



The Roots of World Stamp Show-NY 2016 go back 100 years!

Part One in a Ten Part Series
By Steven J. Rod

The Very First IPEX (International Philatelic Exhibition)

In May 2016 when you step into the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City to attend World Stamp Show-NY 2016 (WSS-NY 2016), you will be attending a unique eight day event that traces its history back for more than 100 years. WSS-NY 2016 is the eleventh in a series of International Philatelic Exhibitions (IPEX) held every ten years in the United States, most often in the “6” year. WSS-NY 2016 takes the best of these ten shows, adds its own ingenious Organizing Committee, and brings you the most spectacular IPEX ever! Our 10 issues of *ASD&C* this year, 2015, will be devoted to bringing you the story of each of these previous 10 shows.

It should be noted that the “first stamp exhibition” anywhere took place in Dresden, Germany in 1870. (Some sources cite 1852 in Brussels, but the majority agree upon the Dresden exhibit.) The first stamp exhibition in the United States took place at the Eden Musee in New York City 1889. While there were a plethora of shows from 1870 until 1900 in Europe, there were few held in the US during this time period. The APA (now known as the APS) held an annual meeting each of these early years, which today is known as StampShow, coming up in Grand Rapids, Mich. this August.)

When you are in New York City at World Stamp Show-NY 2016, the 10th IPEX, you can visit the Engineering Societies Building which is still standing (right) at 25 East 39th Street. The sites of the 1913 IPEX, and the 2016 IPEX are a 15 minute walk from one another!



“Not just mere dead, drybone stamps, but charming little talismans...”

The first U.S. IPEX took place from October 27 thru November 1, 1913 in New York City. Many *ASD&C* readers may have thought that the first of the IPEXs was the show held in NYC in October 1926. They know for a fact that the first U.S. souvenir sheet (Scott No. 630—The White Plains Souvenir Sheet) was issued at this colossal IPEX, and therefore it must have been the first IPEX. This is a fairly common belief due to the fact that there was no philatelic USPOD emission to commemorate this first show.

It had been dubbed the “Great Exhibition.” And in evaluating it, phil-

The bold, newly-renovated Jacob Javits Center in New York City, home of the 11th U.S. international philatelic exhibition—World Stamp Show-NY 2016 next year on May 28-June 4, 2016.



\$2,000,000 EXHIBIT OF POSTAGE STAMPS

First International Philatelic
Show Ever Held Here Will
Open This Afternoon.

RARITIES AT \$9,000 EACH

Remarkable Offerings in the Col-
lections of George H. Worthing-
ton and Henry J. Duveen.

The first International Philatelic Ex-
hibition ever held in this country will
be opened to the public at 2 o'clock this
afternoon in the Engineering Societies'
Buildings, 25 to 33 West Thirty-ninth
Street. Stamps from all parts of the
civilized world will be shown by about
300 collectors, American and foreign.
There will be hundreds of thousands of
these stamps, adhesive and envelope,
canceled and uncanceled, common and
rare, dating from the earliest issue
known to the present day. The total
estimated value is more than \$2,000,000.
Some of the rarities have a market value
of from \$5,000 to \$9,000 each. Some are
the only copies known. It is said that
there are at least 500,000 stamp collectors
in the world, of whom more than
150,000 are Americans and fully 25,000
New Yorkers. The present exhibition,
therefore, is a big event in the history
of philately, an amusement, fad, or
hobby, as one will, which numbers
among its devotees monarchs and peasants,
men of all professions and trades,
and citizens of all countries of the world.

Admission to the exhibition will be
free. The hours will be from 2 to 10
P. M. to-day, and from 10 A. M. to 10
P. M. from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, inclusive.
The main exhibition rooms are on the
fifth floor. Additional displays will be
found on the third and fourth floors, at
each side of the auditorium and in the
foyer on the ground floor.

