

‘Meltdown’ doesn’t affect ‘08 Mid-Cities Stamp Expo

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Despite what some said was an “economic meltdown” on the financial markets, collectors did not shy away from the 21st annual Mid-Cities Stamp Expo, held November 8-9, 2008, in Grapevine, Texas. Attendance was actually up from the previous year, with 417 collectors registering, an increase of 57!

The 2008 Expo honored the sport of baseball, with the inspiration being a recent stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service to commemorate the centenary of the song *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*.

In conjunction with the show theme, Wendel Dickason, commissioner of the Texas Vintage Base Ball League, was on hand to tell visitors how the national pastime used to be played. The league currently has seven local teams whose members dress in vintage 1900 outfits and compete using rules and equipment circa 1860-1880.

Visitors to the show could peruse 60 frames



Wendel Dickason, commissioner of the Texas Vintage Base Ball League, poses with Stanley Christmas, chairman of the Mid-Cities Stamp Expo, in front of a display of vintage baseball relics and mementos. (Photo by Peter C. Elias)

of competitive exhibits. Stanley Christmas captured the Grand Award in Multi-Frame Division for *World Wildlife Fund Stamps*. The division’s Reserve Grand Award went to Ray Cartier for *The Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4—Fort Worth, Texas*.

In the One-Frame Division, Tom Koch nabbed top honors with an exhibit related to the show theme, *Varieties and Usages of the World’s First Baseball Stamp*. Susan Baker’s *Sea Turtles, Amazing Creatures* won the Most Popular by Public Vote Award.

The 2008 Expo judging panel consisted of two American Philatelic Society accredited judges; Jay Stotts of Houston, Texas, and Jeff Switt of Bowie, Texas.

There was only one dealer cancellation, so collectors were able to choose from the wares of 25 bourse dealers, most of whom reported excellent business.

The silent auction results were outstanding, with all the proceeds from



TPA members David Stockbridge and Harold Patterson, at left, along with Dave Hammer, are dedicated Expo volunteers. (Photo by Peter C. Elias)

the donated lots going to the club. No youth groups visited the show, perhaps due to the pleasant weather, so only 18 children stopped by the Youth Activities booth. Consequently, business was also slow at the Chance Board, usually a popular haunt for youngsters.

The Texas Philatelic Association held its semi-annual board of directors meeting in conjunction with the show—the session had been

scheduled for the Greater Houston Stamp Show, but was postponed after that event was canceled due to the effects of *Hurricane Ike*. A TPA Foundation trustees meeting was also held, but later it was decided after a careful review of the bylaws that there was probably not a quorum, so the agenda will be revisited at the next gathering, scheduled for the 2009 APS AmeriStamp Expo/TEXPEX.

2008 MID-CITIES STAMP EXPO AWARDS

MULTI-FRAME DIVISION

GRAND AWARD

Stanley Christmas - *World Wildlife Fund Stamps*

Gold Award

APS Best Exhibit by an APS Member

ATA First Place Topical Exhibit

MCSC Best Foreign Exhibit Award

MCSC President's Award

RESERVE GRAND AWARD

Ray Cartier - *The Warbirds of Air Force Plant*

#4 - *Fort Worth Texas*

Gold Award

GOLD AWARDS

Peter Elias - *4 Rings—The History of Audi*

Peter Elias - *Usages of British Empire War Tax Issues*

MCSC Best Exhibit of Foreign Material

SILVER AWARDS

Susan Baker - *Sea Turtles, Amazing Creatures*

AAPE Presentation Pin

ATA Second Place Topical Exhibit

Women Exhibitors Novice Award

Most Popular by Public Vote

Bill Belury - *Thanksgiving in America*

Harold Patterson - *The Grand Canyon of the Colorado*

AAPE Presentation Pin

BIA Statue of Freedom Medal

ONE-FRAME DIVISION

BEST SINGLE FRAME

Tom Koch - *Varieties and Usages of the World's First Baseball Stamp*

Gold Award

GOLD AWARD

Dick Pheps - *The Postage Due Stamps of the Netherlands*

Dick Pheps - *The WWII Censor Markings of Curaçao*

ONE-FRAME DIVISION (continued)

GOLD AWARD

Paul Schumacher - *Airmail Stamps of the Sudan*

SILVER AWARD

Richard Orr - *When Streetcars Carried the Mail*

BRONZE AWARDS

Ken Aldridge - *For the Love of Baseball*

Lyle Boardman - *Breastfeeding—The Natural Way to Nourish Baby—as Told by Stamps*

ATA Best Single Frame Exhibit Ribbon

Peter Elias - *St. Vincent Philatelic Sampler*

Peter Elias - *My Life on Wheels*

Tom Koch - *Farewell Boys of Summer*

Harold Patterson - *Baseball in America*

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Peter Elias - *Caveat Emptor*

MCSC YOUTH AWARD

Robert Stancil - *Cats on Stamps*

MINI-EXHIBITS

ONE PAGE DIVISION

First Place: Peter Elias - *Ta Tu Ta Taa*

Second Place: Dick Phelps - *A Bogus Issues That Was Accepted by the Post Office*

Third Place: Peter Elias - *Stamps in Stitches*

FOUR PAGE DIVISION

First Place: John Barrett - *Franco-Prussian War*

Second Place: Dick Phelps - *Netherlands' First Semipostal*

Third Place: Dick Phelps - *Netherlands' Parcel Post Experiment*

TPA President Arthur P. von Reyn and 1st Vice President Douglas Moss staffed a society table during the show's run, recruiting only one new member. However, several collectors stopped by to chat and later joined the TPA using applications picked up at the table.

The full-color show cachet (illustrated in the July-August edition of *The Texas Philatelist*) features an artist's conception of a 19th century game of baseball being played somewhere in Texas. Supplies of the cachet

remain available for \$2 each, or three for \$5, plus 50¢ postage. Collectors may choose either November 7 or 8 cancellation dates and direct orders to David Stockbridge, 2410 Wills Way Dr., Granbury, TX 76049-8062.

The venue for the 22nd annual Mid-Cities Stamp Expo will again be the Grapevine Convention Center, with the scheduled run for November 14-15, 2009. E-mail inquiries about the event may be directed to Stanley Christmas at elvira6@swbell.net. ★