

Members of Congress exhibit their stamps

A three-day public exhibition in Washington, D.C., gives exposure to lawmakers' collecting interests.

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Canadian stamp to commemorate home children

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Congressmen exhibit their stamp collections at Rayburn House

six members of Congress.

off some of their collec-

tions, and opportunities for

By Bill McAllister **Washington Correspondent**

A three-day exhibit of the stamp collections of six members of Congress should give any stamp collector a new reason to run for public office: it'll improve your stamp collection.

That's one of the lessons

I took from the Congressional Stamp Exhibit held in the Rayburn House office building July 28-30.

In the photograph shown in Figure 1, the image of former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, looks down as visitors peruse the stamp exhibits of

youngsters to learn about the hobby. What the exhibit also displayed was the ability of some savvy collectorpoliticians who managed to combine their access to the world's elite with their stamp collections. Where else would you find Rep. Gary Ackerman, D-N.Y., posting a note from

That was Bush's accolade to Ackerman for his work in securing the nondenominated (34c+11c)Heroes of 2001 semipostal stamp (Scott B2) honoring the first-responders of R-Pa., started getting the terrorist attack on the famous people to sign

President George W. Bush,

who dubbed him "Stamp

Dude?"

The product of what one organizer called "out of the box" thinking by stamp enthusiasts in Washington, D.C., it offered six lawmakers a chance to show

Figure 2. Shown in the exhibit frame, a first-flight cover belonging to Sen. Carl Levin that was signed by President Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat.

World Trade Center.

And where else would you find a 1977 first-flight cover from Israel to Egypt signed by President Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat? Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., met all three during Carter's Middle East peace efforts, and the result was an unusual cover. The signed cover is shown in Figure 2, mounted inside the exhibit frame.

Rep. Joseph R. Pitts,

blocks of stamps while he was serving as a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

Harry and Bess Truman signed stamps for him, as did Richard and Pat Nixon, Gerald and Betty Ford, and George H.W. Bush.

He added astronauts' signatures to his collection, too. Neil Armstrong autographed his block of 10¢ First Man on the Moon airmail stamps (Scott C76). John Glenn signed his 4¢ Friendship 7 Capsule and Globe stamp (1193). He later got astronauts Michael



Figure 1. The image of former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn looks down as visitors peruse the stamp exhibits of six members of Congress at an exhibition held July 28-30 in the Rayburn House office building in Washington, D.C.

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Collins and James Irwin to sign other space stamps.

Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, a senior member of the House armed services committee, uses his foreign travels to pick up stamps from the countries he has visited. He showed off some North Korean stamps with anti-American themes, and others showing the Koreans' affinity for China.

Rep. Robert B. Aderhold, R-Ala., collects covers and postmarks from his state. He exhibited an autographed cover signed by football coaching legend Paul "Bear" Bryant, along with some pages from his childhood stamp album. One page graphically showed, he told visitors, how "not to collect stamps." Stamps in his pages had been placed in the album with tape.

Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, an Eagle Scout and a promoter of the just-issued 44¢ Scouting stamp, had his frame filled with a first-day program and stories about the new stamp.

lan Gibson-Smith, shown



Figure 3. Ian Gibson-Smith, the stamp collector who came up with the idea of the members of Congress exhibition.

near the exhibits in the photograph in Figure 3, is a stamp collector from Martinsburg, W.Va., who came up with the idea for the exhibit. He said it all proves "there is no right way or wrong way to collect stamps. You just collect what you like."

The exhibit drew a steady stream of visitors, he said. Among the guests were five members of Congress who asked, "Why didn't you ask me?"

All were stamp collectors and might get their chance next year, Gibson-Smith says.

A volunteer at the National Postal Museum, Gibson-Smith said he is hoping the display will become an annual event. It was sponsored by the museum and Stamp Camp USA, a twoday event for young collectors, and the American Philatelic Society.

Of the six exhibitors, Levin's pages were the most remarkable. In addition to his Begin-Sadat-Carter cover, he also had a number of other items that would make

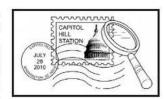


Figure 4. This Capitol Hill Station special cancellation shows an image of the Capitol dome.

any collection sparkle.

Among them: one of the famous "Stamp Collector for President" covers featuring Franklin D. Roosevelt and bearing his autograph; a full sheet of the 1935 3¢ Michigan Centenary stamps (Scott 775) signed by President Roosevelt and Harold Ickes, his Secretary of the Interior; a front page of a stamp album owned by Frank Crawford of White Plains, N.Y., and autographed by both John F. Kennedy and Harry Truman; an Overrun Nations cover bearing the 5¢ Flag of Poland stamp (909), signed by Polish labor leader, anti-communist dissident and later president, Lech Walesa: and a Jordanian cover franked with

King Hussein stamps and bearing his autograph.

There was also a cover signed simply "Edward," formerly King Edward VIII, the British monarch who gave up his throne to marry Wallis Simpson. It carried U.S. postmarks for Jan. 21, 1936, the day Edward the VIII ascended the throne, and Dec. 10, 1936, the day he abdicated; and a British June 3, 1937, postmark on the day he married Simpson.

Clearly, Levin is a collector who knows how to add value to his collection.

The exhibit featured lots of free stamps for new collectors as well as a number of young stamp campers who were creating their own displays and projects out of stamps.

For the exhibit, the Postal Service also created the Capitol Hill Station special cancellation showing an image of the Capitol dome pictured in Figure 4, and a cacheted envelope depicting the Rayburn House. The envelope was available during the show for \$2.