The opening ceremonies will take
place at 8 P. M. to-day in the audi-
itorium. President Thomas W. Churchill
of the Board of Education will make
the opening address. Mayor Kline was
invited to do so, but other duties pre-
vented. Stamp collectors regard their
pastime as educational, so the officers
of the exhibition thought it a fitting
thing to invite Mr. Churchill to offici-
ate. On the committee of honor ap-
pears the name of City Superintendent
of Public Schools Dr. William H. Max-
well.

There will be a German night and
Fest Kommerz at 8 P. M. to-morrow
in Scheffel Hall, Third Avenue and
Seventeenth Street. On Wednesday
from 1 to 3 P. M., there will be a colla-
tion at the Collectors' Club, and at
7:30 P. M. Thursday the official din-
ner will be held at the Hotel Astor,
when it is expected that the awards
of the Judges will be announced.

Prizes for Exhibitors.

These awards consist of a prize tro-
phy, three silver cups, and many
medals. The judges are D. Field and
L. L. R. Mansburg of Great Britain,
and A. H. Caspary, F. R. Cornwall,
Eugene Klein, John A. Klemm, John
N. Luff, B. W. H. Peole, and Walter
S. Scott of the United States.
The grand prize trophy, a bronze fig-
ure of Diana, made by Tiffany, and
given by the Collectors' Club of this
city, will be awarded for the exhibit of
the greatest merit, whether a single col-
lector, or general collection of a group of
countries is displayed by an exhibitor.
One of the silver cups will be awarded
to the exhibit in any class which shows
the most inventions and original re-
search. Another cup will be awarded
to the best exhibit of philatelic publica-
tions. The third cup is called the Vis-
itors' Cup. Each visitor to the exhibi-
tion will receive a ticket on which he
will be requested to vote which exhibit
he considers most interesting. The cup
will be presented to the owner of the
exhibit receiving the largest number of
votes. These cups have been donated
by The Philatelic Gazette, the New
England Stamp Company and the Scott
Stamp and Coin Company. There will
also be handsome exhibition labels don-
ated by the Hamilton Bank Note Com-
pany.

The officers of the exhibition are:
President, George H. Worthington, the
Cleveland, Ohio, capitalist, who owns the
finest and most valuable stamp col-
lection in America, estimated to be worth
\$1,600,000; Vice President, Ernest H.
Ackerman, ex-State Senator of New
Jersey, and also well-known col-
lector; Board of Directors, President,
Julius C. Morgenthau; Vice President,
J. Murray Bartels; Treasurer, John W.
Scott; and Secretary, John A. Klemm.
Mr. Worthington and Henry J. Duveen
of London have the largest exhibits.
Among the former's adhesive United
States stamps are Postmasters, Pro-
visional, carriers' stamps, and Govern-
ment issues, including department and
newspaper stamps. Among the Post-
masters' stamps are three varieties of
the extremely rare Alexandria; 10 cent
J. M. Buchanan Baltimore stamp on
cover; two copies of the Brattleboro,
Vt., stamp; two of the very rare Mill-
bury, Mass., and no less than fifty-four
of the celebrated "Bear Stamp" of St.
Louis, embracing reconstructed plates of
all printings. The carriers' include a
pair of Franklin, unused copies, with
gum; the New York, unused, on rosy
buff paper; the 2 cent and 3 cent, used,
on cover; the 3 cent red in unused pair;
a block of nineteen unused copies of the
Philadelphia carrier and 1 cent gold on
black. The Baltimore and Philadelphia
carriers are complete. The Government
issues consist of several thousand
and sheets, and contain such rare
unused blocks as the 5 cent of 1847; the
5 cent of 1857, brick red; twelve 5 cent
pink of 1861-66 and six 2-cent steel blue;
90 cent blue with grill, issue of 1867; the
90 cent of 1869, and ten 4 cent Colum-
bian error. The so-called Premier
Gravure issue of 1861 is complete. There
are also the 15 cent 1864, unused,
original gum, picture inverted, and the
30 cent of the same issue, unused,
original gum, with flags inverted. The
"Special Printings" are complete, all
in original printings. The stamps, in-
verted by entire sheets, and the department
stamps are all in blocks.

