

ACROSS THE FENCE



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<http://www.WFSCstamps.org/>

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs

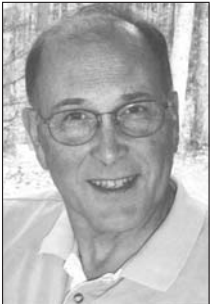
American Philatelic Society Chapter #350, American Topical Association Chapter #107

President's corner

The Force Is With Us

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

The most attractive *Star Wars* postage stamps to date, including the 15 that the United States Postal Service released in May, are the metallic-bordered triangular stamps featuring dramatic, close-up portraits of three characters, issued early in 1996 by St. Vincent.

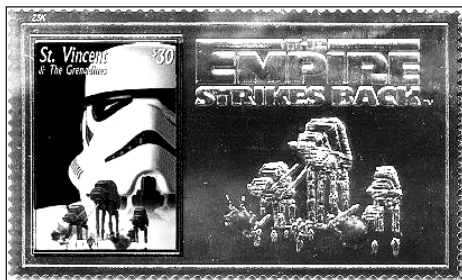
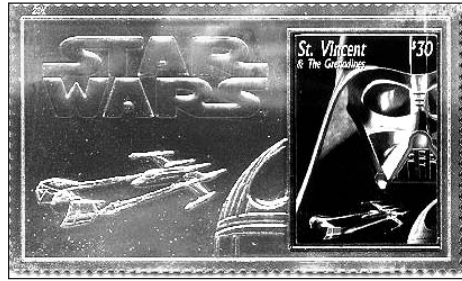


The portraits show only the partial heads of Darth Vader, Yoda, and a Storm Trooper. Their triangular format makes the set especially attractive.

The stamps come in horizontal sheetlets of three with denominations of \$2.

Another version, shown at right, features the same vignettes on rectangular stamps with denominations of \$30. Those are printed on a background of embossed gold foil. The \$2 version, the only one I have seen, is on silver. Still another variety uses the same partial portraits on vertical stamps with denominations of \$1. They come in sheetlets of nine — three rows of three stamps, each in a different order.

Folks at the Scott *Standard Catalogue of Postage Stamps* are not too thrilled over these stamps, and for good reason. They were, after all, issued for the tiny Caribbean island by Intergovernmental Philatelic Corp., which has contracts with a host of small nations to issue —



on their behalf — stamps intended to attract the attention of topical collectors. Scott doesn't list a price for the gold-background stamps. The triangular silver stamps it lists at \$4.50 per sheetlet, and the rectangular stamps list at 75c each.

The Force is with IGPC. Without its efforts over the years, the hobby of stamp collecting undeniably would be far less rich than it is today. The hundreds and hundreds of topical stamps, almost all of which have no relationship to the country of supposed origin, have interested and sustained an unknown number of collectors.

At the same time, a goodly number of collectors just shake their heads over this lack of connection between stamp and country and the sad state of artwork on some of the issues.

Back in 1996, many of us in the philatelic media believed that the USPS was a beacon of ethics in the murky sargasso seas of stamp issuing. Its stamps, while not always deeply meaningful, at least had something to do with America. And you could be pretty certain that we wouldn't see a stamp for *Star Wars*.

Well, okay, all bets are off. The USPS has R2D2 robot mailboxes, promotional poster stamps, a contest to pick your favorite design to be issued separately later (Yoda it is, the

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Time to Come Alive! THE WFSC IS 75!

Clubs are Trump

By Maurice D. Wozniak, President of WFSC

"We've added a couple new members to the club," the **Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club** (Rhineland) newsletter reported. Adding new members is always good news, and we read of it from time to time in club correspondence.

"The **Green Bay Philatelic Society** picked up two new members at the (Baypex 2007) show."

The **Central Wisconsin Stamp Club**, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, also added a member recently.

Membership data for all the clubs that make up the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs indicate that membership overall was a little bit down in 2006, but some clubs posted gains.

There are more stamp collectors today, and just as in the past, those who may be just starting in the hobby now can become the knowledgeable and active collectors of the future.

Clubs must beat the bushes for new members at their shows and through other outreach programs. Existing members must speak up and invite potential new members to come to a meeting and possibly join. Ask them to join. Then cater to their needs. Give them an orientation before or after a meeting so they know about the club's activities

A small membership committee or even a single mentor could then find out what the new member needs from the club and try to arrange a program to cater to those needs. Someone should call to remind the new member (or even a prospective member) about the meeting and offer to pick him or her up.

