



# Ed Piper – GP's Greatest Historian

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Ken Nilsestuen, *Treasurer*

Scott Tiffney, *Librarian / Director of Information  
Services*

**American Philatelic Research Library**

Garfield-Perry Stamp Club Virtual Meeting ~ August 6, 2020



# Ed's Predecessor

## A Few Words from Frederick W. Green

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“The hobby of stamp collecting extends over so wide a field, and has such varied aspects, that each collector may choose whatever particular field appeals to him, – the stamps of a particular country, or a particular period, or type – almost without limit; and yet I venture the statement that no matter how isolated or restricted his choice may be, the collected knowledge which is available to him concerning it, and which makes it of interest to him, must be disseminated in very large measure, if not entirely, through the medium of an **organized philately**.”

Frederick W. Green  
Garfield-Perry Stamp Club  
August 23, 1940

# Frederick Himself

Older than Piper but They were Contemporaries



## Frederick W. Green

- Joined Garfield-Perry Stamp Club in 1926
- Club Vice-President 1929-1930
- Club President 1931-1932
- Club Librarian-Archivist 1934-1941

# Frederick Gets Organized

## A Tedious Manual Process



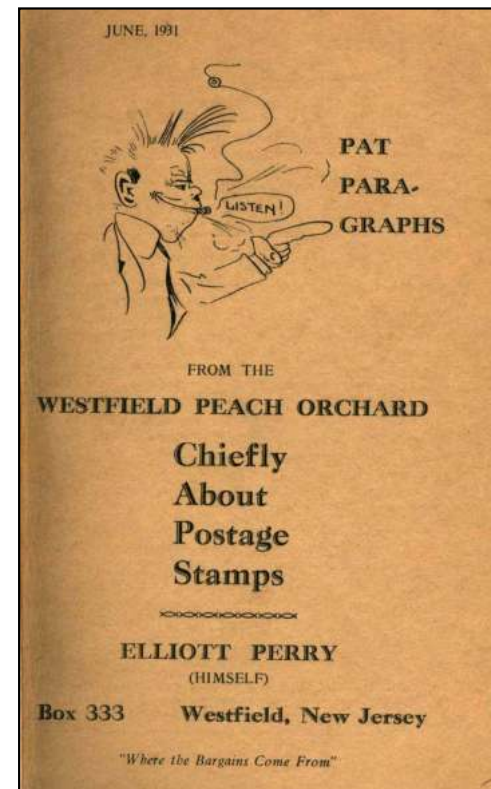
### Frederick W. Green

- In 1934 began indexing the mostly donated philatelic periodicals of the Club.
- Indexed 6 journal runs, some complete, up to and including 1941 issues.

# What Frederick Indexed

## Seven Years' Effort

- American Journal of Philately 1868-1941
- The American Philatelist 1887-1941
- Collectors Club Philatelist 1922-1941
- The London Philatelist 1892-1941
- Pat Paragraphs 1931-1941
- Scott's Monthly Stamp Journal 1920-1941



# Along Comes Ed

## An Active G-P Member



### Emile "Ed" D. Piper

- Joins Garfield-Perry Stamp Club in 1935
- Club Vice-President 1943-1944
- Club President 1944
- Library Committee 1939-1941 and 1943-1947
- Club Historian-Librarian 1940-1969

# Ed's Membership Application

Admitted as Number 602

2/22/35  
Received \$4.50  
T. F. Strong  
Treasurer

Record for the Secretary  
Application received 2/22/35 Posted \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted 4/5/35  
Check or cash to Treasurer 2/22/35 Added to Mailing List \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Card 914

Member No. 602

## Application for Membership

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio:

I hereby apply for admission to Membership in the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc., and submit the following information required by the Rules and Regulations thereof. I hereby agree, if elected to Membership, to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Club.

Indicate the Class of Membership applied for by crossing out all others.

Active ☒ Associate ☒ Junior ☒ Life ☒

Name Ed Piper Age 45 Occupation Clerk (Railroad)

Street or P. O. Box 4719 East 116th St City Cleveland State Ohio

If in business, state name of firm Nickel Plate Road

If the Applicant for Membership is under twenty-one years of age, the following form must be filled out by some guarantor satisfactory to the Board of Trustees.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To the Board of Trustees of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc.

Gentlemen: I hereby agree and bind myself to act as guarantor of the above named applicant, and hold myself responsible for all debts of the said applicant to the Club until the applicant shall have reached the age of twenty-one.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_

I, the Applicant/Guarantor hereby submit the following commercial reference (one at least required)

I herewith endorse the above application and take pleasure in proposing Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_ Membership in the Club.  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: Active, \$6.00 — Associate, \$1.00 — Junior, \$2.00.

Applications for Membership must be accompanied by check or cash as follows:

Active: Nov. to Jan., \$6.00 — Feb. to April, \$4.50 — May to July, \$3.00 — Aug. to Oct., \$1.50.

Junior: Nov. to April, \$2.00 — May to Oct., \$1.00. Associate: \$1.00. Life: \$100.00.



# The Membership Ledger

Members 600 through 1032

Opened to Sol Glass, Former BIA President

The image shows an open membership ledger book. The left page is blank with faint, illegible handwriting. The right page is titled "Application for Membership" and is numbered 792 in the top right corner. The application form is filled out with handwritten information for Sol Glass. The form includes fields for Name, Address, City, State, Title or Occupation, Age, and various references. The application is dated August 14, 1942, and is signed by L.D. Schumaker. The form also includes a section for the Secretary's record, which is partially filled out with the date August 21, 1942, and the member number 792.

**Application for Membership** 792

To the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio:

I hereby apply for admission to Membership in the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc., and submit the following information required by the Rules and Regulations thereof. I hereby agree, if elected to Membership, to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Club, and enclose herewith \$ \_\_\_\_\_ current dues.

Indicate the Class of Membership applied for by crossing out all others.

Active — Associate — Junior — Life

Name Sol Glass Age 46

Address 7801 Kew Oak Road City Baltimore State md

Signature Hertler Co. Title or Occupation Mechanical Engineer

Commercial Reference 1. Baltimore Phil Society

2. Collectors Club of New York

Other reference (two) 1. A.P.S.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Of what other stamp clubs are you a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been released membership in any stamp organization? If so, name of organization \_\_\_\_\_

Indorsed by L.D. Schumaker G.P. Member \_\_\_\_\_

To the Board of Trustees of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc.

I hereby agree and bind myself to act as guarantor of the above named applicant, and hold myself responsible for all debts of the said applicant to the Club until he shall have reached the age of twenty-one.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

The fiscal year of the club ends December 31st. Annual dues payable January 1st

Record for the Secretary

Application received August 21, 1942 Posted \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted Oct 21, 1942

Check in cash to Treasurer 10 Added to Mailing List \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Card \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. 792

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# The Membership Ledger

Members 600 through 1032



Garfield-Perry Stamp Club Virtual Meeting ~ August 6, 2020

# Ed Gets Started

Had Been Club Historian – Librarian Since 1940

## Ed Develops His Method



- Endless little “cards,” 3” x 5”
- Handwritten notations from minutes, newsletters
- Separate attendance records
- Separate membership records

# Ed's Output – Club History

## A Literal Shoe Box Full

### Sample "Card"

1929

Club History

In the February 1929 issue of "Garfield-Perry Club News" the initial article appeared of a series on "Club History" by W.H. Barnum.

