



The Souvenir Card JOURNAL

SECOND QUARTER 2023

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 2

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUVENIR CARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY

No. 3 of 5
Aurelia Shen
ABNC.

American Bank Note Company.
Established 1858
New York, N. Y.

Featured on this card is a \$20 gold certificate of deposit issued by the Republic of Hawaii. In 1896, American Bank Note Company received an order to print 3,000 \$20 gold certificates. These certificates were bound in blue leather books of 500 certificates each.

The engraving on the left, entitled Pallas Athena, was engraved by Robert Savage in 1893. The center vignette, Ingenio de Azucar (sugar refinery), was engraved by Christian Rost in 1890. The horse's head at the right was engraved by Charles Schlecht in 1864. John W. Casilear was the artist.

ANA 98th Anniversary Convention
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 9-13, 1989

The American Ceremony Program Society (ACPS) is the only philatelic group devoted to the collection, documentation, and preservation of printed ceremony programs and items created for new postal issues.



Sample copy of *The Ceremonial*, which contains articles on first day ceremonies and treasured programs, auction news, and a schedule of upcoming first day ceremonies. A downloadable pdf copy comes free with membership to ACPS.

Benefits of membership

- * Quarterly journal *The Ceremonial* packed with first day coverage, history, news, and columns of interest to any philatelist
- * Quarterly auctions offering a safe and convenient way to build your collection and to sell your unwanted duplicates
- * Multiple collecting interests for first day collectors, topical enthusiasts, postal historians, or anyone simply interested in stamp collecting
- * Annual Convention where you can meet other ceremony program enthusiasts, visit a multitude of dealers with deep stock, view exhibits, and participate in society business and social events

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- * **Membership: \$15 per year**
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- * **Printed ACPS journals: additional \$10 per year**

Send check payable to *American Ceremony Program Society* to ACPS Secretary/Treasurer:

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The Souvenir Card JOURNAL

Second Quarter 2023, Volume 43, Number 2

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On the cover: SO-68A, specially embossed by ABNC, is one of the rarest cards ever cataloged — only five were produced and raffled off at the 1989 Pittsburgh ANA show. Submitted by **Celeste De Zan Jr.**

Back cover: A series of ABNC-printed tickets for the 1932 Republican National Convention. See story on page 8.

Submission deadlines for ads, articles, comments, etc. are: **Feb. 1** (First Quarter issue); **May 1** (Second Quarter); **Aug. 1** (Third Quarter); and **Nov. 1** (Fourth Quarter). Your cooperation in meeting these goals is appreciated.

Please inquire with **Greg Alexander (SCCS1981@yahoo.com)** regarding **renewals, membership information**, requests for **back issues** and information concerning this Journal, including **submission of articles** and **advertising inquiries**. Current dues for digital SCJ: \$25/yr.; \$45/2yrs.; \$65/3 yrs.; for Journal hard copies: \$30/yr.; \$55/2yrs.; \$80/3 yrs.

Visit the SCCS website at www.souvenircards.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A. Stephen Patrick

Happy Spring! How has 2023 been for you so far? Linda and I enjoyed a two-week Caribbean cruise in February and I organized a pop-up onboard stamp club. After coin club last night, I'm only two quarters away from completing my Washington 1932-1999 quarter coin books. In January, I completed a year-long project of selling a stamp collection for the Christian Help Foundation realizing nearly \$5,000 for their cause and \$1,000 for my stamp club. And I am finalizing plans to attend Summer FUN, the ANA World's Fair of Money in Pittsburgh, and the Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland. At 76, I don't know how much is left in the tank, but I want to fill my world with fun activities rather than wearing out a rocking chair.

With so few new souvenir cards being produced these days, let me make a few suggestions on how to improve your collections.

Organize your cards. The SCCS website now has a great gallery of cards. We have added ASDA cards, APS cards, and UN cards. Our catalogue committee has been at work with number changes. Have you checked your inventory and updated your want lists?

Look out for test notes. Our member **Roland Rollins** has authored two catalogues of material produced by security printers over the last 200 years, including promotional/advertising cards. Hundreds of beautiful engravings are waiting to be found at hobby shows or on line. You may own a few without knowing it. Check them out.

Have you considered Commemorative Panels? Over 30 years ago, SCCS founder **Curt Radford** recommended collecting these USPS products as a parallel to souvenir cards. Until 2001, each panel was illustrated with three engravings from the American Bank Note Co. I couldn't afford a subscription back in the

20th century, but now many of these are coming out on the secondary market for just the face value of the stamps or about one dollar per panel.

Add some show cancelled cards. Many of our members are purists who want only mint condition cards, but souvenir is part of our club name. I have completed all 71 Postal Service cards show cancelled and continue to work on BEP cards.

Add ancillary material. Illustrated here is a 12" x 14" poster that was created for the Espamar '82 international stamp show in San Juan, Puerto Rico. It pairs well with my PS-41 with six "day of show" cancellations. The poster came from stamp dealer Bob Sazama at my local stamp club last meeting. The thrill of the hunt and the joy of the find are what makes collecting worthwhile.



Do some research. At our annual meeting in Pittsburgh I plan to have a PowerPoint on the 1876 Centennial Exposition. I have enjoyed studying the first U.S. World's Fair and the BEP Centennial Share certificate, issued to financial supporters of the event. The three images of the "Weeping Indian" (on B-122), Agriculture (B-127), and Signing of

the Declaration (B-130) are iconic engravings, as well as their pulled proofs and 19th century forerunner proofs. Add engraved entrance tickets and their variations and you have a great study and exhibit.

Our national annual meeting will be held Wednesday, August 9 at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Pittsburgh. We plan to debut our annual card which will feature an attractive engraving of the Brooklyn Bridge. We will also have a club table in Pittsburgh from Aug. 8-12. I hope to see you at the show so I can wish you a happy summer!



FROM THE EDITOR

Greg Alexander

Whenever I sit down to write my quarterly message, I'm often surprised by how much has occurred over the past few months. In March, the SCCS hosted a table at the ANA National Money Show in Phoenix. Although we only signed up one new member, the show seemed well attended and it gave the Society some good visibility. **Ken Barr** and I held down the club table, and I got to meet the Director of the U.S. Mint, as well as Ben Franklin! I was also very pleased to finally say hello in person to **Roland Rollins**, who was at the show to do his presentation on shipwrecks carrying currency. He and his son dropped by the table afterwards for a chat. You'll find more photos on the next page. It was a very enjoyable trip and I even spent some time with a couple of high school friends who now live in Phoenix.

The Cataloging Committee has been actively considering new and old cards, continuing to make additions and corrections to our catalog listings and on-line galleries. I have detailed these changes on page 6. A good many of our recent images came from **Ron Betz** — thank you, Ron! If other members have cards and ancillary material you think should be included, please submit scans and details.

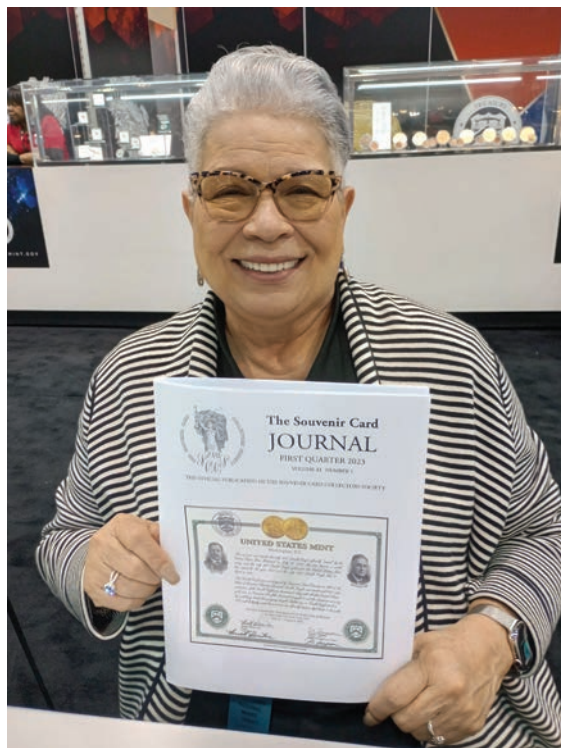


The First Quarter Journal elicited several responses from members, including one from **James Rankin**. James submitted another nice example of courtesy signatures, with four autographs on a show-cancelled B-83: BEP Director Robert Leuver, engraver Kenneth Kipperman, and plate printers Tom Spiewak and Herbert Wheelock. Great combination!

In this issue, you may have noticed the full page ad for the American Ceremonial Program Society on our



Above: Greg Alexander, John Wilson, and Ken Barr at the SCCS club table in Phoenix. Right: Mint Director Ventris Gibson holds a copy of the First Quarter SC Journal, which features a U.S. Mint souvenir card (B-263).



inside front cover. ACPS members also found a color ad for the SCCS in their most recent newsletter, *The Ceremonial*. Both were placed at no cost. This is the first step in what I hope will be an ongoing collaboration with other collector organizations. Reciprocal ads like this with associated groups will raise the visibility of our respective hobbies, without expense. In the future, I'd like to approach other national numismatic and philatelic organizations to place similar ads. If our members can make suggestions and provide connections, please contact me.

And speaking of ads, how about submitting something for the Member's Exchange? This is a free service for all members. Do you have some extra cards you'd like to swap or sell? Are you looking for a particular card or specific material? Let your fellow members know and you might be surprised at what you'll find. And dealers (I know we have a few), we do accept display ads at a very reasonable cost. Contact me for more information.

Steve let the cat out of the bag regarding our 2023 annual card — we will be featuring a beautiful engraving of the Brooklyn Bridge this year. The antique steel plate we used for printing was lent to us by **Bernie Wilde**, whose article on the bridge can be found on page 14. I won't spoil the sur-



Promotional postcards for the SCCS are available to members upon request.

prise, but one of the vignettes in the article will appear on the card. Since Pittsburgh is known as the City of Bridges, it seemed like the perfect venue to release the card at our annual meeting.

