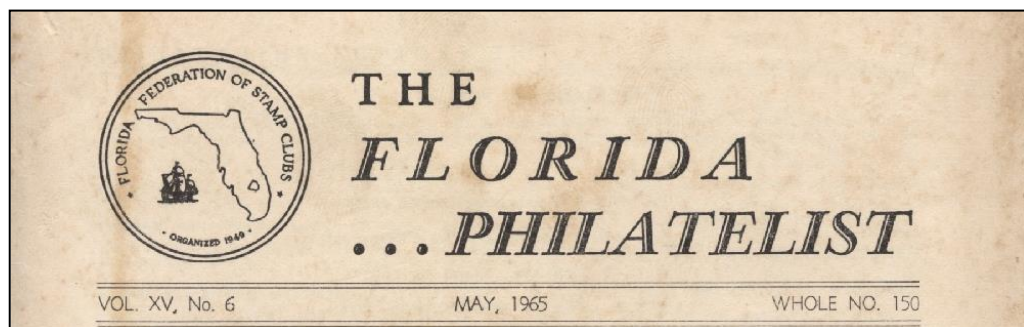


# The Florida Philatelist Electronic Preservation Project

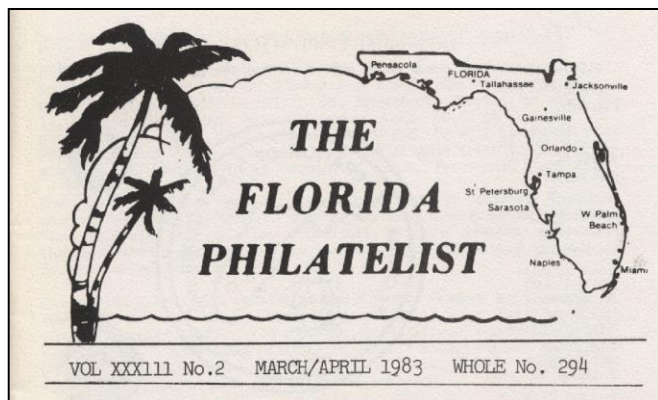
by David M. Allen

How many of you have ever read an issue of the Florida Philatelist? Maybe some of you do not know what it is, (oops, was). It was the newsletter or bulletin published by the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs (FFSC) that came into being sometime in 1949 and lasted until 1999 when it was disbanded at the end of FLOREX 1999.



Late in 2014 a scanning project started producing results of electronically preserving the Florida Philatelist newsletters and associated pictures and materials using funding from the CFSC (Central Florida Stamp Club) and the FSDA (Florida Stamp Dealers Association). These scans are now displayed on the CFSC web site under the “history” tab. The “history” page contains a link to “associated history” that branches into the Florida Philatelist issues and pictures.

The CFSC was one of the founding member clubs of the FFSC. In the early years the bulletin contained news and doings of individual member clubs and news of FFSC meetings and joint ventures. Later it branched into other philatelic information as well.

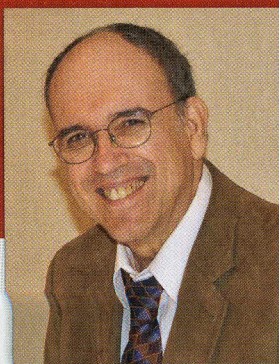


Your club has provided space to make this historical information available on the web for present and future generations of philatelists. If you look at the “Footnotes” listing of our club history on the “history” page, you will see the many of the references to issues of the Florida Philatelist. Those issues provided the huge majority of the early information we currently have about our club. By making the Florida Philatelist available on our web site, we give the opportunity to other club historians and like-minded philatelists to search and gather information about their club history and the 50 year history of the FFSC.

The project is by no means complete. In fact, many of the issues used to find our early club history were used, but not scanned at that time. So they need to be found again. So if anyone reading this has any old issues not listed or knows of where those issues may be found, your help would be greatly appreciated.

[Editor’s Note: The hobby of philately is lucky to have a huge library of reference material for the use of every collector who so desires to explore the depths of a specific topic. Just look at the width, depth & breadth of information contained in the APRL holdings in Bellefonte. Oddly enough newsletters, show programs and other related ‘disposable’ information are often times not saved for future generations. Sadly this type of data that can be used to document specific events, connections, and history related to organizations is lost. While a single copy of the *Florida Philatelist* is unto itself of little value, a multiple copy run of a year or more, can shed a great deal of insight into the philatelic events of the time. To preserve this information and allow for those ‘connections’ to be made, the CFSC and the FSDA are working to find and archive historical data related to the FFSC. While we do have the first FFSC newsletter from May of 1951 there are huge gaps in the newsletters we have available. If you can provide any information, please contact the Editor.]