The articles appeared in each issue to and incl Dec 1929 then one each in Feb, Mar, Jul 1930 the article in the July 1930 issue brought the notes up to the year 1910.

W.H. Barnum 49



# Ed's Output – Club History

## A Literal Shoe Box Full

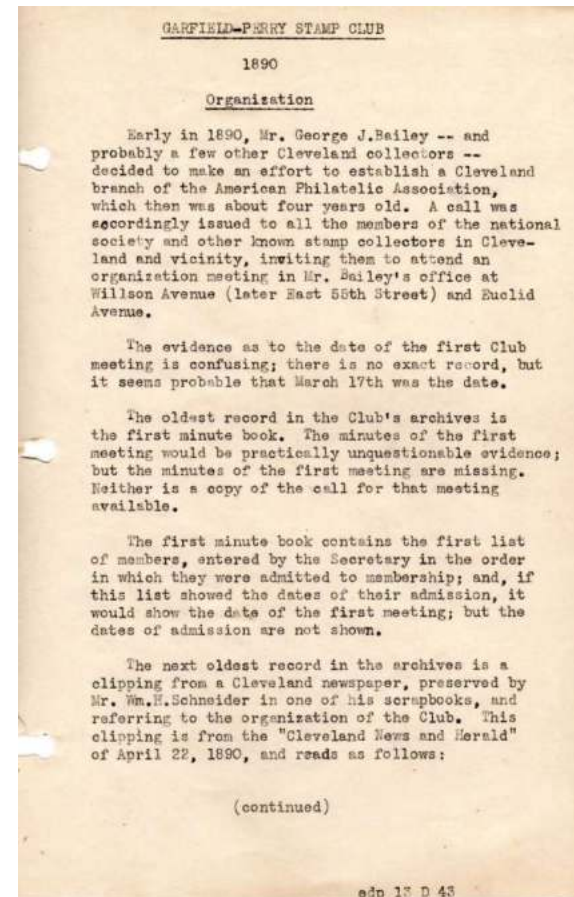
### Another Sample "Card"

1929  
Cleveland Stamp Club Night (Oct 18, 1929)  
"This night saw a number of our old members showing up after a long absence. This proves you only get one of any thing just what you put into it. Had not our friends invited us to be their guests last spring we probably never would have had this meeting. I believe everyone enjoyed him or herself. We personally enjoyed seeing Bill Langdon attending his first meeting in more than a year. Loescher, Shippen, Anthony and McGay were others of our members present who we see all too infrequently. The twenty-five members of the CSC certainly proved their esteem for Doc McGay, applauding just as heartily when he was named as a G-P member as when his name was called first on their own roll call. We hope all of our guests enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed them." GPCN Nov 1929  
26 JUN 49

# Ed's Output – Club History

## The Summaries?

- At some point Ed turned his little cards into typed summaries of club minutes
- Created history, including number of attendees at each meeting, annual financial report
- 6" x 9" pages, several carbon copies
- This page typed Dec. 13, 1943





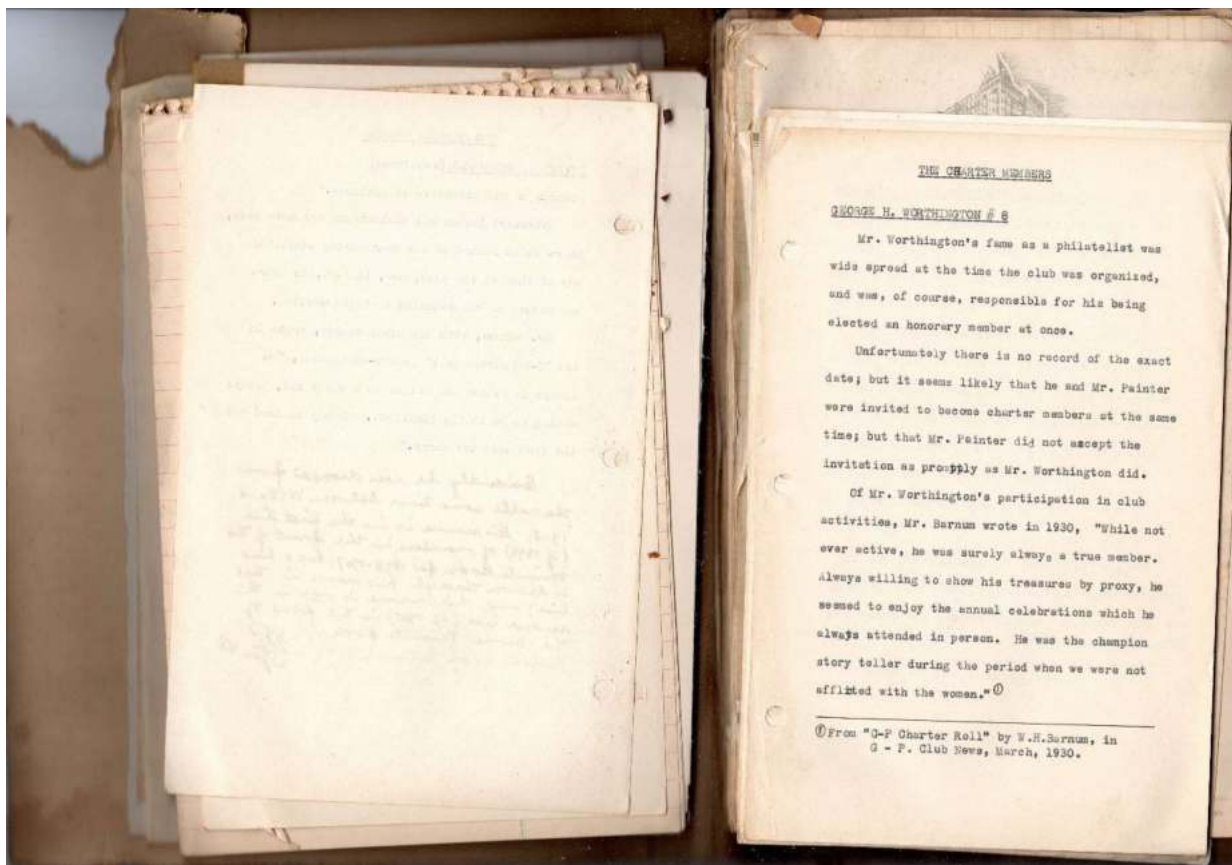
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- 
- Good, Alvin (continued) Card 9
- was authorized (with MacLennan) by Brock to  
Director to complete investigation for  
The Hippocampus 112  
with a complete coll. of C. H. MacLennan's 12-20-17  
with (with MacLennan) to make copies 1-17-18  
for 2,841 American collections 2-7-18
- Card 9
- Florsheim  
shoes for women

# Ed's Output – Members' Histories

## End Product?

- Loose sheets in scrapbook have some typed member bios, mostly charter members
- This is the first page about George Worthington and his collection
- Probably more Piper stuff in our container



# Ed Needs a Project

Had Been Club Librarian Since 1940

One Need Not Be Crazy, But It Helps



- Got caught up on G-P history around 1948
- Resurrected indexing project in 1949.
- Transcribed Green's 8" x 11" pages on to 3" x 5" slips, using any scrap of paper at his disposal.
- Re-indexed Green's original 6 journal runs, added 26 more journals and 2 books.