Lastly, we recently printed additional promotional postcards for the Society. These are meant primarily for distribution at coin and stamp shows, although they could also be mailed to potential new members or included by sellers with Ebay orders. If anyone would like some of these to help promote the SCCS, let me know and I will send you a batch.



More from the ANA Phoenix show. Above: One visitor dropped by the table to show us ABNC printing plates, including the \$9 banknote found on FSO-1988A. Top: Benjamin Franklin said hello and examined our display cards while making his rounds. Right: Roland Rollins gave a well-researched presentation on shipwrecks and brought some examples of salvaged currency.

MEMBER PROFILE: ROBERT FRITZSCHE

As Life member #248, you've been with the SCCS since the first year we started. What got you interested in souvenir cards and are you still collecting?

After being a plate printer for many years, I thought why not collect the work and type of work I had been doing. But I'm no longer collecting. It's time to get rid of collections that the family does not want.

You mention being a plate printer. Most members don't know you had a long career with American Bank Note Company. What was your position there and how long were you with ABNC?

I started in 1959 as an apprentice plate printer and after four years of apprenticeship I became a plate printer. I got the job because my father was a plate printer and at the time, when hiring apprentices, ABNC accepted three from the union and the company picked one. Eventually I was promoted to a foreman, but when that position was abolished, I went back to being a printer. I was laid off and rehired four times during my career at ABNC and retired in January 1999. The company went up and down, depending on customer orders.

What type of things did you print? Any souvenir cards or collector products?

I printed stocks, bonds, foreign currency, food stamps, souvenir cards, USPS Commemorative Panels, a couple wine labels, and other different types of orders.

You must have seen an evolution in machinery over 40 years. What sort of presses did you work on?

Over the years, I operated each type of printing press that the company had. I worked on a single-plate hand press, an S press, a TA1 press, the Web Rotary Intaglio Press (WRIP), and the De La Rue Giori press. The S press ran slower and paper was hand fed; TA1 one-plate press was faster and part of the press fed the paper.



Bob Fritzsche, SCCS Life member

Did you know any of the ABNC engravers?

I met a few engravers, as we worked in the same building in the Bronx, and at some union conventions, but I don't recall their names. We were all part of the International Plate Printers, Die Stampers & Engravers Union. I also knew Milt Teichman (who ran the demonstration spider press at shows that ABNC attended in the 1990s).

Can you talk a little about the IPPDS&E Union conventions?

The conventions were a week long, with business meetings most days and lots of socializing. Contract talk, financial talk, sharing info from one local to the others. Delegates were appointed from each local for meetings and I was a delegate a couple times. I do not really recall much about union booklets or cards, but printing so many different items I'm sure I did some. I still have two convention booklets from 1993 and 1995.

You retired in 1999, which was after ABNC was purchased by US Bank Note Co. How was that transition?

After the takeover, the Bronx and Suffern plants in New York were eventually closed, and also the one in Bridgewater, IL (Chicago area). I worked in each of those plants, moving to a new location when the previous location closed. I ended up at the plant in Horsham, PA, where I retired when it was soon to close.

Do you have a favorite souvenir card or engraving in your collection?

I have a framed 29" x 22" Bluejay print, that I printed in the 1970s for the Franklin Mint. I found a copy and bought it in 1994. Black is the only intaglio part — it was done first on the S press, with a woman coworker feeding the paper and me operating the press.



NEW CATALOG ADDITIONS

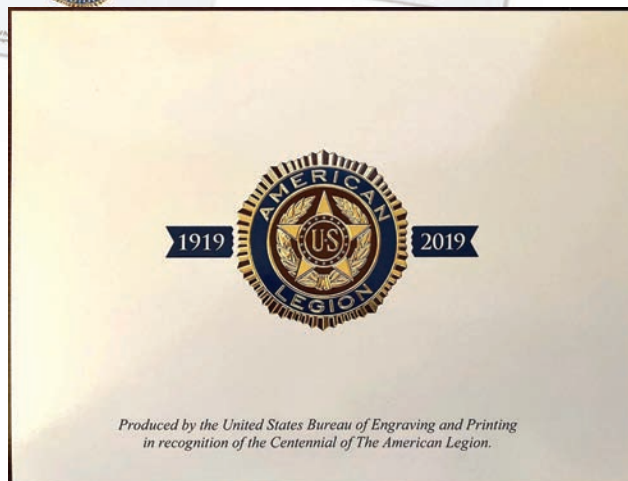
Greg Alexander

In the last Journal, we announced new catalog numbers for BEP products that contained intaglio prints. There is one more to add to the list. The 2019 American Legion commemorative coin sets also included

foil embossed cards featuring emblems, printed by the BEP. Though not intaglio, these special cards merited inclusion in the catalog and have been assigned the number BC-17.



BC-17 - American Legion Coin and Emblem Print Sets (2019). These special American Legion commemorative coin sets for the half dollar, silver dollar, and \$5 gold coin also included a loose BEP-produced foil embossed card. Collectively, about 3,000 of these sets were sold at a slight premium over those with the coins alone. The cards may have been available separately at the BEP Visitor Center.



Another BEP card has long puzzled the Cataloging Committee, but we finally landed on an answer.

Examples of a 1994 card showing an enlarged Scott 2875 souvenir sheet had previously been reported by several members. The card is lithographed and was, for a time, given away along with purchases at the Bureau's Visitor Center. But was it actually printed by the BEP?



Newly designated card FB-1994B.

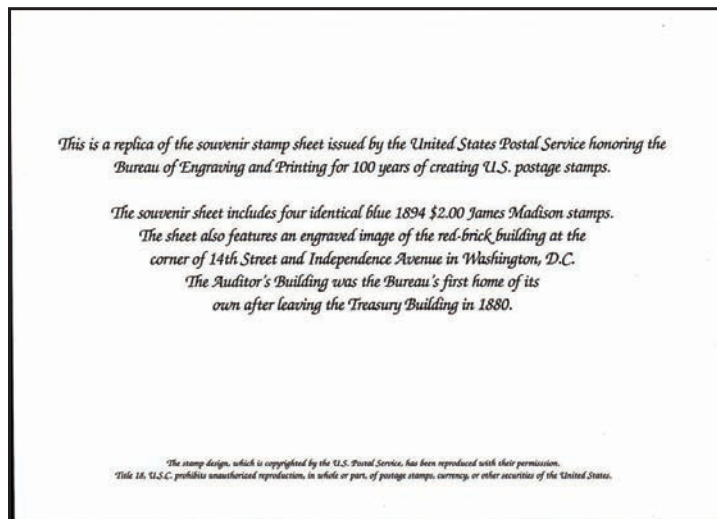
Joe Brockert, the USPS project manager who oversaw printing of the souvenir sheet in 1994, verified that this was not an official USPS card. He suspected it was a ceremonial giveaway item, most likely for the First Day ceremony, with the remaining cards sent to the BEP Visitor Center.

The typestyle used on the back of the mystery card matches that on an envelope for B-163 in 1992, the info card for B-193 in 1995, and on other BEP info cards during 1996. This

typeset was only used by the Bureau during this narrow window of time.

The most compelling evidence, though, is the use of the “Title 18, USC” warning on the back of the 1994 centennial card. Only Bureau-printed souvenir cards ever used this notation. The USPS discontinued this footnote on their cards after 1977, instead opting for a simple copyright, but the BEP continued to use it on their cards. The Title 18 disclaimer can be found at the bottom of all the Bureau’s 1995 standard souvenir cards. This was enough to sway the committee and the card has been given a catalog number of FB-1994B.

Back of FB-1994B, with its distinctive typeset, and enlargement of Title 18 disclaimer below. Can you spot the typo?

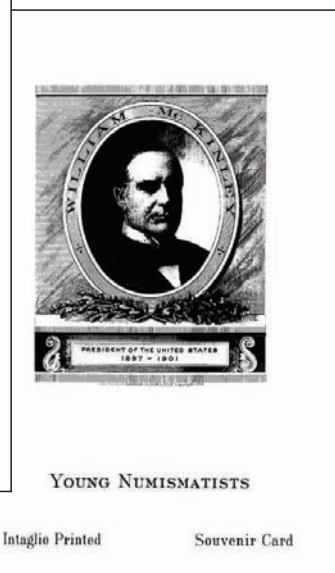
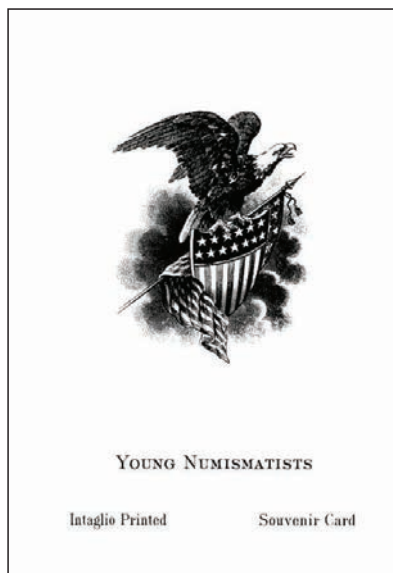
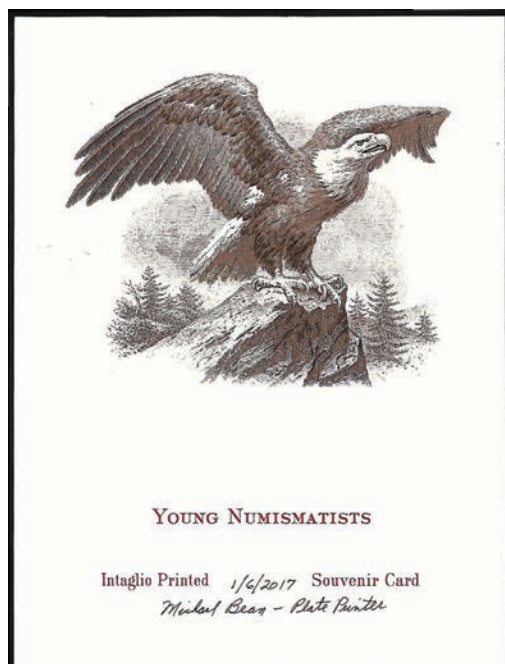


The stamp design, which is copyrighted by the U.S. Postal Service, has been reproduced with their permission. Title 18, U.S.C. prohibits unauthorized reproduction, in whole or part, of postage stamps, currency, or other securities of the United States.

