



APS CHAPTER #122934



WWW.WILKINSBURGSTAMPCLUB.COM

## EARLY ISSUES FOR 2017

**YEAR OF THE ROOSTER (LUNAR NEW YEAR)  
(FIRST DAY OF ISSUE WAS JANUARY 5)**

The Year of the Rooster stamp is the 10th of 12 stamps in the current Celebrating Lunar New Year cycle. Compared to the design of most previous stamps in this current stamp series, the animal is pictured prominently, in the form of a rooster emblazoned on a red envelope. Parents present red envelopes containing money to children and loved ones during Lunar New Year celebrations. The color red symbolizes luck in Chinese culture, while rooster imagery is often used to ward off evil spirits.

The Year of the Rooster begins January 28, 2017 and ends February 15, 2018. In popular Chinese culture, people born in the Year of the Rooster, among other traits, symbolize fidelity and punctuality—the rooster being known for waking up people regularly and on time.



**LOVE SKYWRITING  
(FIRST DAY OF ISSUE WAS JANUARY 7)**

This stamp is a continuation of the Postal Service tradition of creating stamps that celebrate love. The first such stamp, issued in 1973, used as the basis for its design Robert Indiana's pop art "LOVE" sculpture. The 2017 Love Skywriting stamp is intended to add a romantic touch to letters and cards, not only on Valentine's Day, but year-round. As described by the Postal People, "the stamp depicts the word 'Love' written in white cursive script against a blue sky studded with wispy clouds. Underlining the word is a decorative swirl of smoke. A small, stylized plane, dwarfed by the giant letters, completes the end of the swirl, with smoke trailing from its tail."



**DOROTHY HEIGHT  
BLACK HERITAGE SERIES  
(FIRST DAY OF ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 1)**

The 40th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Dorothy Height, an activist who dedicated her life to fighting for racial and gender equality.

Dorothy Height was born in Richmond, Virginia. **During childhood, she moved with her family to Rankin, Pennsylvania, a steel town in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, where she graduated from Rankin High School in 1929.**

**NOTE: When WSC member and current secretary Lorraine Vincent was a child she met her and recalled calling her "the hat lady".**

Starting her career as a caseworker in the New York City Welfare Department, she joined the National Council of Negro Women in 1937, serving as the organizations president from 1957 to 1997.

She became one of the most influential civil rights leaders of the 20th century, providing advice and support to U.S. Presidents from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Lyndon Johnson. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994.



**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - FEBRUARY, 2017**

**OFFICERS / ADDRESS / WHEN WE MEET**

**President:** Andy Novotny  
(email: novoand@hotmail.com)

**Vice-President:** Laura Kaczynski  
(email: laurakac13@verizon.net)

**Secretary:** Lorraine Vincent  
(email: LVincent04@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Danielle Weaver  
(email: dmm742000@yahoo.com)

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Wilkinsburg Stamp Club  
P.O. Box 10552  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0552

We meet on the second and fourth Sunday (except holidays and fourth Sunday in June, July and August) of each month. Meetings are from 12:30 P.M. until close of business, with the business meeting at 2:00 P.M. Meeting at the Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill, PA 15235.

**DUES ARE ONLY \$8.00 PER YEAR (JULY-JUNE)**

**Newsletter Editor:** Tom Reiff  
(email: treiffer@msn.com)

**Mailing Coordinator:** Danielle Weaver  
(email: dmm742000@yahoo.com)

**THE EDITOR WRITES...**

My show exhibit is almost ready to go.  
How about yours?

I always look forward to seeing the really nice exhibits that our members display.

**FEBRUARY, 2017 MEETING DATES**

February 12th and February 26<sup>th</sup>

**On February 26th an AUCTION is scheduled after the meeting. Bring your auction lots (limit 5). You will receive 100% of the price.**



**VALENTINE'S DAY**

**GREAT BRITAIN**

**ISSUED FEB 6, 1981**

**(SCOTT #933)**

This newsletter is published ten times per year. Eight issues are published monthly for the months of January, February, March, April, September, October, November and December. For the months of May through August, two issues are published, one for the months of MAY-JUNE and one for the months of JULY-AUGUST.

\*\*\*\* **OUR FISCAL YEAR IS JULY 1 – JUNE 30** \*\*\*\*

**CLUB NEWS**

**OFFICER NOMINATIONS:** Nominations for office of Vice-President and Treasurer will be held at the February 12th and 26th meetings. All regular members, in good standing, shall be permitted to be nominated. A second will not be required. Term of office is from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

**STATE OF THE CLUB:** The Club currently has 70 members from 8 different states. Membership includes three (3) associate/honorary members and five (5) members are also stamp dealers. Regrettably seven (7) members were dropped from the membership for non-payment of dues. Hopefully their dues will be sent and they will be reinstated.

**2017 CATALOGUES:** All 2017 Scott catalogues Volumes 1 through 6 and the U.S. Specialized are now available at the meetings

**WILKPEX 2017 UPDATE – APRIL 22 & 23**

**Dealers:** Danielle Weaver, Bourse Chair, has reported that we currently have 10 dealers using 19 tables. No more dealer space is available.

**Cachet & Cancel:** Gene Bujdos has reported that the Eugene Walter (Gene) Baker (Pittsburgh Pirates) cancel and cachet have been designed.

**Souvenir Sheet:** Tom Reiff reports that the souvenir sheets are ready to be printed. This year we will have two (2) versions spoofing the Star Trek stamps. There will be a censored version and an uncensored version.

