

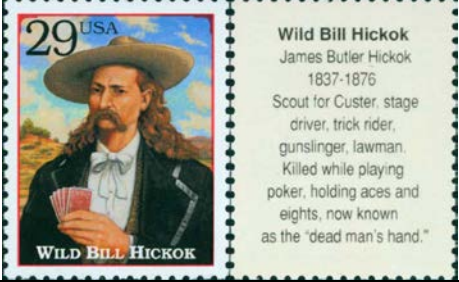


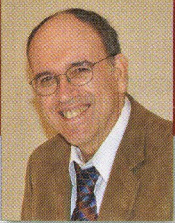


Contest Time!

The following five philatelic puzzles are presented for your enjoyment. The questions are weighted differently according to their difficulty level. The top two scores will be awarded a \$10 Door Prize for use in the club auctions. Submit your answers via email (fergapk@gmail.com) or in person at the meeting on May 5th. The contest closes at 8:15pm on May 5th.

Question	Stamp	Answer
<p>There is something very unique about this stamp issued in 1964 for John Muir. What is it?</p> <p>5 points.</p>		
<p>Who else is represented on this stamp from 1995 for Tennessee Williams?</p> <p>This TWO part answer is worth 10 points for the specific person and another 10 points for the source of the reference.</p>		
<p>Wild Bill Hickok was a larger than life legend during his lifetime, but he left card players with something to remember him with. The hand of poker he was holding when he passed on became known as a "Dead man's hand." What was it made up of? (15)</p>		
<p>United States postage due stamps were originally created with a somewhat different wording than "Postage Due". What was the phrase? It can only be found on essays. (20)</p>		
<p>This set of stamps (C4-6) issued by Nicaragua influenced a major event in history. What was that event? (25)</p>		

[Thank you to Josh Furman for providing this quiz!]



Reminiscences

By Michael Rogers

Want to catch my attention?

It started with a beautifully composed letter. It was succinctly written, an invitation was made to view his philatelic collections of China, Japan and Korea. That he lived in northern California, about as far away from Florida as one can be posed no problem. I was assembling an itinerary for an all points West trip anyway.

Want to catch my attention? Its all in the details! The writer laid the bread crumbs -- long time collector, military service in Asia able to translate Chinese, Japanese & Korean characters, university history professor. Do the deal, don't do the deal: I knew I would enjoy myself.

We drove across the Florida panhandle to Dallas. A fine China collection was there for purchase. The collector had been selling bits and pieces off. I surprised him by asking to purchase everything. In short order a deal was struck, payment made, and I boxed it up for transport by FedEx home.

Then we drove through barren west Texas, with me glued to a book, until glorious New Mexico, one of my favorite states to drive in. Carlsbad Caverns, Roswell—I have the T-shirt!—and across to collections in Phoenix and Tucson. Then over to Los Angeles for a bevy of appointments, U.S., China, Japan. Made an appraisal in Paso Robles, then the San Francisco area.

Some years prior, a collector who specialized in Afghanistan passed away. He had purchased some material from us at auction and was kind to introduce himself long ago. Back in 2002 I handled a tremendous Tibet collection which contained some Afghani material.

In time, when the collector's heirs decided to part with his Afghanistan, they reached out to his friends who contacted me. Afghanistan is one of those magical countries like Tibet that will realize so much more at public auction than if a dealer makes a cash offer. The marketplace hardly ever sees quality plus there is much demand. How to value it?

Because my company had sold some \$300,000 worth of specialized Tibet, I had great confidence in our ability with the Afghanistan. Going through collection after collection, I marveled at the scholarship. I knew from my preparation, the market-

place would receive this well. I made the appraisal and gave a presentation. The heirs would consider it. I received the collection on my next California trip.

Then next day we were in northern California. The gracious couple were both associated with the university. I would have guessed John and his wife in their middle seventies, or perhaps a tad older.

Handsome white shelves housed a library mid level to high ceiling with volumes on Asian history. Ringing the circular room single file were the stamp albums grouped by country. The album pages were carefully typed, stamps and postal stationery carefully affixed, with China in red maroon binders, Japan and Korea in blue. A swell collection.

This collection was such a joy to pour through because John had written an illuminative essay accompanying each Chinese issue. As a professor of Asian history with a fine grasp for computer technology, he empowered his collection. It was decided that I purchase his China 1878-1949 and PRC. The Japan and Korea went to my company's public auction. In doing so, I was able to retain his China essays for my own library. Splendid writing.

John remembered some more material I had not seen, stamps and coins. Here was an exceptional Afghanistan coin collection, part of a larger holding kept in San Francisco. Would I be interested? Absolutely!

Arriving home, I submerged myself in auction catalogs and reference books on world coins. John had described his numismatic holdings. I spoke to a buddy named Ricky Flanagan, saying if you'd like a driving trip to California again, I'm game. I like traveling with a friend as it makes the miles pass easier. Months later, we were off.

Several stops later, we found ourselves in the couple's expansive condo, high above San Francisco Bay, overlooking Ghirardelli's Chocolates, bridges further-on, ships in the water. A memorable sight.

Some thirty albums of coins made up the collection, ranging from the years 250 to 1950. Though worldwide in scope, the key word was history. with coins selected for their historical significance and essays written to explain their meaning. Each coin

had a tag which explained its provenance, so helpful to dispel doubt as to genuineness. Most everything was acquired from known experts.

I do know world coins, having collected on and off for a number of years. More than anything, what aided me in purchasing this amazing collection was a sense of awe. I brought a collector's zeal to the table. Working with pencil and pad, the hours passed by. Finally I arrived at a price. We dickered around for a few minutes and I bought it. John asked how I could spend all that money with a smile on my face, to which I explained that since I loved how the collection was assembled, I was sure I would find another collector equally devoted.

I suppose if I was better known as a coin maven, I would have a rolodex filled with candidates for this collection. Truth be told. I relished gazing at it and wasn't pushed for the cash flow. I shall never forget the glaze on the eventual buyer's eyes as he boxed up the collection. I knew it was going to an appreciative home. ☒

**"How do I subscribe?
That's easy!**

www.americanstampdealer.com

**Moving,
are you?**

**Then this is real important.
Do take a moment...**

Send your address change to us via email (at tami@americanstampdealer.com) or via regular mail at American Stamp Dealer & Collector Magazine, P.O. Box 692, Leesport, PA 19533. You may also send inquiries concerning any aspect of your subscription to the same addresses.

Would you like to subscribe (or renew your subscription) quickly & easily? You can use your credit card and call us at 1-800-369-8207. Email: tami@americanstampdealer.com