

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

Virtual Philately

We hope all of you have been staying reasonably safe these past many months – which unfortunately results in feeling disconnected from family and friends. However, an upside of all this social distancing is it allows us to get more involved with our stamp collections. And while in-person stamp shows may be out of the question for the moment, technology has provided a partial solution: use one of the many free online video conferencing services to rendezvous with your fellow collectors at free webinars and meetings offered by philatelic societies and clubs.

The Collectors Club (of New York) have been hosting many webinars (www.collectorsclub.org). A number of us “zoomed in” on 21 October for a wonderful talk by Daniel Piazza, the National Postal Museum’s director, on “Baseball and Philately from the Vault of the National Postal Museum.” If you missed seeing it, you can swing by the club’s website and view a recording of the presentation: <https://www.collectorsclub.org/early-u-s-commercial-airmail-to-foreign-destinations-1922-1941-drmurray-abramson-brookline-ma-2/>

The club is also sponsoring a One-Frame Exhibition which is currently on view on their website. Though I didn’t spot any sport or Olympic exhibits, there are quite a few interesting presentations including one thematic on Buffalo Bill.

The American Philatelic Society has also been hosting a number of webinars gauged to all collecting levels and interests. I encourage everyone to check out their website (stamps.org) for more information and a list of upcoming talks.

They also are providing their platform free to affiliate clubs to hold their own zoom meetings and webinars (see the link on their homepage for “APS Virtual Meeting Information”). Most are open to the public. Who knows, you might get interested in a new area of collecting!

Last, but not least, we have uploaded to our own website the recording of Andrew Urushima’s presentation: “1932 Olympic Naval Covers and Cachetmaker Walter Crosby.” The presentation, which includes a Q&A session at the end, runs

about 50 minutes. The file should open automatically on your computer screen or tablet:

<https://www.sportstamps.org/video/Virtual%20Stamp%20Show%20SPI.m4v>

Great American Stamp Show 2021 stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show

Stamp collectors are – generally speaking – a pretty optimistic bunch. Figuring that it’s never too early to plan ahead, the APS is preparing for its Great American Stamp Show 2021 in Rosemont, a suburb of Chicago.

Coming midway between the two great US internationals of NY 2016 and Boston 2026, the original plan had been for the 2021 show to be something of a mini-international with exhibits from around the world. Sadly, the COVID pandemic put an end to that idea. The APS nevertheless will again be partnering with the American Topical Society and American First Day Cover Society to bring collectors a philatelic extravaganza!

As we did at Omaha in 2019, SPI plans to once again take a booth and hold society events at the show. Details to come later, but do “save the dates” on your calendar for August 12-15 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

AICO News aicolympic.org

A couple of updates with the International Association of Olympic Collectors (AICO). First, look for the addition of new searchable versions of early issues of the Czech journal, *OLYMPSPORT*, in the Member Archives on the AICO website.

Second, they will be conducting a virtual exhibition of Olympic and sports philately in the near future. So brush off your exhibits!



From all of us at SPI, to all our members and fellow collectors worldwide, we hope you have a wonderful holidays and a happy and healthy 2021!