The Philatelic World of the New York Mineralogical Club, Inc.
Introduction

What is “philately”? **Philately** is the study of stamps and postal history and other related items such as envelopes, post cards, covers, etc.
USA Mineral Stamps

From 1974 (10¢)

From 1992 (29¢)

These are the two sets of stamps picturing minerals minted by the United States of America. These stamps, for obvious reasons, were frequently used on mailings sent by or covers created by the New York Mineralogical Club. Both sets were designed by artist Leonard E. Buckley.
1886 - 1986
The 100th Anniversary of the New York Mineralogical Club
Carl Krotki
(1914 - 2002)

- **Carl Krotki** was an active member of the New York Mineralogical Club. He was treasurer of the Club for about 15 years (though never president as some writings erroneously state). He was also an avid stamp collector. In 1986 he was the Chairman of the 100th Anniversary committee of the NYMC. Many of the items illustrated in the document were given to Mitch Portnoy by him.
Before Carl Krotki passed away in 2002, he gave me this original artwork created for the special cancellation that was used for philatelic items for the 00th Anniversary of the New York Mineralogical Club. The original drawing, on manila card stock, is approximately 14” long x 9” wide.
This beautiful presentation folder, containing a sample cancellation (left) and an official certificate (right), was given to the Club by the USPS. The blue certificate is autographed by Leonard Buckley who designed the mineral stamps attached to it. The actual dimensions of the folder when open are about 21” by 13”.
100th Anniversary Cancelled Envelope

This is the most common style of cancelled envelope from the day of the event. Carl Krotki had a large number of these made and distributed them freely. Note the special “100th Anniversary” line in the return address. And the cancellation color is, of course, “kunzite”!
This is an unusual cover style and it may even be unique. A block of four of the 1974 Mineral Heritage stamps was used. The signature on the lower left is probably that of the Postmaster of New York City in 1986.
The special cancellation ceremony was held at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC, which is pictured on the front of this large size postcard.
Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Building
The American Museum of Natural History,
New York, N. Y.

The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial at The American Museum of Natural History was erected by the people of the State of New York as a tribute to a famous son who served as its Governor and later as the 26th President of the United States — a man who was renowned, also, for his interest in natural history and conservation. The architecture of the Memorial is in the classic style, the facade of which is set off by four Ionic columns 54 feet high. Surmounting these columns are statues of Boone, Audubon, Clark and Lewis, pioneers in the early exploration of our country. A bronze equestrian statue of Theodore Roosevelt by James Earle Fraser stands in front of the entrance.

The reverse of that same postcard is stamped with the special cancellation.
1886 - 2011
The 125th Anniversary of the New York Mineralogical Club
125th Anniversary Special Commemorative Stamps

In late 2010, Mitch Portnoy, created these four special stamps on Zazzle.com for the NYMC to be used on special mailings and for special 125th Anniversary covers. All four stamps exist with the dates “2010” and “2011” imprinted on them.
Here is what a full sheet of one of the custom NYMC stamps looked like.
All four of these stamps were used on specially designed cachets that were cancelled at the 10024 Planetarium Station Post Office on January 1, 2011, the beginning year of the Club’s 125th Anniversary. Here is the first design.
All four of these stamps were used on specially designed cachets that were cancelled at the 10024 Planetarium Station Post Office on January 1, 2011, the beginning year of the Club’s 125th Anniversary. Here is the second design.
All four of these stamps were used on specially designed cachets that were cancelled at the 10024 Planetarium Station Post Office on January 1, 2011, the beginning year of the Club’s 125th Anniversary. Here is the third design.
All four of these stamps were used on specially designed cachets that were cancelled at the 10024 Planetarium Station Post Office on January 1, 2011, the beginning year of the Club’s 125th Anniversary. Here is the fourth design.
And here are all four of the stamp designs with a January 1, 2011 cancellation on a specially designed, Warhol-inspired cachet.
The minerals or gems, depicted, left to right, are kunzite, the Subway garnet, NYC quartz (from Central Park!) and nikischerite.
At the October 2011 meeting of the NYMC, all members received the 125th Anniversary Postcard with a block of the mineral stamps with a September 21, 2011 cancellation.