# Ed's Output – The Piper File

Would You Believe 90,000+ of These?

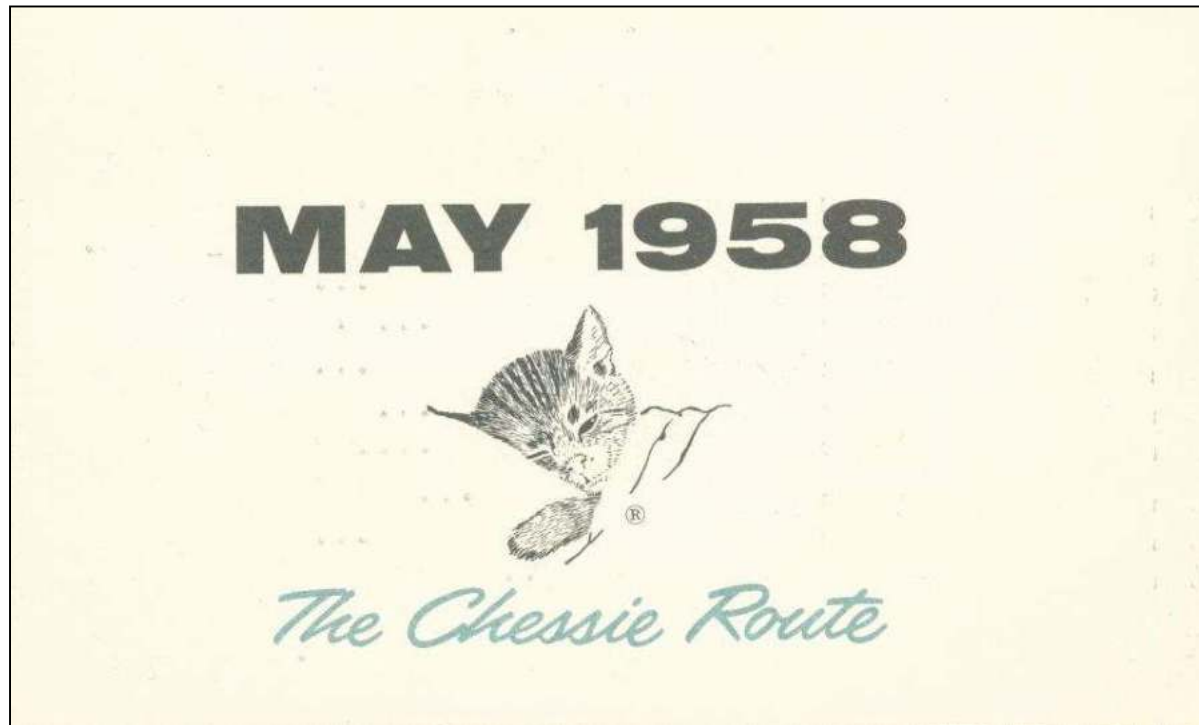
## The Piper File ~ Sample Card

U S: 1921 P.11 19x22mm 1¢ (Sc# 544)		Cd# 1
a	Two New Major Varieties... Johl	STPS 20: 197-98 Aug 7 '37*
b	Another Copy ... "	STPS 21: 102 Oct 16 '37*
c	Additional Copies ... Johl	STPS 21: 427 Dec 18 '37*
d	" " .... "	STPS 22: 232 Feb 12 '38*
e	" " ... "	STPS 23: 160 Apr 30 '38*
f	Another Copy ... "	STPS 23: 412 Jun 18 '38*
g	Sheet Rotaries, ... Sloane	STPS : 13 Jul 3 '48*
h	Another Copy ... Johl	STPS 64: 232 Aug 13 '48*
i	No. 544 B-Precancelled. Sloane	STPS 64: 341 Sep 4 '48*
j	Precancelled No. 544 "	STPS 74: 85 Jan 20 '51*
Continued on Cd #2		
abcdefghij60Ap7		

# Ed's Archival Quality Paper

Many are Blank, Many are Not

A Backside: Railroad Ticket Envelope...

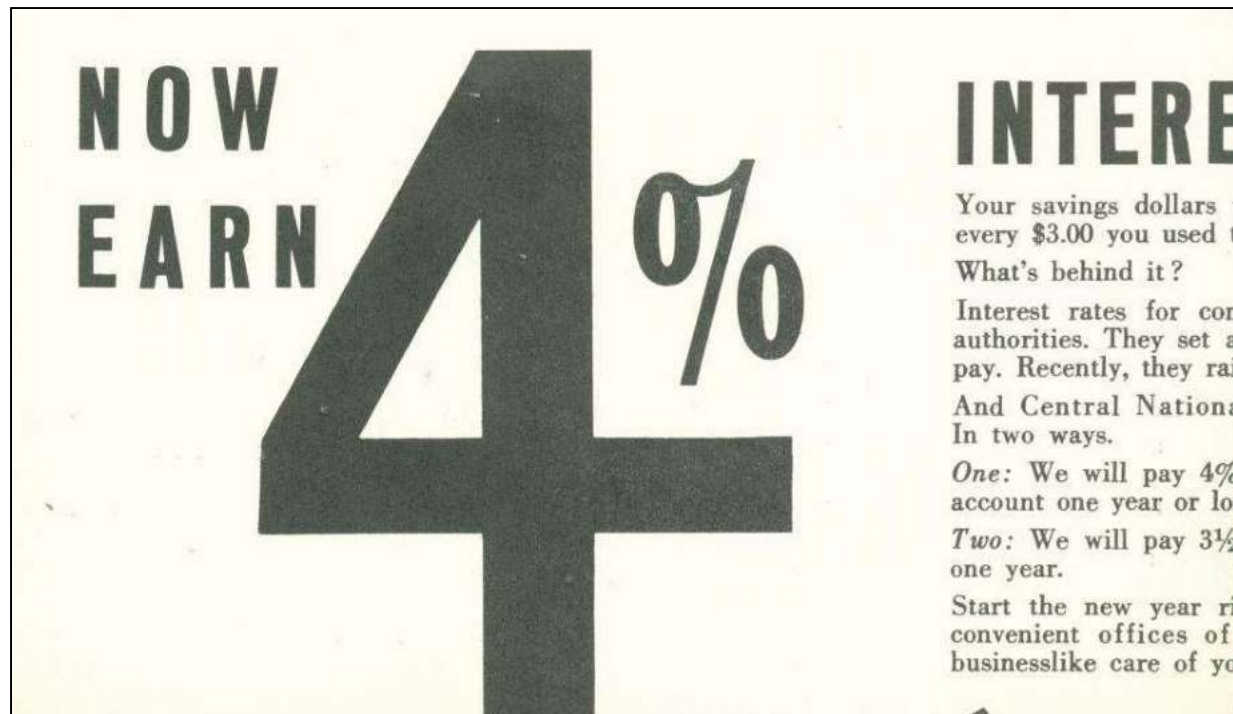




# More Archival Paper

There Are Hundreds Like This

....Bank Advertising Brochure....



