



The Analyst

Volume 5, Issue 1

March 2014

2015 Symposium Scheduled

Join Us in Chicago!

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The IAP Board of Directors is pleased to announce the **Second International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately**, set for Wednesday and Thursday, November 18-19, 2015. Save the dates!

The symposium will be held in conjunction with **CHICAGOPEX**, which will follow on 20-22 November. Both events will be at the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel, 400 Park Boulevard in Itasca, Illinois. The location is convenient both to Chicago's O'Hare airport and to the city itself.

The venue and timing offer several advantages. Chicago is easily reached by

air from just about anywhere. Participants will benefit from reduced hotel-room rates negotiated by The Chicago Philatelic Society, the **CHICAGOPEX** sponsors.

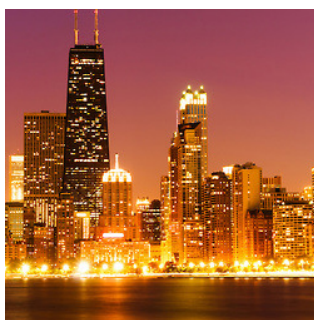
Our Westin meeting room will be large enough to accommodate over 100 participants, so we will not experience the space restrictions imposed by the first symposium's venue.

IAP participants may wish to extend their stay and visit **CHICAGOPEX**, one of North America's major philatelic events, and an American Philatelic Society *World Series of Philately* exhibition. Similarly, we pre-

dict that some show goers will want to attend the symposium to learn about how analytical methods can deepen their understanding and appreciation for what they study or collect.

On behalf of The Collectors Club of Chicago, IAP President John Barwis invites all registered symposium participants to attend a complimentary cocktail party and buffet dinner on the evening of Wednesday, 18 November, at the CCC clubhouse in downtown Chicago. Free round-trip transportation from the hotel will be provided.

Please plan to join us in Chicago!



Call for Papers

We need to know your intent to share your research results at the symposium, whether a current project or one that has yet to begin. Of interest is any work that applies the sciences, engineering, mathematics or statistics to gain insight to

philatelic materials which would be unobtainable by traditional means. Full-length versions of your paper will be published in a proceedings volume.

Please register your intent by submitting the form on page 2 of this newsletter.

Key Dates

31 May '14	Presenter's applications due (page 2 of this newsletter)
30 Sep '14	Acceptance letters mailed
31 Mar '15	300 word abstracts due
15 Oct '15	PowerPoint slides due
18 Nov '15	2nd Int. Symposium begins
31 Mar '16	Full manuscripts due

Second International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately 18-19 November 2015

Preliminary Application For Research Presentation

Title:

Analytical Methods Used:

Status of Work: COMPLETED IN PROGRESS

Summary of Results Achieved or Expected:

Author's Surname: Given Name

Postal Address:

Email: Tel:

Post to: John Barwis, P.O. Box 8035, Holland, MI 49422-8035 USA

Or email to: jbarwis@charter.net

Deadline for this submission is 31 May 2014; Abstracts will be due on 31 March 2015

Members' Recent Research

Inks Continue to Surprise¹

With the assistance of Tom Lera at the National Postal Museum, Wade Saadi used X-Ray fluorescence (XRF) to identify the pigment metals in shades of inks used to print the U.S. 1847 five-cent stamp. To the unaided eye this issue displays a very wide range of colors from red

orange to black brown. XRF results prove that that all 15 tested shades were printed with ink in which lead and sulfur predominate. Only trace amounts of iron were observed, a surprise for some given the earth tones of this issue. Another surprise was that silica was present only

in trace amounts. This observation proves that quartz (SiO_2) contamination could not have caused the progressive wear evident in successive printings of this stamp. More work is planned to identify the specific lead compounds contained in the pigments used.



Blackish Brown
Courtesy G. Eubanks

It's Not Just About the Pigment²

Dr. Harry Brittain has used infrared absorption spectroscopy (FTIR) to understand the molecular composition of the paper and ink of the U.S. 1861 one-cent stamp. He was able to show that the

paper comprised cotton fibers sized with rosin. Further, his analyses indicated that Prussian blue was the only pigment used in the printing ink. Shades resulted from the addition of varying

amounts of zinc oxide and calcium carbonate used as extenders. A zinc soap product was also detected, which probably resulted from zinc oxide reacting with surfactant in the processing oil.



Phosphor-Coated Paper³

Royal Mail experiments in the 1950s-70s tested phosphor-coated paper as an aid to automated mail sorting. The experiments failed due to what was thought to be moisture quenching the

phosphor's emission signal. Working at the NPM, Steve McGill used short-wave ultraviolet capability of the VSC 6000 to demonstrate that the phosphorescence signal is masked by the

printing ink, since it lies above the phosphor coating. Close to a normal signal was recorded in stamp margins. Royal Mail now uses phosphor bands applied on top of the ink layer.



Wings For Norway Mystery⁴

Jim Taylor sought to determine whether spectral analyses could detect differences between 1942 and 1946 printings of the *Wings for Norway* stamp, which was produced in Canada. At the

NPM, the Video Spectral Comparator (VSC 6000), FTIR and XRF revealed no significant differences in the ink used for the two printings. No chemical differences were detected in either gum

or paper. Under transmitted-light magnification (VSC 6000), horizontal mesh exhibited by both printings was more pronounced in the 1946 printing due to manufacturing quality controls.



1, 2. *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, v. 65, no. 3, August 2013.

3. *Chronicle of the Great Britain Collectors Club*, 2014, in press.

4. Manuscript submitted for publication.

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**Have a philatelic puzzle?
Apply for an IAP research grant!
We can help with equipment availability & analyses.**

We're on the Web!
www.AnalyticalPhilately.org

Why Wait?

You are curious about a particular stamp issue or cover. You would like to know more, but are not sure what questions to ask. Consequently you have no idea what techniques would best address the key questions, and you are concerned about analytical costs—to say nothing of travel expenses.

- One of our directors can suggest an analytical approach, and even help you craft a grant application.
- You can conduct your work with friendly, free guidance from Tom Lera at the NPM, the world's best equipped philatelic research lab.
- Your analyses will cost nothing, and your travel expenses can be offset with your research grant.
- If you cannot travel, we may be able to provide a bright university sciences major to do the lab work, whom you can pay from your research grant.
- IAP experts will help you evaluate and interpret your data, and suggest ideas that will help you write up your results.

What's not to like about this deal?

Just do it!



Chicagopex 2015

CHICAGOPEX is the annual exhibition and bourse sponsored by the Chicago Philatelic Society, one of the two oldest philatelic organizations in America. In 2015 the Society will celebrate its 129th anniversary. Their show is one of the largest and most prestigious in the United States, regularly hosts annual conventions of various specialty societies, and usually mounts about 300 frames.

In addition to the philatelic exhibition, CHICAGOPEX is one of only three shows in the country to sponsor a

literature competition every year. All awards are presented at a gala banquet on Saturday evening.

The bourse is located in two ballrooms and includes more than 80 dealers offering a wide selection of philatelic material. Regency-Superior will conduct a major auction during the show. No matter what you collect, at CHICAGOPEX you are likely to find something worth taking home with you.

The venue is the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel, a four-star facility

conveniently located for air travelers. It features a terrific steak restaurant, and a large bar very conducive to meeting old friends and making new ones.

For those desiring a break from show activities, the largest shopping mall in Illinois is located just five miles from the hotel.

IAP symposium participants will receive complimentary lunch as well as morning and afternoon coffee, tea and pastries.