Five Confederate Provisionals.

Among Mr. Worthington's Confederate
States provisional issues are the five-
cent red Athens; full set of the Baton
Rouge stamps, including the errors; ten-
cent pink Beaumont, on cover; five-cent
Danville, on cover; five-cent Emory, on
cover; six varieties of the Goliad, Tex-
as; ten-cent Greenwood, on cover; five-
cent Grove Hill, on cover; five-cent
Helena, Texas, on cover; five-cent blue
Kinston; full set of Knoxville enve-
lopes; five-cent blue Livingston, Ala., on
cover; Lynchburg stamps and envelopes,
complete; Macon, Ga., complete, includ-
ing the two-cent green, on cover; three
varieties of the Marion stamps; recon-
structed sheet of Petersburg, Va.; re-
constructed sheet of Pleasant Shade,
Va.; Salem, Va., five-cent blue, on
cover; Tallie Plains, Tenn., strip of
three, two five-cent and one ten-cent;
three varieties of the Uniontown stamps,
on covers, and the five-cent, unused, and
ten-cent, used, of Victoria, Texas. The
general issues are represented by many
entire sheets and covers.

Mr. Worthington's exhibit of United
States' envelopes entire is contained in
twenty-two large albums, and ranks as
the premier United States collection of
the world. His Transvaal, mostly un-
used and practically complete, contains
more than 225 blocks and covers. His
Hawaii includes a cover with the two-
cent and three-cent "Missionary"
stamps, unused; five-cent and thirteen-
cent "Missionary," unused, original
gum; another five-cent, used, on cover,
and a thirteen-cent, used. There are
also fine specimens of rare Cape of
Good Hope, Ceylon, Nevis, France,
Dominical Republic, Shanghai, and
Cuba issues. The estimated value of
all of the Worthington exhibit is more
than \$250,000.

Mr. Duveen will show the two most
valuable stamps in the entire exhibi-
tion. They are minted copies of the
one penny and two-pence "Post Office"
stamps of Mauritius. Their market
value is about \$15,000. He has a block
of four of the one penny Mauritius of
1848, and also a single copy of the two-
pence, all five stamps unused; a block
of four of the two-pence, unused; recon-
structed plates of both values and nu-
merous specimens showing all stages of
wear of the plates. There are also re-
constructed plates of the small and
large "Lillet" of 1850. His circular
stamps of British Guiana, 1850-51, in-
clude a fine pair of the 2 cent on cover,
and the 4 cent, pellure paper, large mar-
gins, on cover. The issues of 1852-53
and the provisional issue of 1856 are
well represented.

Duveen Specialized Collections.

Among the other noteworthy Duveen
specimens are a highly specialized col-
lection of Japan, displayed on 245 pages;
unused and highly specialized collection
of British stamps; specialized collection
of the early issues of Transvaal; unused
New South Wales, mainly Sydney views
and Lauredated Head issues; highly spe-
cialized Western Australia, including a
copy of the very rare 4-penny blue of
1854, with the wavy inverted; the finest
collection of unused German States ex-
tant; all the Tuscan varieties; a superb
Switzerland collection, including a block
of nine double Geneva, unused, from the
top two rows of the sheet with imprint,
and a block of twenty 5-cent Geneva,
large eagle, the top two rows with mar-
ginal descriptions; early Portugal
issues; Portuguese India, including the
rare first issue on their transparent
brittle paper and thick soft wove paper;
Buenos Ayres rarities and a highly
specialized collection of China, mainly
unused, showing all the printings of the
first type. The entire Duveen exhibition
is estimated at from \$250,000 to \$500,000.
Franc Reichenheim of London shows
a fine specialized collection of French
stamps; Sydney Lober of London, a col-
lection of British stamps which, at the
London Exhibition in October, 1912, re-
ceived the championship Great Gold
Medal and A. T. Warren of England,
noteworthy collection of the
Netherlands and Dutch Indies; Charles
J. Pack shows rare Canadas and a
specialized collection of the Argentine
Republic in fourteen albums, including
two copies of the rare 12-cent without
accent, and two copies of the rare en-
velope error 5-cent green instead of red
with sun water mark. He has also a
fine lot of the Ceres of Good Hope. His
other South American collections con-
tain many rarities. The United States
Government issues finest in the
country; C. E. Chapman, with his
Postmasters' and Carriers' Stamps and
Locals and J. M. Bartels with his Philip-
pine Islands and Bureau Printed stamps
are also noteworthy. H. E. Deas has a
good exhibit of United States Tele-
graph stamps. The Afghanistan and
other collections of Col. F. H. Man-
cock of 177-Culme are also deserving
of mention.

