

The Bay Phil is a publication of The Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Inc.

The Friends of The Western Philatelic Library, Inc. is an organization of philatelists assisting in the growth and maintenance of the Western Philatelic Library.

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Library receives \$5,000 gift from SFPPS!



Russ Samuels, President of San Francisco Pacific Philatelic Society (SFPPS) presents Nestor Nunez, Treasurer of Friends of Western Philatelic Library, Inc. with a check. The Board of SFPPS made the donation in memory of longtime beloved member Jean Ostrander.

Photo: Bob Gordon



Bob Gordon, Editor

Editor's Corner

THE LIBRARY is grateful to our friends at San Francisco Pacific Philatelic Society. The Society, in memory of member Jean Ostrander, voted to donate \$5,000 to the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library. Thank you, SFPPS! (See photo on page 1).

In other local philatelic news, WESTPEX has announced that Daryl Reiber was elected as new Chairman of the Board. Congratulations, Daryl!

Want to connect with Western Philatelic Library?

- 1) Call 650-306-9150
- 2) Email libry@att.net
- 3) Visit www.fwpl.org

Thank you to our donors!

We are grateful to the following for their recent donations to The Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Inc.

Richard Clever (San Jose)

Leslie Cox (Visalia)

John K. Cross (Oakhurst)

Ken Entin (San Jose)

Chris Gerlach (San Francisco)

Vesma Grinfelds (San Francisco)

T. Hines (Chappaqua, NY)

Stephen M. Lee (Walnut Creek)

Jim Kingsbury (Yorktown Heights, NY)

Walt Kramsky (San Jose)

Greg Mersky

David Moore (Sunnyvale)

Judith Paul (Emerald Hills)

David Pollard (Palo Alto)

Larry Rosenblum (Sunnyvale)

Stephen D. Shumann (Hayward)

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions

Marlene Somsak (Sunnyvale)

Jim Storey (Burlingame)

Michael Turrini (Vallejo)

Hugo Vargas (Danville)

Thank you to our newest member!

Peter Leffler (San Francisco)

Summary of Board Actions

Board Meetings of The Friends of Western Philatelic Library, Inc. are open to all.

THE FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN PHILATELIC LIBRARY, INC.

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIONS JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019

JULY 20, 2019:

Election of New BOD Member: Ed Jarvis asked *BayPhil* Editor Bob Gordon if he would be willing to join the FWPL Board of Directors as a member. Bob inquired about personal liability as a Director, and Nestor Nunez explained that the Library's 501(c)3 Liability Insurance coverage includes Directors. Bob said he feels it has been helpful for him to be connected to the Library as Editor of the *BayPhil* and agreed to take on the position if nominated. Ed Jarvis then moved to nominate Bob Gordon as an *At Large Director* of the FWPL, seconded by Stu Leven. The nomination passed unanimously.

Funds and Fundraising: WESTPEX will likely continue the yearly contribution to the FWPL. As an aside, it was pointed out that the new Chairman Daryl Reiber is a Life Member. Dale and Edie Eggen will be asked to help with "Crowd Sourcing". Ed Jarvis asked a neighbor, a licensed Real Estate Appraiser, to do an informal look at the Library building and reported it is valued at about \$1.5 million, with a loan value between \$1.5 and \$2 million. The building next door is for sale for \$1.9 million.

Open House and Auction: The Open House was held on Saturday April 13, 2019 starting at 10:00 am with an Auction at 11:00 am. Ken Lewetzow and Wally Jolliff described and listed the lots. Thanks to Wally Jolliff, the listing of Auction Items are already on the Website. The Open House also featured a Book Sale as well as free Literature and Accessories. Ed and Judy Jarvis sponsored coffee, tea, and cookies for the event. Roy Teixeira organized the event, and his wife Sigrid, Kristin Patterson, Eduardo Martino, and Dave Moore also gave great help.

Policy Statement for Retention of *American Philatelist*: After noting the availability of the complete run of this publication digitally, Ed Jarvis moved to keep only one unbound backup set of the *American Philatelist* (in addition to the bound set on the shelves), seconded by Nestor Nunez. Motion carried with one no vote. The other copies can be sold on eBay or given away.

