



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 48 No. 3 May June 2020

## The Genesis of U.S. Postal Cards

By Douglas Files

Postal cards have long been a staple of American pop culture. For 150 years they have provided a rapid, inexpensive way to communicate. It can be difficult to determine who first advanced the idea for postal cards in the United States. As is often the case whom you decide to honor depends upon how you define what a postal card is. Normally collectors distinguish between *postcards* that people affix a stamp to, and *postal cards* which have the stamp already imprinted on the card.

In 1861 John P. Charlton of Philadelphia copyrighted an idea for a card that could be sent through the mail. The copyright was probably transferred later to Hymen L. Lipman of Philadelphia who applied for a patent but was turned down by the U.S. Patent Office. By the early 1870s over a hundred patent requests a year were submitted for reduced-rate postal cards.

H.L. Lipman believed strongly in postal cards, an idea he knew was gaining traction in Europe. Trying to earn some profit before the



"Lipman's Postal Card" with stamp affixed 1872

Photo from [www.rumseyauctions.com](http://www.rumseyauctions.com)

U.S. cornered the market with government cards, he introduced commercially-printed "Lipman's postal cards" in March 1872. (One card is known with an 1870 cancel but this may represent an erroneous date.) He continued

to capitalize on his postal innovation until government cards were issued a year later. At that the law forbade private companies from using the term "postal cards". By current philatelic standards Lipman's cards were actually postcards since users had to apply a stamp. Additionally, it may be of interest to reader

that Hymen Lipman was the first person to recommend attaching-erasers to the end of pencils. He was again refused a patent on the grounds that his idea represented two old inventions, not one new invention.

Around 1870 Postmaster General John A. Creswell recommended to the U.S. Congress that postal cards be adopted. European nations had used them successfully beginning with Austrian "Correspondenz Kartes" in 1869. Within two years postal administrations in Germany, England, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands issued cards, with some success.

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Meetings and Activities  
Meetings begin at 7:30 pm

### ALL MAY 2020 DAYTON STAMP CLUB MEETINGS CANCELLED

- May 4—Cancelled
- May 11—Board Meeting -Cancelled
- May 18—Cancelled

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 6 — Patriotic Presentation (guest speaker) to honor Independence Day

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

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DSC NEWSLETTER

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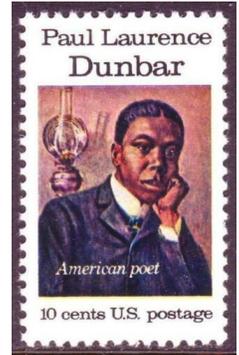


From the Dayton Stamp Club Archives  
Steven Solomon, DSC Historian

The Dayton Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People joined the

Dayton Stamp Club to co-sponsor first day ceremonies on May 1, 1975 in Dayton for the new 10-cent Paul Laurence Dunbar commemorative postage stamp.

Linn's Stamp News says, "Though he lived just 33 years, Paul Laurence Dunbar is admired today as one of America's premier poets, and one of the first successful published black poets in the nation." Born June 27, 1872, in Dayton, Ohio, Dunbar was a gifted writer whose early poems were published in the Dayton newspaper, *The Herald*." Dunbar also wrote and edited his own newspaper, *The Tattler*, which was printed by two of his friends, Wilbur Wright and a former high school classmate, Orville Wright."



Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872—1906)  
1975, SC# 1554

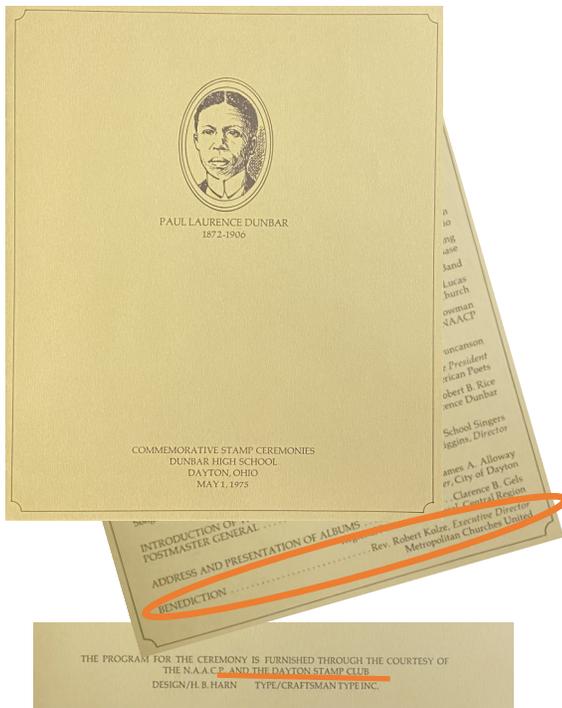
According to the Mystic Stamp Co., "U.S. #1554 shows Paul Laurence Dunbar, an American writer and poet. Dunbar was the son of an escaped slave. His writing greatly contributed to a more sensitive understanding of African Americans."

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced 146,365,000 of the multicolored stamps in the Arts and Artists series.

The club had four differently designed cachets for sale; a set of four serviced cost \$1.25 or 50 cents for any single cachet. Unserviced, the cost was 75 cents for all four.

Robert Danvers was chairman of the event for the club.

Aside: DSC Member Susan Kolze's father, Rev. Robert Kolze provided the benediction for the Paul Laurence Dunbar First Day of Issue Ceremony.



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.

## Evaluating and Selling an Inherited Stamp Collection—Part 2

By Harry L. Rinker (continue from March/April newsletter)

Before proceeding with a formal appraisal, ask the person's rate to simply determine if the collection is worth appraising. The person should be able to make this judgment in less than an hour. Do not be afraid to get a second opinion.

Appraisal rates range from \$75.00 to \$250.00 per hour. Do not work with anyone who offers to do the appraisal for free if they are allowed to buy or sell the collection on your behalf. Be especially aware of individuals who approach you after the death of the owner and use the pitch of "I was a friend of 'x,' and he asked me to help you dispose of his collections if he died." They are not friends. They want to get in on the ground floor and are more interested in obtaining what they want from the collection for themselves than how they can be of service to the present owner. Also, beware of an appraiser who says, "I'll take these stamps instead of charging you." If this approach does not ring an alarm bell, it should.



When working with the person evaluating the collection, make certain to stress you want to know two things. The first is the wholesale value of the collection. This is the amount you can expect after all the costs and fees involved in the selling process are deducted. Make it clear you do not want a replacement value (what you would have to pay if you had to replace the collection). Your goal is to get rid of the collection. Second, the evaluator should provide multiple sources that you can use to obtain the assigned values. If you already made a decision to sell before hiring the evaluator, ask him/her to prepare a detailed disposal plan. If the plan contains only one source, definitely get a second opinion. A good disposal plan has multiple options.

Do not be rushed. Take time to consider what you want to do. Once you have the collection organized and evaluated, you have the following choices: (1) keep it [not a smart move giving the continual market decline]; (2) give it to a family member or friend; (3) donate it [good luck finding an institution who wants it]; (4) sell it, or (5) junk it. Collectors and others may cringe at the last suggestion, but it is a viable option and should be considered.



Assuming the decision is to sell, there are three options. The first is try to sell it privately. This is the hardest of the three. I only recommend it to a client if two or more individuals have approached him/her asking to let them know if the collection is every available for sale. Make the sale terms simple – one price takes it all.

My choice is a local, reputable (with emphasis on reputable) stamp auctioneer. In many cases, the local auctioneer will lot the collection to achieve the strongest sale. Attend one or more auctions to get a feel for how the auction is conducted. Interview the auctioneer. If the auctioneer is not a fit, do not engage him/her. Insist on a contract. Make certain you fully understand the terms, especially the length of time until the payout.

There are regional and national auctioneers. Their requirements to handle a stamp collection are extremely high. Most collections assembled by casual and semi-serious collectors do not meet them.

