LET THERE BE “ELECTRIC” LIGHT – THOMAS EDISON’S INVENTION

Thomas Edison’s greatest challenge was the development of a practical incandescent, electric light. Contrary to popular belief, he didn’t “invent” the light bulb, but rather he improved upon a 50-year-old idea. On October 21, 1879, 135 years ago this month, using lower current electricity, a small carbonized filament, and an improved vacuum inside the globe, he was able to produce a reliable, long-lasting source of light. The idea of electric lighting was not new, and a number of people had worked on, and even developed forms of electric lighting. But up to that time, nothing had been developed that was remotely practical for home use. Edison’s eventual achievement was inventing not just an incandescent electric light, but also an electric lighting system that contained all the elements necessary to make the incandescent light practical, safe, and economical. After one and a half years of work, success was achieved when an incandescent lamp with a filament of carbonized sewing thread burned for thirteen and a half hours.

There are a couple of other interesting things about the invention of the light bulb: While most of the attention was on the discovery of the right kind of filament that would work, Edison actually had to invent a total of seven system elements that were critical to the practical application of electric lights as an alternative to the gas lights that were prevalent in that day.

These were the development of the parallel circuit, a durable light bulb, an improved dynamo, the underground conductor network, the devices for maintaining constant voltage, safety fuses and insulating materials, and light sockets with on-off switches.

Before Edison could make his millions, every one of these elements had to be invented and then, through careful trial and error, developed into practical, reproducible components. The first public demonstration of the Thomas Edison’s incandescent lighting system was in December 1879, when the Menlo Park laboratory complex was electrically lighted. Edison spent the next several years creating the electric industry.

Below are two foreign Thomas Edison stamps that were issued.

URUGUAY (SCOTT #1059) ROMANIA (SCOTT #4146)

ISSUED JANUARY 18, 1980 ISSUED MARCH 27, 1997

**** THE ELECTRIC LIGHT’S JUBILEE ISSUES ***

The "Electric Light's Golden Jubilee" or "Edison Light Bulb" stamps, as they are more commonly called, were issued to commemorate the invention of the first incandescent electric lamp. They were issued on June 5, 1929 (Flat Plate Printing) and June 11 (Rotary Press Printing and the Rotary Press Coil), rather than October 21, to promote the National Electric Light Association Convention in Atlantic City. Edison's name appears on the stamps, but a likeness was forbidden, law prohibited placing a living person's face on a U.S. postage stamp.

SCOTT #654 FLAT PLATE PERF 11 SCOTT #655 ROTARY PRESS PERF 11 x 10½ SCOTT #656 ROTARY PRESS PERF 10 VERT

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WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - OCTOBER, 2014

OFFICERS / ADDRESS / WHEN WE MEET

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

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

Secretary: Tom Reiff  
Treasurer: Danielle Weaver

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)

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

ANNUAL DUES: We still have 4 members who have not paid their dues for Fiscal Year 2015 (July, 2014 through June 2015.) If you haven’t complied, please DO IT NOW while you are reading this. Please do not let your membership expire. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 26, 2014, YOU WILL REGRETTABLY BE DROPPED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP. (A NOTICE SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER)

ANNUAL LUNCHEON: This year the Club is having our annual luncheon once again at Drew’s Family Restaurant in Forest Hills at 12 Noon on Saturday, October 4, 2014. We will be ordering from the menu. Attendance is limited to a maximum of 25 people. For reservations, please call Ray Damico at 724-478-2107 or Andy Novotny at 412-351-4954. Drew’s is located at 2060 Ardmore Blvd. (Route 30) across the street from the Borough Building. If you are traveling east on Route 30, it is on the right side.

MONROEVILLE LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS: The club is having two “stamp” events being held at the Monroeville Library. “STAMPS IN THE ATTIC” is scheduled for Monday, October 6 th at 6:30 PM until 9:00 PM with Lorraine Vincent, Andy Novotny and Bill Badali. Another presentation and discussion is scheduled on Monday, November 3 rd (same time as above) by Dawn Richards along with Gene Bujdos and Bill Badali. These club activities were coordinated by member Lorraine Vincent.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: We are pleased to announce three new members, Bob and Lee Graver from Bakerstown, PA and Jeffrey Hutter, Sr. from Cumberland, MD. Bob and Lee collect U.S. and foreign worldwide. Jeffrey, as many of you know is a participation stamp dealer at WILKPEX and our quarterly shows at Churchill Borough. Jeff’s collecting interests include the Winston Churchill topic. Please introduce yourself when you see any of them at one of our meetings or at one of our stamp shows.

THE EDITOR WRITES...

The Pittsburgh Pirates have made the post-season playoffs for the second year in a row. The Steelers are hoping to have a better season than last year. The Penguins are already playing pre-season games.