Safety Committee Report:

a. **Smoke Detectors and compliance with safety for the building:** Roy Teixeira will get quotes for installing smoke detectors at the Library.

b. **Lighting for the new "Board of Directors" meeting room (area under the deck – personal items need to be removed):** As part of the cleanup, two large items, a defunct microfiche machine and oversize scale need to be removed from this area as well a boxes of personal material. Roy Teixeira obtained an estimate for \$1,326.88 to install New LED Lighting for the area. As funds are available from those raised by the Safety Committee, Ed Jarvis moved, seconded by Richard Clever, to go ahead with this project. Passed with a 4 to 1 vote.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019:

Treasurer's Report: Nestor Nunez presented the Financial Statements through August 31, 2019, detailing the income and expenditures including Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Statements, and Cash Receipts. A small amount of the Restricted Funds for Library Safety are still available. Nestor mentioned that this year's 2019 WESTPEX contribution of \$5,000 has been received. Other sources of Income include the April Open House, WESTPEX Book Sales, and the monthly eBay Sales. At the current "burn rate" of about \$3,500 a month, the currently available funds should last to about June, 2020. Additional funds are expected from various sources. The Federal Form 990 was filed electronically on September 13th. Ed Jarvis moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Roy Teixeira, and passed unanimously.

Funds and Fundraising: The San Francisco Pacific Philatelic Society recently received a sizable bequest from the late Jean Ostrander, a longtime member. Russ Samuels, the current President, called a BOD Meeting of the SFPPS on August 31st and the Board voted to donate \$5,000 to the FWPL. Russ presented Treasurer Nestor Nunez with the check at this meeting. Ed Jarvis stressed that the Library cleanup needs to continue in order to attract more donations.

(Summary of Board Actions continues on page 4)

Board Members Western Philatelic Library APS Chapter 836

Library Board Members

President:	Stuart Leven
Vice President Aquisitions:	Roger Skinner
Vice President Membership:	Richard Clever
Secretary:	Nestor Nunez
Treasurer:	Nestor Nunez
Board Members at large:	Edward Jarvis
	Roy C. Teixeira
	Bob Gordon

Volunteers:

John Corwin	Proofreader
Wally Jolliff	Auctioneer
Ken Lewetzow	Auctioneer
David McNamee	Consultant to Board of Directors
Jerry Mix	eBay Sales
Ian "Russ" Samuels	Recording Secretary



Summary of Board Actions (continued from page 3)

Membership and Mailing: In Richard Clever's absence, Ed Jarvis reported that there are no changes to the current 229 members, with 10 overseas. Two new Life Members are Vesma Grinfelds and Bob Gordon.

County Welfare Exemption: Although the Library did receive a refund and reduction in Property Taxes, no letter from San Mateo County has been received. Nestor Nunez noted however that the latest bill received reflects the exemption. The Library only pays about \$1,200 a year in Property Taxes, a huge reduction from the prior level.

Website Update: Webmaster Dave Moore has resigned and a new Webmaster is needed. David McNamee said all pertinent information should be saved in the 3-ring governance binders.

(Summary of Board Actions continues on page 10)

Small letter boxes, 1920s

Remember When?

BELOW:

1920s Two youngsters stretch to reach one of the small letter boxes on their street

From [An American Postal Portrait](#), available in the Library.



