



The Analyst

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Second Symposium On Track

Program Set for 2015 Symposium in Chicago

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it is headed.

Jim Allen notes "We had an enthusiastic response to our requests for presentations. This symposium will include even more applications of modern tools and new methods of analysis than the first. The usefulness of several proven techniques will also be presented. They

will be applied to queries about perforations, inks, color differentiation, chemical composition, paper and even postal history. Philatelic breadth has been expanded to include application to both modern and classic stamps, foreign and United States, and forgeries. Thoughtful (*cont. on p. 2*)

Smithsonian National Postal Museum Announces Lera's Retirement

Thomas Lera, the Winton Blount Research Chair at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, will retire Nov. 1. His retirement follows eight years in which he transformed the museum's scientific direction and established the museum as a global leader in scientific analysis in philately.

Announcing Lera's retirement, Museum Director Allen Kane paid tribute to Lera's many contributions, ranging from co-chairing eight different symposiums, publishing more than 50 articles and five books and

creating a top philatelic scientific laboratory. His articles and papers have been featured in leading journals, such as *The London Philatelist*, *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, *The American Philatelist*, *The Confederate Philatelist* and the 2003, 2009 and 2011 *Congress Books*.

"Tom demonstrated to the world how nondestructive analysis of stamps and covers can answer questions on pigments, inks and gums," said Kane. "His imprint on the hobby has been enormous, evidenced by Sotheby's three hour visit to

the museum to study the 1-cent magenta British Guiana under Tom's guidance."

Each year, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution works with the Smithsonian Congress of Scholars to present annual research prizes that recognize and promote excellence in scholarship across the Institution. Secretary Wayne Clough selected Lera to receive the 2013 Secretary's Research Prize for his book, *The G.H. Kaestlin Collection of Imperial Russian and Zemstvo Stamps*.

After spending time with Lera in the museum's labora-

tory, expertizing services such as The Philatelic Foundation in New York and the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto, Canada, purchased similar equipment to aid in their expertizing and research. Lera also travelled twice to England to help work with the Royal Philatelic Society of London on their Video Spectral Comparator 6000.

The NPM will retain Lera's services on an as-needed basis for several years through a contractual agreement.

Well done, Tom!

(cont. from p. 1) perspectives on modern technological “machine” as well as traditional “human-centered” methods will be presented. All in all, anyone and everyone interested in philately, or the technologies of philately, will have something to learn from our 14 planned presentations.”

The program, which will be sent to all registrants in early October 2015, will contain 300-word abstracts of each presentation.

As done for the first symposium, the Smithsonian Scholarly Press will publish a professionally edited volume containing full-length versions of each presentation.

Symposium Registration

First, reserve your room on the special IAP web page created by the symposium hotel. It is not too early to do this! Go to:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/IAP2015>

Next, send your \$75 registration fee to:

Ken Nilsestuen, IAP Treasurer
PMB 31
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Analytical Methods in Philately, November 2015 - Technical Sessions

Wednesday, Nov 18

- 9:00 **Robert Odenweller: Keynote Address** - Retrospective of Technical Research in Philately
- 10:00 **Thomas Lera:** The Use of X-Ray Fluorescence in Detecting Philatelic Forgeries
- 11:00 **Ted Liston:** A New Technique for Analyzing the Optical Spectra of Stamp Inks: U.S. 1861 Stamps
- 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 **John Barwis:** Ink Composition of the U.S. 3c Large Banknote Stamps
- 2:30 **Richard Judge:** Comparison of Reflectance Spectroscopy Methods: Canada 2c Admiral Studies
- 3:30 **Mark Schwartz:** VSC6000 Paper Analysis of the New York Postmaster Provisional Stamp of 1845-1847
- 4:30 **Archibald McKee:** An Examination of the People’s Republic of China R8 Set Using XRF Spectrometry
- 6:30 Complimentary cocktails and buffet at the Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 N. Dearborn Street
Free transportation will be provided.

Thursday, November 19

- 9:00 **Robert Mustacich:** Computerized Image Analysis Applied to Fingerprinting Stamp Perforations
- 10:00 **Tim Lyerla:** Use of Tonal Histograms for Determining Stamp Shades
- 11:00 **Gordon Eubanks:** Analysis of Pigment Composition of the U.S. 5c 1847 Issue
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 **Farley Katz:** Rosette Eagles of Mexico: Origin Confirmed by Microscopic Analysis of Paper Fibers
- 2:30 **Diane DeBlois and Robert Harris:** Modeling Postal History with Postal Numbers
- 3:30 **Ted Nixon:** Analytical Techniques Learned From Expertising the Canada 1868 2c Laid Paper Variety
- 4:30 **Jonas Hällström:** Fakes, Forgeries and Experts Journal (FFE): In Retrospect and the Future



Extend your visit to enjoy Chicagopex, 20-22 November 2015

Venue is the same hotel - no need to move.

290 Frames of Exhibits

Literature Competition

80 Dealers

Lera Joins IAP Board of Directors



We are pleased to announce that Tom Lera has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Institute for Analytical Philately.