Other cards have come to the attention of the Cataloging Committee in the MB category. Starting some time around 2014, Mike Bean began printing cards in support of Young Numismatists. These were primarily distributed to young collectors who attended the winter FUN shows, though none of the cards in-

clude a printed show title or date. MB-62 and 67 now have scans posted in the MB image gallery and the committee has assigned a number to a new discovery, MB-73A.

Two other Young Numismatists cards are known to have been printed, though possibly not yet released. One features the McKinley portrait found on W-4, the other shows the eagle and shield vignette from Q-26. If any members have information regarding these cards, please contact me.



Newly listed MB-73, above, and examples of two unconfirmed Young Numismatists souvenir cards.

GOP CONVENTION SPECIMEN ALBUM

Harry Corrigan

In late 2021, I acquired a remarkable item: a 17-page custom album, apparently created in the 1930s by American Bank Note Company, for a dignitary in the Republican Party. ABNC printed items for five separate Republican National Conventions displayed in the album, which I've tried my best to scan (the mounting on some pages makes this difficult).

The covers are black, as you would find on a hard-bound book, but they are three-hole punched and the pages held together with red, white, and blue cord. The name "Herbert Pope" is embossed in gold on the front cover.

Nearly all the pages contain tickets, passes, and appointment certificates for various positions at the convention, such as "Tally Clerk" or "Radio Operator." Some of the tickets were expressly printed for such persons as "Ex-Chairman National Committee" or "Medical Officer" — these are examples you are not likely to see anywhere else. The RNC seal shows a liberty head engraved by Raymond Ostrander Smith. Most of these convention items are intaglio, with a few lithographs. All are stamped and/or punch-cancelled "Specimen."

The 1916 appointment certificate is identified in the 1989 SCCS catalog and assigned the number FSO-1916B. The catalog example is made out for a "Page" while mine is blank. Following this precedent, later appointment certificates would tentatively be cataloged as FSO-1920A, FSO-1924A, and FSO-1928B.

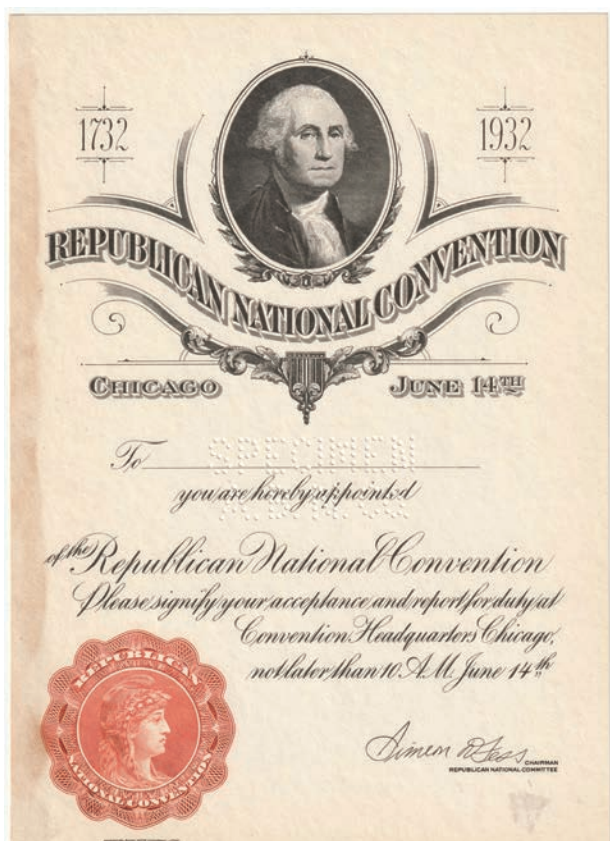
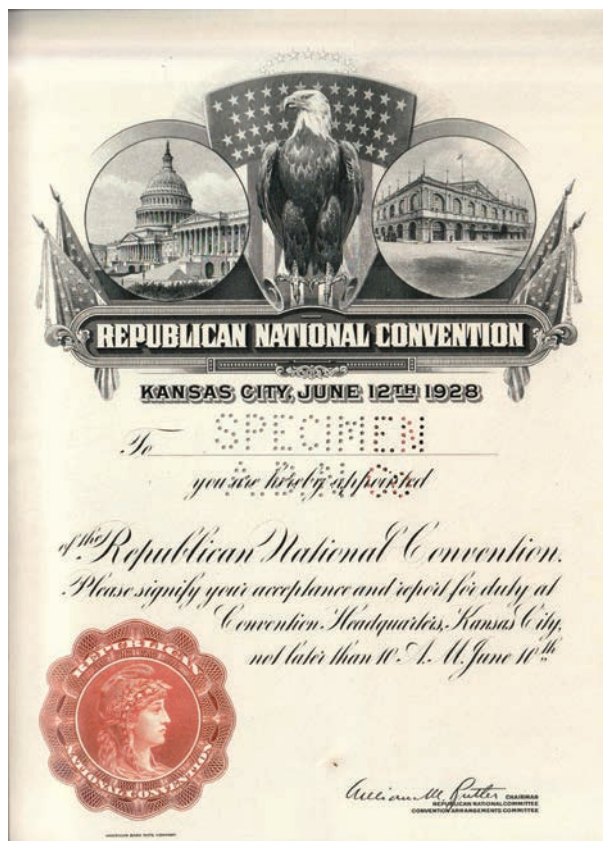
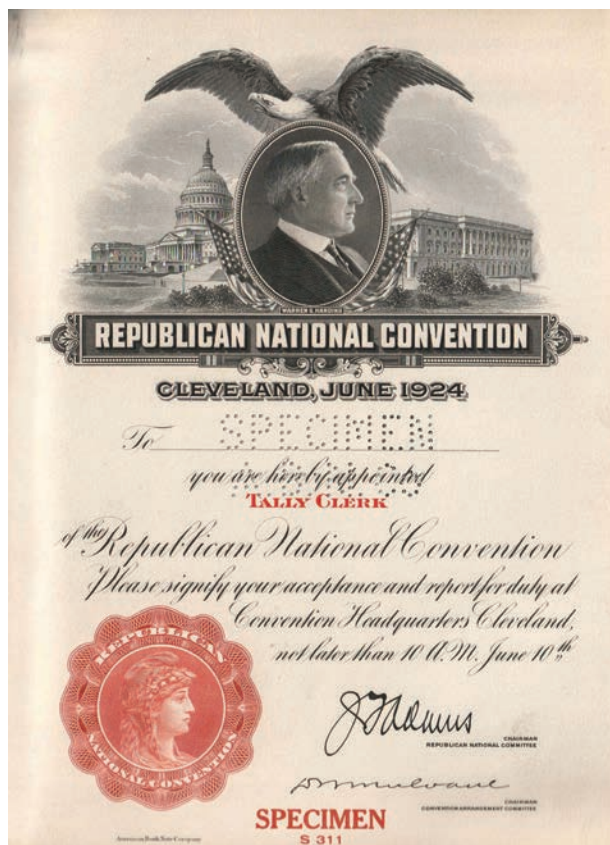
The album also contains pages with photos of the Chicago skyline and the convention center, the 1856 Republican platform, a list of the members of the Republican National Committee, a dinner menu, and the lyrics for "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." All the pages are on grey card stock and most are intaglio, even if they only have text.



Left, the 1916 RNC souvenir appointment certificate, FSO-1916B.

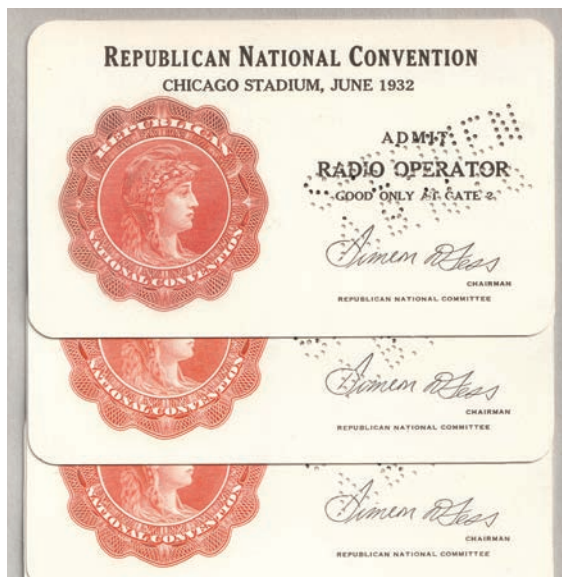
Opposite, RNC appointment certificates for 1920, 1924, 1928, and 1932.







Specimen tickets for the
1916, 1924, and 1928
Republican
National Conventions.



Left, appointee passes for the 1932 convention. Below, a
special 1916 Appointee's Ticket for medical staff.



CALL TO ACTION: WHY NO BUREAU CARDS?

Greg Alexander

It has now been more than three years since the Bureau of Engraving & Printing issued a new card or had a presence at a major numismatic show. The last BEP card cataloged was B-336, the spider press card issued at FUN 2020. The last subscription series available to the general public was for the Moon Landing 50th anniversary in 2019.

During the pandemic, the Bureau closed its doors to visitors and employees alike, reducing the on-site staff to only those who were directly responsible for printing the nation's currency. All others worked remotely and the BEP also decided to cut back the ranks of contract employees. This included the staff of the Historical Research Center and contractors responsible for stocking and shipping collector products, including souvenir cards, portrait-vignette cards, and uncut sheets. Understandably, the Bureau put its priorities solely on servicing the Federal Reserve's demands for paper money.