An internet search will reveal multiple dealers advertising to buy collections. There is no sense approaching them if the person who evaluated/appraised the collection indicated these is nothing of high value (over \$250.00 to \$300.00 per stamp) in it. Most dealers are not interested in complete collections. They want to see the collection and buy out the top pieces. This is called cherry picking a collection. If the goal is to get rid of the whole collection, avoid this unless the offer is at least 80 percent of the evaluation with which you are working.

If the collection contains unused American stamps, they still are valid postage. They may require a lot of licking to produce enough postage to match the current postage rates. The good news is that more value will be achieved by doing this than by selling them at a discounted face value.

Finally, it is possible that you read this article because of a decades-long neglected collection housed in the attic, closet, basement, or storage area of your home and not because of an inherited stamp collection. If this is the case, I assure you that everything you just read applies to your collection as well.

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## USPS Cancelled First-Day of Issue Ceremony in April and May



April 22, 2020 was officially the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of world-wide recognition of Earth Day. Starting in 1970, Earth Day was a reaction to oil spills and numerous other environmental global disasters. USPA issued the 2020 Earth Day issue on April 18 in Denver, CO.

USPS officially released this statement months prior to the event:

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the Postal Service issues a stamp featuring a playful painting of the planet, with small green lines surrounding Earth and hand-lettered text. Environmental groups have sought to make Earth Day into a day of action to change human behavior and provoke policy changes. Walt Kelly created an anti-pollution poster featuring his comic strip character Pogo with the quotation “We have met the enemy and he is us” to promote the 1970 Earth Day. Preceded by various environmental-themed stamps, the first USPS Earth Day stamps were not issued until 1995. Art director Antonio Alcalá was the stamp artist and designer. Ricky Altizer was the typographer.

“Despite that amazing success and decades of environmental progress, we find ourselves facing an even more dire, almost existential, set of global environmental challenges, from loss of biodiversity to climate change to plastic pollution, that call for action at all levels of government,” said Denis Hayes, the organizer of the first Earth Day in 1970 and Earth Day Network’s Board Chair Emeritus.



The announcement for the 2020 Earth Day Celebration is: **CANCELLED- This event has been CANCELLED due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This event will not be rescheduled.**



USPS cancelled First Day Ceremonies for the April 2 release of the Contemporary Boutonniere and Garden Corsage stamps in Crestwood, KY; the April 18 ceremony for Earth Day stamp in Denver, CO and the May 13 ceremony for the American Gardens stamps in Washington DC. The stamps will be available at the first day of issue. The Chrysanthemum global definitive stamps was issued April 24 with no ceremony due to the cancelled Westpex stamp show.

The next U.S. first-day Ceremony currently scheduled if the Voices of the Harlem Renaissance set on May 21



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

**JACK MATHENEY'S WISH LIST**

I would like to purchase or barter for the following Stamps:

- 1.) U.S. Classics Issued Before 1939  
In Any Condition, MNHOG VF-XF Or Better Preferred;
- 2.) Japanese Occupation Stamps  
All Countries Except The Philippines
- 3.) Indochinese Definitives, Scott #s 1L1 to L62
- 4.) Rattlesnake Island Potage Single Stamp FDCs

**Please contact me at DSC Regular or Board Meetings**

## The Stamps That Almost Started a War



A tiny little stamp can cause big trouble. The stamps were issued by Nicaragua in 1937. The stamps featured a map of the country, but it included a large section of land also claimed by neighboring Honduras. Ownership of the region had long been in dispute between the two countries and remained a source of great contention.

In 1906, King Alfonso XIII of Spain decided the matter in favor of Honduras, but Nicaragua refused to acknowledge the decision. Tensions grew in the following years, so when Nicaragua released the stamp in 1937, Hondurans were outraged, Government officials, newspapers, and radio stations demanded the stamps be recalled and destroyed.

Nicaraguan authorities refused and insisted the map was correct. They also pointed out that they had the courtesy to label

the area on the stamp as territorio en litigio. Anti-Nicaraguan demonstrations erupted in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa. Across the border, Nicaraguan radio announcers called for military action, demanding the national army be sent to guard the border region. The public even began a donation drive designed to fund more planes to build up the Nicaraguan Air Force.