**NOW  
EARN**

**4%**

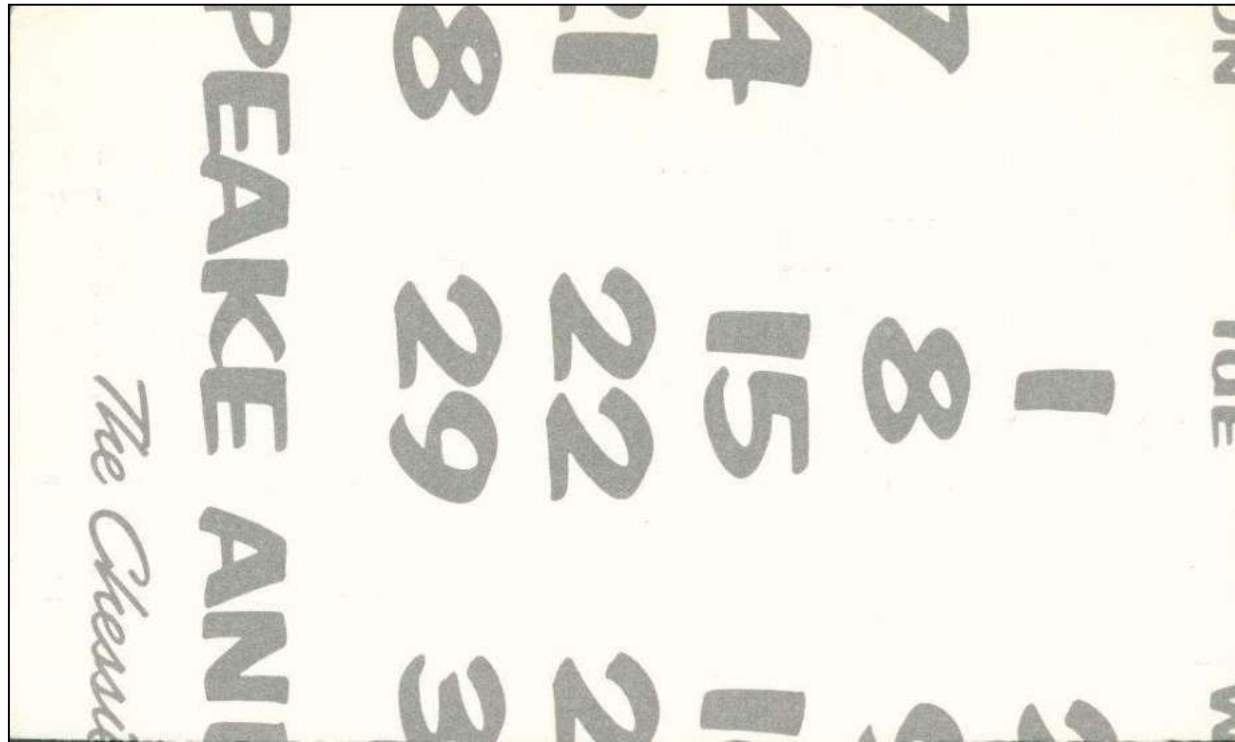
**INTERE**

Your savings dollars y  
every \$3.00 you used t  
What's behind it?  
Interest rates for con  
authorities. They set a  
pay. Recently, they rai  
And Central Nationa  
In two ways.  
*One:* We will pay 4%  
account one year or lo  
*Two:* We will pay 3½  
one year.  
Start the new year ri  
convenient offices of  
businesslike care of yo

# More Archival Paper

Vertical, Horizontal

....A Complimentary Calendar....

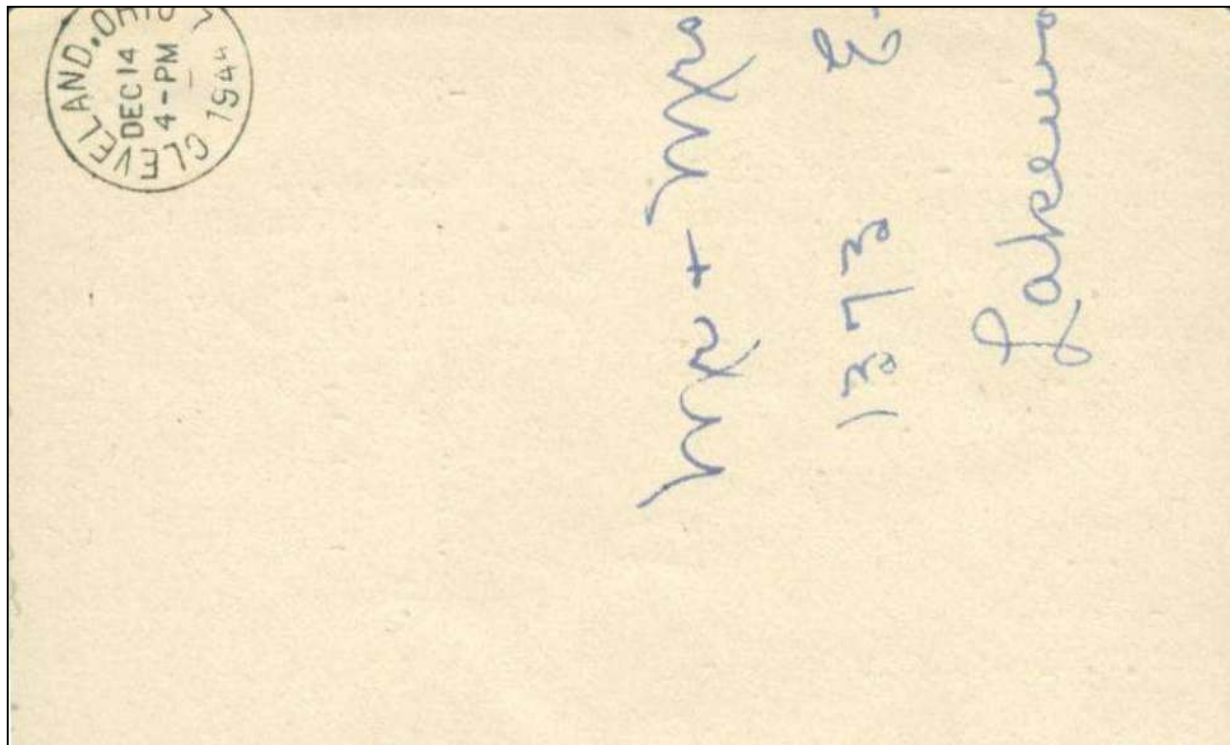


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# More Archival Paper

The Postal History He Sacrificed... ☺

....Personally Addressed Envelope....



# More Archival Paper

Not All Postal History Will Be Missed

....Postcard for the Salvation Army ....

