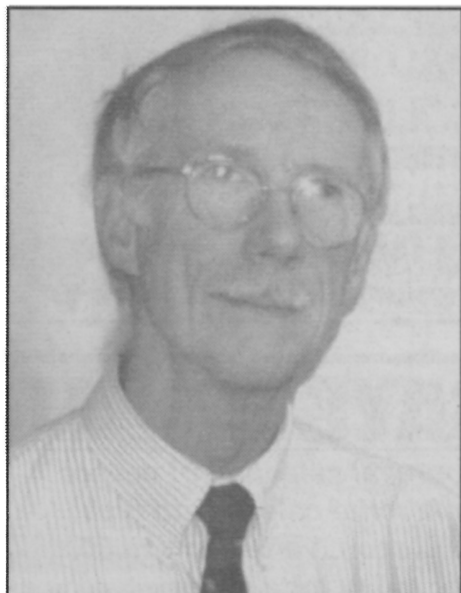


Robert F. Welt | Associate Editor

Hands-On History

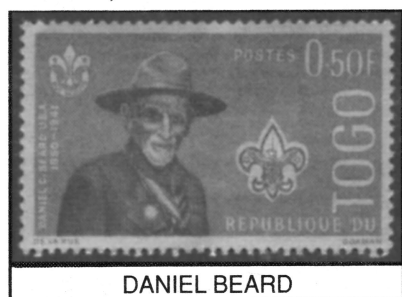


Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, the group that sponsors Philatelic Show, gave us a grant towards the cost of transportation. Another very generous grant came from the British North American Philatelic Society, and we were delighted to receive a check from a *GSN* subscriber.

I should also add that in their own way, the dealers at the show helped us. I know that some of the prices my kids paid for items they purchased were far below the normal retail price. Before we ever got to the show, I gave the kids a review of collecting terms and distributed a *Stamp Show Tips* handout.

One of the things I mentioned was that the gold first day covers with which we're all familiar, are very attractive, but that they aren't particularly valuable. While at the show, Tiffany and Savannah set out in a hunt for such covers and they found them in a dealer's dollar box. When they tried to pay for their purchases, the gentleman refused their money. I heard him later explaining to another dealer that he'd given the covers away because of the girls' nametags. While I prepare identification tags for all the kids showing their first names, I also make up a couple of gag tags if I have extra blanks and let the kids decide who will wear them. Tiffany and Savannah were wearing CUTE and CUTER tags!

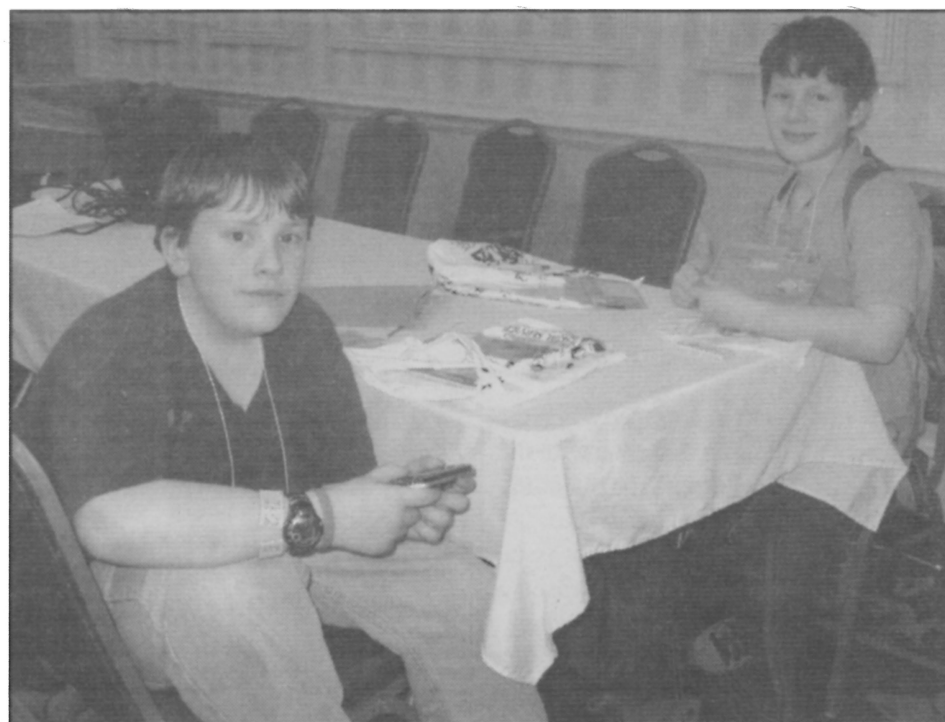
The displays my kids exhibited ranged in both topic and quality, but that's normal. One doesn't attend a Little League game expecting to see grand slams and perfectly executed double plays. Kids' exhibits are much the same. There are a lot of walks, and an occasional home run.