Engage the new member. Make him feel needed and wanted, Ask him how he got started, what he collects, what committees he'd like to participate with.

That nervous new member could become a club president in just a little while, and it's to your advantage to bring him along the hobby's path with you.

Program ideas

The **Wauwatosa Philatelic Society** made arrangements to view a Postal Service slide show on the Civil War era.

What others are doing

The **Green Bay Philatelic Society** continues its new newsletter feature, "One of My Favorite Stamps," allowing club members to write a brief report on stamps they like. It does more than fill space; it allows members to feel connected to the club.

More of what we learned from reading the

newsletter articles on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (this time from the *Milwaukee Philatelist* of the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society**): Longfellow was a descendant of John Alden (of Jamestown fame). Also, the MPS newsletter had notes from a talk by John Fisher, a club member and employee of the local post office. They included a tip: Affixing your stamp with half-inch margins on an envelope will help avoid its being ripped off by a canceling machine. And this heads-up: Stamp vending machines are 20 or more years old, are breaking down and can't be fixed. By 2010 they'll all be gone.

The cost of the bus service MPS traditionally provides to the big Chicago-area shows has gone up by \$125, so the club has passed the increase on to riders – from \$20 to \$25 for Chicagopex. It's still a good deal if you want to leave the driving, gasoline, tolls and parking to someone else.

Information for "Clubs Are Trump" is gathered from club newsletters. Please send newsletters to Maurice D. Wozniak, 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca WI 54981.

ATFP editor contact information

If you regularly send notes, items or other information to me, please note there have been changes in both my email and snail mail addresses in recent months.

My e-mail address is youngblood@tds.net, and my standard mail address is: P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia, WI 54977-0111.

Although I published the new information several months ago in the boilerplate information below, you may have my old address(es) on file.

Please note the changes, as e-mail is no longer being forwarded, and regular mail will eventually stop being forwarded as well. Thank you.

— Wayne L. Youngblood, editor, ATFP

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(Billy Mitchell Chapter)
Germany Phil. Soc.
(Chap. 18)
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Across the Fence Post is the official publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. WFSC also is a life member of the APS (since 1953). For more information about WFSC, please contact the Central Office.

ATFP is published monthly September through April, and every other month May through August (10 issues per year). News of Wisconsin collectors, club news and gratis original philatelic features are welcomed. The editor accepts submissions in any format, but prefers email if possible. Editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to submitted copy.

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Submission deadlines for editorial and advertising materials are for the 1st of the month preceding month of publication (i.e. Jan. 1 for Feb. issue).

All show calendar information, along with all other editorial matter and listings, should be sent to: Wayne L. Youngblood, Editor ATFP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia WI 54977-0111. (youngblood@tds.net) phone: 715-467-4416.

Advertising material and payment should be sent to Dave Carney, Advertising Manager, ATFP, P.O. Box 55, Kimberly, WI 54136-0055. (dcarney@new.rr.com) phone: 920-687-9077. For a complete list of advertising rates and policies (display, classified and listings), request a copy from the advertising manager.



The Scott Specialty Paper Reproduction Project

by P Sudevan, Department of Psychology, UW-Stevens Point, and the Central Wisconsin Stamp Club (CWSC)

This is a brief description of a project undertaken by university students to create a close reproduction of the paper used in the Scott *Specialty Album* series. The attempt was to create paper that matched the weight, color, appearance and strength of the Scott Specialty paper as closely as possible.

In the Fall semester of 2006-07, Yan Luo and Dyan Isaacson, students majoring in paper science at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, met with me after I spoke about the Scott paper project with my friend and colleague, Dr. Gerald Ring, chair of the Paper Science & Engineering Department of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and with Bill Lazar, the Laboratory Manager for that department. The undergraduate program in paper science is unique among four-year universities in the state, and probably in the nation. One of their courses is a projects course, PAP SCI 475: Paper Machine Operations.