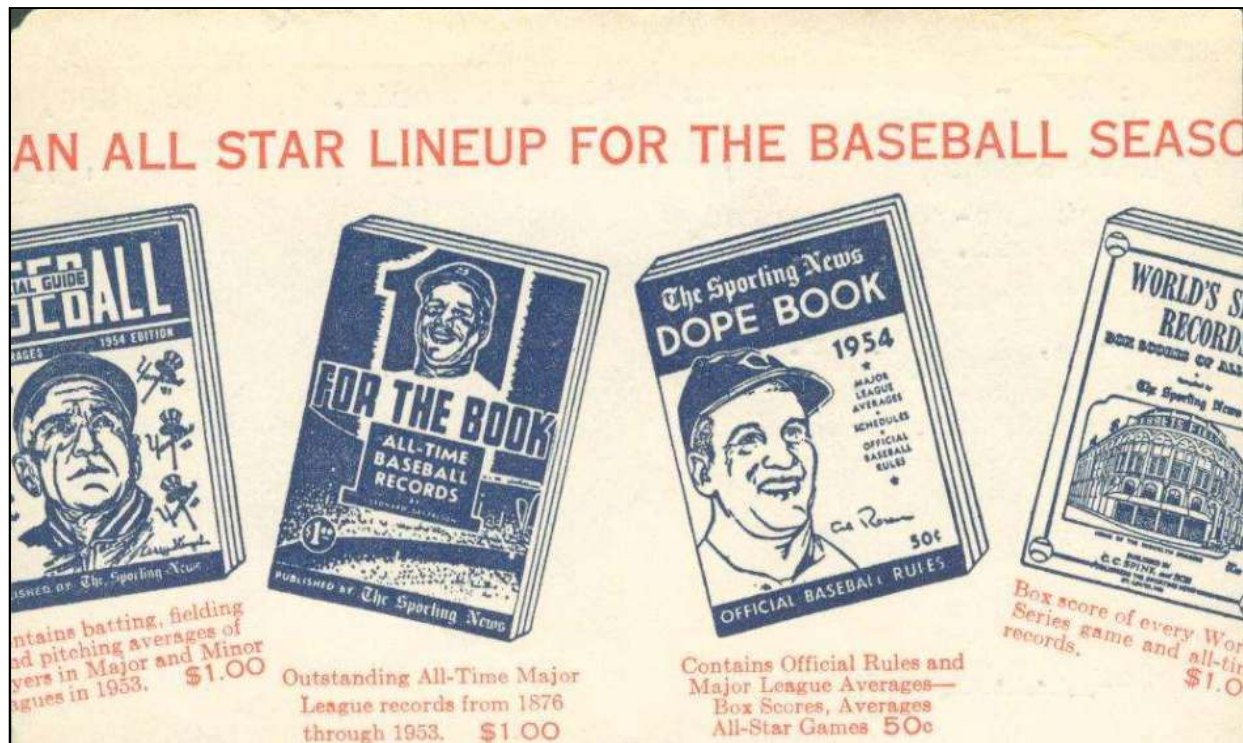


# More Archival Paper

Any Source at All...

....Advertisement for the Latest Baseball Books....

AN ALL STAR LINEUP FOR THE BASEBALL SEASON



**Baseball Guide 1954 Edition**  
Contains batting, fielding and pitching averages of players in Major and Minor leagues in 1953. \$1.00

**For the Book All-Time Baseball Records**  
Outstanding All-Time Major League records from 1876 through 1953. \$1.00

**The Sporting News Dope Book 1954**  
Contains Official Rules and Major League Averages—Box Scores, Averages All-Star Games 50c

**World's Series Records**  
Box score of every World Series game and all-time records. \$1.00





# Enough of the Archival Paper

It is Turning to Dust

....and an Advertisement for the Latest Facial Tissue.

Open your free sample of Puffs and  
be one of the first to enjoy this new  
creation in facial tissues....so sooth-  
ing on your skin.

In making these wonderful tissues,  
Procter & Gamble blends a formula of  
remarkable ingredients that looks  
and feels as smooth and velvety as

Com  
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# The Piper File – Scope

English Only, Please



- English language U.S. and British journals.
- Includes references to articles of “permanent value” excludes those of “general interest.”
- Excludes news of individual stamp clubs and dealers.
- Includes large philatelic organizations (APS) and significant philatelists (Ashbrook, Luff).



# What Ed Indexed

## Partial List of Journals

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- American Journal of Philately
- The American Philatelist
- American Philatelic Congress Book
- Collectors Club Philatelist
- Chronicle of U.S. Classic Issues
- Covers
- Cyclopedia of U.S. Postmarks
- Essay Proof Journal
- France and Colonies Philatelist
- Gibbons Stamp Weekly
- Linn's Weekly Stamp News
- London Philatelist
- Masonic Philatelist
- Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News
- Mercury Stamp Journal
- National Philatelic Museum Bulletin
- The U.S. One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857



# What Ed Indexed

## Remainder of the Journals

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- Pat Paragraphs
- Philatelic Gazette
- Philatelic Magazine
- Philately
- Philatelic Journal of Great Britain
- Postal History Journal
- Postal Markings
- Scott's Monthly Stamp Journal
- Society of Philatelic Americans Journal
- Stamp Collecting
- Stamp Specialist
- Stamps
- U.S. Cancellation Club News & Quarterly
- Weekly Philatelic Gossip
- Ward's Philatelic News
- Western Stamp Collector

# A Few of the Originals

Of Course There Were Hundreds of Issues



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# Ed's Library Legacy

## Piper Philatelic Index

### Overview



- Detailed philatelic subject headings scheme.
- Includes cross references and multiple reference citing.
- 90,000+ index cards, 450,000+ references
- Donated to APRL by his family in 1974.

# A Subject Card

Remember Manual Typewriters?

## The Piper File ~ Sample Card

Heading / Sub-headings

Scott No.

Article Title / Author /  
Journal (Acronym) /

Notes

Volume (Issue) / Page(s) /  
Date

Citation Addition

Citation/Proofreading  
Verification

U S: 1873 24¢ (cont'd) (Sc# 164) Cd#3

†The U.S. 1873-75 Twenty-Four Cent Continental Bank  
Note Stamp. il.Jere.Hess Barr APC 20: 108-18 Oct '54  
‡1873 24 cents...P.H.Ward,Jr. MEK 83: 178 Dec 3 '54\*  
cU.S.Notes. Philip H.Ward,Jr. MEK 84: 106 Apr 8 '55

dUNITED STATES.The Challenge of the  
24-Cent Bank Note ... S.G.Rich CCP 36:92,94 Mar '57  
eLong a Puzzle,Again,The Test.etc MEK 24:208 Jun 11 '10  
fWorth Attention. edit. MEK 24:232 Jul 2 '10  
gHow Can We Prove Up the 24¢ MEK 42: 55 Jan 23 '28  
hContinental: Warner Bates MEK 42: 75 Jan 30 '28  
iU.S. 24¢ MEK 42: 109-10 Feb 13 '28  
jContinental 1873 MEK 42: 145-46 Feb 27 '28  
k Elliott Perry MEK 42: 176-77 Mar 12 '28

†34.11.21 †34.12.14 33.4.11 d57.5.4 ef58Je21 ghijk59r  
34.11.27 34.12.16 35.4.12 57.5.6 58Je20 15

# Ed's Rough Draft

Handwritten Before It Was Typed

## The Piper File ~ Sample Card

Heading / Sub-headings

Scott No.