NEW • 1913 • YORK



Engineering Societies Building
25-33 West 39th Street

The front cover of the detailed program
of the 1913 international exhibition.

atic editor Hugo Griebert, proclaimed "Not a single European
Exhibition has attained to that which New York has shown can
be achieved." This is an example of American ingenuity at its best, as
shows had been taking place in Europe since the late 1880s.

One of the greatest tributes to the show was made by Fred J.
Melville of London, already a very famous collector and philatelic
writer worldwide. Speaking at the show's banquet, held at the Ho-
tel Astor, he told the dinner guests: "I must say without any quali-
fications that the New York Exhibition of stamps is equal in every
respect to anything of the kind that has ever been held in Europe."
Again, dear reader, we may have gotten into the race late, but since
1913 we've remained in the number one position!

The usual amenities of an IPEX, cacheted covers, souvenir
sheets, commemorative stamp issues, and special cancellations
did not begin until the second IPEX held in 1926. The 1913 New
York show was a gathering of stamp collectors and stamp exhibits,
from around the USA and the world, under one roof, without the
three major icons of the all of the later IPEXs: there were no stamp
dealer booths, there were no post offices from around the world,
and the U.S. post office turned down the invitation to participate.

In fact, the closest thing to official U.S. government participa-
tion at the 1913 IPEX was that Joseph E. Ralph, director of the
Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was the guest of honor/guest
speaker at the Exhibition banquet held at the Hotel Astor.

Thanks to the Hamilton Bank Note Company of New York,
there are poster stamps honoring the Show. It is a beautiful set of
steel engraved stamps featuring the portrait of George Washington
and calling attention to the forthcoming IPEX. A zealous U.S. at-
torney forbade their circulation since he felt that they looked like
postage stamps and might be fraudulently used as such. This seems
to have been a particular strange decision since the stamps were
three times larger than the U.S. stamp in circulation at the time!
After a prolonged battle, almost too late to help promote the show,
a compromise was reached to overprint the labels "Open October

On the morning of October 27,
1913, *The New York Times* ran
this extensive article on Ameri-
ca's first International Philatelic
Exhibition. It was quite a tribute
to the stamp collecting hobby!

27 to November 1” and their distribution was once again permitted. It was felt that their overprinting would prevent their use as postage stamps. These engraved poster stamps were the only philatelic item especially prepared to promote and/or honor the 1913 IPEX. Collectors do seek out admission tickets, banquet tickets and menus, and the Show Program.

The success of the Great Exhibition was attributed in large part to its hard working executive committee, almost all of whom were our early hobby leaders, and members of the Collectors Club, the driving force behind this show. The nine members were J.M. Bartels, J.B. Chittenden, J.A. Klemann, Eugene Klein, John N. Luff, L.B. Mason, J.C. Morgenthau, Arthur K. Owen, and J.W. Scott. All but Mason, Chittenden and Klemann have been elected to the APS Hall of Fame. (Have you checked out our hobby’s Hall of Fame listings? Go to www.stamps.org/hall-of-fame. Meet the men and women who came before us.)