Students in this class carry out a project that requires them to create paper using the paper machine that belongs to the department. I had suggested to Gerry Ring, who is familiar with my own interest in philatelic matters, that reproducing

Scott *Specialty Album* paper might be an interesting project for the students to undertake. So we decided that Yan Luo and Dyan Isaacson, who were taking the class in Fall 2006, would do this as their project. Gerry Ring, who taught the course, and Bill Lazar agreed to serve in an advisory capacity.

Yan and Dyan met with me on several occasions to discuss the details of the project. I provided multiple samples of Scott *Specialty Series* (Type A) album paper that they could study and analyze. Preliminary analyses revealed a variety of technical characteristics of the paper, including average basis weight, stiffness, tensile strength, brightness and color. These analyses also revealed that the paper contained a high concentration of hardwood pulp.

To decide on the dyes that would be used in the reproduction attempt, Yan and Dyan contacted David Aiken at Amos Press and John Ringelstetter at Clariant Paper Chemicals. Ringelstetter provided the students with a dye recipe for archival yellow that they could mix from component yellow, blue and red dyes. The internal sizing (Hercon-195 alkaline AKD internal size) for the paper was provided by Neenah Papers and the UW-Stevens Point laboratory already had the 100% HW Aspen

Kraft pulp needed for the paper.

With these resources in hand, the students set up the paper machine run on Dec. 6, 2006. I was present for the run, along with Ring, Lazar, and Dr. Karen Biasca, another paper science professor who came to watch the run. The run proceeded smoothly as we watched the pulp slurry being transformed in stages into beautiful, dry paper in rolls. There was some initial apprehension about color, since the students had not been able to obtain a colorimetric match (problems with the instrument), and had done a match by eye. The color turned out to be an outstanding match, however.

The paper was also an excellent match in terms of weight and surface qualities, although the final product was slightly lighter and a fraction less smooth compared to the original Scott paper. The paper was sheeted and cut to final Scott paper dimensions (11.5 inches by 10 inches). About 3,000 such sheets were produced from the roll of paper obtained through the single paper machine run. A technical analysis of the average basis weight, stiffness, tensile strength, brightness and color showed that the paper was a very close match to the original Scott paper.

The students gave two presenta-

tions on their project. One was in December 2006, and was to the faculty in paper science. The other was in April 2007, and was to the members of CWSC who were also given a tour of the paper machine laboratory.

In sum, the paper science faculty and I all felt that the project was very well designed and executed. Reproducing paper to the original specifications can be quite difficult, and even with Scott's own versions, there can be considerable and tangible variations in color, strength and other qualities.

Given these variations and difficulties, we felt that the students' attempt was a remarkable success.

Please share your news

If your club has a particularly interesting program coming up — or if you are particularly pleased with the success of a recent show or club meeting, please consider sending a short item to *Across the Fence Post*. Other Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Club members will no doubt be interested to read about what's happening in your local collecting community.

Items should be sent to:

Wayne L. Youngblood, editor,
ATFP, P.O. Box 111, Scandinavia
WI 54977-0111.

President's Corner, from Page 1

indomitable force for good), three special Express Mail packs, and who knows what else.

St. Vincent also issued, about the same time as the dramatic portrait stamps, a sheetlet of six stamps showing scenes from the three *Star Wars* films that had been released to that point. In a telephone conversation, the man writing publicity releases for IGPC told me he had been given scant data on the stamps and asked if I knew details of the scenes.

I didn't, but I knew my son would. He was nuts over the film phenomenon, had seen each of the three movies released to that time more than once and had a collection of action figures and models. So I asked him and passed the information along. In my mind, I've given him credit for the sub-

sequent press release ever since.

Scott values the scenes sheetlet at \$1.60, but I find it offered by an Internet dealer at \$19.95. The same dealer offers the triangular stamps' sheetlet (\$4.50 catalog) at \$14.95.

I liked the way that Randall Sherman put it in the *Chicago Philatelic Society Bulletin*:

"It is highly doubtful that actress/singer Debbie Reynolds could have imagined being able to mail out bill payments or reply to fan mail with a stamp depicting her daughter, actress Carrie Fisher," who played Princess Leia Organa in three of the films.

The *Bulletin* added: "One thing is certain; this is not your father's Postal Service anymore. The USPS that existed when the first *Star Wars* movie premiered in 1977 would have never thought of doing things like this.

