



MUSEUM OF STAMPS  
& POSTAL HISTORY

**November 2009**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Saturday, Nov. 7 – A demonstration of Guide Dog training presented by Guiding Eyes for the Blind. They will bring their puppy “Poet”. 1:00 p.m. (This is part of the Museum’s celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Louis Braille’s birth. For more information about the worldwide Braille celebration check the site [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org) )*



*Saturday, Nov. 14 – A visit from Helen Keller presented by the Historical Perspectives for Children 2:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, Nov. 19 – “Unexpected Unlikelihoods –Kinetic Sculpture” talk by artist David Lang 7:30 p.m.  
(See his art work on his website [www.davidlangstudios.com](http://www.davidlangstudios.com) )*

*Saturday, Nov. 21 – A hands-on demonstration by staff from the Perkins Institute about the most current computer technology being used by the visually impaired. 1:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, Dec. 5 – Annual Holiday Family Day Noon-4:00 p.m.  
Write a letter to Santa. Many stamp activities.*

*Thursday Dec. 10 – “The Geography of Coffee” – Dr. James Hayes-Bohanan, Geography Professor, Bridgewater State College 7:30 p.m.*



***And don't forget the Riverside Bourse on Sunday, Nov. 8 10:00-3:00***

## **IN THE GALLERY**

As part of the Spellman Museum's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, a special exhibit in the Main Gallery will highlight many of the stamps and covers which honor and aid the blind. Of particular interest is a letter from March 1850, carried by Blood's Dispatch, with the notice in raised letters of a meeting of the Board of Managers of The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind. The letter was a gift to the museum in 1975 from Herman ("Pat") Herst, Jr., well known stamp dealer and writer.

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

Members and guests recently enjoyed an evening of wine, food and conversation at the annual Spellman Museum Fundraising Dinner held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This annual event, celebrated during stamp collecting month, brings members together to raise funds for the museum and to participate in a members' philatelic exhibit. Following the dinner, Guest Speaker SSG Sean Durkee of the Army National Guard, shared his photographs and personal insights of Iraq with members and guests. For pictures of the evening, see our website.

## **IN THE LIBRARY**

By a happy coincidence, we are able to make two related announcements: the addition of a new Trustee to the Museum's Board and the addition of a new book to the Library. The new Trustee is Jim Kotanchik, a long-time member of the Museum; the new book is Jim's latest in a series of studies of official seals. This new work, entitled *A Priced Catalog of Chinese Official Seals*, covers the subject from the Imperial Post period right up to today's People's Republic. Every known seal is illustrated in color, described, and valued. You can find it displayed in the Curator's Choice section in the Library.

## **EDUCATION NEWS**

Around 50 visitors came to our Oct. 22 speakers program featuring political cartoonist Dave Granlund. We were especially pleased that 14 Weston highschoolers from Mr. Corcoran's government class attended. Mr. Granlund donated to the Museum two original color cartoons, both about the post office, as well as an autographed copy of his book *Pulling It Altogether*. Both the book and the cartoons are now on display in the Museum's Library.



*Signing his book and sharing his cartoon demonstration with two budding artists*

Several Girl Scout troops will be visiting the Museum this month to do a merit badge program, and we are starting to schedule schools to participate in our “Peace and Justice” program being funded by the grant from the Sisters of St. Joseph. Board member Siobhan Mahaney will be visiting the children’s room at the Wellesley Public Library this month to do a presentation to youngsters about how they can begin a stamp collection and to explain the basics of philately with them.

Education Director Henry Lukas had his “letter to the editor” published in the October issue of the APS journal *American Philatelist*. He wrote about the designing of the 1964 President Kennedy stamp in reference to the magazine’s July story about presidential airplanes.

## SPEAKER SERIES

David Lang, a watercolorist, sculptor and photographer, will be sharing his work and ideas about kinetic sculpture as the second speaker in this fall’s series designed to encourage people who might not normally think about visiting to come and see what the Museum has to offer. Mr. Lang chaired the Art Department at Middlesex School for thirty years and currently has pieces of his work in several area museums. The program is free, courtesy of The Cambridge Trust Company, and is open to the general public at 7:30 on Nov. 19. The main gallery will open at 6:30 for viewing. Please encourage your friends to join you in attending

Check out David Lang’s website to see his sculptures move  
[www.davidlangstudios.com](http://www.davidlangstudios.com)

## ODDS AND ENDS

The Museum’s donated collection of over 1,400 worldwide stamps featuring men and women wearing eyeglasses was mentioned in the APS October email newsletter in its story about a website about featuring spectacles on stamps.

For creating a rather unusual collection think about the California philatelist who recently exhibited his collection at the Humboldt, California, stamp club. It included envelopes bearing a particular Swedish stamp that have cancellations for each day of the year of his birth.

Have you heard of country/folk singer John Prine? Before starting his singing career, he was a letter carrier in Chicago. He began to write his songs while delivering the mail...

Combine a European vacation with your collecting. Think about attending the international BIRDPEX show in Belgium from April 9-12, 2010. Check out their website [www.bird-stamps.org](http://www.bird-stamps.org).

## TRIVIA CONTEST

Congratulations to member Dr. William Welch who correctly answered last month's questions: "At what time of day was the first day ceremony held in Helena, Montana, for the new **Gary Cooper** stamp, and what was the rather unusual location for the first day ceremony of the new **Nature of America: Kelp Forest** stamps held in Monterey, California?" Answers: High noon, and underwater at the Monterey, California, aquarium.

This month's question asks: What was rather unusual about a three-cent stamp issued by Puerto Rico in November, 1893?

Send your answer to [info@spellman.org](mailto:info@spellman.org) by Nov. 13 to be eligible to receive the prize of a \$10 gift certificate to the Museum store.

WE WISH ALL OF YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

