

## SEAPEX 2014

**Jack R. Congrove BU1424**

[Ed. Note: Full disclosure. The author is the President of the Board of Directors of the Seattle Philatelic Exhibition.]

The Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (SEAPEX) held its annual show on 12–14 September at the Community Center in Tukwila, Washington, a suburb of Seattle. The exhibition included 132 frames of competitive exhibits, a bourse with 21 dealers, a first day of sale ceremony, and a variety of presentations and chapter meetings.

A highlight of the exhibition was the first day of sale ceremony for the Fort McHenry “Forever” commemorative stamp held on Saturday, 13 September—the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and the birth of *The Star Spangled Banner*. This event included several speakers who gave interesting presentations on the historical aspects of the event that the stamp commemorates.



Fort McHenry First Day of Sale Ceremony

L to R: Conner Wrynn (Scout flag detail), Jack R. Congrove, SGT Vincent E. Morales, Bailey Martinet, Thomas D. Morgan, John S. Morgan, Cameron Kwartin (Scout flag detail)

Miss Bailey Martinet sang *The Star Spangled Banner* after the posting of the colors by the flag detail from Cub Scout Pack 460 from Auburn, Washington. Jack Congrove spoke about the history of the American flag. SGT Vincent E. Morales of the I Corps Command Honor Guard, wearing a reproduction 1814 uniform on loan from the Fort Lewis Museum, gave a description of the US Army uniforms of the period. LTC (Ret) Thomas D. Morgan of the Military History Society presented an overview of the battle and the Bombardment of Fort McHenry. John S. Morgan, Manager, Operations of the Seattle Post Office representing the US Postal Service, spoke about the stamp design and production and unveiled the new design assisted by SGT Morales.

As an interesting aside, all four speakers are US Army combat veterans, which seemed especially appropriate since the stamp commemorates and depicts US Army soldiers in combat.

On Friday, Vera Felts, the American Topical Association Executive Director, conducted a forum on recent and forthcoming developments within the ATA including the digital *Topical Time* archive and the topical stamp dATABASE.



Fort McHenry “Forever” Stamp  
SGT Vincent E. Morales and John S. Morgan

The exhibition offered a variety of interesting philatelic exhibits. Louis Fiset won the Grand Award for *Censored, Rerouted, Suspended, Resumed: U.S. International Mail in World War II*, which also won the Postal History Society Award. George Struble won the Reserve Grand for *Development of Swiss Airmail Up to 1939*.

The Single Frame Grand went to Ruth Caswell for *U.S. Advertising Covers for Book Publishers and Sellers, 1855–1910*. Geneva Varga (age 12) won the Youth Championship Award for *Lunar New Year*.

A Gold ribbon and the ATA Best in Topicals First Award went to Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz for *The Sun, Myth, Science, Effects, Culture*.

Among the exhibits with a biological theme, Anne Harris received a Vermeil ribbon and the ATA Single Frame Merit Award for her display exhibit *A Day in the Life of a Frog*. Jean C. Stout won a Silver ribbon and the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award for a display exhibit titled *A Celebration of the Cockroach*. Beatrice Vogel received a Silver-Bronze ribbon for her *Spiders* display exhibit.

SEAPEX has been working toward obtaining certification from the American Philatelic Society (APS) to become a World Series of Philately (WSP) national exhibition. Approval requires successful completion of a four-year probationary period. This was the final year of that period and the SEAPEX will be submitting its application for WSP approval later this year.



ATA Forum: L to R: Myron Molnau, Frans Geerlings, Bill Slaninko, Jack Congrove, Carol Edholm, and Vera Felts



ATA Member Frans Geerlings  
With his "Stamp" Spangled Banner door prize



SEAPEX 2015 will be held at the same venue on 11–13 September 2015. The exhibition will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the opening (and collapse) of "Galloping Gertie," the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The collapse of this bridge was an embarrassment to the engineering community and led to industry-wide design changes still studied in engineering schools today.

I invite all readers to attend SEAPEX 2015, which we hope will be our first national-level WSP exhibition. Please visit our website at <http://seapexshow.org>, or check out our Facebook page at *Seapex: Seattle Philatelic Exhibition*, for more details.