Article Title / Author /  
Journal (Acronym) /  
Notes / Volume (Issue) /  
Page(s) / Date

Citation Addition

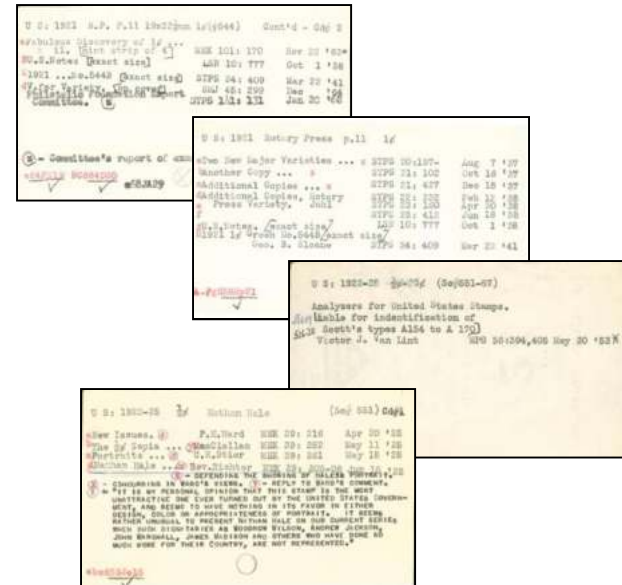
Citation/Proofreading  
Verification

US: 1875 Special Printing ~~24~~ <sup>15, 180</sup> (Set # 169) on cover  
Important United States  
Discovery - First United  
States Special Printing (34)  
known on cover  
81650 il. John W. Nicklin Sps 71: 446 Jun 3 '50\*  
Special Printing Stamps Used  
81750 Harry McKonwiser Sps 72: 226 Aug 12 '50\*

# Why Should APRL Digitize?

Does Modern Electronic Search Supplant?

## The Piper File ~ One Big Card Catalog

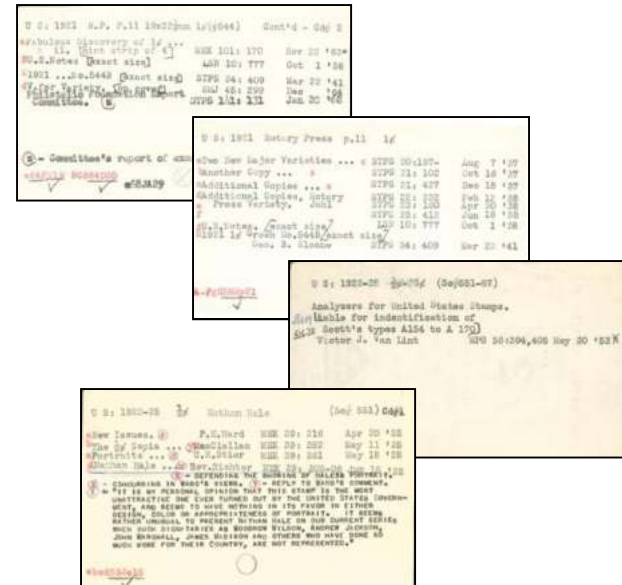


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# The Piper File ~ A Few of the 90,000+



## Garfield-Perry Stamp Club Virtual Meeting ~ August 6, 2020

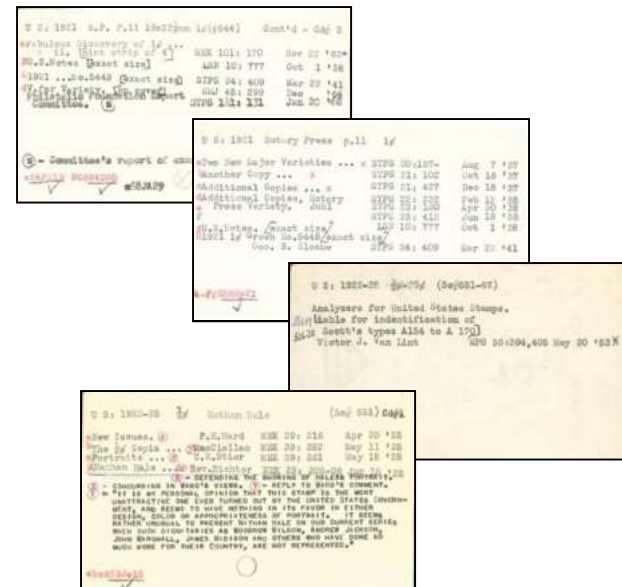


# Why Scott Tiffney Started

## Project Isn't Finished

### The Piper File ~ Why Digitize ?

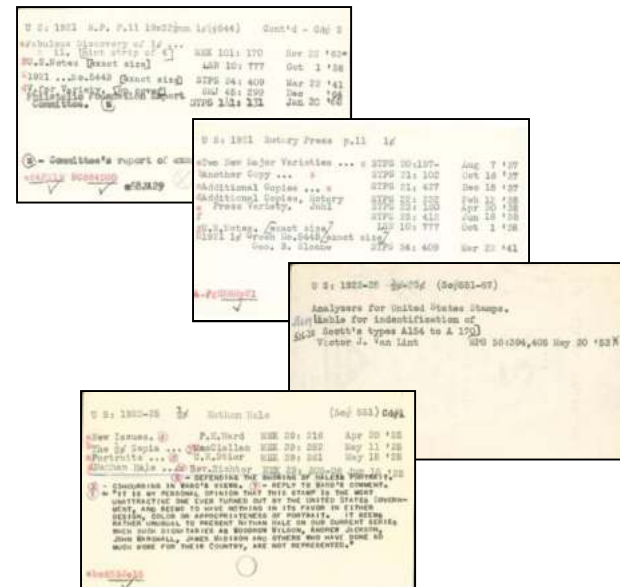
- **Unique** – Rare, Comprehensive Philatelic Index
- **Access** – Reference Staff, Members, Researchers
- **Preservation** – Card Condition / Rarity / Historical



# The Scanning Project

## Considerations

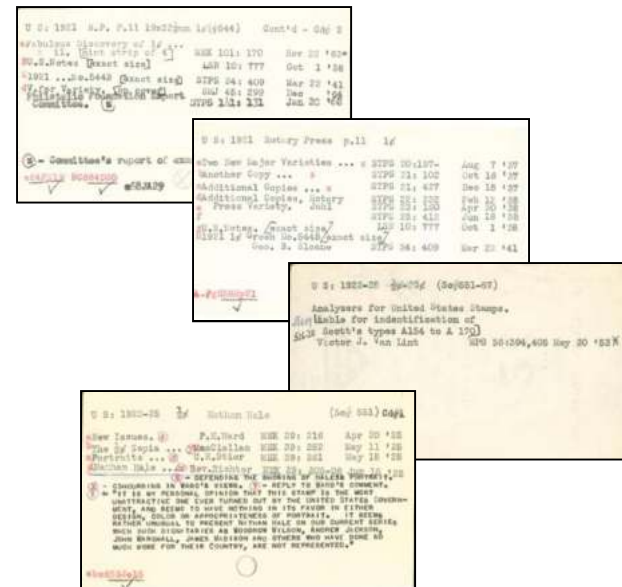
- **Protocols**  
300 dpi, Color, Readable PDF (OCR)
- **Hardware**  
Flatbed Scanners with ADF  
Overhead Scanner
- **Software**  
MS Access



