

the POSTER

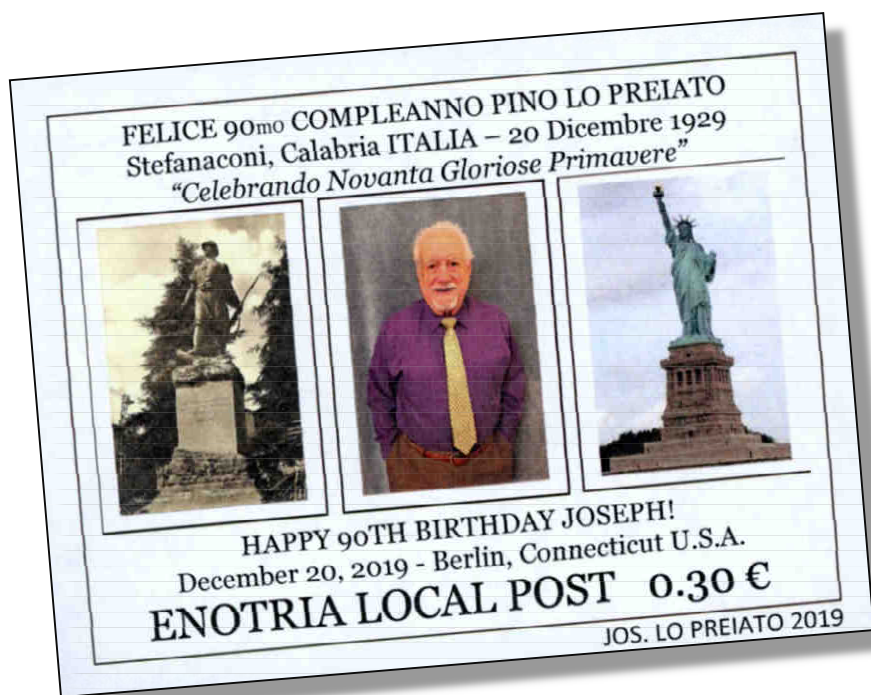
Official Journal of the Local Post Collectors Society

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Happy Birthday Joe!



**Past President Joseph LoPreiato Celebrates His
90th with a Special Issue - See Page 10**



www.localpostcollectors.org



About LPCS

Founded in 1972, the Local Post Collectors Society (APS Affiliate No. 126) is dedicated to promoting the study and collection of stamps issued by modern local posts, and to supporting members in establishing and operating their own private local posts. Annual membership dues are \$20 for U.S. members and \$25 for international members; life membership is \$200 for members age 60 and under, and \$150 for members over age 60.

The Poster is the official journal of the LPCS, and is distributed to current members six times per year. Send letters to the editor, announcements of new local post stamps, and articles to editor@localpostcollectors.org or:

Scott Abbot
Editor, *The Poster*
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
United States of America

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Advertising in *The Poster*

The Poster will accept advertisements that pertain to modern local posts only. We reserve the right to edit or reject any copy. *The Poster* welcomes advertisements at the rates listed below.

Ad size	1 issue	3 issues	6 issues
Full page (4.75" x 7.25")	\$15.00	\$37.50	\$66.75
Half page (4.75" x 6.625")	\$8.00	\$19.75	\$35.50
Quarter page (2.375" x 3.625")	\$4.50	\$11.50	\$20.50
Classified ad (up to 25 words)	\$3.75	\$11.25	\$22.50

Additional words: 10¢/word

Current members are entitled to two free classified ads of up to 25 words each per year.

Straight From the Horse's Mouth



Well, it's here, I'm talking about the new decade, of course.

My first words in this message must go to welcome our Editor, Scott Abbot. Wishing you a long and successful reign. It is also time to give a huge vote of thanks to our previous Editor, Kevin Blackston, who resigned his role here to take up a much more daunting task with us, that of Treasurer. Only much

co-operation between our membership and the two office holders can help us keep L.P.C.S. going.

By the time the current edition of *The Poster* is prepared and circulated, World Local Post Day will have come and gone. Let us hope there will be lots of new stamps on this theme to show in the next edition.

Over the last few months I have not managed to find any new Local Posts, so have been concentrating on getting my catalogues up to date, especially my British one with new issues from Anglesey, Islay, Colonsay and Pabay.

