

# Cover Story

STOP, LOOK & LISTEN By Phillip Fetting

Isn't that what the Railroad Signs tell us to do when getting ready to go over the tracks? Well, it also applies when you are getting ready to "go over" your new philatelic purchase or even your collection that has been around for years!

If you have been a collector for very long and pay attention to everything around your philatelic world, it will be amazing how much knowledge you can pick up. I am sure you have done or taken part in many of the following: listened to a club program or lecture at a stamp show, looked at a catalog or other reference material, viewed another collectors favorite items, stood at a dealer's table and looked under the glass or in a tarafold, attended an auction or at least looked at the catalog and finally – walked the aisle full of exhibits. Ok, you get the idea – there are probably more ways to learn, but there are a few.

A good investigator knows it is not always what you hear or see, but sometimes the important clue is what you do not see or hear. Last night, Ann was going through a box of stamps that were part of a recent purchase from another dealer. She found the stamp shown in Figure (1). Neither of us had ever seen this item. It appears to be a large attractive airmail stamp from Newfoundland. She located it as a note in the Scott Catalog. The Newfoundland government contracted the printing of 400,000 stamps with the Bureau of Engraving, a private company in Minneapolis, Minn. Another U.S. tour company was to sell the stamps in order to fund a transatlantic airmail and passenger flight. Insufficient sales resulted, the flight was canceled and the printer was directed to destroy the remaining unissued 375,000 stamps. That is only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the number issued of the U.S. Zeppelin \$1.30 value. The point is, if you are somewhat familiar with a collecting area and see something you have never seen before – look it up!

I recently broke down a unspectacular U.S. collection and came upon Figure (2), a common used two cent Pan-American Exposition issue, Scott 295 with a catalog value of \$1.00. Not even worth taking out of the album except that the centering is not too bad for this issue. Taking a second look at the centering made me notice the strange partial cancel, one I had never seen before. I found it listed in Bomar's Expo Postal Markings book (1986 Ed.). Of course, it is only a small portion of the cancel, but enough to identify it as quite scarce, with only 7 known at the time. I need to get the newer edition to see what the current status is. At the 1986 level, this cancel, only about 10% of the entire, would still be worth \$30-\$40.

Alas, Figure (3) will not get me a steak dinner, but still I find it very interesting and it has a lesson to learn. I can't remember how many times I looked at both sides of this card trying to figure if I should dump it in a cheap postcard box or maybe put it in our Israel stock book just to add something different. Then I realized it was signed by one the great Philatelists of our time – Jacques Minkus. In this example, it did not take great knowledge to pick out an item of interest – Just Stop, Look and Listen to the collector in you!

# Club History for 2011

by David M. Allen

In 2010 we took a cut at early club history. (By all means, if you have something to add to what we have already done, please let me know about it. What has been done is a work in progress, not finished.)

In 2011, we will attempt to write more recent history. I need more help with this because there are more topics and more people with knowledge and input. To start, here is an outline of topics that come to mind to be covered. Please review it for 2 things:

1. Is there a topic I have missed? Then let me know about it:

Club Web Site: email the Webmaster,

Email [dmallen@iag.net](mailto:dmallen@iag.net) –or– Phone (321-217-7880 –or– tell me at a club meeting.

2. Do you have information about a particular topic or topics? Let me know about it: (same ways as above).

*(Do not assume that I know you have that information.)*

## Club History – Modern Times (1975 - Current) – Topics

(Not necessarily the way it will finally be organized.)

1. Club activities
  - a. Programs
    - i. Talks
    - ii. Auctions
  - b. Club membership history
    - i. Growth – Decline
    - ii. Significant Passings
  - c. Finances
  - d. New Things
    - i. Door Prizes – Drawings
    - ii. Quizzes
    - iii. Silent Auctions
    - iv. Club Shirts
    - v. Name Tags
2. Support of shows/bourses
  - a. Florex
  - b. Sunpex
  - c. Others
3. Cover/Cachet/stamps/artifacts creation
  - a. For Florex
  - b. For Sunpex
  - c. Other Creations
4. ????
  - a. Youth - Developing New Collectors
  - b. Attracting Adults - Growth
5. Other
  - a. Published Members
  - b. Club History
  - c. Web Presence
6. Summary – Club Vision