# The Output

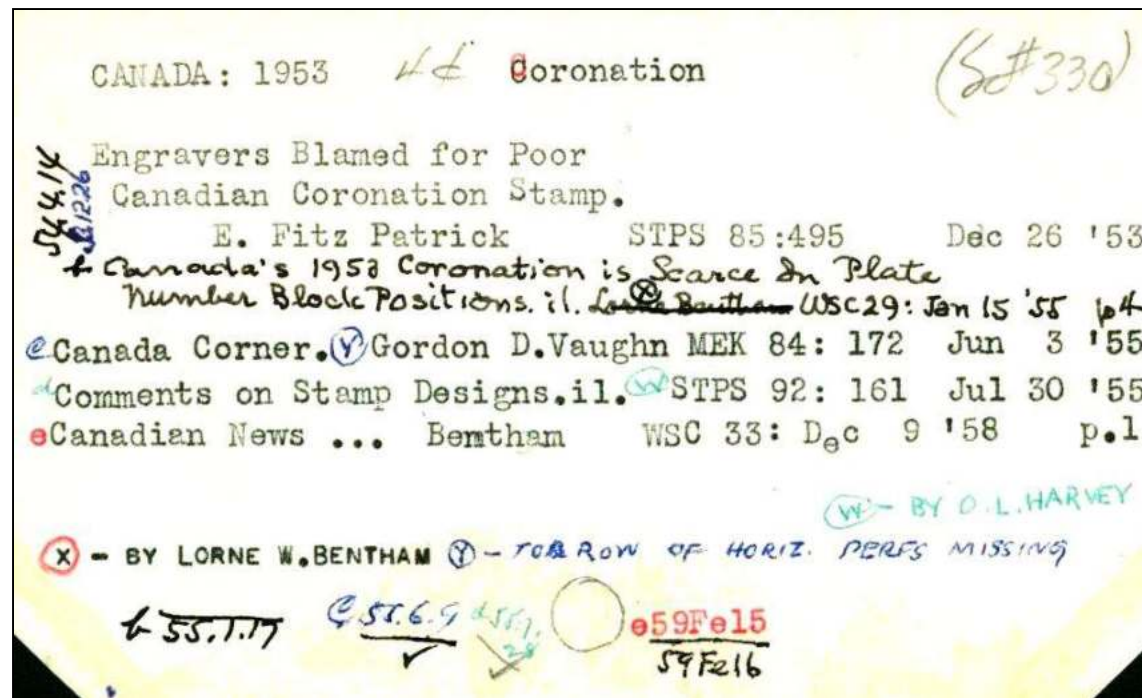
## What are the Deliverables?

- Searchable / Sortable Database
- Digital Archive of Index Cards
- Linkable Digital Index (Part of APRL Digital platform)



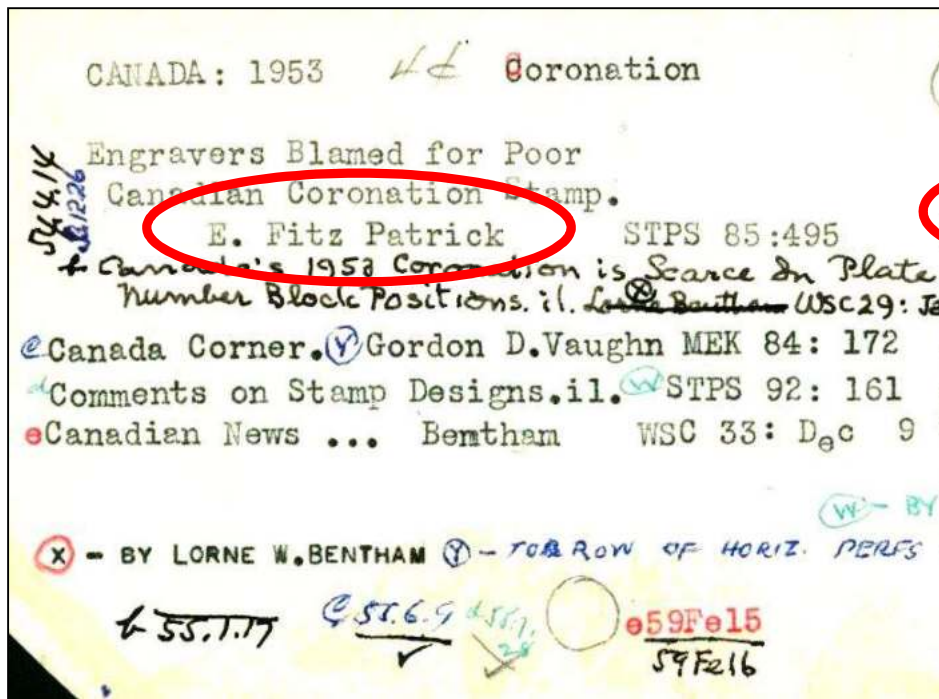
# Problem Children

Really Hard to Make This Searchable



# Preserving an Organized Philately

## The Digitization of the Piper Philatelic Index



**American Philatelic Research Library  
Piper Philatelic Index**

<b>Article Title</b> Engravers Blamed for Poor Canadian Coronation Stamp			
<b>Author</b> Patrick, E. Fritz			
<b>Journal Title</b> Stamps			
<b>Volume</b> 85	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Page(s)</b> 495	<b>Date</b> 12/26/1953
<b>Subject Heading</b> CANADA: 1953			
<b>Sub Heading</b> 4c Coronation			<b>Scott #</b> Sc# 330

