



Figure 1: The Jacob K. Javits Center with 1,800,000 square feet of total area space located on Eleventh Avenue between 34th and 40th streets in Manhattan was host to the NY 2016 World Stamp Show.

Special Reflections About Confederates at the NY 2016 World Stamp Show

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

World Stamp Show-NY2016, the once-in-a-decade international event, was a priceless experience. Although I only slept about five and a half hours a night, I was never tired (until I got home); I was running on pure adrenaline.

I met people with whom I had only corresponded or spoken to on the phone and I rekindled old friendships with scores of people whom I had not seen in decades. And that aftermath delightfully continues.

I literally created and printed a spreadsheet to keep track of my appointments and dinner engagements with people and groups all over the city—different dinner companions, different venues, different ethnicities, different philatelic conversations—all delightful.

Even breakfast was fun, joining with fellow dealers and catching a cab to New York's own version of the Crystal Palace—the Javits Center, with its broad walls of glass literally extending to the sky for blocks.

The prize for the longest time gap of a renewed acquaintance was the woman with the broad smile who walked toward me saying, "Do you know who I am?" After only a momentary pause (applause), I exclaimed, "Mercy?" Yes! It was Mercedes Rosende. The last time I saw Mercy was in her New York apartment with her husband, Dr. Roberto Rosende (former chairman of the Philatelic Foundation), and their new babe in arms, Liliana. That was 45 years

ago! How do I know that? Because Liliana is now 45 years old and the "right arm" of Arthur Morowitz, owner-operator of Champion Stamp Company, the only street level retail stamp store in New York City.

I will confess that I would not have managed that identification had I randomly met her on the street. Fortunately, she appeared in context and that made all the difference. It was a special, albeit brief, reunion.

The Confederate Stamp Alliance made a supporting society donation to World Stamp Show before the show and took a nice society booth. We thank those members who offered their precious show time to man the booth in order to pass out society literature and applications. I signed up 15 new members at my dealer booth as well.

Jerry Palazolo designed and had made a new Alliance banner for the booth, which he kindly donated to the society.

Andrew Titley set up and took down the society booth material, as well as mounting the educational exhibit frame provided by Alliance members.

I gave a PowerPoint presentation on Memorial Day titled, "Introduction to Confederate Postal History," which was well received. Of the 50 to 60 people there, I recognized only a couple. And that is a very good thing!



Figure 2: Kaufmann Booth 1365 at World Stamp Show. Trish Kaufmann and Bill Crowe behind the booth with John Kimbrough and Ron Cipolla at the far end, an unidentified client in the foreground.

Figure 3 (Below): Trish Kaufmann with the Atlanta Section of the 10-cent altered plate, which was on display at her booth. *Scott Catalogue* Editor Emeritus Jim Kloetzel in the background.



There were many intelligent questions throughout the presentation and most were very engaged by the topic. Some had no idea that the Confederacy even had a Post Office Department, let alone all the intricacies of the subject that so intrigues us as avid collectors of Confederates.

Although there was not an official Alliance dinner, Leonard Hartmann and I joined forces to plan a special “Confederate Dinner” that was open to all, whether they collected Confederates or not.

We had a number of dinner guests from the United Kingdom and Sweden in a true representation of *World Stamp Show*; U.S. participants hailed from the East Coast to the West Coast. And who knew that Seny Birkinbine, wife of 40-year member John Birkinbine, spoke fluent Swedish? Opportunely, the Birkinbines were seated with some of the Swedish guests, who I’m sure were surprised that she easily conversed with them in their own language.

Leonard sent all dinner attendees a complimentary copy of Peter Powell’s book about Richmond postmarks along with their invitations before the show—thanks, Leonard!

The dinner was held at Marchi’s, an Italian restaurant that was a favorite of the late Clyde Jennings. More than one attendee told me it was the best dinner they attended during the show—less formal than most and with good food and, of course, great company.

My “hired gun” for the show was long-time friend and colleague Bill Crowe, often accompanied by his wife, Beverly. We have known each other since Kaufmann Auction days when we both lived in the Washington, D.C., area.

The evening of the Arizona Philatelic Rangers dinner, the three of us needed a taxi to get to Café Hong Kong in Chinatown. We tried to flag down a cab as we exited the Javits Center where we were solicited by a limo driver who wanted our business at taxi rates. Hey, why not? So we rode to China Town in style. We took pity on the driver and asked him to drop us at an intersection rather than try to negotiate the tiny streets with the behemoth vehicle.

On display at my booth, I had two revered Confederate printing relics. One was the so-called Atlanta section of the 10-cent altered plate and the other was the copper trial impression plate from which August Dietz made the last possible impression due to its legendary crack.

He inserted prints from this trial plate in the deluxe edition of his 1929 Confederate postal history book. Confederate printers Archer & Daly apparently used this plate to make trial



Figure 4. Copper plate on which trial impressions were made by the Confederate printers; used by August Dietz to make souvenir prints for inclusion in the deluxe edition of his 1929 opus.

impressions; it shows six imprints of the 20-cent engraved stamp, a strike of the 10-cent, Type I, engraved issue, and an impression of a 20-cent currency note.

I have been honored to be in possession of these plates as a short-termed curator, as are we all temporary custodians of our precious postal history.

Mystic Stamp Company displayed the Hoyer & Ludwig printing press at its booth, which I last arranged to be exhibited at the 75th Anniversary of the Confederate Stamp Alliance in Richmond in 2010 in conjunction with APS StampShow. At that time, the press was still owned by the Dietz family.

The day before World Stamp Show opened, I was fortunate enough to get a quick private tour of the stellar Court of Honor. Wow!

Among the best of the best in philately were Confederate rarities, some of which I had handled decades ago and thought I might never see again. There were other rarities that had been scooped up at auctions over the years by anonymous buyers. It was a seldom-offered opportunity to see unique Confederate items that are the only examples recorded.

These included the Mt. Lebanon, Louisiana, postmaster's provisional and countless other unique provisional rarities such as the so-called "Big Beaumont [Texas];" the Bridgeville, Alabama, adhesives; 5-cent blue press-printed Franklin, North Carolina entire; 3-cent 1861 Hillsboro, North Carolina (which I discovered in the 1980s and which set off the chain of events that became the 3-cent 1861 postmasters' provisional section of current catalogs); 5-cent Jetersville, Virginia; 10-cent New Smyrna, Florida; Plum Creek, Texas; Port Lavaca, Texas; Unionville, South Carolina, and so much more.



Figure 5: World Stamp Show 2016 'Confederate Dinner' co-host and initiator, Leonard Hartmann.



Figure 6: Bill Crowe and wife Beverly with unexpected limousine treat in front of the Javits Center.

Several days after the show opened, I went back for a more careful tour and enjoyed it even more.

There were plenty of Confederates being offered by the auction houses during World Stamp Show and numerous catalog prices will change because of realizations achieved there.

On June 1, 2016, Schuyler J. Rumsey offered the unique Rutherfordton, North Carolina, 5-cents black postmaster's provisional (Scott 72X1), which was last offered 30 years ago in a Frajola sale where it sold for \$29,700. It has been listed in the *Scott Catalogue* for years with an italicized price of \$35,000. Not surprisingly, it well exceeded that with a hammer price of \$52,500 plus the buyer's premium for a total of \$60,375, roughly double the price three decades ago. Not a bad return on the money.

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries offered a nice selection of patriotic covers, the most



Figure 7: The unique Rutherfordton, North Carolina, 5-cents black postmaster’s provisional (CSA Scott 72X1), was sold by Schuyler J. Rumsey for a record price of \$60,375.



Figure 8: Jefferson Davis Type II stamp tied by a Richmond postmark on a ‘captured’ Union patriotic depicting President Abraham Lincoln; sold by Robert A. Siegel Auctions for \$34,500.

popular of which proved to be a CSA Scott 12a tied by a Richmond, Virginia, circular date stamp on a “captured” Union patriotic depicting President Abraham Lincoln surrounded by U.S. flags and topped by an eagle. It was a wonderful mix of opposing Presidents Jefferson Davis

(pictured on the stamp) and Abraham Lincoln on one envelope. It was hammered down at \$30,000 plus the buyer premium for a total of \$34,500.

The Confederate material at the Siegel sale, not surprisingly, was significantly outshined by



Figure 9: Curtiss Jenny biplane on display in the lobby of the Javits Center to promote the sale of the Scott C3a that sold for a record price of over \$1.35 million. (Courtesy World Stamp Show)

the 24-cent Jenny Invert (Scott C3a, position 58), which topped \$1.35 million during the show. The stamp is considered the finest graded example, having received a grade of extra fine-superb 95 from Professional Stamp Experts.

The realization represented a record result not only for the misprint, but for any United States stamp, surpassing the previous record set by an Inverted Jenny, in 2007, by nearly fifty percent. The last auction result for position 58 was \$577,500, realized in 2005.

Scott Trepel spared no expense to promote this auction, which he believed had the potential to break records. He organized the bringing of an actual Curtiss Jenny aircraft to the Javits Center and persuaded the granddaughter of the error stamps' original discoverer, William T. Robey, to attend the sale as an honored guest. The auction room was overflowing and the atmosphere was electric. The spectacle did not disappoint! Nor could Scott Trepel contain his delight.

California based H.R. Harmer, part of the Global Philatelic Network along with Heinrich Köhler, Corinphila (Switzerland and Netherlands) and Hong Kong's John Bull, also offered selected Confederate items from the collection of German billionaire Erivan Haub. Haub's material was the nucleus of what had me entranced in the Court of Honor; they were in the first set of frames upon entering that closely guarded vault of a room.

H.R. Harmer has a lovely selection of coffee table books they term the Edition D'Or® series. They are the most beautiful stamp collections, beautifully presented (caveat: view with a

hankie to catch the drool). Over 40 different titles present prestigious collections that have been awarded International Large Gold medals or the elusive Grand Prix.

Haub's Court of Honor exhibit of U.S. and Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals was a "must have" souvenir for me from World Stamp Show. I was delighted to be introduced to him simply by being in the right place at the right time—admiring his magnificent Confederates.

The final auction house rounding out the list of firms offering Confederates at the show was Christoph Gärtner GmbH, which also offered a nice selection of Confederate provisionals.

The firm of Daniel F. Kelleher presented a fine auction at the show as well but, alas, no Confederates this time. It's just as well, as collector wallets were strained enough already!

But clearly, World Stamp Show was not all about Confederates. And as much as we love them, there was so much more to intrigue us. Maybe you're a baby boomer and wanted to see the late John Lennon's childhood stamp album.

Or how about the British Guiana one-cent magenta—the world's most expensive stamp—that sold in 2014 for a "mere" \$9.48 million?

According to promoters, this show was designed to celebrate stamps and ignite a passion for collecting. I think it splendidly achieved its goal.

If you missed America's premier philatelic event in 2016, there is always Boston 2026!

There are only so many international shows in a philatelist's lifetime. I have been to four and had booths at three; every one of them elicits very special memories.