



The Prexies

Fall 1991



Bulletin of the Prexie Study Group/BIA Fifth Bureau Issue Committee

ROLAND RUSTAD
1930-1991

Though it has been widely reported in the philatelic press, we note in these pages the deep sorrow all of us feel at the sudden death of our leader Roland Rustad of Durango, Colorado.

Rollie passed after in early October while golfing with his wife, Pat. He was to have been with us at MIDAPHIL. His loss leaves a serious void among Prexie students though we are gladdened to hear that Pat will be working with Leonard Piskiewicz to consummate the publication of Rollie's projected book on our specialty. This is something which all of us had been looking forward to and its publication will be a tribute to this thoughtful, giving, serious philatelist.

The Prexie Study Group
The Fifth Bureau Issue Committee of the Bureau Issues Association
c/o Steve Suffet
Interim Chairman
41-05 47th St.
Sunnyside NY 11104

Randy Neil
Editor

Though you need not be a BIA member to participate in our group, we do urge you to join the BIA. For an application, write to: BIA, Box 1047, Belleville, IL 62223.

FINALLY... Our Own Bulletin

Welcome to our first bulletin! It's the intention of our interim committee chairman, Steve Suffet, to distribute this first issue as widely as possible so that all Prexie specialists may know that we now have our own newsletter. It's free to members of our Study Group and, for the time being, is financed by the Bureau Issues Association, our mother organization.

We can't go on, though, without your input! Send us your suggestions, your tidbits of news and finds on your own collection of Prexies. We can use just about anything! Address all inquiries to Steve at 41-05 47th Street, Sunnyside NY 11104.

Prexie Cover Swap A Success

You shoulda been there! Our first Prexie Cover Swap at MIDAPHIL was a nice success with about half a dozen of us being joined by other cover enthusiasts in a hotel suite for pizza, beer and tons of covers to pore over.

There was buying, selling and trading going on and some stuff was even given away as gifts such as, would you believe, Kansas City Royals baseball cards. It's an event we plan to continue at our very next Prexiepex! Hope you'll be there.

Prexiepex II a Whole Lot of Fun!

With over 60 frames of 1938 Presidential Issue material, "Prexiepex" at Kansas City's MIDAPHIL on Oct. 25-27 can safely be termed a resounding success. We even walked away with one gold medal: Leonard Piskiewicz' extremely well-thought-out showing of the Usages of the 1938 Presidential Series. Not only that, but Walt Cole, showing his Three Centers for the first time ever, walked away with a solid vermeil. And special congrats, as well, to Akihiro Asano who, with an exhibit prepared at his home 10,000 miles away, also managed a vermeil. Kudos also to Steve Suffet with a vermeil for his Prexie postal rates entry and Millard Mack with bronzes for his brief showings of the Three and Five Cent issues. And Randy Neil showed his Prexie usages exhibit non-competitively due to his position on the jury. Considering the diminutive size of our study group, this was, indeed, an impressive showing.

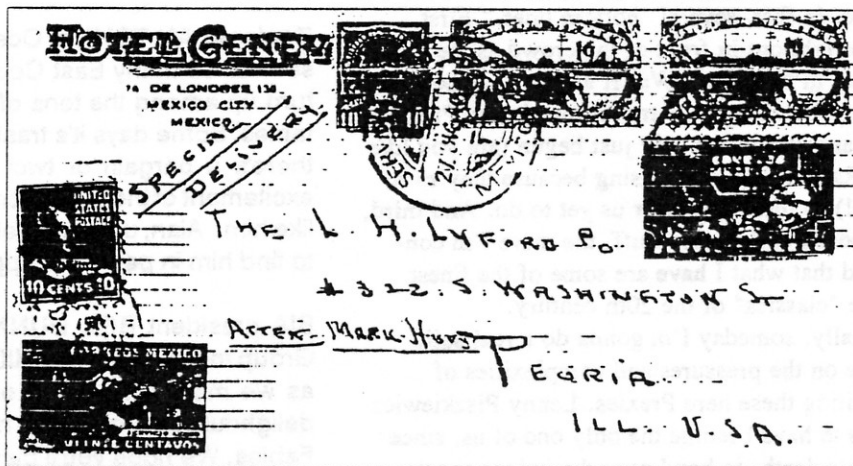
We're also pleased to announce that, during the show, Steve Suffet was appointed interim chairman of our group by BIA president Bill Dunn. Steve chaired our meetings and seminar and gave us the leadership we sorely missed because of Rollie Rustad's untimely death.

Prexiepex I, the first concerted effort by our members to exhibit at the same national show, took place at NAPEX '90 in Washington, DC during the BIA's annual meeting there.

Prexiepex III, our next national meeting, is tentatively scheduled for Indianapolis' INDYPLEX, September 11-13, 1992. Prospectus are already available from James R. Adams, P.O. Box 40792, Indianapolis IN 46240. This show is always a delightful event...centrally located in the city's beautiful downtown area with numerous nearby hotels, restaurants and shops. Its central geographical location makes it another good place for us to meet. Drop us a line if you are thinking of attending. In this way we'll know, for sure, whether to schedule our next meeting at this great exhibition.