Times change. Last September, President Biden declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be over. The virus still poses some global issues, but the U.S. has returned to normalcy. Eight months ago, I spoke with Kevin Brown, the BEP's marketing manager, who assured me that the Bureau was ramping up hiring so that collectibles would soon be available again. Yet nothing appears to have changed.

Those who check the BEP/Mint ordering site noticed months ago that most "Temporarily Unavailable" tags on Bureau collector products had been replaced with "Coming Soon" tags. "Soon" seems to be stretching on for quite some time. Either way, these products still cannot be ordered. Worse for our hobby, there appears to be no plans moving forward to restart the Intaglio

Print Program, which, although it had been dwindling, still supplied three or more cards a year, typically released at major coin shows. The designs that had been planned for 2020 are now too outdated to be used in 2023, yet no new designs are in the works.

Last year, the Mint returned to attending major shows and has been issuing commemorative coins for collec-

tors, even during the pandemic. Where are the BEP collector products? We especially need the Bureau to resume their Intaglio Print program — they are the last significant card-issuing agency to remain on the scene. If they are quietly choosing to phase out this program, it will spell disaster for the long-term health of our hobby.



BEP intaglio prints commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing went on sale in January 2019. There have been no regular-issue cards released since then.

Collectors of BEP intaglio engravings and paper money products need to make our voices

heard, once again. The current BEP director, Len Olijar, has shown in the past that he is sympathetic to collectors, enabling the return of historic currency reprints on cards in 2018. Though Len announced his retirement this year, this has been delayed at least until the summer. Now is the time to contact him with your concerns. He can be reached by snail mail at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Room 119 M, 14th and C Streets SW, Washington, DC 20228 or by email at len.olijar@bep.gov.

The Bureau has a long history of serving collector interests, at the same time shining a light on the superb work of BEP engravers and printers. But during times of rapid turnover in staffing, institutional knowledge is often lost and abandoning past practices may be tempting to those with no connection to collectors. Help the BEP remember the benefits of maintaining a robust collector marketplace and let them know you will support them through purchases and public praise.

In April, Auction 53 was officially completed. The auction offered 100 lots which included 105 items (some lots were duplicated, allowing additional winners). Fifteen members bid on one or more lots, 14 were successful. A high percentage of the 85 lots were sold (83%); prices realized are listed on the following page. Lot #2 (Union booklet F-1973A) was the highest valued item, selling for \$167.

This auction consisted primarily of donated material but also included some cards that had been consigned to Bill Kriebel several years ago and finally returned to the SCCS. After payment to consignors, \$1,603 was sent to the SCCS Treasurer for deposit in the club's general account.

Going forward, we do not expect to post a new auction in every issue of the Journal. Most likely, auctions will occur two or three times per year.

At this point, we are ready to accept new consignments from members. However, because the auction is smaller than in the past, some limitations now apply, to prevent large numbers of unsold items. Please read these new Consignment Guidelines before shipping any cards.

AUCTION CONSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

1. SCCS auction manager will determine whether consignment material is suitable for auction; common cards deemed unlikely to sell may not be accepted. Consignors should submit a list of potential lots *before* shipping them.
2. Consignor should determine minimum bids for their material. However, lots with unrealistic minimums may be negotiated or rejected at the discretion of the auction manager. The auction manager will not change minimums without consignor's consent. Minimum bids should be no less than \$5.
3. Presently, consignments will be limited to 15 lots per auction. Group lots of up to 5 items are acceptable.
4. Consignors are responsible for adequately de-

scribing their lots, including SCCS alpha/numeric designations. Please keep descriptions as short as possible. The following abbreviations can be used in the lot descriptions:

Abbreviation	Meaning
FDC	first day canceled
m	mint, as issued
op	overprinted
ShC	show canceled
vcc	visitor center canceled
w/env	with envelope
w/o	without
w/xxxx	with Scott numbered xxxx

5. Consignors will cover shipping to SCCS and postage/insurance necessary to return unsold items. There is no consignment fee. However, the SCCS will retain 10% of the selling price as a commission fee. Care shall be taken to protect all material submitted, but the auction manager and SCCS assume no liability, so consignor should verify and/or provide their own insurance coverage.
6. Payments to consignors will be made within 14 days of end of auction, unless bidder(s) have not submitted payment for the lots they have won. If this lack of bidder payment causes a delay, the auction manager will notify and keep the consignor up-to-date.

After acceptance, consignments should be mailed to shipping manager Mark Gereb, 1530 Palisades Ave., Apt. 26P, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. **Each lot must have an individual envelope or sleeve/protector.**

Bids and financial questions should be e-mailed to vincekjones3@gmail.com (the quickest way) or by USPS to Vince Jones, 825 Revere Way, Emerald Hills, CA 94062.



AUCTION 53 PRICES REALIZED

Lot # SCCS Cat. # Price Realized

1.....	F-1966A	10
2.....	F-1973A	167
3.....	F-1975Aa/b	59
4.....	F-1979B	14
5.....	F-1983B	135
6.....	F-1983C	5
8.....	F-1983I.....	51
9.....	F-1985D	18
10.....	F-1986A	12
11.....	F-1987A	8
12.....	F-1987B	8
13.....	F-1987D	26
14.....	F-1987G.....	95
15.....	F-1995C	135
16.....	FB-1924A.....	135
17.....	FSO-1885A.....	157
18.....	FSO-1897B.....	70
23.....	B-85/6	25
26.....	B-101B	25
27.....	B-101C	25
28.....	B-101D	15
29.....	B-101E.....	15
33.....	B-152	10
34.....	B-189	8
35.....	B-223	6
37.....	B-234	12
38.....	B-250	9
39.....	B-266	20
40.....	B-268	20
41.....	B-269	20
42.....	B-270	22
43.....	B-272	20
44.....	B-273	26
45.....	B-275	26
46.....	B-277	25
47.....	B-278	35
48.....	B-286	20
49.....	B-287	25
50.....	B-288	20
51.....	B-289	25
52.....	B-290	25

Lot # SCCS Cat. # Price Realized

53.....	B-294	25
54.....	B-298	38
55.....	B-314	18
56.....	B-318	22
57.....	B-333	25
58.....	B-334	25
60.....	Proof (SO-79).....	58
63.....	SO-90A	121
64.....	SO-101.....	25
65.....	SO-108A	70
67.....	SO-121.....	10
69.....	SO-122A	125
70.....	SO-162.....	28
71.....	SO-168.....	45
72.....	M-1	8
74.....	N-2	22
75.....	N-9	9
76.....	N-10	17
77.....	N-12	9
78.....	N-13	9
79.....	N-14	8
80.....	N-15	8
81.....	N-17	9
82.....	N-18	9
83.....	N-19	9
84.....	N-20	13
85.....	N-21	13
86.....	N-23	13
87.....	N-24	13
88.....	N-27	13
89.....	N-30	13
90.....	N-31	9
91.....	PS-19	7
92.....	PS-27	15
93.....	FM-1.....	22
94.....	FM-2.....	17
95.....	FM-6.....	11
96.....	FM-7.....	11
97.....	FM-8.....	17
98.....	FM-9.....	17
100.....	ABNC Book.....	65

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE, ON METAL AND PAPER Bernhard Wilde

This month marks the 140th anniversary of the official opening of the Brooklyn Bridge (BB). There are many easily accessed books and articles published about the Brooklyn Bridge and its builders. There are also many engraved vignettes.

Figure 1 depicts John A. Roebling (top), designer of the bridge, his son Washington, the construction chief engineer, and Washington's wife, Emily, supervisor of construction of the bridge. Washington married Emily Warren in 1865 and the newlyweds went to Germany to study caisson designs (watertight construction enclosures) for the bridge towers.

Design of the bridge had already begun before 1867, the year the New York and Brooklyn Bridge Company was incorporated. It was nearly finished by July 22, 1869, when John Roebling died of tetanus, a few weeks after suffering a serious injury near the Fulton Ferry bridge site. Washington faced his own troubles, developing caisson disease (known as "the bends") in

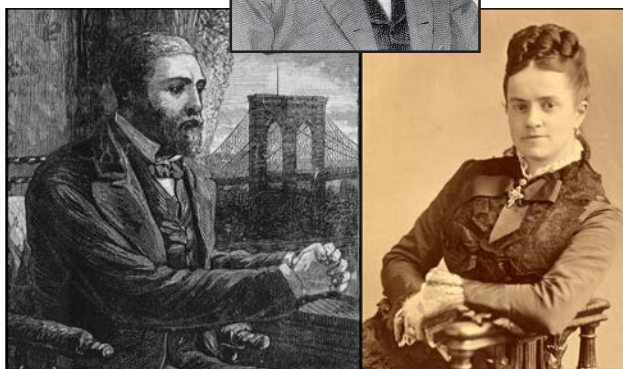
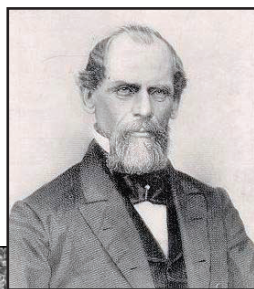


Figure 1. A composite portrait of the Roebling family.

1870 after decompressing too quickly to escape a fire. Emily, a student of civil engineering herself, assumed the day-to-day supervision of bridge construction with Washington observing from his office window in Brooklyn Heights.

The bridge opened on May 24, 1883, as shown on the Opening Ceremonies invitation in Figure 2. Emily Roebling was officially the first to cross the bridge. Tiffany & Co. engraved the vignette on a copper plate for the invitation, titled The New York and Brooklyn (Suspension) Bridge, as it was known at the time.

