



Newsletter - February 5, 2010

Last month the Museum set a new January attendance record. A total of 880 people took advantage of Museum services and programs. We hope to set another record this month. Please join us for one of our events and to see our new exhibits.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 9 - 10 - *The Daniel F. Kelleher Co. Philatelic Auction at the Museum. Featuring specialized collection of Ireland stamps and covers plus other collections from Museum founding member and senior philatelic advisor Joseph E. Landry, Jr. Call 781-235-0990 or visit Kelleherauctions.com for more info and auction times.*

February 13 - *Make Valentine's Day cards, envelopes, stationery and collages using U.S. Love Stamps. Noon to 4:00*



February 18 - **ANNUAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY PRESIDENTS DAY**
Noon to 4:00

Activities using stamps to learn about all our U.S. Presidents

Special exhibit of Presidents on Stamps

Share a piece of the Presidential Postage Stamp Birthday Cake

Arts and Crafts with stamps – Have your photo made into a Presidential Stamp



***February 19 - GAME DAY – Children are invited to bring their favorite board games to challenge other visitors 10:00 to 2:00
(Parent supervision required for children ages 8 and under)
Stamp prizes given to winners of all games.***



***March 6 - MUSEUM'S ANNUAL BAZAAR –
Doors open for members at 11:00 – General Public at noon
Members receive discount –You can sign up for membership that day***

***March 21 - FEMALE MEMBERS DAY 2:00 to 4:00
The Museum honors all our female members (more information below)***

***April 10 - The Annual MUSEUM ROAD SHOW – Stamp Evaluation Day
Noon to 4:00 – discounted fee – first come, first served.***

***And don't forget the Riverside Bourses on Sunday, February 14 and March 14
10:00-3:00***

JANUARY FAMILY DAY

We had over 140 children and adults attend our Winter Olympics Celebration on January 30. There were many hands-on activities including using stamps to decorate snowflakes magnets and cutouts. Pictured below (clockwise) are: staff member Mary Gorman helping children make the stamp snowflake magnets, a father and son playing stamp lotto, Board member Siobhan Mahaney helping cut out snowflakes to decorate

with stamps and perhaps our youngest visitor of the day helping mom with an arts and crafts project.



50 YEARS AGO

2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the Spellman Museum. During the following months we will have excerpts from both the Museum's and Spellman Philatelic Society's newsletters reflecting the extraordinary growth and reach of the Museum's worldwide collections and programs.

“Because of the expansion plans of Temple University... in Philadelphia, the National Philatelic Museum was forced to vacate its premises and seek a location elsewhere. In order to benefit the philatelic world, and to make the treasures of the Philadelphia organization available to many more stamp collectors, the decision was made to merge with the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Collection and thus present an enlarged and enriched body of material for exhibitions, research, etc.”

NEWS FROM THE VAULT

Among the rarities in the Museum's collection is a complete set of the small die proofs of the 1938 Presidential Issue. While the stamps, affectionately known to

collectors as the “Prexies,” are fairly common, few complete sets of the die proofs are known. They are currently on display in the Main Gallery with the United States Presidents exhibit.

IN THE GALLERY

Continuing through February are exhibits celebrating the Winter Olympic Games and United States Presidents. Worldwide stamps celebrating prior Olympic Games, Olympic symbols, and traditions are shown together with stamps of the various major winter Olympic Events. There is also an exhibit of stamps and covers from Cardinal Spellman’s collection reflecting his philatelic interests and impact on stamp collecting.

IN THE LIBRARY

The library just received the boxed three-volume set of auction catalogs of the Floyd E. Risvold Collection. Postal history – letters, covers, and postal markings – complement rare books, maps, and other ephemera to document American expansion and the journey west from the colonial period through the Civil War. Included also are special collections on Africa and slavery, the fur trade, Mexican War, clipper ships, and more. These catalogs will remove all doubt as to importance and value of postal history as a primary resource for the historian. Readers will find them both visually and intellectually engaging – far more so than the usual dry U.S. history textbook.

EDUCATION NEWS

The Museum will be visiting or hosting a number of Senior Centers and Assisted Living places this month including The Foley Center in Mattapan, The Brigham House in Watertown, Epoch Assisted Living in Providence, Rhode Island, The Falls in Newton and Boylston Place in Chestnut Hill.

Children from the Jackson School in Newton will be visiting as part of our Peace and Justice program as well as two Boy Scout troops for their merit badges in stamp collecting and some toddlers from the Regis pre-school program.

We also received this nice compliment from a teacher at the St. Agnes School in Arlington about their visit last month as part of our “Peace and Justice” program:

“This was an outstanding program. Well designed and delivered.” The kids’ comments included “cool”, “fun” and “the best”.

IN THE STORE

The new US Postage issues this month are: \$ 4.90 Mackinac Bridge (Priority Flat Envelop Rate), \$18.30 Bixby Creek Bridge (Express Mail Rate) and 44¢ Distinguished Sailors.

The voting is now open for the Community Newspaper "Readers Choice Awards 2010". You can vote on-line at <https://mail.regiscollege.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www.wickedlocalfavorites.com/>.

Voters must be Massachusetts residents and be at least 18 years of age. You must vote for at least 10 categories and the votes must be received by February 10, 2010.

We recommend the following 4 categories:

Bookstore: Spellman Museum Shop

Gift Shop: Spellman Museum Shop

Museum: Spellman Museum

Place for Family Entertainment: Spellman Museum

Please help keep the Spellman Museum in the Winner's Circle by voting.

IN THE NEWS

This month’s issue of the AAA travel magazine has a story about the Museum on page 3 including a great picture taken of three students while visiting with a school group. We already have had several families who have visited because of this article. The Museum’s March 6 Annual Bazaar was mentioned in the February 1 issue of *Linn’s Stamp News*. We hope this might bring a few philatelists from a greater distance.

THE PFEMALE PHILATELIST

As part of our celebration of Women’s History Month in March, we are having a reception for all our female members. They will be asked to bring a part of their

collection to share with other members and discuss how and why they first got involved with stamp collecting. Of course, spouses and our male members are most welcome to join them. We would like to start hearing from members who hope they can attend. Please send us an email at info@spellman.org if you think you will be coming.

MONTHLY TRIVIA CONTEST

Congratulations to member David Gregg who was last month's winner.

January's question asked you to name **four** United States airports and their locations that are named after people who have also appeared on a U.S. commemorative stamp. David and his son came up with 24 U.S. airports and still missed a few including the Thurgood Marshall Airport in Baltimore and the Louis Armstrong Airport in New Orleans. If you would like a copy of his list, send us an email and we will forward one to you.

This month's question asks: "What iconic fruit does Congressman Mike Ross of Arkansas want the Post Office to feature on an upcoming stamp?" They have festivals in his state for this fruit every summer and the Congressman feels this stamp would honor the many hardworking farmers who grow this summer delight.

Bonus (for an additional \$5 certificate): In what year did the Post Office issue a promotional song sung to the tune of Jingle Bells that included the lyrics "Christmas stamps, Christmas stamps, making our debut. We'll brighten up your Christmas cards and speed them on to you.?"

Send your answer(s) to info@spellman.org by February 16 to be eligible to receive the prize of a \$10 gift certificate to the Museum Store.