May I throw an idea into the air. There must be many of you who have spare local stamps and have nothing to do with them. So how about trying to sell them for the odd \$ or £ or € on sites like eBay, HipStamp or Delcampe, with the net profit being split between yourselves and a donation to the Society. Comments on this would be appreciated

Looking forward to hearing from you all. - *Regards, Ralph Phillips*

The Local Exchange

Help Wanted - I am trying to put together all the information I can on the following modern local posts: React Postal Services, Inc., ICBM, and Mail America, which actually delivered mail in competition with the United States Post Office. Anyone who has actual use covers, timetables, brochures, etc., please contact me. I am in possession of some information but there are many gaps in what I have. The information will be used for future articles, a possible exhibit, and maybe a catalogue. Any help will be appreciated. Contact Howard J. Wunderlich at xxxxxxxx@yahoo.com.

LPCS members get two free classified ads (up to 25 words each) per calendar year. Email ad text to editor@localpostcollectors.org by March 15, 2020, for inclusion in next issue of *The Poster*.

From the Editor's Desk

I am thrilled to assume the responsibility of editor of *The Poster*. First of all, I would like to commend Kevin Blackston for the excellent job as our editor for the past three years. Not only did he make many excellent improvements in this newsletter, he never missed a single issue despite raising a family, changing jobs, moving over 1,000 miles, and the unfortunate loss of his mother. I wish him the best of luck in his new role as our treasurer, and I'm sure he will continue his dedication to the society for many years.



I hope this editorial transition will be smooth and seamless, and while I expect that over time I will come up with ideas to make this newsletter even more enjoyable, I will continue with the excellent format Kevin created. In Kevin's last issue he announced the editorial change, and that all submissions, letters, comments, new issue announcements, and what-have-you come to me. These can be either in physical format, or emailed to me in just about any electronic format, and I will format them for the newsletter. I'm hoping we can continue to print excellent articles, such as the recent multi-part series written by Tom Betz, and I heartily encourage such articles. After all, my job as editor isn't to write the entire contents of the newsletter, and as with any society, everyone is encouraged to participate since this newsletter represents all the efforts of the society as a whole.

I first joined the LPCS in 1977, and due to other commitments such as increasing job responsibilities and changing interests, I let my membership lapse about four years later. This was about the same time the society apparently vanished for over a year, as some of our old-time members may remember. Then in 2001, as editor of my local stamp club's newsletter, and having operated a few locals in the past, I decided to dress up my mailings and created a new local, Purgatory Post, named after my local club, the Purgatory Stamp Club. The name does have local significance, there is an

area in the northwest of my town, Milford NH, called Purgatory, a wooded area with a series of three waterfalls and with some fascinating if somewhat unbelievable local legends. Around 2008 I passed some of my locals on to a dealer friend, and eventually he passed some on to our old friend Jim Czul. Next thing I knew, Jim was on the phone asking about my locals and encouraging me to rejoin the society. Which brings us to today.

While the position of editor is not an elected position and as such does not have a major role in the running of the society, as the main “mouthpiece” of the society I know much of what is printed in *The Poster*, whether it's my opinions or the words of others, does have an impact on the direction of the society. It is my hope that during my tenure as editor, and with the efforts of everyone in the society - including an improved web presence - we will once again see our membership grow, we'll see more members decide to start a local of their own, and in two years we'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of the society with a robust and active membership.

As I mentioned, I welcome and encourage submissions, especially new issue announcements. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month - that is, the odd-numbered months. Especially appreciated are physical submissions - stamps and covers I can scan, as well as a brief writeup and contact information. I'll do my best to make sure all new issue announcements are printed in a timely manner. Also, don't forget about your free want ads - this is a great way to get in contact with your fellow local post enthusiasts, even if you're just looking for someone to swap stamps with.

My best wishes to everyone in 2020 and I thank all who have already given me their support in this important role.

Scott Abbot

Dues are Due!

Don't forget to pay your dues! If you haven't paid your 2020 dues yet, our new treasurer Kevin has made it even easier to keep your membership current with a variety of payment options, and by now any overdue members should have received notices from Kevin. This will be your last newsletter if your membership is not up to date.