Exhibitors from all over the United States and the world attended the show. There were 331 exhibits, of which 211 won six levels of medals: grand gold, gold, silver gilt, silver, bronze, and certificates.

Here’s the most interesting part of the story: these exhibits were all displays of selected pages from the exhibitors albums. Rule No. 11 of the Exhibition Prospectus states: “Albums of stamps will be shown open at such pages as seem interesting to the Executive Committee. These pages will be varied from time to time during the Exhibition. Such albums will shown in cases and may not be inspected, except by the judges, without the permission of the owner, and then only in the presence of the owner or a member of the Committee.

Considering World Stamp Show-NY 2016 will have 4,000 exhibition frames featuring 64,000 exhibit pages, we can see the sea change in philatelic exhibiting that has occurred since the first IPEX. Save this entire series to see the changes which occurred every 10 years.

The three top prizes (“Grand Golds”) went to the collections of George H. Worthington (who happened to be the IPEX President) for his outstanding U.S. collection; Sydney Loder for his Great Britain collection and Henry J. Duveen’s Mauritius collection. Each is worthy of our interest to this day.

Worthington’s untitled exhibit of U.S. stamps seems to have been his entire collection. It included “...the Premiere Gravure Issue complete, Postmaster Provisionals, Carriers’ and several thousand blocks and sheets of government issues (referring to the pre-1894 BEP issues) as well as all the Bureau Printings which were represented by entire sheets.” Wow! You won’t see this exhibit at World Stamp Show-NY 2016...it is the exact opposite of what exhibiting has become in the 21st century.

Loder’s untitled exhibit of Great Britain material was called “the finest collection extant of this country next to that of the late Earl of Crawford, as it consists...of material which defies description in the pages of an exhibition catalogue. The catalogue then follows with 13 paragraphs describing the contents of his Grand Gold collection.

The last grand gold went to Henry J. Duveen for his untitled exhibit of Mauritius material. Compared to the very long catalogue description of Worthington and Loder, Duveen’s description is “Unused Copies of both the 1d and 2d ‘Post Office’ are shown.

The issue of 1848 includes a block of four of the 1d and a single copy of the 2d, both on yellowish paper and unused, in the earli-

International Philatelic Exhibition

New York - 1913



This is the (very fragile) first prospectus issued to invite exhibitors and attendees.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

NEW YORK, OCT., 1913

GEO. H. WORTHINGTON, Esq.,
President

HON. E. R. ACKERMAN,
Vice-President



*W. A. Sisson
314 Pine
St. Louis*

est state of the plate; also a block of four of 2d yellowish paper; unusual, medium state of the plate. There are reconstructed plates of both values and numerous specimens showing all stages of wear of the plates.

There are also reconstructed plates of the small and large ‘fillet’ of 1859 as well as single specimens unused and used. The collection includes numerous unused copies of the lithographed stamps of 1859, a perforated 1sh green of 1862, unused, and is practically complete in all subsequent issues, unused.

Writers reviewing the exhibits used mouth watering superlatives in describing all three, as well as dozens of others on view.

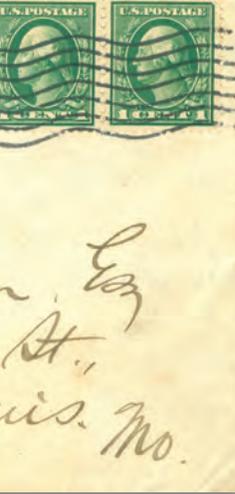
Of interest is the award of the “visitors cup,” which was awarded to the exhibit receiving the most votes from exhibition visitors, or as we call it today, the “most popular” vote. The cup went to Joseph A. Steinmetz of Philadelphia. His exhibit, listed under the “Miscellaneous” category was a bit strange. He described it as “A Hundred or so graphic pages, selected at random from a wonderland collection—Messengers from the Isles of the Seven Seas, from the Orient and the Occident and from the Polar Lands of the Snows.

