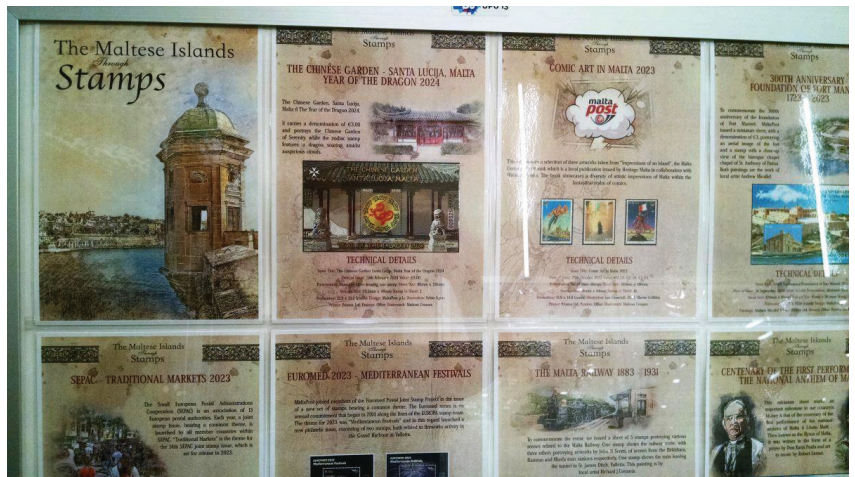


## 2024 WESTPEX – Report About the Show

By John Walter

The interesting aspect of this year's show was the Universal Postal Union's North American competitive exhibits. Attendees were encouraged to vote for their favorite UPU exhibit from 28 countries. The exhibits are traveling the world this year and will be in Paris, May 29-June 1, then Seoul, Oct. 7-11, and finally in Shanghai, Nov. 29-Dec. 3. What an opportunity to see this "traveling road show" of exhibits. The UPU was created in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.



The Maltese Islands Stamps exhibit frame. One of 28 countries with an exhibit.



First Day Cancel cropped from cover.

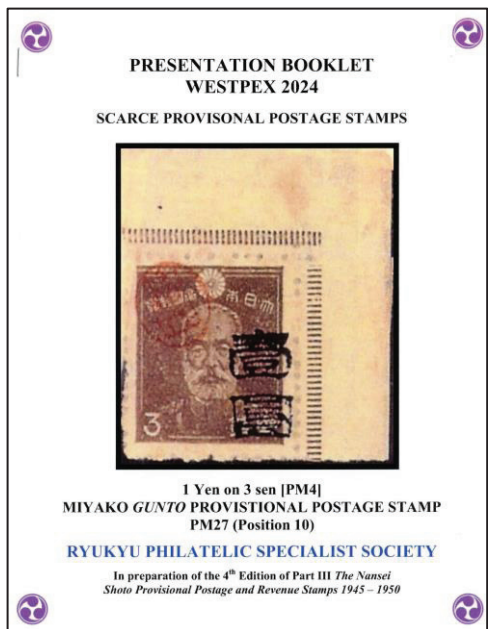
Two First Day Ceremonies were held Friday morning. The USPS issued the \$1 Floral Geometry stamp and the U.N. added to the Endangered Species series of stamps. I missed both ceremonies since our carpool did not arrive at the show until around noon on Friday, April 26.

This year's exhibits had more frames (276) than I remember in the past 10 years. Exhibit frames spilled over from the Grand Ballroom out into the hallway. A few other attendees also remarked they have never seen frames in the hallway.

If anyone was looking for dealers, there were 66 booths with every space taken. Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions had 4 full days of live auctions. There were also 33 meetings open to the public (yes, I counted them). There were a few more meetings that were members only.



In my case I attended a few specialty society meetings starting with the Hawaiian Philatelic Society which had a great presentation on Hawaiian history and its postal cards. The attendees shared some "imported" macadamia nuts and shared some stories.



As a member of the Ryukyu Philatelic Specialists Society, I have been attending these meetings for about 10 years. The presentation was on the "Errors, Freaks and Oddities of the Currency Conversion Issues" (Scott 43-55). The presentation booklet (cover shown on the left) this year had images of scarce provisional stamps.

The society is looking for a few of the early provisional issues that may or may not exist. Of course, color images are needed for a new monograph that is being prepared for publication later this year.

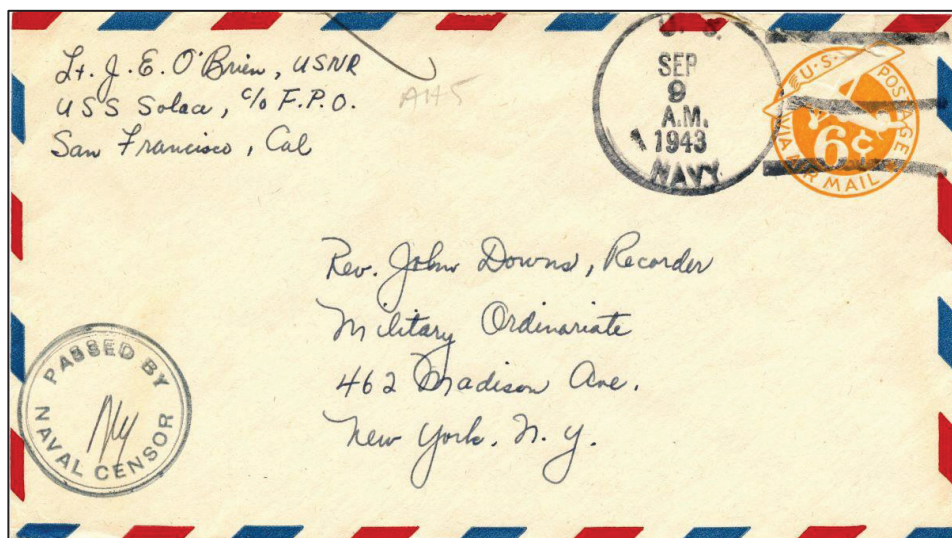
I represented our club at the Council of Northern California Philatelic Society meeting. Their quarterly newsletter "Council Courier" is sent to all our members via email.

**Larry Crain** had a presentation on "Collecting Columbia or Panama." He showed stamps from both countries that can be used as topical/thematic subjects. It was lots of fun presented by one of our club members.



**Larry Crain giving a presentation on "Collecting Columbia and Panama."**

The last meeting I attended was the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, USS Saginaw Chapter 59. I am a member of both the chapter and the national organization. Steve Shay gave an excellent talk on the "Battleship USS California." Steve is the Secretary of USCS and coordinates monthly Zoom presentations offered by the USCS.



**Nice cover sent in 1943 with naval censor mark from the hospital ship USS Solace AH-5. She was at Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack.**

I joined the Universal Ship Cancellation Society a few years ago when they had their national convention at WESTPEX. At that time, I did not collect any ship covers. I joined the USCS since members were great to talk and share stories with. **Dave Gehringer** is a USCS member for many years and talked me into starting a new collecting area. And here I am collecting hospital ship covers. I added 7 covers and two picture post cards to my collection.



[illegible][illegible]

Robert Pope (Sacramento Philatelic Society) will be bringing his exhibit "Overprints of Mexico Hidalgo 5 Centavo War Issue 1911-1917" to our stamp show in July.

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**AIR LETTER**

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