Treasurer's Report

November-December 2019

Beginning Balance (11/1/19)	\$0.00
Income	
New and reinstated member dues	
U.S.	\$0.00
International	\$0.00
Renewing member dues	
U.S.	\$140.00
International	\$25.00
Contributions	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$165.00
Expenses	
<i>The Poster</i> (supplies, printing, and mailing)	\$0.00
Other postage	-\$4.45
Website	\$0.00
Subtotal	-\$4.45
Ending Balance (12/31/19)	\$160.55

Notes

An undetermined amount of cash was held in bank accounts managed by the previous two LPCS treasurers. Due to a variety of factors including the death of one individual and health issues affecting the other, those funds are currently inaccessible to the LPCS and are not reflected in the above report.

LPCS Launches New Website

It is our pleasure to announce the recent launch of the new Local Post Collectors Society website, which went live in late 2019. Although the site has a much different look and feel now, the address is still the same: www.localpostcollectors.org.

We've already added a fillable PDF membership application to the website, and we have some other plans and ideas for it as we move forward. Here are a few of our goals:

- Develop a dues payment page. Paying your annual LPCS dues shouldn't involve hunting for a PayPal address in *The Poster*; instead, you should be able to log in to the official LPCS website and pay your dues online! We'll still accept checks for dues payments, of course, but the online payment option will be much more obvious.
- Develop an online membership application. Getting our printable application online was a good first step, but we want to make it even easier for a prospective member to join by making it possible for them to complete the application process on our website.
- Make an archive of past issues of *The Poster* available. Several LPCS members have been working on scanning past issues of *The Poster* from 1972 to present, and we intend to make those available online as a membership benefit. We have the ability to publish selected articles online so that all visitors can enjoy those pieces of content, but only current members will be able to access the full archive.
- Compile a listing of active local posts. Our new website already has a page titled "Local Posts," and we want to feature members' local posts in particular! Send a brief write-up about each local post you operate plus scans of one or more of its stamps to webmaster@localpostcollectors.org, and we'll make sure that information is published.

We will keep members apprised of developments here in the pages of *The Poster*, and hope you'll check the new LPCS website often at www.localpostcollectors.org. - Kevin Blackston

***The Poster* Archive Project**

As Kevin mentioned in the website announcement, we have been working on a digital archive of *The Poster*. Thanks to a generous donation of a nearly complete run of back issues from Joseph LoPreiato, as well as scans from past editor Lee Katona, a loan from the APS library, and my own personal archive, I have excellent scans of the complete printed run of *The Poster* from the first issue in 1972 up to the point when it began being distributed electronically. Since this will be a permanent archive for the ages, I want the quality of the scans to be perfect, so I have been laboriously cleaning up each page. Each issue is then assembled into a searchable PDF file.

Looking back at these old issues, they are a goldmine of information, not only for the new issue announcements, but the many feature articles will be of great use for anyone researching modern local posts. The eventual plan is to create an index containing every issue, but this will be a major task!

You may notice that I have brought back the “whole number” for this issue. Since I have the complete run, I also have a count of the number of issues, and while the whole number was used occasionally in the past, it was usually off by a bit, I assume because there were a number of years when *The Poster* was on an erratic schedule and some issues may not have been counted.

Another plan for the archive is to include additional items of interest, such as the various newsletters local post operators issued over the years. For example, I have all but the first two issues of the short-lived *The Knoll* from Pasadena’s Oak Knoll Local Post in the mid 1970s. If you have items you feel may be worth archiving, I would appreciate scans (preferably at 300 dpi), photocopies, loans or donations.

Scott Abbot

Philosateleian Post Introduces New International Mail Handstamp

Philosateleian Post is saying goodbye to airmail with the introduction of a new handstamp for marking mail bound for destinations outside the United States.

The new “First-Class Mail International” marking, which was first used on January 6, replaces the San Antonio-based local post’s previous “Via Air Mail / Par Avion” handstamp.

“Since there is not a specific ‘airmail’ class or postage rate, the use of the old handstamp was something of an anachronism,” says PhiloSateliean Post’s proprietor, Kevin Blackston. “The new wording better reflects the actual service that international mail sent from my household receives.”



The new marking was assembled using letters from a do-it-yourself handstamp kit.