Figure 3 includes an American Commemoratives panel (Scott CP-188) featuring an ABNC engraving based on the above portrait of John Roebling, with a block of four stamps (Scott US 2041) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the opening of the bridge, in 1983. The oval vignette showing NYC's twin towers was probably engraved in 1983 by Jaroslaw Kisely for the World Trade Center's 10th anniversary. This vignette also appears in the 1983 Plate Printers Union convention book, on the New York Local No. 58 card (F-1983Bc).

The panel's bottom engraving was engraved by James Smillie and R. Berry for the American Bank Note Co. (ABNC) in 1879, four years before the opening of the bridge. The steel printing plate and transfer roll of the vignette from the ABNC archives were sold in 2006 for \$1,500 each.

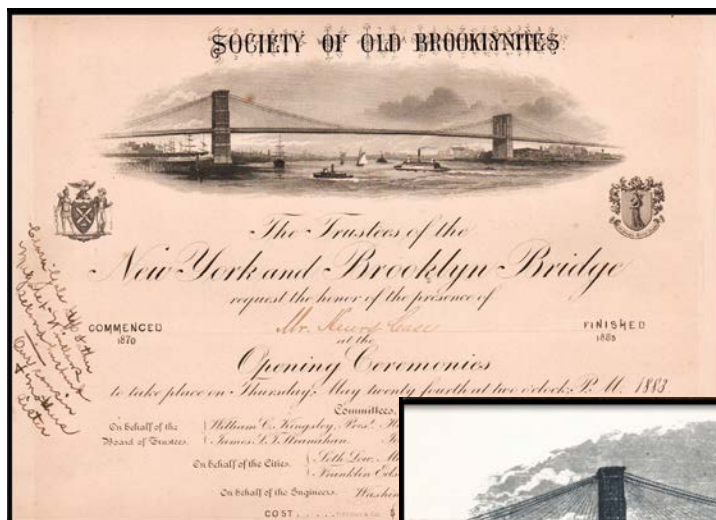
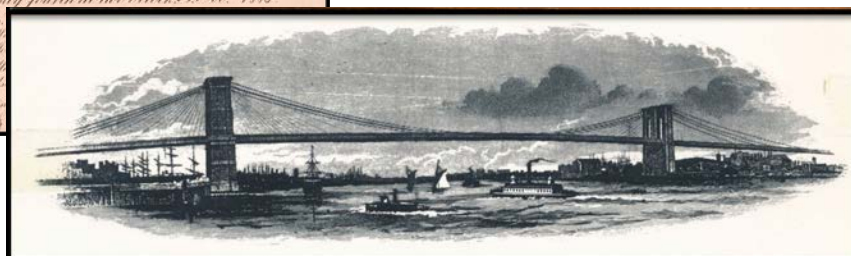
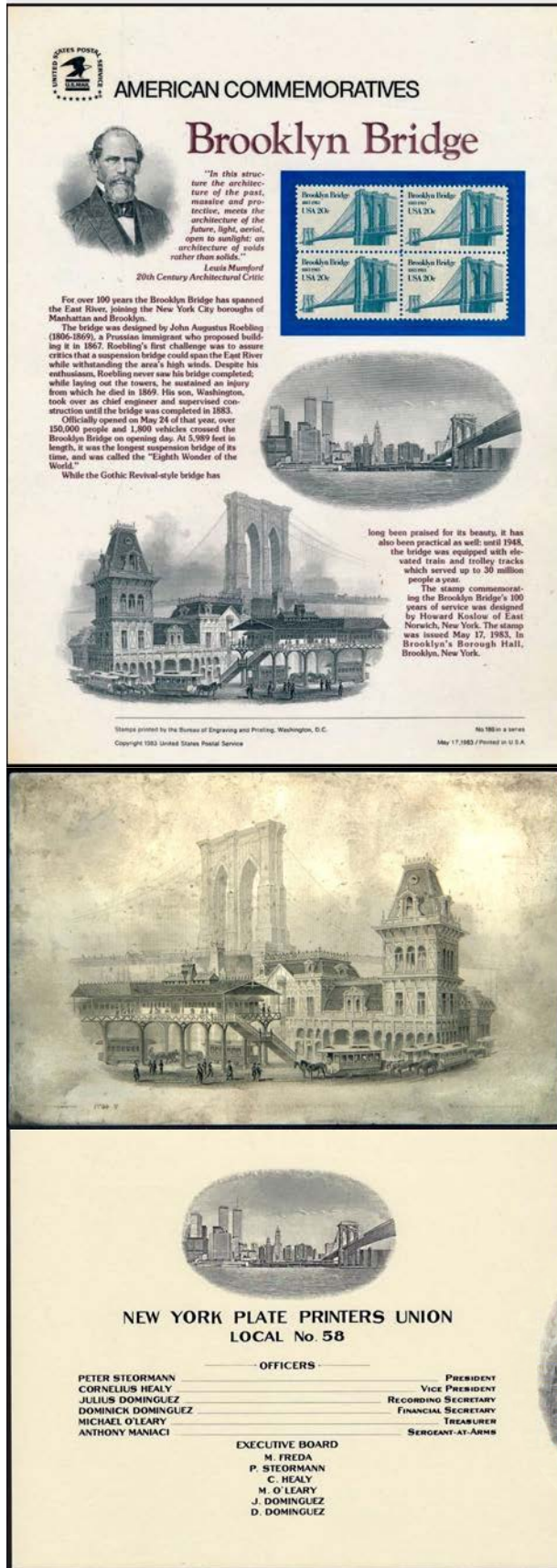


Figure 2. Engraved 1883 invitation to opening ceremonies and bridge vignette by Tiffany & Co.





This vignette is one of the author's favorites. It shows the finished Brooklyn Bridge with traffic crossing in the background. However, at the time, the bridge did not yet have a deck. The foreground shows the Brooklyn Ferry Terminal with many horse-drawn trolleys leaving the ferry port. The elevated terminal was to become the terminal for the cable-drawn railroads crossing the bridge. It was, instead, actually built perpendicular to the shown terminal, coming from the ferry landing. Thus, it shows the old way of crossing the East River via a ferry and the incorrectly anticipated future route with cable cars across the bridge. This vignette was mainly used on stocks and bonds of The Brooklyn Elevated Railway Company, as early as 1880.

Figure 4 shows an interesting 1888 vignette of the New York & Brooklyn Suspension Bridge by International Bank Note Company (IBNC). It was probably only used in advertising for both the Roebling's Sons Company wire rope catalogs and on IBNC's own promotional literature. A die proof was sold on eBay in 2013. The back of the IBNC advertising sheet has a bright green ad for Parsons Paper Company's "Banknote Parchment Linen Ledger Paper." If anyone knows of other uses of this plate, the author would like to be informed.

Figure 5 has a similar "looking south" vignette of the bridge, but from a boat in the East River. It was commissioned by Willcox & Gibbs, makers of fine sewing machines. The engraving was done by J.N. Allan, a freelance steel engraver during the 1880s. This author has not been successful in finding the trade card that

Figure 3. Two views of the bridge appear on CP-188 (top); mirror image of vignette on ABNC steel plate (center); 1980s vignette of the bridge and skyline.





Figure 4. Promotional advertising sheet for International Bank Note Company, featuring Brooklyn Bridge vignette at bottom.



was printed from this plate, although the Smithsonian has one. Several other sewing machine companies, including Singer, also featured lithographed vignettes of the Brooklyn Bridge on their trade cards.

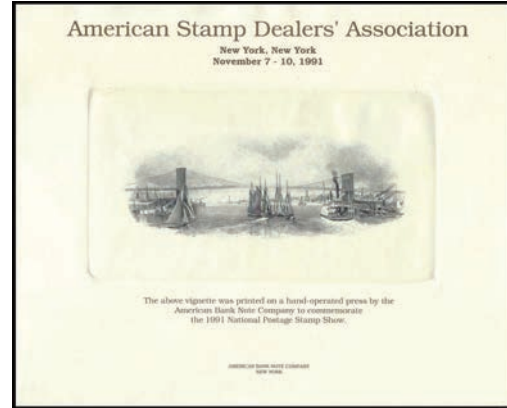
Figure 6 shows yet another vignette of the bridge looking south. In the distance, the Statue of Liberty can be seen on Liberty Island. The plate was engraved by ABNC in 1887, shortly after the dedication of the Statue of Liberty, for The Union Elevated Railroad Company of Brooklyn. The artist for the vignette was William Holmes and the engraver was Charles Skinner.

It was also used on securities for the Brooklyn Traction Co., the Brooklyn City Railroad, the Brooklyn Elevated Railroad, the Brooklyn Development Co., the New York & East River Gas Co., and others. The American Stamp Dealers Association used it to commemorate the 1991 National Postage Stamp Show on an ABNC souvenir card. It was printed by a hand-operated press, presumably a spider press, in green (SO-82) and black (SO-82A). A partial vignette of the Brooklyn side of the bridge also appeared on a Tyvek sheet included in an ABNC annual report. An even smaller partial vignette, though not intaglio, appeared on a 2008 card (M-50) issued by SCCS Metro Chapter 4 for the Postage Stamp Mega Event in NYC. The full vignette is also on a panel from the 1990 ABNC Archive Series.



Figure 5. Reversed image of steel printing plate used on Willcox & Gibbs trade card.

Figure 6. Another vignette of the bridge, looking south, from SO-82; as seen on a stock certificate of the Brooklyn Traction Co. and spider press card SO-82A.



The New York & Brooklyn Bridge Rail Road existed from 1883 to 1908 and ran between the bridge terminals. The cable car service was driven by stationary steam engines at the Brooklyn terminus to limit the weight of the cable cars. In 1885 the price was reduced from five to three cents per crossing or 10 for 25 cents. The 40,000 daily bridge crossings in 1887 steadily increased to almost half a million by 1907, and a huge supply of tickets was needed.

Figure 7 shows a ticket intaglio printed by Hamilton Bank Note Engraving & Printing Co., but other tickets bear imprints of the New York Bank Note Co. and Security Banknote Co. These tickets measure just 2" x 1" and though the frames differ slightly, all share the same miniature vignette of the bridge with East River boat traffic. It's unusual that three competing banknote firms would share printing plates, but the volume of tickets required NY&BBRR to contract with multiple printers.