The 125th Anniversary Postcard exists with all four of the special stamps with a September 21, 2011 cancellation.
All four of the special stamps were used to mail out the banquet invitations to NYMC members and friends. Here is an example of one invitation envelope with one of the stamps.
125th Anniversary Banquet Communication Postcard

This postcard was used for various banquet communications over a few months. I do not have any “used “or “mailed out” examples in my collection. Perhaps one will show up someday.
At the New York Mineralogical Club’s 125th Anniversary Banquet, held on September 21, 2011, all guests received a special stamped cover (see pages following) contained in a specially designed folder, pictured here.
Here is an example of one of the covers that were distributed to guests at the 125th Anniversary Banquet of the New York Mineralogical Club. These covers exist with each of the special NYMC stamps on them as well as combination covers containing all four stamps.
Here is an example of one of the combo covers that was distributed to selected guests at the 125th Anniversary Banquet of the New York Mineralogical Club.
Mitch Portnoy created several sets of the special anniversary stamps with their appropriate cachets cancelled on December 31, 2011, the end of the New York Mineralogical Club’s 125th Anniversary year. They were given to interested stamp collectors in the Club.
125th Anniversary Cover
(End of Year Cancellation – Novelty Cover)

Several “extra” cachets (rejected designs) were also used to create about 20 end-of-year covers. They are all unique.
2014
The International Year of Crystallography
A special cachet using the approved International Year of Crystallography logo was created and cancelled on January 1, 2014. Members attending the January 2014 meeting were given one as a gift; the remaining covers were sold at the March 2014 New York City Gem & Mineral Show.
The International Year of Crystallography (Novelty)

The “rejected” design cachets were cancelled as well. They are all unique.
The International Year of Light and Light-Related Technologies
A special cachet using the approved International Year of Light logo was created and cancelled on January 1, 2015. Members attending the January 2014 meeting were given one as a gift; the remaining covers were sold at the March 2014 New York City Gem & Mineral Show. These covers exist with all four of the 1992 mineral stamps paired with random 1974 mineral stamps.
The “rejected” design cachets were stamped and cancelled as well. They are all unique.
The “rejected” design cachets were stamped and cancelled as well. They are all unique.
2019

The International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements
The International Year of the Periodic Table (Standard)

A special cachet using the approved International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements logo was created and cancelled on January 1, 2019. Members attending the January 2019 meeting were given one as a gift; the remaining covers were sold at the March 2019 New York City Gem & Mineral Show.
The “rejected” or “alternate” design cachets were stamped and cancelled as well. Only a few of each were produced, most being distributed as gifts to appropriate members of friends of the New York Mineralogical Club.
1915 - 2015

The 100th Anniversary of the Theory of General Relativity
A special cachet celebrating Albert Einstein and the 100th Anniversary of the General Theory of Relativity was created and cancelled on January 1, 2015. These were sold at the Spring 2015 New York City Gem & Mineral Show. These covers exist with all four of the 1992 mineral stamps paired with random 1974 mineral stamps.
100th Anniversary of General Relativity Cover

The “rejected” design cachets were stamped and cancelled as well. They are all unique.
January 2018
First Annual Movie Night
1st Annual Movie Night Communication Cover

This is a sample cover, announcing the NYMC’s 1st Annual Movie Night, sent to the presidents of fifteen of the local mineral and gem clubs.
Miscellaneous

Members & Friends of the New York Mineralogical Club
Gail B. Levine
National Association of Jewelry Appraisers

Gail Brett Levine is a NYMC member and President of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers. This is her stationery.
Tony Nikischer
Owner, Excalibur Mineral Corporation

Tony Nikischer is the owner of Excalibur Mineral Corp., as well as an Honorary Member of the New York Mineralogical Club. He created this attractive stationery for his business using engravings ("vignettes") from antique stock company certificates.
Nikischerite is a secondary mineral formed from oxidizing sulfide deposits. It was approved in 1992. It is named for Tony Nikischer (1949-), NYMC Honorary Member, who discovered the mineral. Tony created a custom stamp depicting the mineral and used it on personal and business correspondence.
Sample Full Sheet of Stamps

Here is what a full sheet of one of the custom *nikischerite* stamps looked like.
Tony Nikischer
Publisher, Mineral News

Tony Nikischer is the publisher of Mineral News, as well as an Honorary Member of the New York Mineralogical Club. He created this attractive stationery for his publication using engravings (“vignettes”) from antique stock company certificates. This mailing was sent to Mitch Portnoy, the editor of Mineral News at the time, as well as president of the New York Mineralogical Club.
Tony Nikischer

*President*, Hudson Institute of Mineralogy

Tony Nikischer was the president of the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, as well as an Honorary Member of the New York Mineralological Club. He created this attractive stationery for this foundation using engravings (“vignettes”) from antique stock company certificates.
William Niven (1850-1937) was a mineralogist and NYMC member noted for his discovery of the minerals yttrialite, thorogummite, aguilarite and nivenite (named after him). He sent out this illustrated, folded Happy New Year / Business Card in late December 1928.
Barbara Siegel
Artist, New York City

Barbara Siegel created an installation about NYMC member Clifford Frondel and presented her work to the Club in January 2011.