DANIEL BEARD

An exhibit by 6th grader Wyatt Antoine particularly pleased me. Wyatt, who is a Scout, prepared an exhibit of Boy Scout stamps. One of his stamps showed Daniel Beard, who had a great deal to do with the organization's success in the United States. Beard, who was an artist and a friend of Ernest Thompson Seton, founded the Sons of Daniel Boone, an organization that he merged with the Boy Scouts. It is interesting to note that his sister founded the Campfire group, which continued as a rival to the Girl Scouts for many years.

In 1911 Seton was the Chief Scout and Beard was a member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. Some of the other names of Executive



CALEB & WYATT



SOUVENIR SHEET FROM GRENADA

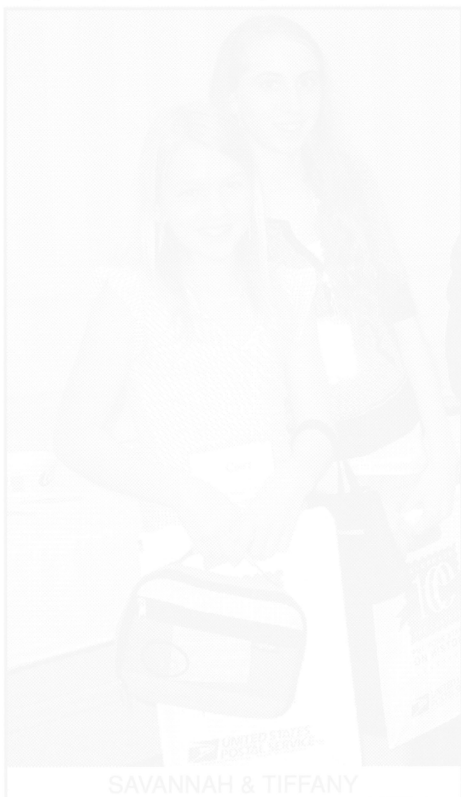
Board members indicate the high esteem in which this fledgling organization was held. Such persons were: August Belmont, Winston Churchill, T. C. Du Pont, William B. McKinley, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Scribner, and Major General Leonard Wood.

Among other stamps, Wyatt included a souvenir sheet from Grenada. This, along with the other stamps he chose, showed him and others who viewed the exhibit that Scouting is an international organization.

Once again this year the Fitch Middle School Stamp Club made its annual trek to Boxborough for Philatelic Show. I have to say that it was probably one of our most successful trips ever, with 31 kids, a dozen displays, a half-dozen chaperones, including two moms, two teachers, a representative from the Groton Town Hall, and a retired Navy nurse who is an active collector. (People who have never run a field trip can't begin to understand how great a feeling it is to know that one of your chaperones is a nurse!)

The fact that my own health was better was also a big factor in making me enjoy the show. (Last year when we got back to Groton I went home, and not feeling at all well, took my temperature, which turned out to be 102.3. I lost almost the next month of work with pneumonia! As my wife reminds me, I'd have missed less time if I'd listened to the doctor and not tried to go back too soon. There's a lesson in that; do what the doctor says.)

We'd never have made it to Boxborough without some help. Once again, the



SAVANNAH & TANY



YEMEN STAMPS PORTRAYED THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY

gious nature, not Santa Claus. This 6th grader chose stamps from Yemen that portrayed the Annunciation to Mary by the Angel Gabriel that she was to have a baby. Other stamps from Yemen, Chad, and Great Britain showed angels and shepherds. A stamp from Equatorial



SAVANNAH EXHIBITED CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Savannah exhibited Christmas stamps and she opted to select stamps of a reli-



YEMEN AND CHAD STAMPS SHOW

ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS