



# Washington 2006!

## The great show that had soooo many “firsts”!

*This is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend Col. Stephen “Steve” Luster, who labored intensely toward Washington 2006’s success.*



Figure 2. The distinctive souvenir sheet issued for the show—featuring the three dollar values from the U.S. 1923 definitive set.



Figure 1. Jim Roselle, then Assistant Executive Director of the ASDA, standing in front of their booth where this magazine was unveiled at Washington 2006.

Figure 4.

The 10th U.S. International Philatelic Exhibition, Washington 2006 – World Philatelic Exhibition, ran from May 27 thru June 3, 2006 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C.

Over the past nine issues, I have written about the first nine U.S. Internationals, beginning in 1913, and covering a span of 100 years, and now I am writing the final installment about the 10th show. But, oh my goodness, it was just held recently! Right? It couldn't be almost 10 years since the most wonderful IPEX in U.S. history was held. Something's wrong with the calendar!

Washington 2006 was a momentous event for many reasons, but due to corporate chauvinism, we begin with one of the most important stories coming out of Washington 2006: the three pallets of Number 1 of the *American Stamp Dealer* magazine delivered to the Washington Convention Center, where its world debut took place at the show, as shown in Figure 1. Every show visitor went home with his own copy! Within a few months, it changed its name to more accurately reflect its readership: *American Stamp Dealer*

& Collector. It's exciting to note that *ASD&C* will celebrate its 10th Anniversary at World Stamp Show-NY 2016 with our Issue No. 100! For those of us who are planning to attend Boston 2026 World Stamp Show, we will also be celebrating this magazine's 20th anniversary!

“Washington Philatelic Exhibition, Inc.” (the show's legal name) was headed up by the skilled volunteer team of Michael Dixon, President; Stephen Luster as Vice-President, and Dan Walker as Treasurer. The show's Chief Executive was Gordon C. Morison. Together they headed up a Board of Directors, and an Exhibition Committee that was divided into the Operations Division (bourse, facilities, logistics, media, security and technology) and the Philatelic Division (awards, exhibits FIP and commissioners, jury, publications and youth). These groups—a team of 35 passionate stamp collectors—worked seamlessly and arduously for more than ten years to reach the pinnacle of success.

Washington 2006 was under the patronage of the FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatelie), the organization that has respon-

Washington, D.C.'s gigantic Convention Center, site of the 2006 International Philatelic Exhibition.

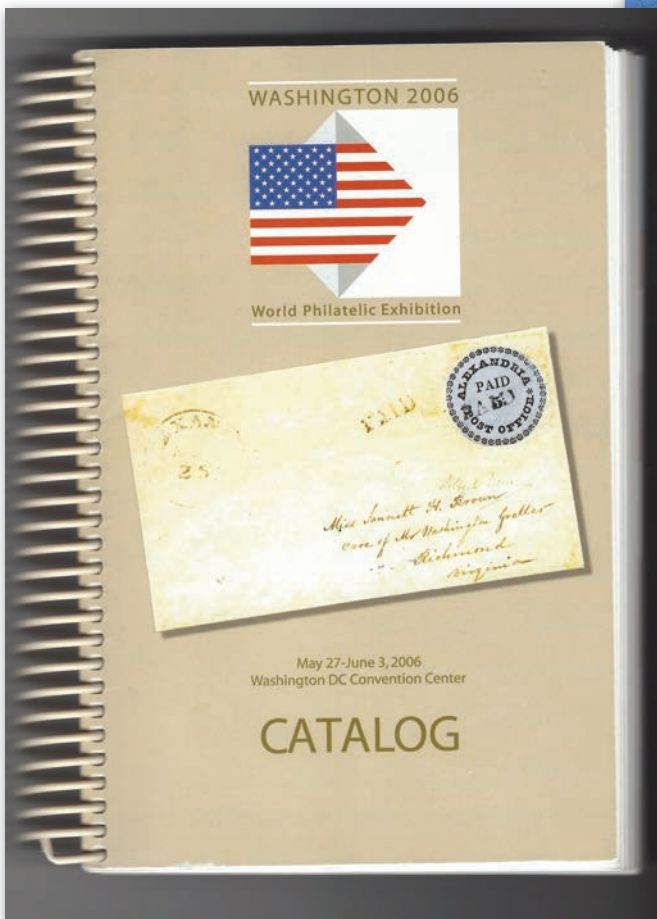


Figure 3.



Figure 5.

sibility for approving and accrediting international exhibitions throughout the world. FIP decides upon the rules that will govern these shows.