The postcard she created to advertise the opening exists with all four of the special 125th Anniversary stamps cancelled on it.
This is a sample of the stationery used by Mardani Fine Minerals, a high-end mineral shop on Madison Avenue, New York City. The owners are Daniel and Marissa Trinchillo. In January 2018, they sponsored the Club’s meeting (a movie night) with the playing of a DVD produced by Daniel, *Pederneira: A Rainbow of Colors*
Mitch Portnoy created these attractive cachets for the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society (in New Jersey) for their use during the International Year of Light in 2015. They were never used by FOMS but occasionally by others.
Mineral Digest

Mineral Digest: The Journal of Mineralogy

Published by Julio Tanjeloff (Astro Mineral Gallery). This magazine ranks among the flashiest publications on minerals ever printed. Top authors in the field of minerals contributed to the content: Cornelius Hurlbut, Paul Desautels, Louis Zara, etc.
Matrix Magazine

Matrix: A Journal of the History of Minerals
Published by Jay Lininger (1939-2004) about the history of minerals and mineral collecting. This is a mint piece of renewal stationery.
Bulletin of the
New York Mineralogical Club
Past Articles
Stamp Collecting & Mineral Collecting Commonalities

By Mitch Portnoy

Introduction
One of the first thing I noticed after joining the NYMC was how many members, including me, collected BOTH minerals and stamps. Could this be a mere coincidence? After giving it lots of thought for many years, it became obvious to me that the two hobbies have many, many traits in common. I thought about coming up with a list of the ten commonalities. I came up with 36! (Sorry!) Maybe there are even more. Let me know what you think.

The Collection
1. Geography and locality are involved in both hobbies; “dead” countries are involved.
2. Provenance is important and we speak of “old” collections.
3. Color is important.
4. Condition/overall quality is important; dings vs. flaws
5. Aesthetics come into play.
6. Rarity comes into play.
7. There is ephemera related to the mineral/stamp hobby that is also collected.
8. There are man-made minerals/cinderellas (non-postal labels) that some people collect.
The Collection (continued)

9. One must beware of fakes and fraudulent specimens in both hobbies.
10. Irregularities / errors are prized.
11. Collections can be both globally comprehensive or highly specialized or narrowly focused.
12. New material (finds or printings) regularly come on to the market.
13. Display, storage and preservation are important.
14. There is a (very small) investment side to stamps/minerals.
15. A collection’s ultimate disposition should be addressed in your will.

The Collectors

16. Both hobbies are highly international in terms of demographics.
17. There is a wide range of collectors from rank beginners to highly-experienced hobbyists.
18. Children can be collectors.
19. The Scouts give a merit badge for mineral collecting (actually geology) and stamp collecting.
20. They are both, nevertheless, hobbies of an aging group.
Stamp Collecting & Mineral Collecting

Commonalities

The Collectors (continued)

21. Identification skills are important.
22. I would characterize both groups of collectors as loving organization, categorization and structure.
23. I would characterize both groups of collectors as loving education, reading, learning, and knowledge.
24. Often there are trading partners.

Outside the Collection

25. There are clubs and regional or national organizations focusing on the mineral/stamp hobby.
26. There are public museums housing mineral/stamps collections.
27. There are mineral/stamp shows.
28. There are mineral/stamp auctions.
29. There is specialized insurance available for mineral/stamp collections.
30. There are specialized appraisers for mineral/stamp collections.
Outside the Collection (continued)
31. Both hobbies use magnifying glasses, microscopes and fluorescent lamps.
32. Books/guides/catalogs are important.
33. Each hobby has a few national periodicals available for subscription.
34. The Internet has recently grown in importance to each hobby.

Conclusion
35. No surprise - one of the most popular hobbies is collecting minerals/gems on stamps.
36. Both hobbies are fun!

Below: Scout Merit Badge Patches

This article originally appeared in a different format in the October 2005 Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club.
By Mitch Portnoy

Introduction

For a few months now, I have been working on a project to create a special publication for the NYMC on the subject of minerals and gems on worldwide postage stamps. While doing the research for it, I was surprised to see how many historic members of the Club have appeared on related stamps or are referenced in some other way. I thought I would share these discoveries with you.

Marie Sklodowska-Curie
(1867 – 1934)

Marie Sklodowska-Curie was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, the only person to win twice in multiple sciences, and was part of the Curie family legacy of five Nobel Prizes. When she visited NYC to great acclaim in 1921, the NYMC conferred upon her a lifetime honorary membership. The minerals sklowdowskite, cuprosklowdowskite (pictured on stamp, top right) and the elements curium are named after her.
William Niven was a mineralogist noted for his discovery of the minerals yttrialite, thorogummite, aguilarite and nivenite (named after him). **Nivenite** is a REE-bearing variety of uraninite (pictured on stamp, right) where a presence of (Y, Ce, etc.)$_2$O$_3$ extends to at least 10%. Niven was a founding member of the New York Mineralogical Club in 1886. Note: The rhodochrosite pictured on the stamp with him might be attractive, but it has nothing to do with Niven as a mineralogist.