Tom's leadership skills and experience in both philately and technology will be an important asset to our team, and to anyone seeking a deeper un-

derstanding of the composition of their philatelic materials. To our knowledge Tom has worked on more analytical projects involving stamps and covers than anyone else.

"Tom has made an important contribution to analytical/scientific philately not only in the United States but around

the world," said David Beech, member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. "His development of the National Postal Museum's philatelic scientific laboratory has much advanced understanding in this new field for philately."

Welcome, Tom!

Liston Receives IAP Grant

Ted Liston is receiving IAP support for his research into mathematical techniques to exaggerate very slight differences between visible-near infrared spectra of the inks of different printings. The

challenge is to determine whether subtleties between near-identical appearances of these spectra can be teased out, and can be shown to differentiate the apparently identical inks.

Website Upgrade

We have had difficulty in maintaining our website, due largely to having to twice change our webmaster. We now have engaged Larry Fillion, a web expert, fellow philatelist, and philatelic

exhibitor. We are slowly adding content. Please log on and make suggestions for additions by sending a message to any board member.

www.analyticalphilately.org

Take a Display Frame at the 2015 IAP Symposium

Courtesy of Chicagopex, a small number of exhibit frames will be located in the symposium auditorium for use by participants. We will provide, at no cost, a frame to be used to highlight a technical issue of your choice.

If you are one of the program speakers, you might wish to highlight material you have analyzed, along with charts or graphs too large for a PowerPoint presentation.

If you are an IAP member, you might like to pose a

technical challenge, or illustrate work in progress for which you seek advice.

If you are not an IAP member, you could display a philatelic puzzle you think might lend itself to technical analysis.

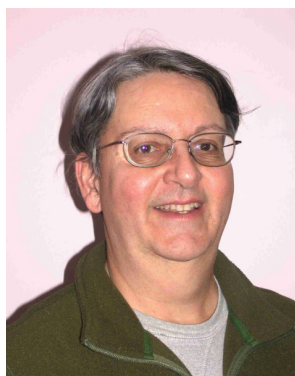
Please declare your intent

by 30 April 2015 by sending a short summary of what you will show to:

jbarwis@charter.net

Only one frame per participant please.

Harry Brittain Retires from IAP Board of Directors



Our friend and colleague Dr. Harry Brittain has elected to leave the board to devote more time to concentrate on his many obligations.

He is Editor for the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, Editor for his book series *Profiles of Drug Substances, Excipients and Related Methodology*, and is working on the second edition of his book *Spectroscopy of Pharmaceuti-*

cal Solids. To provide for his family and pay his stamp bills, he also does consulting work, which shows no sign of letting up.

Harry has been invaluable in helping philatelic researchers understand the capabilities of various analytical techniques. He is particularly good at presenting complex scientific principles in plain English for a general audi-

ence. If you seek a good technical writing style to emulate, study his series of six articles on the papers and inks of stamps of the Confederate States of America (*The Confederate Philatelist*, 2013 and 2014 issues). These are well-presented, classic works of forensic philately.

We will continue to ask his advice. Thanks Harry!

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**Have a philatelic puzzle?
Apply for an IAP research grant!
We can help with equipment availability & analyses.**

**We're on the Web!
www.AnalyticalPhilately.org**

Why Wait?

You are curious about a particular stamp issue or cover. You would like to know more, but are not sure what questions to ask. Consequently you have no idea what techniques would best address the key questions, and you are concerned about analytical costs—to say nothing of travel expenses.

- One of our directors can suggest an analytical approach, and even help you craft a grant application.
- You can conduct your work with friendly, free guidance from Tom Lera at the NPM, the world's best equipped philatelic research lab.
- Your analyses will cost nothing, and your travel expenses can be offset with your research grant.
- If you cannot travel, we may be able to provide a bright university sciences major to do the lab work, whom you can pay from your research grant.
- IAP experts will help you evaluate and interpret your data, and suggest ideas that will help you write up your results.

What's not to like about this deal?

Just do it!



Chicagopex 2015

CHICAGOPEX is the annual exhibition and bourse sponsored by the Chicago Philatelic Society, one of the two oldest philatelic organizations in America. In 2015 the Society will celebrate its 129th anniversary. Their show is one of the largest and most prestigious in the United States, regularly hosts annual conventions of various specialty societies, and usually mounts about 300 frames.

In addition to the philatelic exhibition, CHICAGOPEX is one of only three shows in the country to sponsor a

literature competition every year. All awards are presented at a gala banquet on Saturday evening.

The bourse is located in two ballrooms and includes more than 80 dealers offering a wide selection of philatelic material. Regency-Superior will conduct a major auction during the show. No matter what you collect, at CHICAGOPEX you are likely to find something worth taking home with you.

The venue is the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel, a four-star facility

conveniently located for air travelers. It features a terrific steak restaurant, and a large, comfortable bar very conducive to meeting old friends and making new ones.

A large, casual restaurant in the lobby is convenient for meals or coffee. Use the fitness center, or enjoy the indoor heated pool and whirlpool.

For those desiring a break from the show, and/or as an activity for an accompanying partner, the largest shopping mall in Illinois is located just five miles from the hotel.