Tear Sheets for Sale

To order, call 650-306-9150 or email libry@att.net

ANGOLA							
17921	Angola's Strange One-way Airline 1945-47.	Albert, J.F.	7pp	ill	1986	3.50	
BELGIAN CONGO							
17899	Varieties Unchronicled, Uncatalogued or Not Generally Known. Belgian Congo. Re-entry on the 5 Francs 1910.	Selfi, A.J.	1pp	ill	1928	.50	
COLOMBIA							
17928	Random Notes. Cancellations on Early Colombian Republic Stamps.	Bird, S.	2pp	ill	1935	1.00	
DAHOMY							
17922	The Serrane Guide. Dahomey.	Serrane, F.	1pp	ill	1993	.50	
DANISH WEST INDIES							
17929	Stamp of the Month. Danish West Indies. Scott 37, 38, 39.	Engstrom, V.E.	1pp		1965	.50	
17930	The Serrane Guide. St. Thomas, La Guiara, Puerto Cabello.	Serrane, F.	2pp	ill	1995	1.00	
DENMARK							
17932	Stamp of the Month. Denmark No. 4. (Scott)	Banks, W.J.	2pp		1966	1.00	
17931	Stamp of the Month. Denmark No. 13. (Scott)		1pp		1965	.50	
17923	The Christmas Stamp.	Riis, J.A.	3pp	ill	1982	1.50	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC							
17933	The Dominican Republic Olympic Games Souvenir Sheets. Scott 474-478, C97-99.	Mueller, H.V.	1pp		1958	.50	
EGYPT							
17925	Egypt & Its Pre-Republican Postage Stamps.	Ferens, O.L.	7pp		1969	3.50	
17927	Egypt. The Fourth Issue.	Smith, P.A.	22pp	ill	1993	8.00	
17926	Varieties Unchronicled, Uncatalogued or Not Generally Known. Egypt. 20p 1869. A Curious Variety	Sefi, A.J.	1pp	ill	1903	.50	
FAROE ISLANDS							
17924	OAT Markings on Faroese & Icelandic Letters from WW II.	Hopballe, K.	6pp	ill	1990-91	3.00	
FINLAND							
17934	Stamp of the Month. Finland #9. (Scott)	Engstrom, V.E.	2pp		1965	1.00	
FRENCH COLONIES – UBANGI							
17900	The Serrane Guide. French Colonies. Ubangi	Serrane, F.	1pp		1995	.50	
FRENCH OFFICES IN CHINA							
17903	The Serrane Guide. Pakhoi	Serrane, F.	1pp		1995	.50	
17902	The Serrane Guide. Tchongking.	Serrane, F.	1pp		1995	.50	
GERMANY							
17904	Germany. Navigation & Waterway Stamps.	Erlar, M.	1pp	ill	1982	.50	
GREECE							
17935	Discovery of the Original Greek Plates.	Pemberton, P.L.	1pp		1933	.50	
17936	Greece. Scott C8-14.	Pemberton, P.L.	1pp		1933	.50	
GUATEMALA							
17937	Fakes of the 1916 Provisionals on Cover.	Kearnton-Gee, K.	1pp	ill	2003	.50	
ICELAND							
17939	Checklist of Iceland Inverted Crown Watermark Varieties.	Day, J.R.	1pp		1965	.50	
17940	Stamp of the Month. Iceland's "1 Gildi" No's 45-68, 020-030.	Day, J.R.	1pp		1965	.50	
17938	The Iceland ORLOF Overprints.		1pp		1965	.50	
17941	The Scandinavian Stamp Lexicon. Iceland. Classic Skilling Stamps.		11pp	ill	1965-69	5.25	
JAPAN							
17908	A Fake Coil. Scott 279.		1pp	ill	1967	.50	
17950	Black Ships Legacy: Riches, Lives.	Milling, R.W.	1pp	ill	1966	.50	
17905	Business Reply Card.		1pp	ill	1967	.50	
17906	City & Prefectural Names.		1pp		1967	.50	
17912	Divided Seals.	Metzelaar, W.	3pp	ill	1967	1.50	
17907	Explanation of 2 Characters on 20 Yen Regular. Scott 433.		1pp		1976	.50	
17949	Graf Zeppelin Visits Japan on Round The World Flight.	Glass, R.L.	2pp	ill	1979	1.00	
17942	Heart Disease Campaign. Scott 1112		1pp	ill	1972	.50	
17943	Japan Introduces Modern Art Definitives. Scott 1359-1360.		1pp	ill	1979	.50	
17911	Sheet Arrangement of 1948 Horse Racing Stamp. Scott 412.		2pp	ill	1976	1.00	
17946	1972 Philatelic Week. Scott 1113.		1pp	ill	1972	.50	

