

APS SHOW EXHIBITS

The American Philatelic Society held their annual Stampshow in Columbus, Ohio, on August 11-14. Since I grew up near Columbus and my nephew and sister own an antique store in the gallery district only two blocks from the Convention Center where this event was held, I decided to combine a visit with them and take in the show as well.

First of all, if you have not been to an APS Stampshow, you should make it a point to go to one. The 2012 show is scheduled for August 16-19, in Sacramento, California. The APS show is typically the largest one in the U.S. each year, and is the venue for the Champion of Champions exhibit competition.

Even if exhibits are not your cup of tea—though I do not see how you would not find some that display material in your area of interest, you will be hard-pressed to find more dealers and philatelic material in one place. This show had 160 dealers from all over the U.S. and from other countries as well. As I was viewing the exhibits with my sister and nephew along, it occurred to me that in that single room there was undoubtedly several hundred million dollars worth of philatelic items when you combine the value of the exhibit material with the dealer's bourse. Two inverted Jenny air mail stamps were on display together with many other rare and unique items.

Both my sister and nephew are non-philatelists, but as antique dealers, they certainly understand the appeal of collecting and recognize valuable items when they see them. The exhibits contained an abundance of these items. The winner of the Champions competition was John Barwis, whose display of *The Half-Lengths of Victoria, 1850-59*, showed detailed plating of the various printing stones used to produce these issues. Even my non-collecting relatives were impressed with the research and effort it must have taken to reassemble these printings.

My favorite competitive exhibit was a display exhibit by Philip K. Rhoads titled, *The Murder of Lidice*. This exhibit showed the history of the Nazi's obliteration of this Czech town and the murder of its inhabitants in retribution for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the World War II German military governor. This exhibit won a gold medal and the Best Display Division award.

There were relatively few thematic exhibits and none that dealt specifically with biology topics. Van Siegling won a vermeil medal and the award for the Best Thematic Division with *The Magical World of Harry Potter*. I like this exhibit very much since I am a fan of both the books and the movies.

The fact that there were no biology topical exhibits does not mean that there were not some biology topics displayed. Peter C. Jeannopoulos won a vermeil medal with *Haiti's Palm Tree Issue*. This exhibit contained stamp issues from the 1890s showing the Haitian Coat of Arms, which prominently contains a palm tree. These issues have many overprints and perforation varieties.

Robert E. Thompson also won a vermeil medal for his exhibit titled, *25¢ Honeybee – From Design to Postal Usage*. This exhibit also won the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor and the Errors, Freaks, Oddities Collectors Club Second prize. As the title implies, it displayed the U.S. honeybee regular issue stamp (Sc# 2281) from 1988. This coil stamp has numerous tagging, perforation, and color-missing error varieties.

It was pleasant to view these exhibits and admire not only the items themselves, but the effort of the exhibitor to research and acquire them. Perhaps you would like to report on topical exhibits at your club or other local shows. If so, please send your commentary to me and I will include it in future issues.