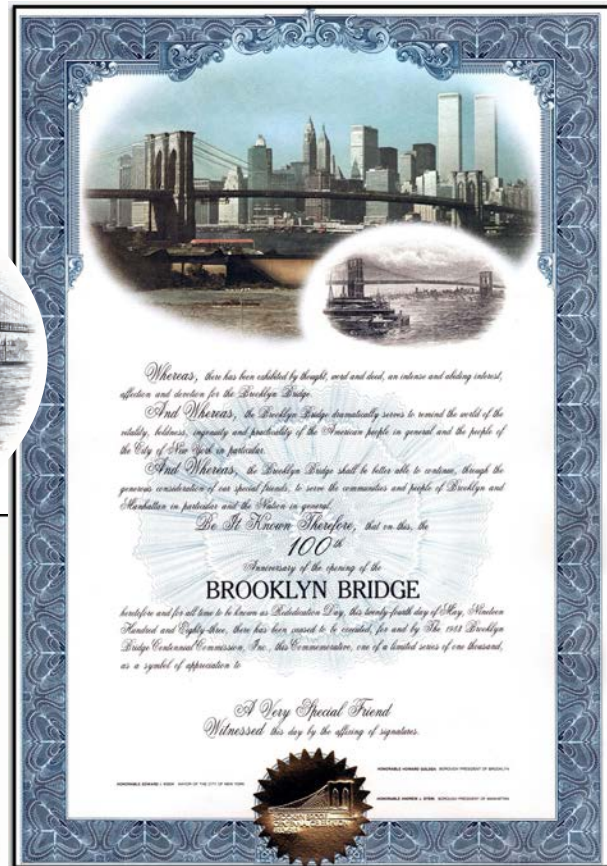
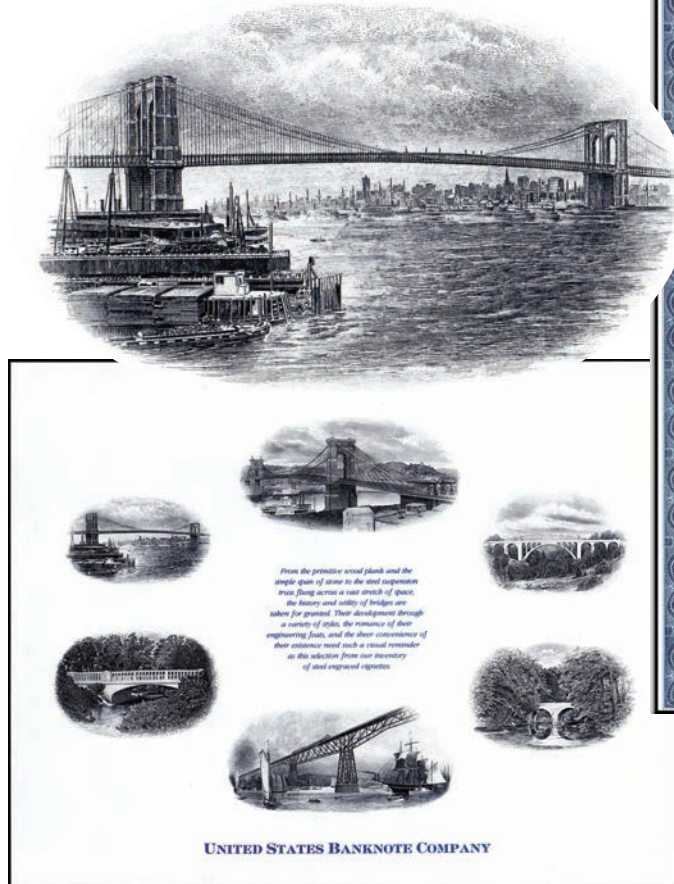
Figure 8 illustrates a certificate celebrating the Brooklyn Bridge's 100th anniversary. The top photograph shows the bridge and Manhattan skyline as it appeared in 1983. Below it is an older

engraving with a similar view, done closer to the time the bridge opened in 1883. To the author's knowledge, this vignette first appeared on a rare stock certificate from The Brooklyn National Bank of New York, issued in the early 1930s. That stock shows an imprint of Security Bank Note Co. of Philadelphia. After a series of mergers, Security evolved into the United States Bank Note Corporation (USBNC), thus this commemorative certificate must have been produced by the USBNC. The text states that 1,000 of these souvenirs were printed, which suggests that some eBay sellers are asking far too much for this item.



Figure 7. This image, magnified 2X, shows a ticket used to cross the Brooklyn Bridge by cable car.

Figure 8. A 1983 commemorative sheet (right) issued for the Brooklyn Bridge centennial and union card F-1987H(c), both containing a vignette engraved for Security BNC.



At the lower left of Figure 8 is an oversize souvenir card (F-1987Hc), one of six that USBNC created for the 82nd IPPDS&EU Convention. This card depicts six different 20th century bridges, including Roebeling's Cincinnati Bridge at top center and the Brooklyn Bridge at top left. The 1992 Dorothy Parker Commemorative Panel (CP-399) also features this vignette.

Figure 9. Below, the Union Ferry Company used a distinctive vignette on their securities, with the bridge in the background. Inset shows mirror image from steel die.

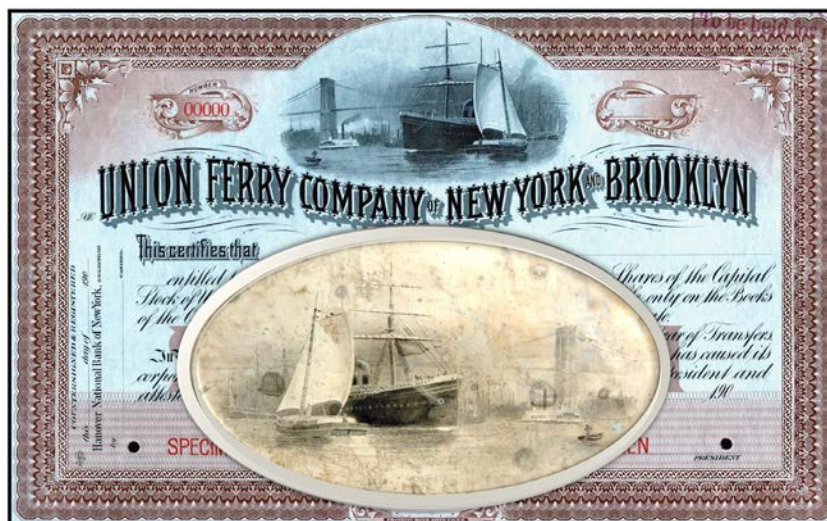


Figure 9 shows a c1900 specimen stock certificate from the Union Ferry Company of New York and Brooklyn with the bridge seen at the left (the company also used this vignette on an 1890 bond). The vignette was engraved by the Franklin Bank Note Co. After Franklin joined American in 1905, the ABNC monogram was added before the word "Union." Besides the Brooklyn Bridge in the background and other ships in the foreground, the vignette shows a Union ferryboat (similar to those found

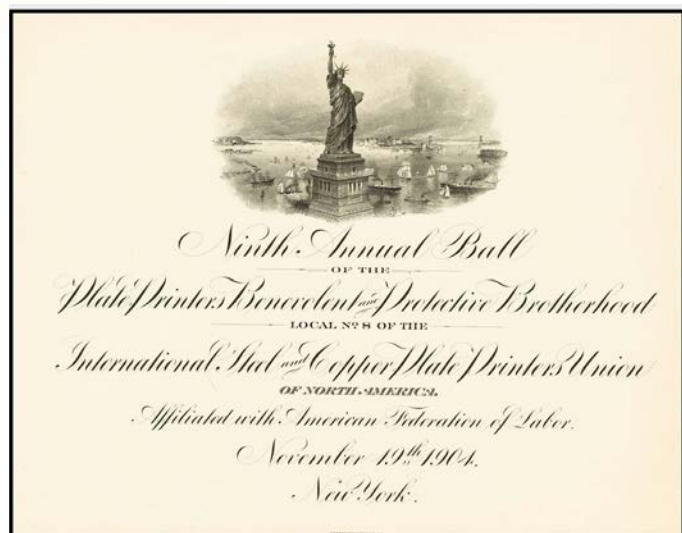


Figure 10. The Statue of Liberty vignette found on SO-43 and other souvenir cards, shows the Brooklyn Bridge to the right, in the distance. It was first used on a 1904 Plate Printers Union card, F-1904A.

in Figures 4 and 6) just below the bridge tower. The Union Ferry operated in the East River from 1890 to 1922, providing service for one cent per crossing — cheaper, but slower, than a Brooklyn Bridge cable car. Even today, the East River Ferry operates between Manhattan's Wall Street Pier 11 and a dock near the old Brooklyn Ferry Building. These days the fare is \$4 one-way, greatly reduced by City of New York subsidies but still about 12 times the inflation-corrected penny of the 1880s.

The Statue of Liberty was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and was dedicated on Bedloe's Island, later known as Liberty Island, on October 28, 1886, some three years after the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge. The statue and the bridge overlapped several years during construction.

Figure 10 shows a prominent Statue of Liberty, engraved by Charles Skinner, with the Brooklyn Bridge in the right background. The earliest known uses found by the author are on a 1904 forerunner card for the ninth annual ball of the Plate Printers Union (F-1904A) and the 10th annual ball, two years later (F-1906A). In 1907, it appears on the annual banquet program of the Bankers of the City of New York (FSO-1907A). During the 1920s, this vignette was used on stock certificates of The Liberty National Bank of New York. More recently, the same vignette shows up on many souvenir cards, including SO-38, 43, 43A, 53, and F-1988C, as well as a 1999 American Commemoratives panel for the Irish Immigration stamp (CP-567), and even in a 1979 ABNC annual report.