As a sidebar: Leonard Piskiewicz again won a national gold medal at Chicagopex the weekend of November 1-3. Congrats, Lenny! You're making waves that we'll all be able to swim in!

A Puzzler of a Mexie Prexie?



MEXICO CITY to Peoria, Illinois, 1940. Does anyone know why a 10-cent Prexie was affixed? If it was to pay US special delivery fee in absence of a reciprocal S.D. agreement w/ Mexico, then why does cover also bear two Mexican 20c S.D. stamps? One or the other had to be superfluous. But which? And why? Send your thoughts on this cover to Steve Suffet as soon as possible. Answer will appear in our next issue.

From where I sit... an editorial

We might as well quit complaining---that is, those of us who do this sort of thing sometimes. I know I'm guilty of it...this griping about how much higher Prexie cover prices are these days and how they are continuing to rise.

If you managed to attend MIDAPHIL and see the enthusiasm and how downright rabid some of us are about our specialty, then you know that all of us (at least those of you I know) are so dedicated to building our collections that we've become the chief instigators of the rising prices in Prexie material. Gosh. Who would have thought that a \$10 cover sold to me in 1985 would today be worth over \$100?! But it's happened...and it's happened to each of us, no doubt.

In essence, it's something we've done to ourselves. But take heart. Our growing ranks have called valid attention to our little corner of America's postal past and this, in the long run, will not only help turn up more good stamps and covers, but put us in the almost enviable position of being on the leading edge of one of philately's most volatile investments of the 1990's.

It's like this: when I tell someone that I collect Prexie covers, they sometimes reply, "Gee, those are sure getting expensive, aren't they?"

"Well, yes," is my rejoinder. "But not only are they still a lot cheaper than some other good specialties I know, but my Prexies are the only area of philately I've ever delved into where my collection---because of the constant market appreciation---is worth at least as much on the open market as I originally paid for it. Including some of the covers I bought just last month!"

There's a great bottom line to all of this, of course. In fact, several "bottom lines." First, we're right out in front of the crowd as the interest in the World War II anniversary begins to heat up. Secondly, the true research into Prexie era rates and routes has only just begun (are you like me? Rates are still confusing because they're so many!) so there's lots for us yet to do. And third, the more I collect this stuff, the more I'm convinced that what I have are some of the finest future "classics" of the 20th century.

Finally, someday I'm gonna do a real solid article on the pressures and complexities of exhibiting these here Prexies. Lenny Piskiewicz seems to have become the only one of us, since Rollie's death, to bowl over the judges consistently. We envy you, Lenny. Now if I could only figger out some neat and tidy "plan" like you did!

Randy Neil



Net Price Sale No. 1

An anonymous donor has made this lovely example of the 30-cent air mail rate to Peru available for just \$15. All proceeds will help defray the costs of publishing this issue of our bulletin. Write to Steve Suffet to see if cover is still available. First person who contacts him will be notified the cover is his/hers! Offer open until cover is sold.

Special recognition to...

JOLYNN BRICHACEK of Columbus, Nebraska, who has racked up more awards than any of us with her youth exhibit of the 1938 Presidential series. Two of her honors, among many, include a Junior Grand at the Omaha Stamp Show in 1989, and a Junior Most Popular (chosen by the public) at HOUPEX '90. She doesn't mess around! Hers is a very good exhibit that deserves all of this recognition.

Prexie Study Group member **JOHN GRABOWSKI** of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for his indefatigable work as General Chairman of the Twin Cities Stamp Expo '91. So much attention is given to national shows that we tend to forget the important service done for philately by countless folks who put together our regional and local exhibitions. We're proud of you, John, and we enjoyed seeing you in Kansas City.

Dealer **ALAN TOHN** of Oceanside, New York, the ubiquitous "Coverman" seen at so many East Coast shows. One literally never knows what will turn up among the tens of thousands of covers Alan pours out onto his tables. Some days it's trash, and some days it's treasure. Almost always there's a bargain or two or three to be had. And there's always the excitement of the hunt. Don't we all wish there were a dozen more dealers like him. Alan, unfortunately, doesn't do mail order at this time. You'll have to find him in person to appreciate how wonderful his operation really is.

BIA president **BILL DUNN** who personally attended our Prexie Study Group meetings during MIDAPHIL and gave us his organization's support as we move into a new era without Rollie Rustad at our helm. Bill's a delightful gentleman who has more good stories than a philatelic Aesop's Fables. We hope you'll plan to be with us whenever we meet, Bill.

WALT COLE, our resident expert on the three centers, who walked away with a vermeil as a first-time exhibitor at MIDAPHIL. Hey, some of us didn't think he could do anything with that little stamp. And are we proud now!