*** GO BUCCS, STEELERS AND PENS! ***

OCTOBER, 2014 MEETING DATES

October 12th and October 26th
On October 26th we will have “SHOW and TELL” after the meeting. Bring one of your “favorites.”

FLAT SCREEN COLOR TV AVAILABLE FOR THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS GAMES.  
*** PLEASE JOIN US ***
MEMBER PROFILE – LAURA KACZYNSKI

HOW SHE GOT STARTED

Laura started collecting stamps around the age of 10 years old when a childhood friend passed on their stamp album.

WHAT SHE COLLECTED AND NOW COLLECTS

Laura’s first venture into stamp collecting was to collect United States. Since that time, Laura has collected various topics on stamps, postcards, postal history and other non-philatelic collectibles, including Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower, beer and other alcoholic beverages, the city of Titusville, Pa and Sweden.

Please see several stamp images of Laura’s collecting interests.

PHILATELIC INTERESTS

Laura likes to research the history about what she collects. She also enjoys attending stamp shows and postcard shows both locally and sometimes out of town.

NON-PHILATELIC INTERESTS

When Laura is not working on her collections she enjoys photography and bird watching.

WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Laura joined the Club in 2011 and is the current Club Vice-President.

She has been an annual volunteer at our annual WILKPEx Exhibition and Bourse by assisting in helping at the youth table and was previously a co-chair for dealer bourse activities. She hopes to find the time to create an exhibit in the future.

Laura is also a member of the Three Rivers Postcard Club here in Pittsburgh.

THE CLUB IS PROUD TO HAVE HER AS A MEMBER OF OUR CLUB
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Stamp, Postcard and Collectible Shows

**STAMP SHOW** – October 4 - Chambersburg, PA. Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society Fall Stamp Expo. Chambersburg Recreation Center: Route 30 at I-81 Exit 16; go west to 3rd Street - turn left at Post Office; go 2 1/2 blocks, on right. Sat: 10 AM-5 PM. Bourse Only (no exhibits.) U.S. Post Office. Snack Bar. FREE admission. Cumberland Valley Philatelic Society.

**POSTCARDS, STAMPS, ETC.** - October 4 - Columbus, OH. 39th Annual HEART OF OHIO POSTCARD SHOW and EPHEMERA SHOW. Haimerl Center, 1421 Morse Road (0.9 miles east of I-71, exit 116), Columbus. Presented by the HEART OF OHIO POSTCARD CLUB, this popular event offers a spacious facility with good food, FREE parking, and lots of great postcards, stamps, comics, books, magazines, covers and much, much more! 20+ dealers. Saturday 9 AM-4 PM. ADMISSION $3.50.

**STAMP SHOW** – October 12 – Fall CAPEX 2014 - Capital City Philatelic Society, Susquehanna Township High School, 7500 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA. Bourse Only (no exhibits.)

**STAMP SHOW** – October 18 – GETTYPEX ’14 – Gettysburg Fire Company, 35 N. Stratton St. – Blue & Gray Stamp Club, SAT 10AM – 5PM

**POSTCARD SHOW** – October 18 – Johnstown, PA - Greater Johnstown Post Card Club, St. Michael’s Sportsman Club, Main Street, St. Michael, PA 15951. Exit 869 off Route 219, Turn left at exit ramp and follow signs. 9 AM - 3 PM. Admission $2.00


**STAMP SHOW** – November 1-2 – PittPex ’14 South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville, PA. Sat. 10AM – 5PM Sun 10AM – 4PM FREE

ATTEND A SHOW – FIND A TREASURE

PITTSBURGH AREA STAMP CLUB WEBSITES

Here are our local stamp clubs 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 – OCTOBER 1964

**RHODESIA** (Scott #111)

**JAPAN** (Scott #B16)

**VIRGIN ISLANDS** (Scott #193)

**ZAMBIA** (Scott #33)

HISTORICAL FACTS WITH PHILATELIC CONNECTIONS OVER THE YEARS, STAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR RHODESIA, OLYMPICS, MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ZAMBIA

OCTOBER 7, 1964 - The Southern Rhodesian government announces that, when Northern Rhodesia achieves independence as Zambia, the Southern Rhodesian colony will become known as Rhodesia.

OCTOBER 10, 1964 - The 1964 Summer Olympics open in Tokyo. Yoshinori Sakai, chosen to light the Olympic Flame, was born in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the day an atomic bomb was dropped on that city.

OCTOBER 14, 1964 - American civil rights movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. becomes the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded to him for leading non-violent resistance to end racial prejudice in the United States.

OCTOBER 24, 1964 - Northern Rhodesia, a former British protectorate, becomes the independent Republic of Zambia, ending 73 years of British rule.