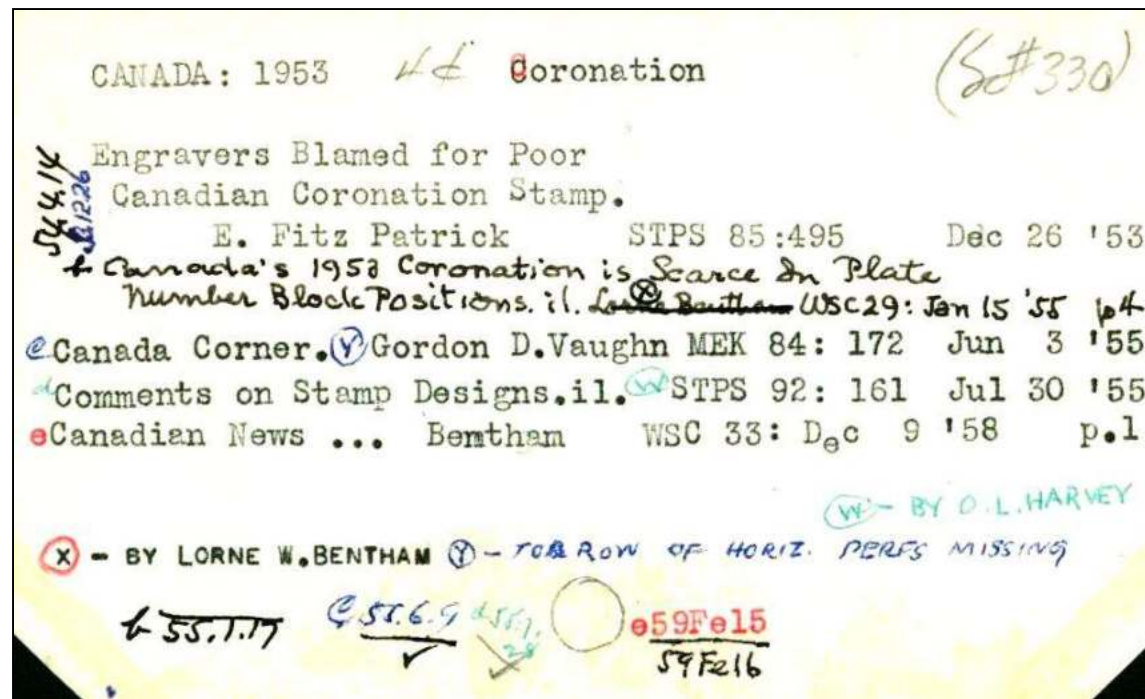
Record: 4864 of 5239    No Filter    Search



# Preserving an Organized Philately

## The Digitization of the Piper Philatelic Index

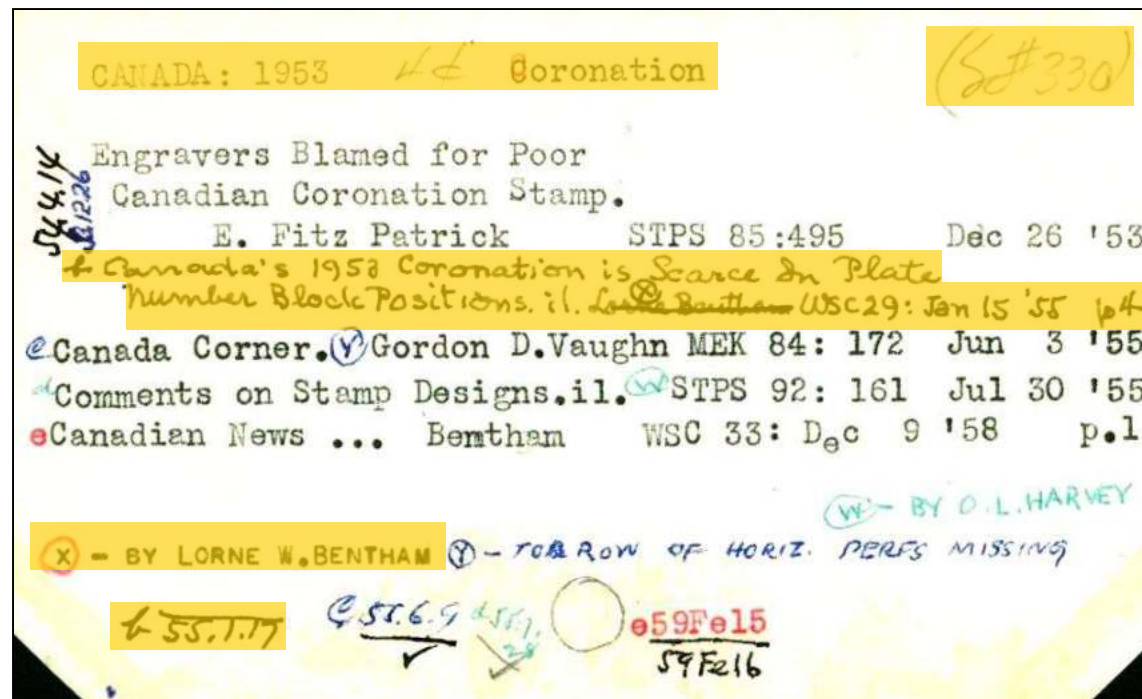
### The Piper File ~ Digitization



# Preserving an Organized Philately

## The Digitization of the Piper Philatelic Index

### The Piper File ~ Digitization



# Preserving an Organized Philately

## The Digitization of the Piper Philatelic Index

**American Philatelic Research Library**  
**Piper Philatelic Index**

**Article Title**  
Canada's 1953 Coronation is Scarce in Plate Number Block Positions

**Author**  
Bentham, Lorne W.

**Journal Title**  
Western Stamp Collector

Volume	Issue	Page(s)	Date
29		4	1/15/1955

**Subject Heading**  
CANADA: 1953

**Notes**  
il.

**Sub Heading**  
4¢ Coronation

**Scott #**  
Sc# 330

Record: 4865 of 5239 No Filter Search

**American Philatelic Research Library**  
**Piper Philatelic Index**

**Article Title**  
Canada Corner

**Author**  
Vaughn, Gordon D.

**Journal Title**  
Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News

Volume	Issue	Page(s)	Date
84		172	6/3/1955

**Subject Heading**  
CANADA: 1953

**Notes**  
Top row of horizontal per

**Sub Heading**  
4¢ Coronation

**Scott #**  
Sc# 330

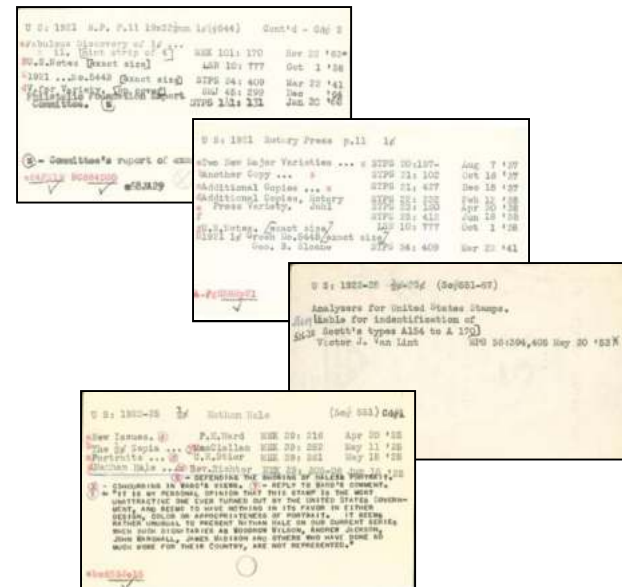
Record: 4866 of 5239 No Filter Search

# Where Are We?

Lots of Progress

## The Piper File ~ Digitization

- 59,000+ cards indexed (132,000+ unique citations)
- 31,500+ cards manually transcribed
- 8,500+ cards indexed via OCR
- 37,000+ scanned PDF card images



# Homage to Ed Piper

## A Massive Contribution to Philately

Kenneth Nilsestuen

Philatelist

(330) 869-0002

[knilsestuen@gmail.com](mailto:knilsestuen@gmail.com)



Scott Tiffney

American Philatelic Research Library

100 Match Factory Place

Bellefonte, PA 16823

(814) 933-3803 x246

[stiffney@stamps.org](mailto:stiffney@stamps.org)



The APS had nothing to do with this presentation, but everyone watching ought to be a member!