Tear Sheets for Sale

To order, call 650-306-9150 or email libry@att.net

JAPAN

17944	Kurikoma Quasi National Park. Scott 1116-1117.	3pp	ill	1972	1.50
17945	Letter Sheet, 20 Yen Regular, Feb. 1, 1972.	1pp	ill	1972	.50
17909	Monograph No. 1: Early Japanese Postmarks & Post Offices. Corrigenda.	1pp		1967	.50
17910	New Year Stamp for 1976. Scott 1237.	3pp	ill	1976	1.50
17947	Revised Letter Sheet June 10, 1972.	2pp	ill	1972	1.00
17948	Scenic Date Stamps For Use in the Ryukyu Islands. 5/22/1972	1pp	ill	1972	.50

LEBANON

17951	Lebanon Pharmaceutical Stamps.	Herst, H.			
	& Lebanon Pharmaceutical Stamps. A Follow-on.	Abrams, G.M.	1pp	ill	1980 .50

MADAGASCAR

17952	Madagascar Stamp Study. Book Review. Timbres de Madagascar De 1859 an 1er Janvier 1972, By H. Brambilla.	Stone, R.G.	1pp	1973	.50
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MEXICO

17953	Ink Control Marks on Mexico Federal District Overprinted Documentaries, 1876-1882.	Kreloff, V.	1pp	ill	1982 .50
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NORWAY

17954	Scandinavian Varieties. Norway. Scott 38, Facit 37.	Norby, R.	1pp	ill	1969 .50
17955	Scandinavian Varieties. Norway. Scott 39, 39b.	Norby, R.	1pp	ill	1969 .50
17956	Varieties Unchronicled Uncatalogued or Not Generally Known. Norway. A Retouch of the 3 SK of 1863-66.	Sefi, A.J.	1pp	ill	1933 .50

NYASA

17913	The Serrane Guide Nyasa.	Serrane, F.	1pp	1995	.50
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POLAND

17914	Focus on Forgeries. Poland. Feb. 1919 Galicia Provisional Issue Scott 61-71.	Tyler, V.E.	1pp	ill	2000 .50
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PORTUGUESE COLONIES – ST. THOMAS & PRINCE

17915	The Serrane Guide. St. Thomas & Prince.	Serrane, F.	1pp	1995	.50
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SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON

17916	The Serrane Guide. St. Pierre & Miquelon.	Serrane, F.	2pp	1995	1.00
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SWITZERLAND

17917	Book Review. Strubel. Helvetia Assise non dentelee 1854-1862 By Hans Hunziger.	Kehr, E.A.	2pp	1986	1.00
17918	Raclette No. 22. When is a Stamp Not a Stamp? No. IV (Engelberg Sticker for Posters)	Thaler, M.N.	1pp	ill	1982 .50

TIMOR

17894	The Serrane Guide. Timor	Serrane, F.	1pp	1995	.50
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TOGO

17895	The Serrane Guide. Togo	Serrane, F.	1pp	1995	.50
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TRIPOLI

17896	The Serrane Guide. Tripoli	Serrane, F.	1pp	1995	.50
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TUNISIA

17897	The Serrane Guide. Tunisia	Serrane, F.	1pp	1995	.50
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UNITED NATIONS

17919	Counterfeit of 1954 3 Cent U.N. Day Issue. Scott 27.	Beresford, R.E.	1pp	ill	1981 .50
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UPPER SENEGAL AND NIGER

