Show; Hartford CT sponsored by APS, ATA & AFDCS

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Aug 28-29 (FRI & SAT) —

Beware the Ides of March or St. Patrick or Easter



Collecting stamps is about fun, learning, discovery and friends. A person's particular interest drives the decisions and the reasons to collect these delightful and colorful pieces of paper. March and April are two months that offer a wide variety of topics or themes that might become a Topical Collection.



Topical Stamp Collecting is the process of finding and organizing stamps with a common design or subject theme, such as animals (i.e. elephants, panda bears, horses, etc.), transportation types (i.e. automobiles, trains, airplanes, etc.), famous people (i.e. poets, painters, politicians, and queens, etc.) or activities (i.e. war, bicycling, chess playing, etc.).



Many topical collections include items in addition to philatelic material. These items frequently are ephemeral which means transitory written or printed matters that are not meant to be retained or preserved.



Becky Martz, of Orlando has spent the past 29 years collecting and cataloging more than 21,000 banana labels from around the world. Martz's hobby has led her to Germany, Costa Rica and Ecuador where she's met with fellow collectors and picked up random banana labels. Martz's story is from a CNN interview.

If you see a 70-year-old woman digging through a trash can for discarded banana peels in Florida, you may have spotted one of the world's most unique collectors.

"What makes them special to me is that they are ephemeral. They are meant to be thrown away," Martz reported. "For some reason, that makes them even more precious to me. I have

rescued many labels from the trash or a banana peel on the ground. I feel sad when I see someone has thrown a peel away with the label still on it, so I rescue it."

Whether inspired by intense passions or mere entertainment, people love to collect all sorts of things. While most of these collections are rather ordinary. Some may be more unique: Banana Stickers; Unopened Coca Cola Bottles; Bag Pipes; TV- and Movie- related Board Games; Celebrity Hair; Slinky; Sugar Packets; Tea Bags; Traffic Cones; Chapsticks; and Pizza Boxes to name a few unique collectible items. There are thousands more.

Almost every topic has some club or society and its own speciality catalog. The pictured Banana Label Catalogue is huge and well organized. In addition to the 14,500 labels in the initial stock there are many revisions and reorganizations. Each month 250 to 350 new labels are added.



Just as ATA and APS provide database and check-lists support for stamps collectors there are sites for other collectibles. HobbyDB is a site based in Boulder, CO and powered by collectors worldwide, It is building a database of every collectible ever made – from diecast cars to action figures to comic books to corkscrews. There are specific clubs such as the Association of Coffee Mill Enthusiasts—<https://www.antiquecoffeegrinders.net/>. Happy Collecting!



****AIRPEX @ IBEW HALL (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm)****

Sept 7—Labor Day (Church Closed) No MEETING

Sept 14—Board Meeting

Sept 21—Club Auction #4 (philatelic material only)

[Oct 5 -Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm](#)

Oct 5—Solve My Mystery: Bring in a philatelic item you can't ID)

Oct 12—Board Meeting (set 2021 calendar & budget review)

Oct 19—Club Members Bourse #2 (aka Sell, Buy, Trade)

[Nov 2—Perfin/Precancel Study Group 6:30 pm](#)

Nov 2—Club or Guest Speaker— TBD

Nov 9—Board Meeting

Nov 16—Club Auction #5 and Elections (philatelic material only)

Dec 7—6:30 pm—Club Holiday Dinner @ Local Restaurant

Dec 14—Board Meeting

Dec 21—NO MEETING — ENJOY the HOLIDAY

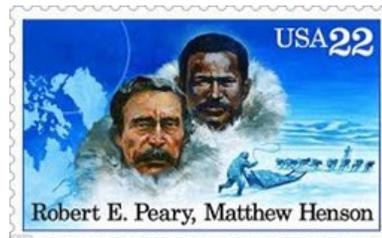
Introduce someone to the Dayton Stamp Club. Bring a guest to the next meeting.

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 North Pole in 1908 and some people still support his account. Others argue that no one reliably reached the Pole until Wally Herbert's 1969 trip. A 1989 book by Herbert concluded that Peary was 60 miles from the North Pole when he thought he was there. Multiple analyses of the primary evidence have failed to reach consensus. It is still unclear which person or team first reached the North Pole.

Nevertheless, Peary and Henson deserve kudos for their brave explorations. Whether or not they were the first to reach the North Pole they made important discoveries. They left a lasting legacy both in terms of science and personally. Both Peary and his aide are said to have fathered children with Inuit women, which is partly why they are still honored locally. Their descendants still live in Greenland.

The US 1986 Stamp Honoring Peary and Henson

On May 28, 1986 The U.S. Postal Service issued a 22-cent stamp in honor of Robert Peary and Matthew Henson. Greenland also issued a 2009 stamp in honor of arctic explorer Matthew Henson. The author failed to find photos of covers or letters sent by Peary's teams during the expeditions, though some may exist. Polar stamp collecting is an active and engaging area of philately and I challenge club members to learn more about this exciting realm.



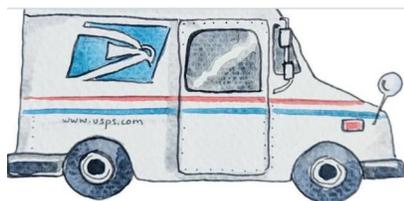
For more information contact the American Society of Polar Philatelists (founded 1956). <https://www.polarphilatelists.org> Hal Vogel, 19 Neptune Lane, Willingboro, NJ 08046-1312. They are a study group of the American Topical Association. Great Britain also has a polar postal history group: <http://polarpostalhistory.org.uk> e mail: membership@polarpostalhistory.org.uk

References: Biography of Robert Peary, Arlington National Cemetery website, <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Notable-Graves/Explorers/Robert-Peary>, accessed 22 Apr 2019

Matthew Henson, Arctic Explorer, Smithsonian Insider, 12 Feb 2015, <https://insider.si.edu/2015/02/matthew-henson-arctic-explorer/>

U.S. Postal Service—@USPSHelp

Draw it, paint it, color it! No matter your methods, we'd love to mail it.



The official Twitter account of the United States Postal Service, managed by the Social Media staff at USPS HQ. For customer service, please tweet: @USPSHelp

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DSC Perfin Precancel Study Group
First Regular Monthly Meeting
6:30 pm prior to regular meeting



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