There were 640 exhibits that came from 60 countries. Representing these countries were 76 Commissioners, each of whom was appointed by the National Stamp Federation of the country; in the USA that Federation is the American Philatelic Society. The Commissioner was responsible for serving as the intermediary between the show's Organizing Committee and the collectors from that country. One of their major responsibilities was to hand carry the exhibits from each of their countries to the show in Washington.

Forty-three jurors comprised the Exhibition jury, the men and women whose daunting task was to pick "best in show" and decide who "gets the gold." The jurors represented 24 different countries, including 15 from the USA (the host country). Charlie Peterson was the Jury President, and Steve Schumann was the Jury Secretary. The jury had a "senior Consultant" in Bernard A. "Bud" Henning of Chicago. Bud was the Chairman of the Board of the 1986

U.S. International Show, Ameripex, and his contributions to our hobby have been described numerous times in these pages.

In a unique approach to awarding medals, and in an effort expedite medal preparation, exhibitors in the one frame and open class experimental classes received bronze medals containing a slug representing the award level received. Exhibitors in the regular competitive classes received solid silver medals containing a slug representing the award level received.

There were three Grand Prix Awards presented by the jury, and all three went to USA exhibitors. The Grand Prix d'Honneur (for "best in the entire show") went to Edward J.J. Grabowski for his exhibit on *Guadeloupe Postal History*. After the show, Ed went on to become president of the Collectors Club, and currently he is the Vice-President of the Westfield Stamp Club (N.J.). He showed the first version of this amazing exhibit at the Westfield Stamp Club's annual Spring Stamp Show a number of years ago. Ed's win at Washington 2006 epitomizes the progressive development of an exhibit over time, starting at the local level. The Grand Prix

NOTES: 2007 and 2008 figures represent...  
 \*Hotel bookings for 2007 and 2008 include an adjustment for...  
 SOURCES: Washington, D.C., Convention & Tourism Corp., 2003 Convention, Sports and Leisure Study

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BY TRACY A. WOODWARD — THE WASHINGTON POST  
 A single event, the 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, which drew 80,000 stamp enthusiasts, generated one-fifth of convention center visitors' local spending last year, officials at the center calculate.

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Figure 6.

At right, two photographs showing the gigantic size of the event. At immediate right is just a portion of the competitive exhibit area.



International (for "the best International Exhibit") went to Omar Rodriguez of New York City for *(Mexico) Colonial Mail and First Hidalgos to 1867*. Over the past few years Omar has provided his excellent volunteer leadership skills to build the APS' "Stamps Teach" program, a successful effort that has reached thousands of students in hundreds of schools. The Grand Prix National award (for best in show of stamps from host country) went to William H. Gross for his *United States Classics: 1847 thru 1869 and their classic Re-Issues*. Bill went on after the Show to make a remarkable \$18 million dollar gift to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, which made possible the addition of an entire new floor of exhibition space at the NPM, which has been named the William H. Gross Gallery. Ed, Omar and Bill have held their titles for ten years, and each went on to make significant contributions to growing our hobby. Every *ASD&C* reader has this same opportunity!

The United States Postal Service partnered with Washington 2006 to ensure the show's success. In honor of the show, and continuing the decennial custom of issuing a souvenir sheet in honor of the show, begun in 1926 with the White Plains souvenir sheet, the USPS issued an \$8 souvenir sheet containing reproductions of three 1923 high value definitives. The stamps, depicting three Washington landmarks, were printed using the dies created in 1923 by engravers at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Art Director Richard Sheaff chose a circa 1900 gravure print of the U.S. Capitol

for the selva as shown in Figure 2. There were continuous lines each day at the USPS' 12 philatelic windows, and they reported sales in excess of \$1 million when the show closed. The USPS also had on display unique and priceless items from the seldom seen "Postmaster General's Collection. (That collection is now on permanent loan to the Smithsonian NPM.)

There were 200 dealer firms and 60 postal administrations staffing their booths for the eight days. There were also five auctions conducted, one each day Monday thru Friday; together the total hammer price was in excess of \$10 million dollars.

*Linn's Stamp News* provided the free 120-page *Official Show Program*. Barb Boal of the APS coordinated an editorial committee of volunteers which developed the 336-page Exhibition Catalog shown in Figure 3. The cover shows an envelope bearing the Alexandria, Virginia postmaster's provisional popularly known as the "Alexandria Blue Boy," which is considered one of the most famous covers of 19th century U.S. postal history. It was exhibited at Washington 2006 through the generosity of David Feldman of Geneva. Show Committee member May Day Taylor developed the 42-page booklet shown in Figure 4.