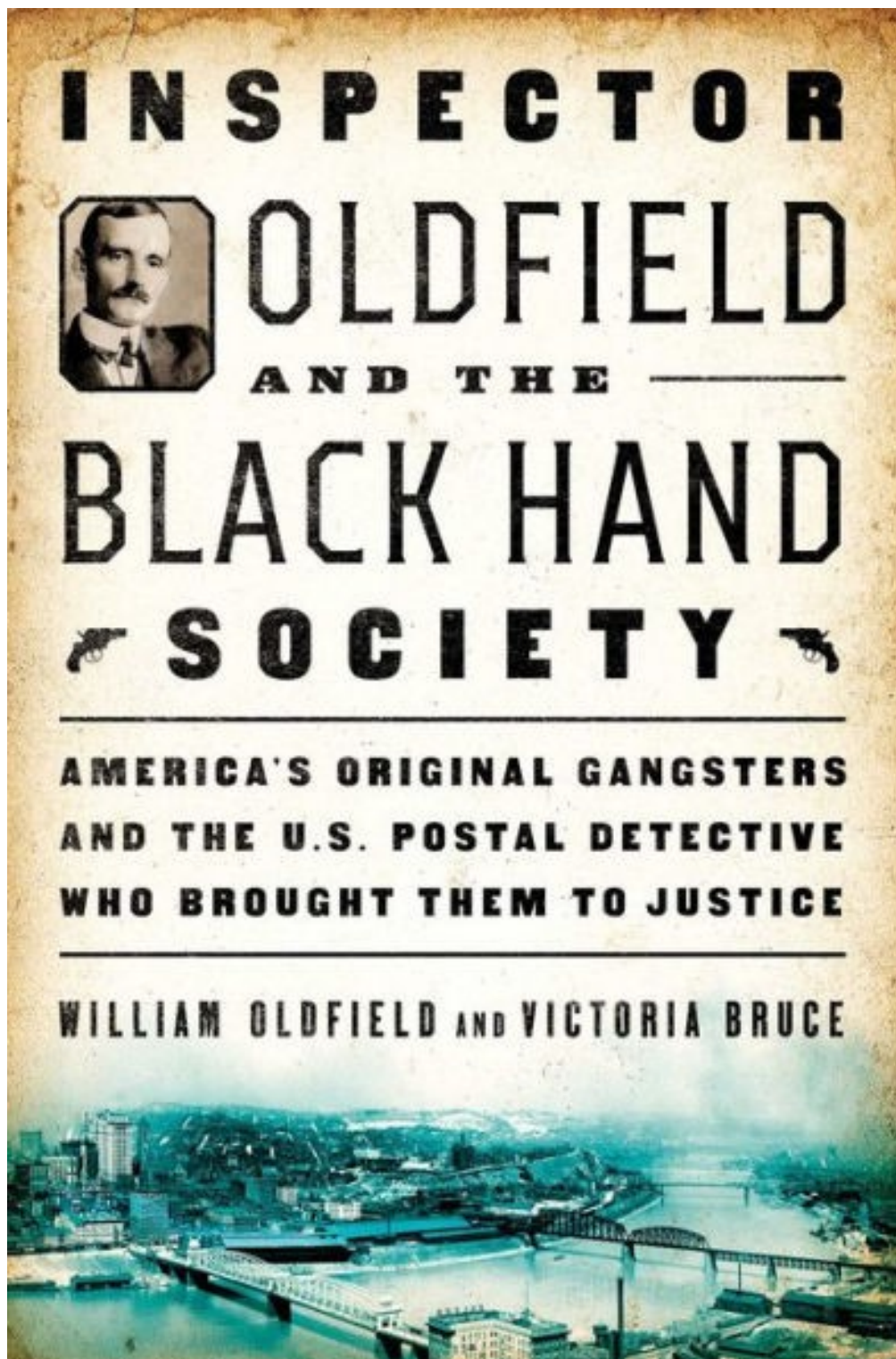
17901	The Serrane Guide. Upper Senegal and Niger.	Serrane, F.	1pp	1995	.50
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URUGUAY

17898	The Serrane Guide. Uruguay	Serrane, F.	5pp	1995	2.50
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VIETNAM

17920	Vietnam. Contradictory Dates of Issue.	Hornung, O.	1pp	ill	1990 .50
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[Editor's Note: This book is available at the Library. See review on next page.]

Inspector Oldfield and the Black Hand Society by William Oldfield and Victoria Bruce. 336 pages, 6 ½ by 9 ¼ inches, hardbound, Touchstone, New York, N.Y.,

ISBN 978-1-5011-7120-8

Book Review by Alan Warren

Review of: *Inspector Oldfield and the Black Hand Society*

Co-author William Oldfield's great-grandfather, Frank Oldfield, served as a U.S. Post Office Inspector in the early 1900s. William, an archivist by trade, joined with noted story-telling author Victoria Bruce to recount the exciting story of the early years of the postal service's fighting organized crime.