WISCOPEX '08 ONE DAY APPLETON SHOW

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs' annual convention and show for 2008 will be hosted by the Outagamie Philatelic Society. The date is April 12, 2008, and show hours will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Fox Valley Lutheran High School, 5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, Wis. There will be free parking and admission.

The Wisconsin Postal History Society will meet at 9:00 a.m., preceding the show opening time. The annual convention meeting will start at 1:00 p.m., with delegate check-in at 12:45. A judging critique will be held at 3:00 p.m.

There will be a special WFSC show cachet and cancel, post office substation and a youth table. Noon lunch will consist of sandwiches, chips and beverages to purchase.

The nine WFSC Historian Albums will be on display at the show. Watch future issues of *ATFP* for other scheduled events, such as exhibiting and presentation of awards.

Another later show date had been talked about, but the April 12th date is the correct one. The bourse contact person is Al Marcus. His phone is: (920)725-0798. Other inquiries may be sent to Verna Shackleton. Her email (and the official show email address is corosec@sbcglobal.net.

Other show officials include Site Chairman, Darwin Hintz; Floor Chairman, Gene Clark; and Verna Shackleton is the Exhibit Chairperson.

We hope to see you at Wiscopex 2008!

Large- and small-hole Liberty series coil stamps are worth collectors' time to seriously search for

by Wayne L. Youngblood

For collectors of modern United States stamps, the 1954 Liberty series ushered in with it a number of production-related varieties (some quite scarce) to pursue. This is due in part to the nature of definitive stamps (to be reprinted as needed), but also to the rapid printing and processing technology changes taking place during the years the series was in use.

The catalog listings of 1954 Liberty series coils in particular deal with a number of issues, such as wet and dry printings, phosphorescent tagging and, what we're featuring this month, small- and large-hole perforation varieties.

Varieties such as the 4¢ Lincoln wet printing (which is available only with a Bureau precancel), and the original printing of the 3¢ Liberty so-called "Look" coil (with phosphor tagging) can cost hundreds of dollars if you are looking for mint line pairs. Even used examples of these varieties are scarce, if not always expensive.

But let's take a look at the small- and large-hole perforation types of these stamps.

It should be noted first, that all wet-printed Liberty series coil stamps are found only with the large-hole variety. This is because by the time the new coilers that caused the varieties were introduced all printing had been switched to the dry method. Dry printings can be found with either hole type.

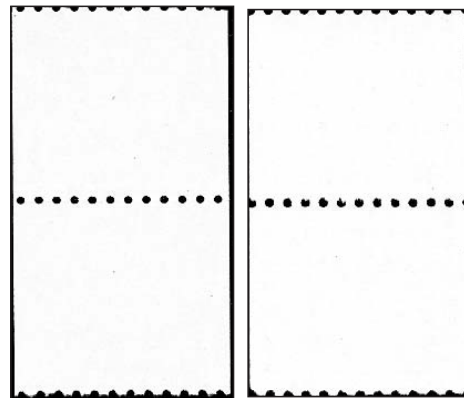
The small- and large-hole varieties were caused specifically by coil processing equipment changes at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1960. The perforation pins on the Goebel coiler were smaller in diameter than those found on the old Stickney equipment. Thus, even if the distance between holes was the same (perf 10 vertically), the appearance was different. These types appear on all values of the Liberty series coils (1¢, 1 1/4¢, 2¢, 2 1/2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 4 1/2¢ and 25¢), as well as on the 7¢ blue Jet airmail coil (C52). Of these, only the 1 1/4¢, 2 1/2¢, 4 1/2¢ and the 7¢ Jet coil have significant premiums over the inexpensive types. In each case (other than the 1 1/4¢), it is the small-hole variety that is the most expensive.

At first, collectors and dealers took little notice of the change, and Scott lagged decades behind (not recognizing these types until the late 1980s). As a result, few examples of some types were saved, accounting for their current high value.

You see, there is a common trend that has repeated itself consistently throughout the history of stamp collecting. When a



Shown above (front and back) are the small- and large-hole varieties of the 1 1/4¢ Palace of the Governors coil stamp of the Liberty series. These varieties are usually more easily distinguished from the reverse side.



new stamp is released, most collectors and dealers rush out to get the new stamps. If a new variety shows up near the end of the lifetime of the stamp issue and is not readily recognized, the retention rate is much lower, and the variety usually is scarcer.

