

SEAPEX 2017

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The Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (SEAPEX) held its annual exhibition on 8–10 September at the Tukwila Community Center near the SeaTac International Airport. This was its third year as a World Series of Philately (WSP) show.

The exhibition had 193 frames of competitive exhibits and 29 dealers in its bourse. It also provided a venue for



three convening society meetings, several local chapter meetings, a United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) “pre-launch” stamp ceremony, and other philatelic activities.

Despite competing with the warm late-summer weather, the opening week of the Washington State Fair, and the start of college and professional football seasons, the show drew excellent attendance. Dealers experienced strong business activity with several dealers reporting excellent sales; one even reported he had his best show ever.

SEAPEX was pleased to host the conventions of three national level philatelic societies: China Stamp Society, Society for Hungarian Philately, and Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania. Each society held their annual meeting and their members entered many top-notch exhibits.

This year SEAPEX celebrated the 100th anniversary of Camp Lewis, Washington as its theme. The camp was constructed in 1917 as an installation to train soldiers for action in World War I. The camp, including 1,757 buildings, 422 other structures, roads, utilities, and rail spurs, was built in an amazingly short period of only 90 days. A ceremony was held on Saturday morning to commemorate Camp Lewis and its continuing contributions to our nation’s defense.

In addition to the Camp Lewis celebration, the UNPA invited SEAPEX to host a joint “pre-launch” ceremony in conjunction with the Nanjing show in Beijing, China and the Prague show in the Czech Republic for its International Day of Peace stamp set.



UNPA representative Mike Cohene (left) and speaker Anthony Dewey unveil the UN designs

The designs included two stamps and a souvenir sheet from each of the three UN offices in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. The official first day of issue for these items was set as 21 September—the actual Day of Peace. However, the UNPA allowed us and the other two shows to sell these sets ahead of the first day. These were very popular items and almost all of the available sets were sold.

The American Topical Association (ATA) was well represented by Ambassadors Carol and Keith Edholm. In addition, the ATA Executive Director, Vera Felts, was able to attend the show on Friday.

This year SEAPEX had a record quantity of competitive exhibit frames. Due to space limitations, the show regrettably had to place several applications on a wait list. The quality of the exhibits was exceptional. Of the 39 separate exhibits, 28 received either a Gold or Large Gold award.

One week prior to the show, the Chair of the philatelic jury had to drop out. The remaining jury members distributed the responsibilities for the exhibits and did an outstanding job to complete all evaluations by the close of the day on Friday. The jury members were: Stephen D. Schumann (chair), Timothy Bartshe, Charles J.G. Verge, Kenneth Trettin., and Stephen K. McGill (apprentice).



Vera Felts helping folks at ATA table

David Patterson won the Multi-frame Grand Award with his traditional exhibit, “New Zealand—The Chalon Issues 1855–1873.” His exhibit also received the APS Medal of Excellence Pre-1900 and the SAS/O Gold Award. This exhibit will be entered in the Champion of Champions competition at the American Philatelic Society (APS) StampShow next year in Columbus, Ohio.

David McNamee received the One Frame Grand Award for his postal history exhibit, “Conquest of the Zulu Kingdom 1876–1897.” It also won the American Philatelic Congress Award. This exhibit will compete for the One Frame Champion of Champions prize at the APS Ameri-Stamp Expo next year in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Reserve Grand Award went to Anthony F. Dewey for “A Postal History of Hartford, Connecticut as US Post Office: 1792–1897.” Bruce Wakeham received the People’s Choice Award for “A Brief History of Wells, Fargo and Company.”

A one-frame exhibit, “Guatemala: The UPU Resplendent Quetzals 1881–1886” by Michael Bloom, received a Large Gold medal. This exhibit contained stamps showing the Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), the national bird of Guatemala. The bird also appears on the Guatemalan flag and in its coat of arms and lends its name to the country’s currency.

All three of the inverted center errors of these stamps were represented in the exhibit.

David McNamee won the ATA 1st Award for “The Canoe in Pacific Island Culture.” Lyman Caswell received the ATA 2nd Award for “They Came to America.” The ATA 3rd Award went to George Pogosov for “Fragments of the History of Fencing.”

A complete listing of the exhibition awards is on the SEAPEX website (www.seapexshow.org).

Next year’s show will be held at the same location on 14–16 September. The theme will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Women’s Army Corps.

See the SEAPEX website for registration and exhibit entry forms.



Pharomachrus mocinno
Guatemala, 1881, Sc#25