New Issues

*Each issue of **The Poster** brings you announcements of and reports on new issues from local posts around the world.*



Enotria Local Post Celebrates a Milestone!

Past LPCS president Joseph LoPreiato’s Enotria Local Post celebrated his 90th birthday with the release of a 0.30€ souvenir sheet on December 20, 2019. The sheet pictures a statue in his birthplace of Stefanaconi, a small



picturesque village in the province of Calabria in Italy's southern tip, (shown at the left) and the Statue of Liberty, as well as a recent photo of the honoree. Happy Birthday, Joe, and many more!

For more information about this and other Enotria Local Post issues, email xxxxxx@gmail.com.

Philosateleian Post Commemorates 75th Anniversary of End of World War II

San Antonio-based Philosateleian Post on January 27 issued a special 1-stamp stamp celebrating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. The design is based on an original photo titled *From the Ashes, Peace*.

“Commemorating the anniversary of the end of a war without glorifying the war itself is a more difficult task than I would have imagined,” says Blackston, who took the picture on which the design is based several years ago while living in Florida. “I selected the solitary yellow flower against a backdrop of brown as being symbolic of the world’s recovery following the death and destruction brought on by World War II.”



“Although the end of World War II hardly marked the end of all wars, the solemn anniversary of the end of that great conflict certainly seems worthy of commemoration in conjunction with World Local Post Day.”

Members of the Local Post Collectors Society voted last fall to select the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II as the official topic for World Local Post Day 2020.

Technical Specifications

Format: sheets of 36 (6×6)

Design size: 36×28 mm

Separation method: perforated 12

Adhesive: water-activated dry gum

Printing method: inkjet

Philatelic Services

To receive a mint single of Philosateleian Post's End of World War II stamp, or for first day cover service, send either \$2 or a self-addressed stamped envelope and your request to:

Kevin Blackston
Philosateleian Post
PO Box xxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
United States of America

Purgatory Post Issues Two Stamps

On November 25, 2019, Scott Abbot's Purgatory Post issued a single 6-sola stamp picturing the mural in his hometown Milford, New Hampshire post office. Closely resembling the recent USPS "Post Office Murals" issue, the oil-on-canvas mural



entitled "*Lumberman Log-Rolling*" was painted in 1940 by Philip von Saltza. According to a contract dated April 15, 1940, von Saltza was paid \$750 for his efforts, and the mural was completed by the end of August 1940. Although lumbering isn't a major industry in Milford, the scene does represent the rural character of the town at the time, but since about a dozen granite quarries were operating in Milford at one time, perhaps a quarrying scene would have been more appropriate!

This is one of five post office murals in the state of New Hampshire painted

between 1934 and 1943 under a Department of the Treasury project to provide work for artists during the depression by decorating public buildings. Milford's post office (right) was constructed in 1939 using funds from the Treasury. Von Saltza (1885-1980) was a Swedish-born artist and muralist and this is one of five post office murals he painted., which were described by art critic Jay McHale as "being like Gershwin tunes." The Milford Post Office Mural stamp is printed on gummed perforated paper in sheetlets of 4.



Purgatory Post issued a single 2-sola stamp on January 6, 2020, as its contribution to this year's World Local Post Day theme. Although it was released several weeks before the actual World Local Post Day, this was because the main use of Purgatory Post stamps are on the monthly mailings of the operator's local stamp club, who typically mails the newsletters on the first Monday of the month. Keeping with this year's theme of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, the design shows pictures the World War II Victory Medal,

which was awarded to all who served in the U.S. military between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, when President Truman declared hostilities officially over. It is printed on perforated ungummed metallic gold paper in sheetlets of 4, which gives the medal a brilliant metallic appearance.

For more information on Purgatory Post, email Scott Abbot at xxxxxx@myfairpoint.net, or if you would like complimentary copies of these stamps (singles or sheetlets), send a stamped addressed envelope to Scott at the address on page 2.

*Did we miss a new local post stamp? We want to know about it! Send a note to the editor; you'll find contact information on page 2. Announcements of new stamps for inclusion in the March-April issue of **The Poster** should be submitted no later than March 15.*

A blast from the past: Herman "Pat" Herst's Shrub Oak Local Post is generally considered to be the first modern local post. Here is his original 1953 newsletter announcing its first release.



