

Profile: Mike & Nick Cryer ...and an adventure at the Spellman!

For those of you that do not know me...I am Mike Cryer and my son Nick (yes we have a youth member ... he is 11!) and I recently joined the Central Florida Stamp Club. And what a warm welcome we have both received! Thank you all. We hope to get there as often as we can but as life sometimes intervenes... I travel extensively for work. In doing so I am always on the lookout for anything stamps related! On occasion I may find a stamp show, a stamp club meeting, a stamp shop (rarely but sometimes), or a stamp museum. The past 15 months I have commuted to work almost every week from Orlando to Boston MA. Over the course of that time I was quite occupied for a good deal of the work week but did identify a stamp museum. It is time to share my thoughts on those visits along with introducing myself and my son to the club.

I found that there is “The Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History”. So I thought an entire museum on stamps? Can it be true? Yes it is and I planned one of my weeks there to get in early on a Sunday morning and leave out late on a Thursday evening. (They are open until 5 pm on Thursdays thru Sundays). Thus I could make 2 visits! After I visited... I wished I could have gone more often!

The museum is located in its own 2 story building on the campus of the Regis College in Weston MA -- just outside Boston. That staff there was wonderful to chat with. They have so much stuff there it is hard to say where to start. They have an amazing library with thousands of volumes of books, catalogues, periodicals and anything philatelic in nature. They have displays that they do on a regular basis that they rotate throughout the year with the help of volunteers. They have permanent collections as well including an almost complete set of US stamps in pullout displays. They have a hallway full of all sorts of philatelic history items; games, stamp holders, a dress made of real US stamps, a crate that was used to mail eggs via parcel post way back when, and on and on.



They have a gift shop too that sells all things stamp related... including new and used stamps – world-wide and US...as well as books, albums, mounts, clothes, etc. Sufficient to say my appetite for stuff from the store ran out as soon and my wallet did...but there was still much more I would have liked to get. I did get a really neat deck of cards with the rare stamps of the world on it though. On several visits I had looked for that deck of cards – which was in the display case – but did not see them. When I asked... they said I think we are out at the moment but we will sell you the display one. Sweet!

Now I saved my favorite room (by far) for last. There is “The Spellman Room” which currently houses stacks and stacks of old stamp books and other stuff like 1st Day covers. I love stamp books and found books on stamp grills, how to identify damaged and repaired stamps, books by Herman Herst – a historic stamp dealer and his stories, a book on how stamps are perforated and how to see they are re-perforated, a book about the famous inverted Jenny stamp... and a few other odds and ends.

Literally I could have spent a few days hanging out there. It was well worth the visits. You can find out more about that museum at <https://www.spellmanmuseum.org>. (Oh and when they found out I had a youth collector in the family they sent him some stuff as well!)

Contest Time; Where in the World?



One of the members of the CFSC and an intrepid travel companion, who wander the world for pleasure, partook of this sight this past spring. This enclosed courtyard shielded them from the somewhat fickle weather at the time. The all glass roof lets in a lot of light to make this a very inviting space to stroll through.

Three questions for the membership (each one is worth a \$10 door prize, ties to be broken); (1) What country is the picture taken in? (2) What specific building is this? (3) Who was the traveler?

Answers must be presented to the Editor by 8:15pm on June 7th --- IN WRITING.

HINT: anagrams are fun “gaieprutsi”
3 words

Closed Album: David Gold

By The Editor



David Gold joined the CFSC in December of 2012. David passed away on April 26th after a brief period of ill health from a severe heart attack. He was 67 years of age. At almost every event held by the CFSC you could find David either in the aisles looking for U.S. material to add to his collection or helping out at the reception desk.

The lingering effects of health issues ten years ago, made communications with David sometimes a little bit of a challenge, but if you took the time to engage with him, he had a delightful dry wit. His willingness to be of assistance at most every event was always welcome and showed an innate need to be of help.

Sadly after looking through a couple of hundred pictures taken at club activities since 2012, this was the best picture I could find. David appears in about ½ dozen photos, but he is always looking away from the camera or turned completely away.

The BoD and membership of the Central Florida Stamp Club, would like to extend our sincere condolences to his family. Rest in Peace, David. You will be missed.