

APS Omaha 2019: Show Highlights

by Michael Schumacher



The American Philatelic Society and the American Topical Association joined forces to hold the 133rd APS Convention and Exhibition at the CHI Health Center, Omaha, Nebraska, August 1-4, 2019.

First Day Ceremony for the new set of four U.S. Military Service Dogs. The stamps were designed to honor the nation's brave and loyal military working dogs. The stamps feature an artist rendering of the four commonly used working dogs: German shepherd, Dutch shepherd, Labrador Retriever and Belgian Malinois wearing a working harness. The military working dog Stamps will be issued as "forever" stamps, meaning they will always be equal in value as the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price [Figure C1]



Figure C1

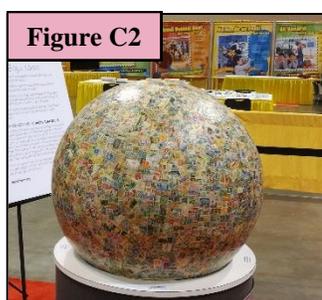


Figure C2

The Boy's Town Stamp Ball [Figure C2] – a sphere measuring 32 inches in diameter, weighing 600 pounds containing a reported 4,665,000 canceled stamps. The stamp ball normally resides at the Leon Myers Stamp Center/Museum located at the Boys Town Visitors Center. The Stamp Center promotes stamp collecting among youth and adults and supports Boys Town programs by selling donated stamps. The museum contains exhibits which display stamps designed by kids, children on stamps, children's fairy tales on stamps and a variety of educational and philatelic topics.

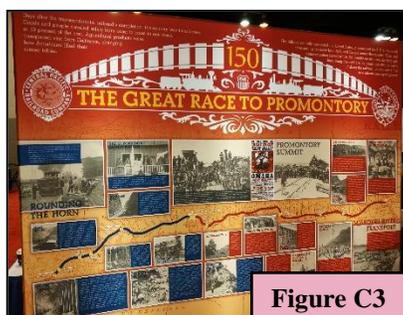


Figure C3

A special event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad's completion [Figure C3]. The Union Pacific's historic "Big Boy" locomotive made a visit to Omaha on Saturday. No. 4014 is the world's only operating Big Boy locomotive [Figure C4].



Figure C4

It's return to the rails is the result of two years of restoration work by the Union Pacific Steam Team. The Union Pacific was a show sponsor. Three Court of Honor exhibits were on display on the subject of the Transcontinental Railroad.



Figure C5

The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Youth Champion of Champions competition, as well as the World Series Champion of Champions competition were held at the show. The youth competition was won by Darren Corapcioglu – "The First Viewcards of Turkey" and the adult competition was won by Yamil H. Kouri Jr. – "The First Postal Issues of Spanish Antillies". Over 140 exhibits were on display, including an inverted Jenny and a document signed by George Washington.



Figure C6

The Luff Award ceremony took place at the Banquet celebration [Figures C5 & C6]. The recipients were: Thomas M. Lera for Distinguished Philatelic Research, R. Timothy Bartshe for Exceptional Contributions to Philately and Kathryn J. Johnson for Outstanding Service to the APS. Tom Lera signs the role [Figure C7].



Figure C7

The theme of collaboration and working together was apparent throughout the show, from the APS and ATA partnering, to the Union Pacific being a sponsor and over 50 societies participating by holding meetings, staffing society booths and doing presentations. Stephen Patrick and I contributed more than 20 hours of time to assist with setting up & taking down exhibits and preparing them for return mail.

My exhibit Iceland's 1937 King Christian X Silver Jubilee Issue achieved a Large Vermeil award and I also did a presentation on it, which was well received. Steve Patrick when he wasn't busy attending his booth was attending the First Day ceremony and getting his picture with Warren Buffet. But the highlight of the show for Central Florida Stamp Club was our own Thomas M. Lera receiving the Luff Award at the Banquet.



The birthday of Betty Helton was celebrated by the membership of the CFSC at the first meeting of August with a lovely cake.

If I was trying to be a little coy about Betty's trips around the sun – she was born the year that Thomas Edison's light bulb celebrated its 50th anniversary. The membership of the CFSC wishes Betty many more years to come – all of which include being a stamp collector!