VOL. XII No. 3a

Supplement to No. 61

NEW LOCAL STAMP ISSUED

Shrub Oak, N. Y., May 1, 1953 (Delighted Press): Issuance of a new local stamp, the first stamp of its kind in this country in over a half century was disclosed when the Shrub Oak Local Post, a privately operated carrier service was instituted in this village.

The stamp, triangular in format, printed in red and green, of a two cent denomination was used to frank covers bringing the Summer Issue of HERST'S OUTBURSTS to regular subscribers of the publication. Each stamp was tied to the cover with a special postmark, also triangular in shape, bearing the date of issue.

United States postal regulations permit issuance of a local stamp for such a service, and the Post Office Department itself permits operation of a local service for the carrying of mail in towns and villages where no carrier service exists, provided that in each case the United States postage is paid at the full rate. Authority for this is Title 18, Section 1696, of the U.S. Code which reads:

" . . . it is permissible to establish a service for collecting letters from firms or individuals for delivery to a Post Office. The Private Express statutes permit the establishment of a service of collecting for the addressees letters received at the Post Office, provided the letters remain unopened."

The setting up of the Shrub Oak Local Post, the issuance of the stamp itself, and the use of the special triangular postmark have all been approved by Mr. Roy C. Frank, Solicitor of the U. S. Post Office Department, under date of July 30, 1952. Actual samples of stamp and postmark were submitted to Mr. Frank, and under date of January 13, 1953 it was advised that he was "not inclined to believe that use of the label submitted would be in violation of those laws."

Readers of HERST'S OUTBURSTS, in the Winter Issue, of 1952-3 were promised a surprise with their next OUTBURST if they supplied the publisher with a self-addressed envelope. A contest was held, the prize to be awarded to the reader who came closest to guessing what the surprise would be. Although of the almost two hundred guesses submitted, none guessed exactly the identity of the surprise, the closest guess was submitted by William H. Biesecker, of Merrick, L. I., N. Y., who felt that the surprise would be a "stamp or label, privately issued." Accordingly, the prize, a superb single of the Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp, issued in 1840, has been forwarded to Mr. Biesecker, and he has been pronounced the winner of the contest.

The Shrub Oak Local Post is expected to be used by Shrub Oak residents who desire their mail to be delivered to their homes, or carried to the Post Office from their homes. No philatelic use of the service is anticipated, although on occasion ordinary mail posted by the OUTBURST publisher may be carried by the Post, with Local Stamps affixed. The stamps themselves will be available to all who wish them at two cents each, minimum quantity to be sold being fifty. It is of course understood that they carry no franking or postal value, other than that recognized by the Shrub Oak Local Post.

The cover which bears this issue of the OUTBURST is an interesting bit of postal history, and is sent to OUTBURST readers with the compliments of the publisher in appreciation of their subscribing to his publication. From time to time "surprises" of a philatelic nature may be expected by regular "subscribers" who maintain their supply of self-addressed stamped envelopes with the publisher of the OUTBURST.



*A May 1, 1953 first day cover of the first Shrub Oak Local Post stamp
(image courtesy of George Fabian)*

The Last Word

As I reach the end of my first issue as editor, I am pleased with the results. In future issues, I am hoping I will have more article submissions since it's not an easy task to fill 16 pages with a few new issue announcements! However, I do have a few articles in the back of my mind, the largest project being a history of the infamous Independent Postal System of America (IPSA), one of the few companies who actually tried to take on the USPS and for a brief time, it looked like they might succeed! While I had originally planned this article for a single issue, and even wrote a "short" 7-page article, as I did more research, including going through a ton of online newspaper archives, the story of Tom Murray, his revolutionary business ideas, and his endless legal battles with the USPS became more and more intriguing, and to do the story justice, I will probably have to serialize the article across several issues. So you can look forward to the first installment later this year. And if it means that the occasional issue may expand beyond the present 16 pages, I hope no one will be upset if there's too much content!

And as always, contributions are always welcome - whether they're feature articles, shorter articles, letters to the editor, or new issue announcements. And as your new editor, I look forward to keeping you entertained and informed with new editions of *The Poster* for many years to come. - *Scott Abbot*