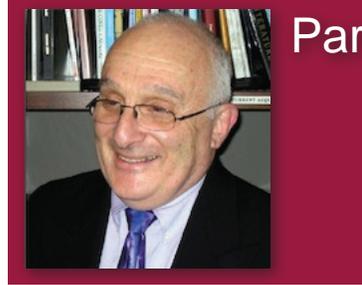




CIPEX— 1947: One Hundred Years of United States Stamps!



Grand Central Palace, New York.



At left, the 250-page show catalog containing listings of all exhibits, dealers, show meetings and activities, and photographs of the show committee and international judges.



Alfred F. Lichtenstein, the original chairman of CIPEX unfortunately passed away on Feb. 25, 1947, almost three months before the show opened. His memory was honored at the show with a large Court of Honor in his name.

Under the normal every-ten-years schedule, the fourth U.S. International would have come in 1946, but it was delayed until 1947 to coincide with the centenary of the first United States postage stamps. The show ran from May 17 thru May 25 at the Grand Central Palace in New York City. That's less than 70 years from when World Stamp Show-NY 2016 opens its doors on Saturday, May 28, 2016.

The leadership of the fourth international philatelic exhibition held in the United States chose the theme of the centenary, and took the "C" to call it CIPEX.

CIPEX captured every superlative, and could hardly be compared to TIPEX. That 1936 show was held just as the country was emerging from its worst financial depression, while 1947 benefited from the flush money of a tremendous post-war boom period.

CIPEX was a multiple celebration of sorts. Great Britain, Switzerland and Brazil had been unable, because of World War II, to internationally celebrate the 100th anniversaries of their postage stamps (in 1940 and 1943). CIPEX invited these governments to officially celebrate their philatelic milestones at the show, and the three countries made the most of this invitation, holding special events throughout the nine days.

The show was again held at Grand Central Palace, which was New York's premier showcase, and occupied three full floors of the building. Noted dealer and author Prescott "Pep" Thorp greeted show attendees by noting:

"We stand on the threshold of a new world era. People from far corners of the earth stand incredulous and fearful of the future. Contacts between the peoples of different nations are few and



Unusual array of two photos on a film strip that shows the crowds lining up outside New York City's Grand Central Palace on the opening day of CIPEX on May 17, 1947.

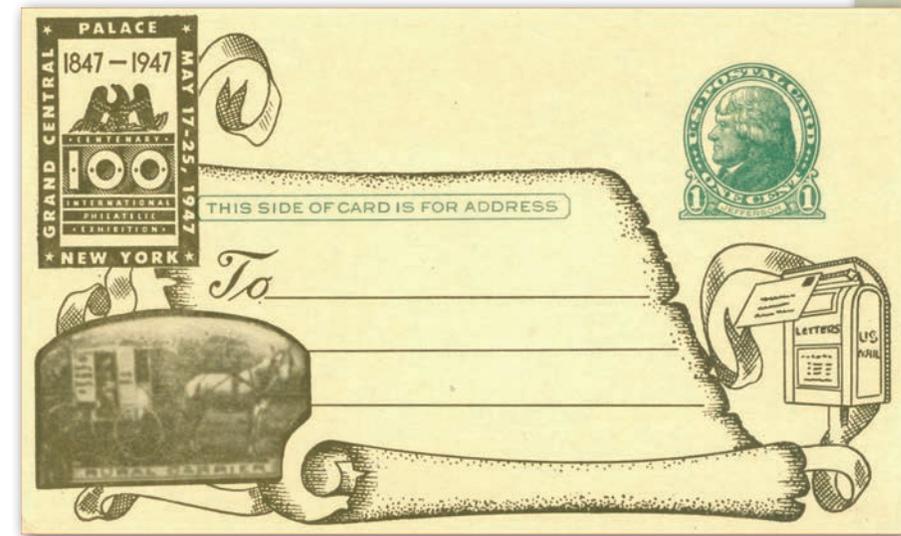


Far left: The set of four official poster stamps for CIPEX, produced by the American Bank Note Company.

At left: Dealer F.R. Ferryman produced these complimentary first day cards for his customers.

Below left: A rare and unusual promotional postal card for which, currently, there is no known used example.

Below: The familiar CIPEX souvenir sheet.



far between, and understanding between them is, to say the least, difficult. Stamp collecting is international in character. We in our hobby possess a fabulous touchstone, the 'open sesame' to complete understanding with one another...our 'empire' extends into every nook and cranny of the entire world."