At the last minute, the United States, Costa Rica, and Venezuela intervened to defuse the conflict before it escalated into war. Both countries agreed to withdraw their armed forces from the disputed area and stop mobilizing troops. And, naturally, the peace agreement called for withdrawing the offending stamps. They evidently remained in circulation, however, until supplies in private hands ran out.

**1937 Nicaragua SC 869-872**



### White Ace Pages Available Again

White Ace Stamp Albums and Pages have been stamp collectors' favorites for many decades. The pages are printed on high quality acid free paper and use attractive page layout and design.

White Ace and the Washington Press were founded by two brothers - Leo and Sam August. They began business in 1933. Discontinuing to publish White Ace was announced to collectors in 2016.

Washington Press also printed Artcraft first Day Covers. The brothers supported the American Philatelic Society and promoted stamp collecting.

White Ace was sold to Alco Distributors of Marion, Ohio in 2019 and this year began selling 2018 and 19 supplements. Alco officials state, "we will continue to carry the same line of products while updating supplements and adding new albums to the line. Our goal is to make quality products that collectors want.

Collectors interested should contact Alco at [store.allensinc.com](http://store.allensinc.com) or call 1-800-426-0039 M-F, 9-5 EST or mail questions to 1600 Marion-Bucyrus Rd., Marion, OH 43302.

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

Aug 28-29 (FRI & SAT) —  
**\*\*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 SEASON!**

— continued from page 1 — Genesis of U.S. Postal Cards

Debate raged in Congress, with naysayers claiming that the information on postal cards was too public, and thus inappropriate for private correspondence. The first postal card bill was rejected on that basis. But when privately-printed cards proved popular, a second bill passed and was signed by the president in June 1872. It stated that to “provide for the transmission of the mails at a reduced rate of postage...the Postmaster-General...is hereby authorized and directed to furnish and issue to the public, with postage stamps impressed upon them, postal cards, manufactured of good, stiff paper...at a postal charge of one cent each...” The one-cent rate was in line with Canada’s recently-adopted rate, and it represented one-third of the first-class letter charge. The postal card rate in the U.S. remained at one cent for several decades.

The plates for the first cards were engraved by the National Bank Note Company but a different company produced the cards. The Morgan Envelope Company of Springfield, Massachusetts gained a 4-year contract with their bid of \$1.39 ½ per thousand cards. The contract specified that the paper for the cards must be watermarked with a 90mm by 60mm “USPOD” (U.S. Post Office Department) to prevent counterfeiting. Cardstock for the first postal card was supplied by the Hudson and Cheney Paper Company of North Manchester, Connecticut.

The first U.S. government postal cards depicted a light brown Liberty medallion on a buff card. A decorative border contained the words “U.S. Postage One Cent”. At the left was printed in large letters “United States Postal Card; Write the address only on this side – the message on the other”. The entire card also was surrounded by an ornate border.

The attractive first U.S. postal cards were issued on May 12, 1873. It took some months after the contract was awarded for the company to produce cards that reliably met its specifications. The first acceptable cards were produced April 30, 1873. Distribution to post offices began on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May and some cards were sold and used at the Springfield, Massachusetts post office that day. The Morgan Envelope Company was located in Springfield and local distribution was quick. One card mailed that day became famous among philatelists. It was sent by coal dealer S. S. Bumstead to Henry M. Burt, editor of the New England Homestead magazine. The card still remains in the Burt family. Sales of the card occurred the following day in Washington, D.C., New York City, Boston, Massachusetts and Hartford, Connecticut. At least 8 cards still exist which were cancelled on May 13, 1873 in one of those cities.



Indicia of UX1

Photo from Jim Forte’s Postal History, <https://www.postalhistory.com/>

Although at their debut it was uncertain if the American public would embrace postal cards, their popularity exploded. Within a year more than 31 million cards were sold. Postal cards remained popular, and the U.S. Postal Service still issues cards 150 years later. The rate in 2020 stands at 35 times the rate in 1872.