Through a creative collaboration between the U.S. Postal Service, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, the American Philatelic Society and Washington 2006, a huge area known as The Kids Stamp Zone was created (Figure 5). There were interac-



Throughout Washington 2006 were festive booths where all sorts of treats and good could be purchased.

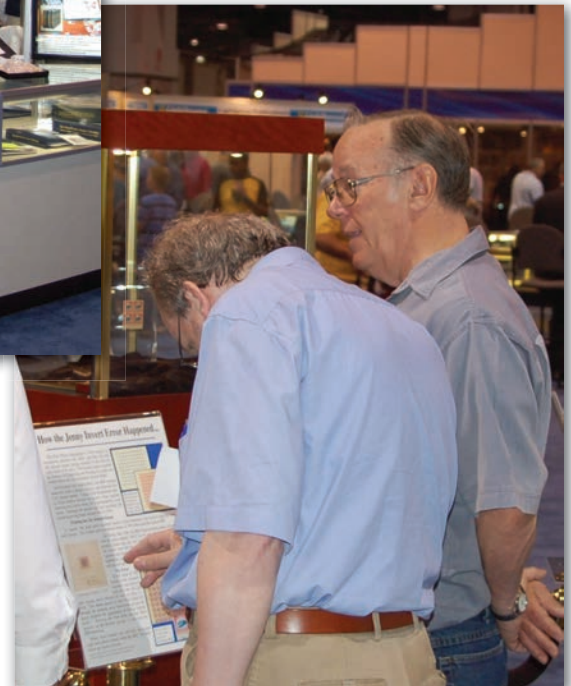


Part of the Mystic Stamp Company booth at the show— with plenty of exciting things to attract new people to our hobby!

On display at the Mystic booth was the world famous plate block of four of the U.S. 1918 24-cent “Inverted Jenny” airmail stamp. It is in the glass case just to the left of the man on the left.



The floor of the show with only a portion of the huge bourse where over 200 stamp firms did business.



tive displays, films, story telling, games computers, and contests. The USPS handed out more than 22,000 gift packs to the children visiting and having fun in The Kids Zone.

Stationed at the entrance to the show were folks with hand-held counters who clicked each time a person passed them by over the eight days. Their clicks added up to almost 227,000 visitors. This count included folks who may have come in and out several times in the same day. To that end, show officials estimate that there were actually about 85,000 unique individuals attending the show during the eight days. A front page story in *The Washington Post* of February 19, 2007 cited Washington 2006 as the largest event held in the 2006 at the Washington Convention Center, carrying the picture and byline shown in Figure 6.

You may recall in our Pacific 97 story I had described that the Internet was hardly a factor (see October, 2015, page 55). So it is Washington 2006 that became the first USA International that had full advantage of the many benefits of the (recently developed!) Internet. Lloyd deVries, our hobby’s irreplaceable booster and promoter was quoted just prior to the opening of the show saying “Computers are such an integral part of stamp collecting now. We use them for communication, for cataloguing, for commerce, for exhibiting, for research.

We hope to show all these facets at Washington 2006.” While it may seem that Lloyd was speaking decades ago, I wanted to

include this timely quote as important to telling the story of the IPEXs. (A sad note: Until sometime after the show, [www.Washington2006.org](http://www.Washington2006.org), designed by Randy Neil, was still accessible, but it was removed.)

One of the special events taking place at Washington 2006 was the Smithsonian National Postal Museum’s debut of their Arago Website. It is a totally interactive site subtitled “People, Postage and the Post.” It allowed users to find any stamp in which they were interested, learn about the background of the stamp, and ‘place that stamp into their unique Arago collection. Many NPM volunteers and staff labored round the clock to make sure all of the data was uploaded in time for the Show’s opening day. There were lines of collectors waiting to see this most advanced website at its exciting debut.

When you go there today at [www.arago.si.edu](http://www.arago.si.edu), you will see a note that this fabulous site, which was one of the stars of Washington 2006, is under complete revision and update utilizing technology that did not exist in 2006! It makes you think about how far we have come from 1913, 1926, 1936, 1947, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1997 and...2006!

Let’s all meet at **World Stamp Show-NY 2016** to see how many new ideas will be implemented which didn’t exist in 2006. I hope to meet and greet you at World Stamp Show-NY 2016! Check out the current status of the show at [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org). ✉