Harry L. Lindquist served as president, while Alfred Lichtenstein was to serve as Honorary Chairman. On Feb 25, 1947, Lichtenstein suffered a heart attack while on a New York bus soon after leaving the Collectors Club.

The great Alfred Lichtenstein, who had chaired the 1926 and 1936 Internationals, had been one of our hobby's greatest all time promoters. The Organizing Committee immediately designated the CIPEX Court of Honor as a living memorial to him, and more than 200 collectors from around the nation and the world responded

to an invitation to lend the Court of Honor their best items in his memory. Such a Court of Honor had never been assembled before. It contained "as far as circumstances permit, at least one specimen of each major variety which was issued in the world during the three decades beginning May 6, 1840."

Much of the material was from the Lichtenstein collection, probably more material than would have been included had he lived, as in his humility, he always tried to restrict his participation in exhibiting. Elliot Perry assumed the responsibility for assembling the Court of Honor upon Lichtenstein's death. One can only imagine, then, what was contained in the Special Delivery cover shown on the next page from famed dealer Ezra Cole to Perry!

The international jury, the largest to date, came from all over the United States and 14 countries. The 26 member jury had 16 Ameri-



Three especially unusual uses relating to the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition. Upper left: Sent in an official CIPEX envelope, one must wonder what the great dealer and committee member Ezra D. Cole was sending to world famous philatelic dealer and expert, Elliott Perry.

Above: Censorship was still in force in still occupied Germany when this cover, cancelled at the show, was sent to Bad Nauheim.

Left: An employee of the Grand Central Palace turned his ticket into a first day cover on May 17, 1947.

cans including Alfred Caspary, Sol Glass, Max Johl, and Theodore E Steinway. When Lichtenstein died in February, one of the many challenges his death created was appointing a new chairman of the Jury. Admiral Frederic R. Harris was convinced to take this key position. At the Awards Banquet, Harris presented the grand award to Saul Newberry of Chicago for the *Newberry Collection of United States 1847-1869* a 12-frame exhibit (plus 24 albums in the Bin Room!). The entire assembly was enthusiastic about this choice. The term "Newberry Quality" had become a symbolic phrase in the hobby to signify extra fine/super superb material. Are there ASD&C readers who remember this term?

In total there were 808 awards presented in all seven sections of the CIPEX exhibits (United States, British Empire, Europe, Central and South America, Other Countries, Airmails and General Collections.

Dealer booths doubled in price from 1936's TIPEX, costing \$400 for the nine-day show. There were 119 booths, with the tradition of the Scott Company having the only multiple sized booth.

The big philatelic social event of the century was the CIPEX banquet held on Friday evening, May 23, at the Hotel Astor, the same banquet venue as in 1913, 1926 and 1936. It should be noted that the World Stamp Show-NY 2016 banquet is being held on Thursday evening, June 2, 2016 at the Marriott Marquis Times Square literally across the street from where the Hotel Astor formally stood.

Toastmaster Theodore Steinway called upon Harry Lindquist to deliver a memorial tribute to Lichtenstein "whose contributions to the advancement of philately are probably unmatched by any individual in the annals of the hobby."

Postmaster General Robert Hannegan was an enthusiastic supporter of CIPEX and made sure that his department participated fully.

Hannegan honored the show with three postage issues: a commemorative, a stamped envelope and a souvenir sheet. By 5:00 pm on the first day of sale, a whopping 1,200,000 souvenir sheets had been sold, which was considerably more than had been sold at TIPEX 11 years earlier. During the exhibition, more than 35,000 patrons purchased slightly more than \$1 million worth of stamps from the 12-windowed U.S. Post Office show substation.

The show catalogue (photo on page 53) was 184 pages and lists 805 exhibits from 588 collectors filling nearly 2,100 frames. The dealer bourse consisted of 112 dealers occupying 119 booths, the multiple size booths being the precursor to the notion of "super-booths" which were first sold in 1976.

The show was a huge success in every way. Collectors had to wait only nine years for the next U.S. IPEX, which was named FIPEX and to be held in 1956. Stay tuned for that story in the May issue of ASD&C.

And begin planning now! Let's all meet at World Stamp Show-NY 2016 – check it out at www.ny2016.org ☒