In each case this was true of the large- and small-hole types of the Liberty series, where (except for the 1 1/4¢), the large-hole type was the first variety released. In the case of the 1 1/4¢, it was first released in 1960, processed on the Goebel coils (small hole), with a small late-run printing processed on the old equipment (large-hole).

Identifying large- and small-hole varieties is a fairly simple matter, by simply comparing inexpensive varieties. With a little experience you'll be able to pick them out quickly — and this could pay off well. Mint line pairs of the 1 1/4¢ currently sell for about \$150; the 4 1/2¢ sells for \$450; and the 7¢ Jet airmail sells for \$200!

But, more than all others, you should keep a sharp eye out for the 2 1/2¢ small hole variety of Scott 1056.

Further complicating all previously discussed factors, the 2 1/2¢ is known only with a Bureau precancel. The current catalog value for a mint line pair is \$3,000!

Why is this relatively recent stamp so rare — particularly in mint condition? It shouldn't be. A number of post offices from different cities ordered the 2 1/2¢ Bunker Hill coil and received the small-hole variety. To understand this, let's take a look at both postal regulations and collector habits that developed because of them.

Post office regulations of the 1950s and '60s forbade saving unused, gummed precanceled stamps. It was essentially illegal to own or possess mint Bureau precancels. Dealers still purchased these stamps (as did some collectors), but to provide "used"

examples and follow postal regulations, soaked entire rolls of stamps in bathtubs to conform to these regulations.

Precancel collectors weren't interested in gum, but in obtaining all the different cities available for any given issue.

Almost half the cities received the small hole variety, so you'd think it would be easy to find. But once dealers had obtained any given city for their customers, they saw no need to buy more precancels from the same city.

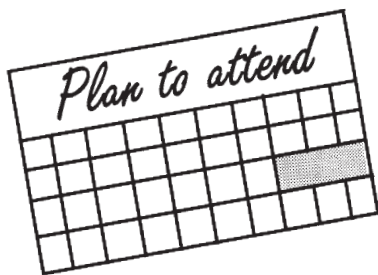
By the time the small hole varieties became available, most precancel collectors already had obtained precancels on the large hole coils. At that time, hole varieties and plate layout differences just weren't recognized by dealers and collectors as varieties worth saving.

Complicating things even more is the fact that more than 95% percent of bulk mail is destroyed by recipients. Since this stamp came only precanceled and the destruction rate is so high, it's easy to see why these stamps became so scarce.

Of 94 cities that ordered and received Bureau precancels for the 2 1/2¢ value, 93 cities received large hole coils and 41 cities — almost half — eventually received the small-hole variety. The one city whose precancel is known only on small hole 2 1/2¢ coils was Rock Hill, S.C. So, if you find one of these, you know it's the scarce small-hole variety.

Take the time to look through accumulations, dealer stocks and junk boxes for these scarce modern-day varieties. You may well be surprised by what you find!

Special thanks go to Steve Unkrich, who provided much of the precancel information contained in this article.



Show Calendar and Registry

List your show, bourse, auction or other event here!

Calendar listings are free for one WFSC member-club event per year. Classified advertising rates apply for all non-members and other events appearing in this section.

2007 WFSC show schedule*

*Some dates and details may be subject to change, and there will likely be additional listings.

September 14-16

Milcopex '07
Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc.
 Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport,
 4747 So. Howell Ave., Milwaukee
Contact: Robert Henak, MPS, P.O. Box
 170832, Milwaukee, WI 54317
 (414) 351-1519, henak@execpc.com,
 www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org

September 22

Wausaupex '07
Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society
 Wausau Labor Temple, Stewart and 3rd
 Aves., Wausau, WI, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: WVPS, P.O. Box 71
 Wausau, WI 54402-0071
 nelsojm@yahoo.com

October 6

Monroe Stamp & Postcard Show
Monroe Stamp and Postcard Club
 Monroe City Hall (lower level), 1110
 18th Ave. Monroe, WI, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Earl Button, 1214 2nd St.,
 Monroe, WI 53566 — 608-328-2827,
 ebutton@tds.net

November 17

Oshkosh Stamp Bourse
Oshkosh Philatelic Society
 Elk's Club, 175 Fernau St., Oshkosh, WI,
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus — 920-725-0798
 maram@tds.net

R.H.O. Postal History and Stamps

Roger H. Oswald
 2514 Sheridan Place
 Manitowoc WI 54220
 (920) 682-6793
 rhoposthistory@comcast.net

Please share your knowledge
with your fellow WFSC members

Write a feature for
Across the Fence Post
today!