“Not just mere dead, drybone stamps, but charming little tal-

International Philatelic Exhibition
ENGINEERING SOCIETIES BUILDING
 25 to 33 WEST 39th. St.—NEW YORK
 Oct. 27, 1913—2 P.M. to 10 P.M.
 Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, 1913—10 A.M. to 10 P.M.
ADMIT ONE

An admission ticket to the exhibition. Note the late hours of the show everyday.

New York City's famed Flatiron Building stands tall near Madison Square in 1923, the year of America's first IPEX.



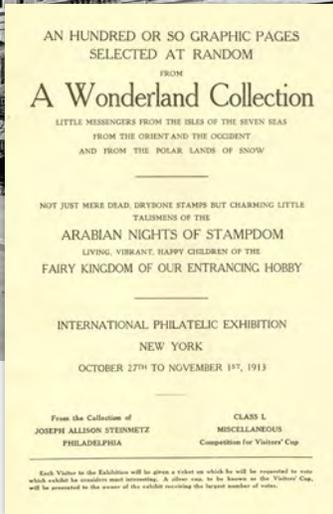
A very rare corner card for the first IPEX; note that a return address is missing from it. Post-marked over a year and a half before the exhibition opened.



THE NEW YORK
GOVERNMENT TAKES
EXHIBITION STAMPS
 Wise Orders Plate and Reproductions of Beautiful Philatelic Label Destroyed.
TOO LIKE NATIONAL ISSUES
 Directors of Exhibition Surrender Plate Under Protest, but Stamps Have Been Scattered Over World.



How ridiculous this *New York Times* headline seems today: "Too Like National Issues!" The poster stamps in eight beautiful colors were finally saved by the idea of overprinting them so they could not be used for postage!



The title page to the 56 page booklet that Joseph A. Steinmetz distributed free at the 1913 IPEX promoting his exhibit.

ismans of the Arabian Nights of Stampdom, living, vibrant happy children of the Fairy Kingdom of our entrancing hobby." The exhibit also won a silver medal, showing that the most popular is not necessarily the grand award winner or its runner ups!

Shown here is the self-promoting booklet that Mr. Steinmetz had printed and distributed to show visitors.... A sort of "Hey, vote for me!" giveaway. Consulting the dictionary reminded me that one of talisman's definition is "anything whose presence exercises a remarkable or powerful influence on human feelings or actions".

Highly respected philatelic editor, C.H. Mekeel, writing in the December, 1913 *Philatelic Journal of America* discussing the jury noted, "The opinion has been freely expressed that the judges did not have sufficient time to properly perform the duties, in connection with the several hundred awards they made, but that they did magnificent work in the time performed is the universal expression."

WSS-NY 2016 Jury Chair Stephen Reinhard is busy making sure his jury, coming from all over the world, will be large enough to accomplish all of the "duties" in a timely manner.

For a USA first, the show was a great success. It was marred only by the theft of three of the 1869 inverts belonging to C.E.

Chapman (15¢, 24¢ and 30¢) and valued at \$2,500. According to the 2015 *Scott Specialized Catalogue* these three stamps have a value of \$2,550,000 today!

The stamps were stolen on the last day of the show as the show was about to close. A reward of \$500 and "no questions asked" was offered by Mr. Chapman in advertisements in the philatelic press, and he arranged for many foreign publications to carry this notice as well. Reference to their recovery has never appeared in subsequent years.

The show took place in what was known as the Engineering Societies Building located at 25 East 39th Street near 5th Avenue. It was built in 1907 as a gift from Andrew Carnegie to the City, and was considered state of the art exhibition space. It is interesting to note that the Grand Central Palace, site of the 1926, 1936 and 1947 IPEXs had opened in 1911.

We will discuss the second U.S. IPEX, held 13 years later in 1926 in New York City. It is the show that began the decennial cycle in the "6" year, an exciting tradition which is next occurring in the City in May 2016.

In the meantime, we hope you are making plans to travel to take in WSS-NY 2016. See you there! ✉