If anyone knows of other engraved vignettes related to the Brooklyn Bridge, please contact me at cuf@earthlink.net. Any other comments are always appreciated.



Suggested reading:

The Roebling Legacy, Clifford W. Zink, Princeton Landmark Publications, Princeton, NJ, 2011. With at least a 1,000 contemporary images, this is the best recent book on the Roeblings and their engineering constructions.

Chief Engineer: Washington Roebling, The Man Who Built the Brooklyn Bridge, Erica Wagner, Bloomsbury USA, 2017.

A Complete History of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge, S.W. Green, 1883. Gives a contemporary history.

"John Roebling's Three Pittsburgh Bridges," Bernhard Wilde, *Scripophily*, No. 117, December 2021, p. 17-21. (Two further articles on Roebling bridges are set to be published in *Scripophily* in the near future.)

AN INTRODUCTION TO ATA CARDS

Don Epp

One of the challenges the SCCS Cataloging Committee faces is determining which cards conform to the standards established for inclusion in the catalog. As SCCS President **Steve Patrick** recently noted when cataloging the American Philatelic Society (APS) cards, some of the early forerunners “drift over into the private card category.” This is especially true for the non-intaglio cards created by and for national philatelic and numismatic organizations. The souvenir cards produced for the American Topical Association (ATA) are no exception.

The American Topical Association is a philatelic organization dedicated to the needs and interests of stamp collectors who collect by theme or topic rather than by country or region. Founded in 1949, the ATA serves as a national umbrella organization for a myriad of groups focused on topical stamp collecting. These are comprised of “study units,” which are groups of collectors who concentrate their efforts on a particular topic, and chapters — regionally-based groups of ATA members. There are currently 43 study units and 38 chapters operating under the ATA umbrella. Figure 1 depicts the original ATA triangular logo, the updated 1971 Coat of Arms logo, and the Americana Unit ATA/APS logo.

The primary national event for the ATA is an annual convention and topical stamp exhibition. From its inception in 1952 through



Figure 1. Original ATA triangle logo, current ATA logo, Americana Unit logo.

1997, the annual event was known as TOPEX. The ATA acted as a co-sponsor for TOPEX shows, with a local philatelic association or club serving as the host. Most of these associations and clubs were ATA affiliates. From 1998 on, the annual convention and exhibition became the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), organized on the national level. The NTSS was subsequently incorporated into the APS Stampshow in 2017, which became the Great American StampShow (GASS) in 2021.

It must be noted that the ATA, on the national level, never produced or issued a souvenir card. The cards were initially produced in the early 1970s by the local philatelic organizations hosting the TOPEX shows with the ATA's acknowledgment and consent. These cards all bear either the ATA logo or a text reference to the American Topical Association. Mint and cancelled examples of some early cards are shown in Figure 2.

Two souvenir cards were produced and issued for the 1981 and 1986 TOPEX shows that only bear text references to the Chicagoland Chapter #15 without the ATA logo, as shown in Figure 3. The Chicagoland Chapter served as the local host for these exhibitions. As such, the cards are included within the category of TOPEX cards issued by host organizations. The Chicagoland Chapter did not produce souvenir cards for any other philatelic events.

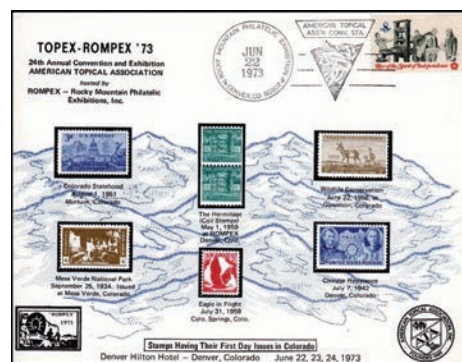
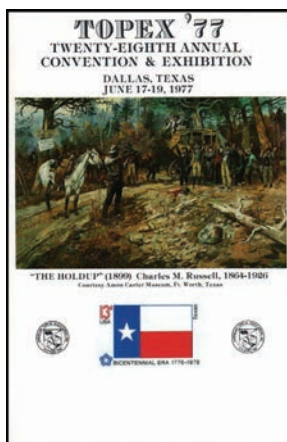
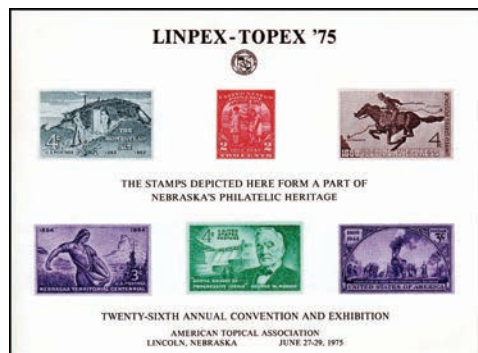


Figure 2. 1970s cards issued by philatelic host organizations for ATA TOPEX.

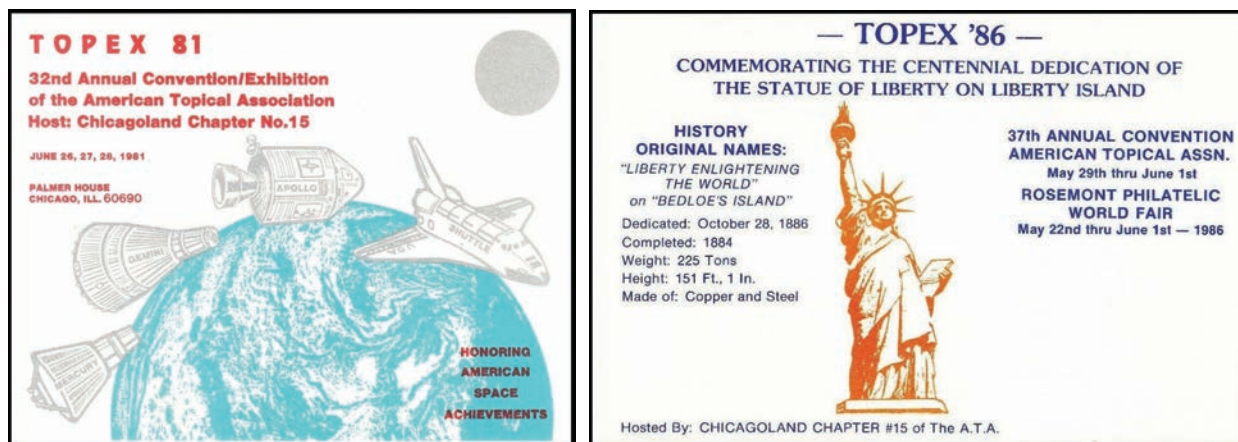


Figure 3. Souvenir cards issued by Chicagoland Chapter #15 of the ATA for TOPEX '81 and '86.

Most souvenir cards produced for TOPEX conventions and exhibitions were issued by the Americana Unit of the ATA. It regularly printed envelopes with cachets for first-day covers and commemorative events. As souvenir cards gained in popularity during the early 1970s, these too were added to the items created by the Americana Unit.



Figure 4. The late Donald Brenke, ATA and SCCS member.

The production of souvenir cards by the Americana Unit was initiated by Donald Brenke (Figure 4), a longtime member of both the ATA and the SCCS. He served on the ATA Board of Directors and held many positions in the organization, including vice president, treasurer, and study unit coordinator. He also wrote several Americana-

themed handbooks for the ATA and was named Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 1979. Unfortunately, his knowledge of ATA souvenir cards was lost when Mr. Brenke passed away in 2018 at the age of 93.

The first cards produced by Donald Brenke were intended as vehicles for U.S. Bicentennial postage stamps, as well as first-day and special cancellations. Brenke established the 4" x 6" format, both vertically and horizontally, used for most Americana Unit

cards. Being general-purpose cards, rather than souvenirs of a particular event, their potential inclusion in the SCCS catalog is questionable.

The five cards initially produced by the Americana Unit, in 1974 and 1975, feature historic Philadelphia landmarks. They bear no logos at all and only a rubber stamped text reference to "Donald Brenke" and the Americana Unit address on the back. Further, these include the text "POST CARD," indicating ATA members could address and mail them. The

SCCS excludes items designed for mailing (post-cards) from listing in the catalog.



Figure 5. Two Americana Unit generic cards from 1976 and 1977. The 1976 card was for events associated with the U.S. Bicentennial and the Americana Unit's 25th Anniversary. The 1977 "all-purpose" souvenir card, shows a 1986 show cancel.

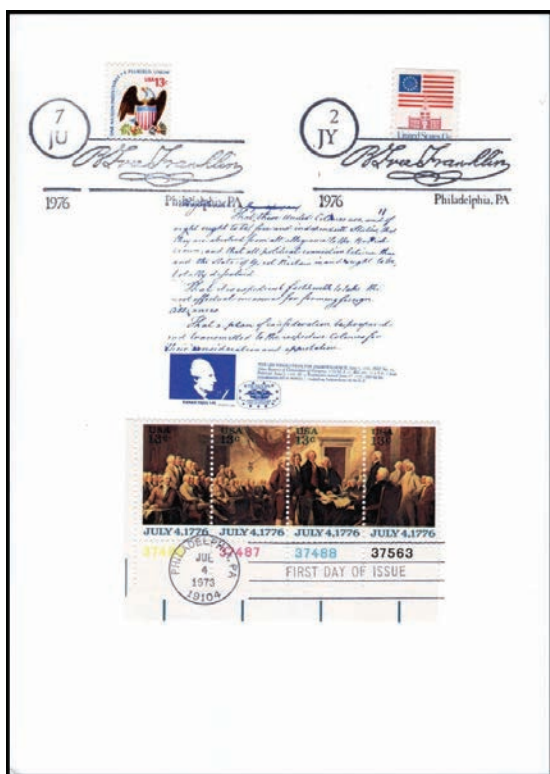
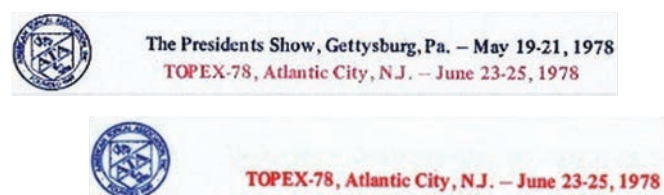


Figure 6. Richard Henry Lee Resolution card from 1976 with first-day and commemorative cancels.