These first cards (Scott #UX1, UPSS #S1) were printed in sheets of 36 but full sheets were not sold. Sheets of postal cards were introduced in 1875 so that companies could bulk-print addresses or advertising on them. Interestingly, plate defects have been identified for each card position on the sheet. Thus, UX1 cards can be plated by specialists, just like philatelists do with early Great Britain stamps.

Printing difficulties cropped up almost immediately after the cards were issued. The National Bank Note Company plates were inadequate to the task. They had to be returned to the company to be adjusted so that the ink was applied with uniform pressure across the entire card.



The entire design of UX1

Photo from Daniel Kelleher Auctions,

The large size of the watermark caused warping and difficulty writing on the cards. In addition Hudson and Cheney faced challenges producing cardstock of regular quality. Some of their early stock was underweight and coarse. Half a million cards had to be destroyed. So two months after the first cards were issued the Postmaster General permitted smaller watermarks (53mm by 36mm) to be used. This decreased the size of the indentations in the cards, permitting smoother writing on them.

This marked the genesis of the second U.S. postal card (Scott #UX3 or UPSS #S2).

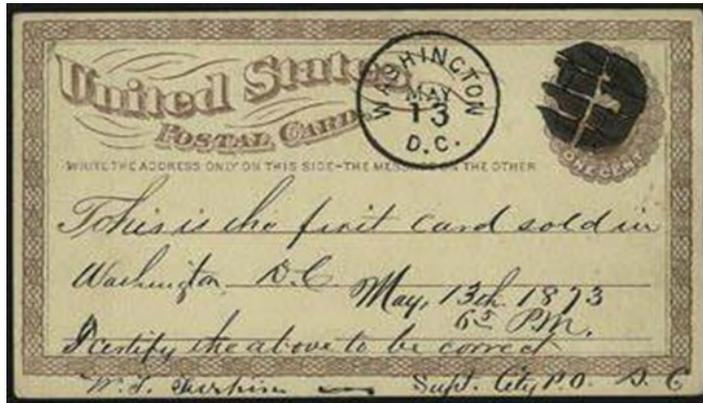
Another difficulty faced by the Morgan Envelope Company was obtaining uniform ink colors. Third Assistant Postmaster General Terrell noted that the ink Morgan used “is of inferior quality and does not appear to have been evenly distributed.” Ink from the National Bank Note Company specimen cards was substituted, but problems remained. Longtime Morgan employee William C. Slater gave an interview in 1923 that included an ink anecdote. When the envelope company was struggling to generate enough cards to meet the growing demand, they kept production rolling all night long. One night exhausted employees mixed a batch of ink that looked like the right color. When daylight arrived, however, the ink revealed a distinct purplish hue. Experts feel this was how the “violet-brown” color variety occurred. It is listed in the 2015 United Postal Stationery Society Catalog as #S1f, and is too rare to be reliably priced. That col

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or was only employed at the factory for a few hours.

Yet another variety is unwatermarked cards. Five hundred sample or specimen cards appear to have been created by the National Bank Note Company on paper without any watermark. These were never issued but some may have seen postal use. That being said, most cards with no visible watermark probably represent worn webs during paper manufacture. That is, they have a watermark which is too faint to perceive easily. It is possible that the cards intentionally produced without watermarks were an effort on the part of the Morgan Envelope Company to get the Post Office to remove the requirement for watermarks.



May 13, 1872 Washington, D.C. cancel on a UX1 postal card  
Photo from Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries,  
[www.stampauctionnetwork.com](http://www.stampauctionnetwork.com)

The 2015 United Postal Stationery Society Postal Card Catalog lists the first card as S1. It is priced at \$400 mint, \$27 used and \$70.00 unused but preprinted. Overseas usages add \$75.00 to \$150.00 to catalog value, depending on the destination of the card. Several varieties are listed, including “without watermark” and “printed in violet-brown”, both of which are described in the text above. None of these varieties are priced since they are too seldom sold to establish reliable values.