The authors set the stage by telling how the Philadelphia and Baltimore printer William Goddard established the Constitutional Post in the 18th century to deliver newspapers. This delivery service was in opposition to the British Post that operated under the management of Benjamin Franklin who worked for the Crown in the colonies. The British Post charged twice as much. Franklin eventually fell out of favor with England and turned his sympathy toward the Patriots.

In 1775 the Continental Congress agreed to adopt Goddard's concept. However, Congress infuriated him by appointing Franklin the first Postmaster General. In need of a job, Goddard agreed to work for Franklin by surveying the countryside and establishing post offices to serve the public. He also took on the important responsibility of incarcerating criminals who stole from the mail carriers and post offices. This effort led to the Post Office Inspection Service.

The authors now jump ahead a century to the appointment in 1888 of Hamilton Oldfield as postmaster of Ellicott City, Maryland. Hamilton's son Frank was named Secure Clerk in the office where he met prominent businessmen and political figures. Later, Frank Oldfield was named sheriff of Howard County. Through his father's political connections Frank was appointed in 1899 to the position of U.S. Post Office Inspector.

During the early part of Oldfield's career, some Italian immigrants developed notoriety as Mafia elements operating in the United States, with ties back to organized crime in Sicily. Italian shop owners were forced to pay tribute to ringleaders who became known as the Black Hand Society (*La Mano Nera*), based on their signature cartoons left on threatening letters. Within the organization was the subsidiary Society of the Banana that operated in the greater Ohio area.

Oldfield entered into this underworld when an Italian fruit seller was murdered in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and two Black Hand letters were found in the victim's pockets. The local police were forced to turn the matter over to the postal service, who were responsible for crimes relating to the mails.

Oldfield called on friends of his in business and government and put together an amazing array of undercover agents, Pinkerton guards, translators, and interpreters as well as many mail carriers to gather information. One of the suspected leaders who sent large amounts of money back to Italy using postal money orders was believed to be the sender of the threatening letters to Italian businessmen. He bought large quantities of stamps at one post office in Marion, Ohio.

Oldfield told the clerks at the office to sell the suspect only 2¢ Washington definitives that had a secret mark, so they could be traced on envelopes. Postal agents also monitored the movements of suspected Society of the Banana members, and watched who attended clandestine meetings. After gathering sufficient evidence, Oldfield organized a series of raids on the homes of the suspects, beginning June 8, 1909.

Additional evidence obtained during the raids led to the capture and eventual conviction of eleven "fruit vendors" who claimed that the letters (written in code) were simply business communications. Oldfield was worried about getting convictions despite the overwhelming evidence. The defendants had sufficient tribute money to hire many high-powered lawyers. However, the jury convicted them and they served terms in federal prisons.

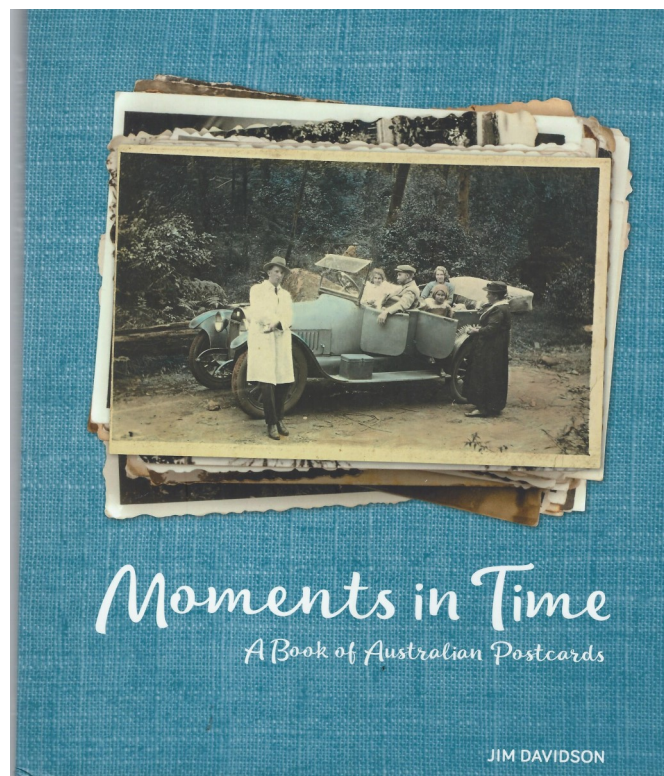
Shortly after the trial, Oldfield was besieged by offers of many wealthy businessmen to provide security and to investigate fraud. He left the postal service and earned much more money in the private sector. Unfortunately Frank Oldfield died in 1916 of stomach cancer at age 49.