44¢ Scouting stamp is a big hit at National Scout Jamboree

By Bill McAllister Washington Correspondent

Anyone worried about the future of stamp collecting should have been in the pine forests south of Fredericksburg, Va., on July 27.

On that hot summer morning, the Boy Scouts and their leaders lined up by the hundreds to buy the new United States 44¢ Scouting commemorative and to get it canceled in a tiny post office manned by vice our utmost appreciaa handful of postal clerks.

To be sure, many of the 35,000 Scouts and their leaders at the National Scout Jamboree were enthralled by the high-tech

electronics and free Wi-Fi zones that were available during the 10-day encampment at Fort A.P. Hill. Cell phones and computers were the things to bring to the jamboree.

But the long lines at the post office and the quick disappearance of all 1,500 first-day programs showed that a lot of young people still love stamps.

"We offer the Postal Sertion for allowing Scouting to have a place in history with this stamp," Robert Mazzuca, the chief scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America, said in

dedicating the new stamp.

Mazzuca urged Scouts to send military service members a letter thanking them for their service to the nation, and he made certain that the Scouts knew what an honor the stamp was.

"Stamps are part of the American culture that even predates Scouting." he said, adding, "And we know that's a good thing.

"Over the years many a Scout has used stamps to send a note home from camp. 'Mom, send money.' Or to post his laundry home.



Figure 2. Postal Service vice president Sam Pulcrano helps unveil the 44¢ Scouting stamp at the National Scout Jamboree in Virginia on July 27. Looking on are Eagle Scout Jerome V. Biedny and Lt. Col. John Haefner, the garrison commander at Fort A.P. Hill.

It's an honor to receive this to our country over the last distinction of a stamp."

Mazzuca noted that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee receives about 50,000 stamp subject requests a year.

"And for us to have been picked out of that incredible array of good ideas, is really remarkable," he noted.

the importance of Scouting

100 years."

The fact that there was a stamp - the third commemorative to honor the Boy Scouts of America - was a testimony to the hard work and intense lobbying by the Scouts.

Randall Frank, head of the Scouts on Stamps "It speaks volumes about Society International and a Scout leader from New-







Figure 1. The three United States stamps previously issued to commemorate the Boy Scouts of America: a 4¢ Boy Scout Giving Scout Sign stamp (Scott 1145), a 22¢ Boy Scouts stamp (2161) and, from the Celebrate the Century series, a 32¢ Boy Scouts Started in 1910, Girl Scouts Formed in 1912 stamp (3183j).







30 LINN'S STAMP NEWS August 23, 2010 www.linns.com port Beach, Calif., attributed the new commemorative to the game plan Alan Kane, the director of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, laid before Scout leaders during the last jamboree, held in 2005 at the same Army post.

"It was a challenging experiment," Frank said after the first-day ceremony.

He said that Scout leaders were fearful that the U.S. Postal Service would tell them that the Scouts already had their share of stamps.

The first U.S. Scouting stamp was the 4¢ Boy Scout Giving Scout Sign stamp (Scott 1145) issued Feb. 8, 1960, for the 50th anniversary of the organization. The design was based on a painting by Norman Rockwell.

In 1985, the USPS issued a 22¢ Boy Scouts stamp (Scott 2161) for the organization's 75th anniversary.

The third issue was a 32¢ Boy Scouts Started in 1910, Girl Scouts Formed in 1912 stamp (Scott 3183j) ter way to raise awareness



Figure 3. A Scout patch created for the 2010 National Scout Jamboree based on the design of the 4¢ stamp issued in 1960.

in the 1910s pane from the Celebrate the Century series. Figure 1 shows all three stamps.

Frank called the new stamp fantastic.

Sam Pulcrano, a Postal Service vice president, said the support of more than 300 members of Congress helped get the Scouts their fourth stamp.

During his remarks at the stamp's dedication, Pulcrano paid special tribute to Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, a former Eagle Scout, who played a key role in lining up that support, "We at the Postal Service know there is no bet-

for a cause than to feature it on a postage stamp."

A Scout leader himself, Pulcrano plugged the educational value of stamps and urged the Scouts to earn the stamp collecting merit badge.

"Stamps are a fun way to learn about people, institutions and geography, which make our country great," he said.

Pulcrano added that they could go down the road to Richmond, Va., to see one of the country's major stamp shows, the American Philatelic Society's Stampshow to take place Aug. 12-15.

In the photograph shown in Figure 2, Postal Service vice president Sam Pulcrano helps unveil the 44¢ Scouting stamp at the jamboree. Looking on are Eagle Scout Jerome V. Biedny, who is a stamp collector, and Lt. Col. John es for the jamboree based Haefner, the garrison commander at Fort A.P. Hill.

Richard Clement, a merit badge adviser from San Diego, said he and his helper



Figure 4. Hundreds of Scouts lined up for Scouting stamps and cancels outside the Fort A.P. Hill post office.

hope to coach 300 Scouts post office had anticipated to earn the merit badge during the jamboree. At the previous jamboree, 285 Scouts earned the badge.

Scouts love to trade souvenirs, patches and other memorabilia of Scouting at the jamborees. That made the new stamp and firstday program ideal collectibles for most Scouts.

Clement created patchon the design of the 4¢ Boy Scout Giving Scout Sign stamp issued in 1960. Figure 3 depicts the patch.

The tiny Fort A.P. Hill the 10-day jamboree. ■

long lines for the stamp ceremony.

As seen in the photograph shown in Figure 4, a roomful of chairs was provided for the hundreds of Scouts who stood in these long lines outside the post office to buy the new stamp from the two window clerks.

Signs outside the post office urged the Scouts not to worry, assuring them that the stamps and firstday cancellations would be available for the duration of