# Reminiscences By Michael Rogers

## I'm a stamp dealer who also collects!

It is no secret that when philatelists think of me, they raise the China card. For more than 30 years, I have advertised to buy and sell China in most any publication you could think of. I have public auctions, books bear my name where I wrote and edited, and I serve philately in any way I can. I write magazine articles. Yup, when folks think of China, they think of me.

My companies have also dealt in all the world, Zeppelin flights, even Trucial States, but these don't resonate like China.

I do collect. I have been a collector since I was a wee lad of seven years and imagine I shall continue collecting until the end of my days. I don't collect for financial gain; rather, I collect for the relaxation and friendships made. Strike up a conversation and I know we will get along quite well.

These days I'm showing up at a lot of stamp shows on the collector side of the table. I'll befuddle some dealers by asking for Russia, Guatemala and Sudan. What, no China? A very stubborn dealer at a Sarasota stamp show told me four times over that he didn't have any China when I asked for the airmails of different South American countries. Maybe I should have reinforced the requests with my Sanabria airport catalog waving in the air?

Rzeszow, the largest city in southeastern Poland, was where my grandparents lived before they emigrated here. I've been thinking of another country to collect. Going through a recent Scott catalog, I enjoyed the artwork and history. Scott illustrates everything in full color so I had a sense of what the collection would look like. Tap tap tap online I found out Scott publishes a Poland album and there is the Fischer specialized catalog/handbook. Looking good!

Because I have a serious interest in worldwide aerophilately, I have become a member of so many philatelic organizations, including the Polonus Philatelic Society. With a burgeoning interest in Poland, I now had a new reason to peruse back

issues of the Poland society's English language journal. For more information, go to the Society's terrific website [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org). Feel free to use my name.

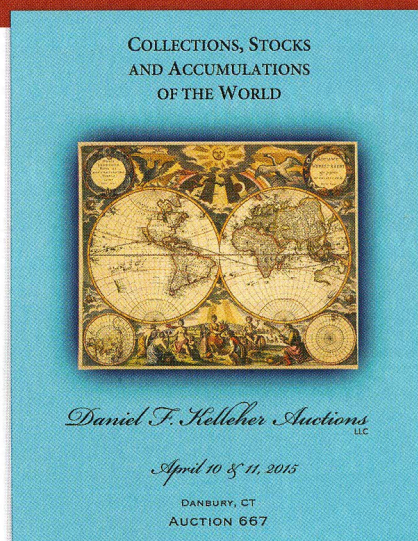
There are two ways to start a new collection. One can build upon someone else's efforts or start from scratch. Often a collection comes into my hands with ink notations and a past owner's name. That collection wouldn't match my clean albums. I can see the marked up one being remounted or picked over. I relish the process of moving a collection from one album into another, inspecting quality, taking my time.

Or a collection comes housed or perfect-as-you-please albums with hand drawn pages or exquisite Lighthouse or Safe albums with mounts already in place. Not many could justify remounting those.

I scoured auction catalogs online and those I received in the mail. It takes some courage to buy blind because most auction houses will not accept the return of a lot of more than ten stamps. The auction house doesn't want to disappoint—its bad business. Once burned, the buyer may not return. A buyer does not want to stub his toe on a wasted effort, tying up money and ending up with unneeded material. Read the description carefully. Ask appropriate questions. Often more photos are online or scans can be obtained.

After a couple of months, a sweet sounding nine volume Poland collection appeared in the Daniel F. Kelleher LLC April 10-11, 2015 public auction. With an estimate of \$600-\$800, I bid aggressively, winning the lot for \$1,100. Great lot!

The auction house felt their estimate was realistic, but when you come down to it, it's just an estimate. Reduce the number or enthusiasm of bidders competing for this Poland collection and the lot would have sold for less. Have one more deep pocket bidder, determined to have it at "any" price, and it would have sold for more money. How does the auction company take that into account?



Let me share a funny story. Many years ago, I had a consignor run a heavily franked, though rather dirty Tibetan cover and a U.S. revenue collection. The Tibetan cover sold for multiples of the estimate, astounding everyone, as two deep pocket collectors battled it out. The U.S. revenue collection sold for \$750, \$50 under the \$800 estimate. The consignor, upon hearing the news, instead of congratulating the auction house for a stupendous realization of some thousands of dollars for the Tibetan cover, grabbed onto the lower U.S. Revenue collection realization, saying "Who stole my \$50?"

Everyone has an opinion:) ☒

## Kids & Beginners!

### They're Our Hobby's Future:

#### Fellow Collectors:

The Midwest Philatelic Society of Kansas City, Chapter #10 in the American Philatelic Society, is soliciting donations for its youth and beginners outreach program. Any donations would be greatly appreciated—everything from stamps, albums & yearly supplements, to tongs, hinges and old stamp magazines you no longer need or want. If you have any questions, call

**John Harmon at 816-931-3138.**

Thank you so very much for your donations.

They can be mailed to:

**MPS c/o L.L.M.S.**

**5827 Riggs**

**Mission, KS 66202**