Charles Palache was one of the most eminent crystallographers and mineralogists of the world, and he lived in a period of revolutionary developments in mineralogical science. Palache encouraged the efforts of the amateur mineralogists, and was voted an Honorary Member of... the New York Mineralogical Society (sic). **Palacheite** was named in 1903 in his honor by Arthur Starr Eakle. Again, the minerals shown on the two Congo stamps illustrated above have nothing directly to do with Palache.
George Kunz was born in New York City, USA, and began an interest in minerals at a very young age. He taught himself mineralogy from books and field research. This expertise landed him a job with Tiffany & Co., and his knowledge and enthusiasm propelled him into a vice presidency by the time he was 23. He gained much fame for identifying a new pinkish gem variety of the mineral spodumene which was named kunzite (pictured on stamp, right) in his honor. Kunz was a founding member of the New York Mineralogical Club in 1886. Note: The legrandite pictured on the stamp with him might be attractive, but it has nothing whatsoever to do with Kunz as a mineralogist or gemologist. Perhaps an image of kunzite would have been preferential?


Sir William Henry Bragg shared a Nobel Prize with his son William Lawrence Bragg – the 1915 Nobel Prize in Physics: “for their services in the analysis of crystal structure by means of X-rays”. The mineral braggite is named them. Both Braggs were made honorary members of the Club in the early Twentieth Century.
New York Mineralogical Club Members on Postage Stamps

James Dwight Dana (1813 – 1895)

James Dwight Dana was an American geologist, mineralogist, volcanologist, and zoologist. He made pioneering studies of mountain-building, volcanic activity, and the origin and structure of continents and oceans around the world. Dana's best known books were his *System of Mineralogy* (1837), *Manual of Mineralogy* (1848), and *his Manual of Geology* (1863). His son, Edward Salisbury Dana (1849–1935) was also a distinguished mineralogist and in 1934 the New York Mineralogical Club made him an honorary life member. Note: The barite on the stamp has no professional relation to J. D. Dana. In addition, the mineral *danaite*, a Co-bearing variety of arsenopyrite, is named after James Freeman Dana, who does not seem to be related to the mineralogist depicted on the Comoro postage stamp.

Washington Augustus Roebling (1837 – 1926)
(son of John [Johann] Augustus Roebling)

Washington Augustus Roebling was an American civil engineer best known for his work on the Brooklyn Bridge, which was initially designed by his father John (Johann) A. Roebling. Roebling's most passionate hobby was collecting rocks and minerals. His collection of over 16,000 specimens was donated by his son, John A. Roebling, II, to the Smithsonian Institution and became an important part of its mineral and gem collection. He was a member of the NYMC. Both the Roebling Medal (for mineralogy) and *roeblingite*, a rare silicate, were named in his honor.
Although member **Dr. Oliver Sacks** is not specifically pictured on a postage stamp, I did find this autographed (see right image on the lower right) stamped card which depicts a wolframite and quartz specimen from China. The card owner asked Sacks, the author of the book, *Uncle Tungsten*, to sign it for obvious mineralogical reasons!

**J. Robert Oppenheimer**  
*(1904 – 1967)*

Born in New York City in 1904, **Robert Oppenheimer** began collecting minerals at the age of five when his grandfather presented him with a “starter” mineral collection. In 1920, Dr. George F. Kunz was president of the New York Mineralogical Club and the teen-age Robert was proposed for membership. He had joined the famous society as an honorary member at age eleven and one year later he made his scientific debut delivering a paper on minerals at a club meeting to the amazement of the members. Much of his collection was later given to Linus Pauling. The small picture at the right shows Oppenheimer at the 1961 (75th Anniversary) banquet of the NYMC at which he received a lifetime achievement award.
New York Mineralogical Club
Members on Postage Stamps

References
Archives of the New York Mineralogical Club, Inc.

Various Internet websites but primarily:
(1) Wikipedia
(2) http://mineralstamps.rbnet.net/
(3) http://www.geostamps.eu/index.html
(4) www.mindat.org


About half of the images used (all in the public domain for educational purposes) were found on the Internet; the other half are scans of actual postage stamps in the collection of the author.

This article originally appeared in a different format in the September 2015 Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club.
Any additional philatelic materials relating to the New York Mineralogical Club are eagerly wanted and will be added to this document as soon as they arrive, whether physically or digitally.