For many years the Oldfield family stored trunks filled with Frank's belongings, although some were lost in a flood. Still, there was one that contained some of the weapons retrieved during the raids on members of the Society of the Banana. The family papers together with government archives yielded this fascinating story. The book is well written and is exciting to read.

After finishing this book, author William Oldfield donated much of his great-grandfather's material to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

-Reviewed by Alan Warren

New Acquisitions For the Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Inc.



(Above) Moments in Time—A Book of Australian Postcards was donated by David McNamee and is available from the Library.



(Above) Companhia de Mocambique: 1934-39 2 c Postal Tax Stamp was donated by John K. Cross and is available from the Library.

Summary of Board Actions (continued from page 4)

Safety Committee Report:

- a. **Smoke Detectors and compliance with safety for the building:** Roy Teixeira presented two quotes for installing smoke detectors at the **Library**. A quote for \$1,480 from **California Energy Solutions** (who recently installed the lighting for the new “Board of Directors” meeting room, the area under the deck in the back of the Library) was moved for acceptance by **Nestor Nunez**, seconded by **Ed Jarvis** and passed unanimously. After installation, Nestor will contact the broker regarding the fire insurance policy.
- b. **Library Cleanup:** A nine-point memo to the Board was sent ahead of the meeting by **Roy Teixeira** who is managing the cleanup. With a few adjustments, **Bob Gordon** moved to adopt it, seconded by **Ed Jarvis**. The motion was adopted by a five to one vote.

Next Board of Director’s Meeting: Saturday November 16, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Volunteer for the Library

Here are some ways you can help the Library as a volunteer:

- Answering phone and/or email inquiries and researching requests for information
- Sorting and cataloguing donated materials and preparing them for display on the Library shelves
- Writing reviews of recently acquired materials for use on the Library web site or in The Bay Phil journal.
- Writing up duplicate material for sale on eBay, WESTPEX or the Library website
- Helping maintain and update the website
- Providing technical support for the Library computers and other equipment

While visiting and helping at the Library, you'll be surprised at what you might discover.

For more information, visit The Friends of the Western Philatelic Library website at <http://www.fwpl.org/volunteering>

Or call the Library at 650-306-9150.
Or email at libry@att.net.



Library Lending Policies

Search for a book: Did you know that the Western Philatelic Library is part of the Philatelic Union Catalog, a data base with library holdings from 13 of the largest philatelic libraries in the world?

Be sure to take a look at <http://catalog.stamplib.org/InmagicGenie/opac.aspx>

Interlibrary Loan is available as well. For assistance, contact the Library at 650-306-9150 or by email at libry@att.net.

Lending policies: Most of the materials of Western Philatelic Library can be checked out for a period of two weeks.

The Library is open to the public, and you need not be a Member to borrow from the circulating collection, request assistance on research, or to come in and do the research yourself.

Postal (out-of-area) borrowers are responsible for postage and insurance both ways, and all borrowers are financially responsible for the books they borrow. Non-circulating materials may only be used on-site.

In person or from afar, feel free to make use of *your* Western Philatelic Library!

The Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Inc.
P.O. Box 7063
Redwood City, CA 94063-7063

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Telephone: 650-306-9150
Email: library@att.net
Website: www.fwpl.org



Visit the Western Philatelic Library