Postal cards faced a difficult birth in the United States but they quickly demonstrated their popularity and value. Businessmen and government officials in the 1870s dealt with challenges regarding paper, counterfeiting, watermarks, plates, inks, commercial needs, and users who did not know

how to use the cards. These difficulties were overcome, however, and production increased steadily. Due to public demand, U.S. Postal Service postal cards have remained available ever since they were introduced in 1873. One merely has to ask for them at the post office counter. Send one to a friend today.

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**American Philatelic Society**

The American Philatelic Society is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting organization in the world, with members in more than 110 countries. Become a member today: [stamps.org/Join](http://stamps.org/Join).

Stay updated: Follow the American Philatelic Society on Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn, like our page on Facebook, and subscribe to our Youtube channel.

[View More by American Philatelic Society](#)



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

# My Stamp Story: Carol Costa



I believe I started collecting as a child, but I have no specific memories of playing with stamps and no childhood stamp album. I do have vague, distant, but very pleasant feelings associated with stamp collecting, which I now recognize as my first ventures into “stamp world.” When I started collecting seriously in my mid-twenties, somehow I already knew that Helvetia was Switzerland and Magyar Posta was Hungary, and how to use stamp hinges.

For the past 40 years, my interest has been exclusively topicals, with a lingering appreciation for filling spaces in a worldwide album. My topics are varied and are stored in approximately 60 manila envelopes, each containing stamps for a different topic. These range from such serious subjects as the Vietnam War and Raoul Wallenberg to cartoons like Peanuts, Looney Tunes, Garfield the Cat and Superheroes.

I have an extensive Disney collection which includes every issue to 1998. This collection kept getting larger and larger because I never met a Disney stamp I didn't like. On the more serious side, I also have a World War I collection including ephemera such as soldiers' mail from Europe. This collecting interest began after I read a World War I historical fiction trilogy and learned that the resolution of World War I led to World War II.

My stamp story includes a few activities in addition to collecting stamps. In its sixth year of development is a competitive exhibit on Mark Twain which I sincerely hope will

have its debut within the next year. I have a special interest in “free style exhibiting” which involves noncompetitive exhibits ranging from one page to one frame. I choose topics of special interest to the non-collectors who wander through the exhibits at stamp shows. I have two goals. The first is to show the non-philatelic public that stamp collecting can be fun and informative. Secondly, I hope my exhibit gives traditional philatelists the opportunity to see what can be done with a relaxed, low key approach to the hobby. My latest exhibit tells the story of Scooby-Doo.

I have been very active in the American Topical Association and have coordinated the ATA “Hot Spot” project. This is an outreach program to ATA members across the country in which the central organization of the ATA works with selected regional shows to promote topical collecting. I also work as an ATA Ambassador at stamp shows. As an Ambassador I sell ATA products and recruit new members. It is particularly gratifying to meet topical collectors, hear their stories about their collecting experiences, and offer them ways to grow their collections through ATA membership and its checklist service.

Finally, and probably most importantly, what has kept me in philately for all these years is the time I spend in “stamp world.” Here I have complete control. All the stresses of life go away, and I emerge a more relaxed and happier person. What more can one expect from a hobby ...

## Carol Costa

Carol Costa is on the Board of Directors of American Topical Association (ATA). She also works as a Hotspot show coordinator and has set up seven shows. Carol is now working on training ambassadors for future ATA shows. She promotes topical philately and recruits new members, too.



*If you would like to tell your Stamp Story, please send it to [aparticle@stamps.org](mailto:aparticle@stamps.org) with the subject “Stamp Story.” Please keep your submissions to 500 words or less and be sure to send us a picture of yourself!*

*Editor's Note: The “My Stamp Story: Carol Costa” article was published in the March 2020 issue of The American Philatelist. We are bringing the archives of The American Philatelist to the Newsroom - stay tuned for more columns and articles from 2020, and read the full March issue Happy Women's History Month!*