October 27-28

Tosapex '07
Wauwatosa Philatelic Society
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall 1435 So. 92nd
 St., West Allis, WI
Contact: John Fagan, P.O. Box 13102,
 Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0102
 faganfalls@aol.com

April 12, 2008

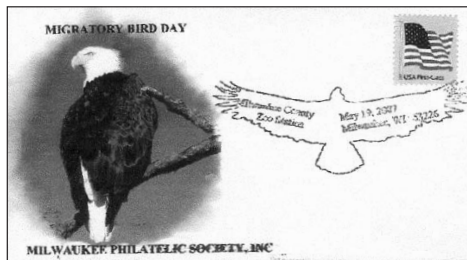
Wiscopex '08
 hosted by the **Outagamie Philatelic Society**
 Fox Valley Lutheran High School
 5300 N. Meade St., Appleton, WI
 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Al Marcus —
 920-725-0798, or Verna Shackleton
 corosec@sbcglobal.net

America's forgotten stamps

Carol Schutta

On May 19, the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc., participated in Migratory Bird Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo for the third year in a row. We had a wheel, with 15 different raptors pictured. Children grouped around the wheel and spun it, trying to identify each type of raptor and, if able, the exact bird. Starter stamp collecting kits from Mystic Stamp Co. (and their catalog) were provided as prizes.

We made a special full-color cacheted cover, with a pictorial cancel. Both the cover and cancel feature the Bald Eagle. These covers are franked



The special cover created for the 2007 Migratory Bird Day by the Milwaukee Philatelic Society.

with the current 41c Flag stamp.

If you are interested in ordering one of these special covers, please send \$2 for each cover, and provide a stamped, addressed envelope for delivery to you.

Please send orders to Carol Schutta, 10250 W. Sharon Lane, Apt. #5, Milwaukee WI 53225-4647.

Sundman Grinnell Missionaries to be shown at Stampshow

If you are planning to attend the American Philatelic Society's Stampshow 2007 in Portland, Ore., you may well want to set aside a bit of time to see the so-called "Grinnell" Hawaiian Missionary stamps that will be on display, courtesy of Don Sundman and

Mystic Stamp Co. Stampshow will be held Aug. 9-12.

The Grinnells have attracted a lot of attention for decades, with various pronouncements of their status. There seems to be little gray area. Collectors either feel they are genuine or they are fake.

2007-08 Show/Bourse/Meeting Info Flier

The annual flier detailing this information will be updated and sent with the September *ATFP*. It includes shows and commercial bourses to be held not only within Wisconsin, but also in areas that border the state.

If you want your show/bourse to appear on the listing covering events through the summer of 2008, send details – no later than Aug. 1, 2007, to Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct., Middleton, WI 53562-4339, phone 608-836-1509, or e-mail kweigt@tds.net. Please include a contact name, address, phone number and e-mail address. The events calendar also will be published on the WFSC Web site.

Milcopex coming in September; Milwaukee Vice theme featured

The Milcopex committee is promoting vice this year; as a show theme, that is.

The theme, "Milwaukee Vice" is intended both to highlight some of Milwaukee's more colorful past and to help dispel the misconception that stamp collectors are staid, stoic and not much fun, by showing off a more fun-loving and even slightly bawdy side.

Among the featured attractions this year is an area of exhibits, known as the show's "Red Light District." Exhibits in this area will focus on various vices or sins. Categories include sex, drugs, tobacco, corruption, alcohol, food, politics and others.

Milcopex also will host the postal

history societies of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin, to compete for a special multi-state postal history exhibiting competition.

Milcopex 2007, will be held Sept. 14-16, at the Baton Rouge ballroom of the Four Points by Sheraton Milwaukee Airport Hotel.

Milcopex is an accredited APS Champion of Champions show. The grand award winner will be eligible for the annual Champion of Champions competition at Stampshow 2008.

For more information, write to Robert Henak, Box 170832, Milwaukee WI 53217-0832, or by email, henak@execpc.com.