A Stamp is like a Photograph

by Robert Ridgeway

Photographs are wonderful reminders of people, places and things we've enjoyed or experienced in life. When viewing a picture, a neural pathway is created between the eye and an area in the brain called the hippocampus. Memory recall ("a match") can happen if the brain has had prior experience, exposure or relationship to the image being received.

Stamps especially commemoratives can have the same impact and "match" as a photograph. Stamps have been issued to depict historical, cultural, scientific, geographical and a host of other subjects, causes or events. Many stamps will cause a "match" to happen based on an association you have with the stamp's image. However, for stamp collectors, the "match" can also be direct with the stamp itself. As an example, here are a few of my stamp "matches" (1-3) and association "matches" (a-c).

- 1. US Scott#1548 Sleepy Hollow Soaking stamps off paper in 1974 with my five-year-old son who especially liked this stamp.
- 2. US Scott#73 Andrew Jackson The first 19th century stamp I ever acquired.
- 3. Canada Scott#158 Bluenose The most beautiful stamp ever per my philatelic father-in-law.
- a) US Scott#1758 Photography My wife's hobby and enjoyment (other than me)
- b) US Scott# 1246 JFK Eternal Flame Remember waiting in line all night to pass through the Capitol Rotunda
- c) US Scott# 4376 Oregon Statehood Visits and fun times with my grandson



Hope your stamping and your hippocampus activities enjoy their special relationship.

It Was a Meeting Night in Late September

by A. Stephen Patrick



[Editor's note: The CFSC rarely has outside speakers come into our fold to give a presentation. When it does happen, we are often treated to an interesting and informative session that is outside our normal scope. That was exactly what happened on 09.19.19, when John Catiller presented on the topic of Space. He was solid gold.]

The CFSC was favored with a talk September 19 by John Catiller, a member of the Central Florida Coin Club. John's father worked for a NASA contractor during the heyday of the space age that allowed him to meet Neil Armstrong and many astronauts. An added bonus -- was the ability to obtain autographs and memorabilia.



John's slide show was an outline of the space program from the V2 rocket to the space shuttle. It covered familiar ground but was highlighted by souvenirs from many programs like pieces of heat shields from vehicles. John's collection includes a dozen medals that incorporate real pieces of metal from items flown in space.

Several covers from events traced history with an autograph from Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space. He had a Sally Ride souvenir too. The demands for pieces of space junk as souvenirs proves the adage, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." John uses his collection to talk to kids about the history of space.

At the end of the talk, all members present were offered the gift of a small piece of an asteroid. Mine is from an iron meteorite from Nantan, Nandan County, Guangxi (China). The Nantan meteorite is to have believed to have fallen in 1516 in a then remote area of China. It's interesting to see where our collecting interests take us. [Photo credit, Robert Ridgeway.]

Writing for the Newsletter

The Philatelic Missive which is published 11 times a year by the CFSC is available at the first meeting of each month. Normally the month of December is skipped for various reasons. *The Philatelic Missive* is printed in sufficient quantities to provide a copy for those of the membership who are not comfortable with computer use. If that person is not at the first meeting of the month, the issue is mailed the next day to their address of record. All of the contents of *The Philatelic Missive* are posted on the website at www.CentralFloridaStampClub.org in a PDF format for easy access.

The Philatelic Missive survives on material provided by the membership. We rarely publish material from outside sources; this does happen if the material could be of general – and important interest to the membership.

As you write -- do not format the text or pictures, rather include the pictures at the end of the article or as separate attachments. This allows for much easier placement of images in the text in the format that the newsletter uses. References to pictures/images/figures should use the format: [Figure A1] and be in the text where needed in the narrative. Keep to one font style, the use of bold should be used to denote something of special interest like a figure as referenced above. Italic is used when referencing a publication name or quoted text. Send the text of the finished article either in an e-mail or a word document. If you have questions, contact the Editor for further details.