The Americana Unit logo first appears on the front of two general-purpose souvenir cards produced in 1976 and 1977. These and all later cards have no rubber-stamped notations on the reverse. The 1976 card states “Bicentennial Era, 1776-1976” with the special 25th anniversary Americana Unit logo, all in dark red on a buff card. The 1977 card is a true “all-purpose” card bearing a deep red and blue logo along with the ATA and APS logos. As seen in Figure 5, it was in continuous use; the example shown was canceled in 1986.

Another 1976 Americana Unit souvenir card issued for the U.S. Bicentennial, shown in Figure 6, features

Figure 7. The Americana Unit’s first show-specific cards were issued in 1978. The TOPEX card (right) had a single show title, The Presidents Show card had both.



the Richard Henry Lee resolution calling for American independence. Lee was a Virginia statesman who wrote a resolution for the Second Continental Congress in June 1776 calling for American independence from Great Britain. It served as a precursor to the Declaration of Independence. Unlike previous Americana Unit cards, this one measures 7" x 10". But, again, it has no ties to a particular occasion.

In 1978, the Americana Unit started producing souvenir cards for specific philatelic events, primarily TOPEX. The first cards issued depicted presidents of the Continental Congress. These were issued for “The Presidents Show” in Gettysburg, PA, and TOPEX in Atlantic City, NJ. The remainder of these cards were cut down to remove the lower inscriptions and used from 1978 through 1981 for other philatelic events. The full-sized cards measure 6½" x 8½" and the cut-down cards measure 6½" x 7½". A cancelled TOPEX card is shown in Figure 7.

One other Americana Unit general purpose card was produced, this one by Mary Sager in 1981, known among her Americana Unit peers as “Grandmaw Liberty.” Sager created the card, with a green statue “cachet” for the 12¢ Americana Series Liberty Torch issue and for subsequent Statue of Liberty issues through 1986. It measures 6" x 4".

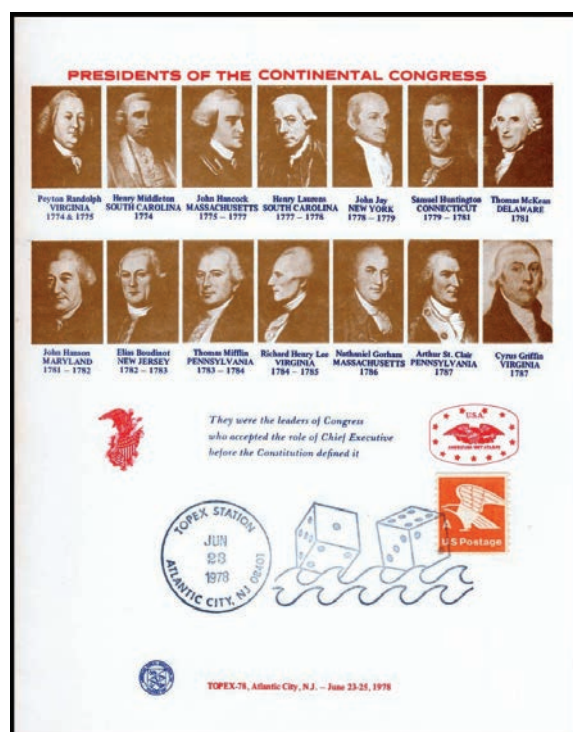




Figure 8. Three Americana Unit TOPEX souvenir cards from 1979, 1988, and 1992.

Most other Americana Unit souvenir cards issued were for TOPEX events and follow the 4" x 6" vertical format. The Americana Unit produced cards for all TOPEX events from 1978 to 1997, except for 1982 and 1986. In 1982, the TOPEX exhibition was cancelled, so the Americana Unit issued a card for the ATA convention at BALPEX '82. It was also used for the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) convention and National Philatelic Exhibition (NAPEX) of that year. In 1986, there was no TOPEX exhibition, but the ATA convention was held in conjunction with Ameripex '86 International Philatelic Exhibition. The card for this convention, previously shown, was issued by the Chicagoland Chapter of the ATA. Upon the conclusion of the TOPEX exhibitions in 1997 and the inception of the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) in 1998, the Americana Unit stopped issuing souvenir cards. No other cards are known to have been produced by the Americana Unit or any other ATA-member organization after this date. Figure 8 shows some of the TOPEX cards issued by the Americana Unit.

Information pertaining to ATA cards was culled from various sources, including an article by Donald Brenke in the Winter 1981 issue of the *Souvenir Card Journal*, numerous issues of *Topical Time*, the journal of the American Topical Association, and the *Fields-Picklo Catalog of Cinderella Stamps*, which includes details about souvenir cards issued at various philatelic shows. It is possible other ATA souvenir

cards may exist, but considering the comprehensive scope of these publications, additional cards are not expected to materialize.

It must be noted the Americana Unit generated an extensive number of cacheted postal cards. These were used at philatelic shows and for the purpose of receiving first-day-of-issue stamp cancellations and commemorative postmarks. As these were valid for postal use, they do not meet the requirements for inclusion in the SCCS Catalog.

The ATA also describes commemorative cards issued at the annual Chicago World Flower Show as "souvenir cards." Each year, the ATA issues a card in conjunction with a flower-themed stamp exhibition held at this show. The card is blank and has used flower stamps from various countries affixed with an undated cancellation reading, "Souvenir of Chicago/ American Topical Association Flower Stamp Exhibition/ World Flower Show." As the cards have no printed text or images and the only ATA attribution is within the cancellation, they fail to satisfy the SCCS criteria for consideration as a souvenir cards.

As always, the Cataloging Committee requests color scans of any ATA cards to be considered for catalog listings. If any member can provide such scans, please contact Journal Editor Greg Alexander.



WEBSITE UPDATE

Greg Alexander

If you like union cards, you will love all the new additions that have been posted in the image galleries during the past few months. The F gallery now has nearly twice as many listings – but there's always room for more, if you can provide new information or scans.

We've also added images for APS-29 and M-57, thanks to **Ron Betz**, and APS-22, thanks to **Don Epp**. With these posted, we have now completed the M and APS categories!

In the MB category, we have de-listed MB-18, which never really existed, and MB-24, which did not meet

our current criteria as a souvenir card. Additional printing amounts have been posted for the ASDA cards from 1989 through 1992 (48 cards). This came from early SC Journals so we hope more data may turn up. You'll also find many new ancillary items throughout the galleries, primarily info sheets that accompanied cards.

As a reminder, we continually update an Excel spreadsheet with all the latest data for the numerous card categories. This is available upon request to all SCCS members.



Some of the many new images now found on the SCCS website. Clockwise, from right: F-1930Ab, F-1916Af, F-2000Da, and FM-2A.



MEMBERS' EXCHANGE

For Sale: Complete White Ace Album-mounted mint collection - BEP and USPS Souvenir Cards; various individual mint BEP Souvenir Cards (several duplicates). Complete White Ace Album-mounted mint and artist-signed US and PA Migratory Bird stamp collection, also various Duck Stamp cards. Contact **John Remaley at jjremaley@yahoo.com**.

For Sale: Washington Chapter One is offering computer-generated color cards. Send a SASE for the full-color list. **John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309-0035**

BUYING selected BEP, ABNCo., USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir cards. Please see the "Buying List"

on my website www.kenbarr.com or write for a hard copy. (Selling, too!) **Ken Barr, P.O. Box 32541, San Jose, CA 95152.**

Wanted Trade or Buy: Assorted BEP, Veterans, SO, USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir or non-souvenir cards — Duck, Private, etc. Please contact **Fredemw@gmail.com** or **Fred Geissler, 11681 Kahns Road, Manassas, VA 20112.**

Wanted: Your free ad here! Contact the Editor at **SCCS1981@yahoo.com** or by snail mail. Ads will be repeated four times, unless you request otherwise. There is NO charge for members.



Souvenir Cards Available from Issuing Organizations

Hobby shows have returned to their pre-Covid frequency, but very few new cards have been issued in recent months. Many cards from past events remain on sale at original prices:

American Philatelic Society

stamps.org; search for "Souvenir"

Available: Most cards issued from 2011 to 2018 (APS-44 to 58), including show-cancelled and sets, from \$2 to \$8.

Ameri-Show Cards

www.souvenircards.org/gallery/Q/Q.html

Available: 30+ intaglio card varieties from past shows at original prices, most \$5 to \$10 (see list on SCCS website). Recent FUN cards available, plus Robert E. Lee show cards for \$5 each, w/\$2 postage. Contact amerishow@gmail.com.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing / U.S. Mint

catalog.usmint.gov/shop/engraved-prints

On Hold: B-245, B-320/324, and many other intaglio prints are listed on the ordering platform, but remain out of stock. We hope they will, in fact, be "Coming Soon."

Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society

www.seal-society.org/literature

Available: More than a dozen card varieties from past shows, ranging from \$2 to \$20. 2022 RMSS and APS cards are available for \$10/set or \$5 each, plus \$3.25 shipping. Contact john@christmasseals.net.

Duck Stamp Cards

Available: 2022-23 duck stamp cards remain on sale at www.duckstamp.com and at store.usps.com. This season's new stamps and cards are expected to be released in June.

NAPEX

www.napex.org/souvenirs/

Available: Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows, many intaglio and/or show cancelled, from \$5 to \$8 per card. NAPEX has not issued cards since 2020. Contact ottojt@verizon.net.

SCCS Washington Chapter #1

John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309

Available: Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows; early cards are intaglio, recent cards are computer printed. Send large SASE for list.