**Exhibits:** We currently have four (4) members committed to exhibit: Eugene Bujdos (2 exhibits), Tom Reiff (1 exhibit), Lorraine Vincent (2 exhibits) and Danielle Weaver (2 exhibits). With these members exhibiting, and 3 frames being used by the club, we have filled 17 frames. We still have three (3) open frames to be filled.

**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB – FEBRUARY, 2017**

**NICOLAUS COPERNICUS, MATHEMATICIAN AND ASTRONOMER – BORN IN FEBRUARY**

Nicolaus Copernicus was a Polish astronomer, best known for his theory that the Sun and not the Earth is at the centre of the universe.

Copernicus was born on 19 February 1473 in Thorn (modern day Torun) in Poland. His father was a merchant and local official. When Copernicus was 10 his father died, and his uncle, a priest, ensured that Copernicus received a good education. In 1491, he went to Krakow Academy, now the Jagiellonian University, and in 1496 travelled to Italy to study law. While a student at the University of Bologna he stayed with a mathematics professor, Domenico Maria de Novara, who encouraged Copernicus' interests in geography and astronomy.

During his time in Italy, Copernicus visited Rome and studied at the universities of Padua and Ferrara, before returning to Poland in 1503. For the next seven years he worked as a private secretary to his uncle, now the bishop of Ermland (Warmia)

The bishop died in 1512 and Copernicus moved to Frauenberg, where he had long held a position as a canon, an administrative appointment in the church. This gave him more time to devote to astronomy. Although he did not seek fame, it is clear that he was by now well known as an astronomer. In 1514, when the Catholic church was seeking to improve the calendar, one of the experts to whom the pope appealed was Copernicus.

Copernicus' major work 'De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium' ('On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres') was finished by 1530. Its central theory was that the Earth rotates daily on its axis and revolves yearly around the sun. He also argued that the planets circled the Sun. This challenged the long held view that the Earth was stationary at the centre of the universe with all the planets, the Moon and the Sun rotating around it.

'De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium' was published in early 1543 and Copernicus died on 24 May in the same year.

Copernicus has been honored with stamps from many countries, especially Poland. Shown below are images of a few Copernicus stamps, a souvenir sheet and an FDC showing year, country and Scott number.



1974 CAMEROON – C220



1943 POLAND OCCUPATION - NB27



1923 POLAND – 192



1973 INDIA – 573



1973 U.S.A. 1488



1973 BRAZIL SOUVENIR SHEET - 1301



1973 GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - 1461 FIRST DAY COVER

**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB – FEBRUARY, 2017****MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Upcoming  
Stamp, Postcard and Collectible Shows

**STAMP SHOW** – February 12 – **HUDSON, OHIO** - Hudson Stamp Bourse Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 6625 Dean Memorial Parkway. Sunday 10AM – 4PM

**STAMP SHOW** - March 4-5 - **NORTH CANTON, OHIO** - McKinley Stamp Show McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW Saturday 10AM – 5PM; Sunday 10AM – 4PM

**STAMP SHOW** – March 23-25 – **CLEVELAND, OHIO** – Garfield Perry March Party – 127th Annual Stamp Exhibition & Bourse. La Villa Conference and Banquet Center, 11500 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44130. Thursday 11AM – 6PM, Friday 10AM – 5:30PM, Saturday 10AM – 4PM

**STAMP SHOW** – March 26 – **MARS, PA** – - K2 Collectibles (Kevin Kellman) - VFW Post 7505, 331 Mars Valencia Road, Mars Pa. Sunday, 10AM – 4PM – Free Lunch

**POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW** – April 8 – **PITTSBURGH, PA** - Three Rivers Postcard Club, Fairhaven United Methodist Church, 2415 Saw Mill Run Blvd. (Route 51), Pittsburgh, PA 15234. Saturday, 9AM – 4PM. Admission \$2.00

**STAMP SHOW** – April 22-23 – **MONROEVILLE, PA** - WILKPEX Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146. Saturday 10AM – 4PM; Sunday 10AM – 3PM Special Cachet, Special Cancel. Admission FREE

**STAMP SHOW** – May 12-13 – **BUTLER, PA** – BUTLERPEX Butler County Philatelic Society, Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Avenue, Lyndora. PA. Friday 10AM – 5PM; Saturday 10AM – 4PM Admission FREE

**ATTEND A SHOW – FIND A TREASURE**

**PITTSBURGH AREA STAMP CLUB WEBSITES**

Here are some interesting Internet Web Sites. Once you access this URL, you may be able to navigate to other parts of the web site.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
<http://www.muleshoepa.com/WCPS/WCPS.HTM>

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH**  
<http://www.presidentdrive.com>

**50 YEARS AGO – FEBRUARY 1967**

**1999 SENEGAL  
(MUHAMMAD ALI)**



**2007 REPUBLIC OF GUINEA  
(ROBERT OPPENHEIMER)**



**1948 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO SILVER ANNIVERSARY**

**HISTORICAL FACTS WITH PHILATELIC CONNECTIONS OVER THE YEARS, STAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR MUHAMMAD ALI (AND BOXING), ROBERT OPPENHEIMER (AND THE SCIENCES) AND TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

**FEBRUARY 6, 1967** - Muhammad Ali and Ernie Terrell met to end the debate about who was the legitimate heavyweight champion. Ali won a lopsided 15-round decision, reclaiming the undisputed championship.

**FEBRUARY 18, 1967** – DIED: J. Robert Oppenheimer an American theoretical physicist and professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley dies at 62. As the wartime head of the Los Alamos Laboratory, Oppenheimer is among those who are called the "father of the atomic bomb" for their role in the Manhattan Project.

**FEBRUARY 23, 1967** - Trinidad and Tobago is the first Commonwealth nation to join the Organization of American States (OAS)