

The 1999 AAPE Youth Champion of Champions Competition

by Charles J.G. Verge

Held in Athens, Georgia, October 15-17, 1999, in conjunction with the Peach State Stamp Show (PSSS), 15 exhibits competed in the prestigious AAPE Youth Champion of Champions competition. They were sent in by 13 young exhibitors ranging in age from nine to seventeen. Each exhibit had won the right to be in the Championship by winning the Youth Grand Award at a national show in the U.S. or Canada. Two of the exhibitors, Dzintars Grinfelds and Kristen Elizabeth Ollies won two Grands with different exhibits. One exhibitor, Wayne Lord, who won the Grand Award at ROYAL * 1999 * ROYALE in Fredericton, New Brunswick, lives in Perth, Australia. A really international event. The list of participants and prize winners follows:

YOUTH WORLD SERIES OF PHILATELY

1-4 Robert Caudill, European and North African Occupations of World War II.

5-6 Justin Colton, Prehistoric Animals of the Past.

7-8 Dzintars Grinfelds, Central Lithuania.

9-11 Dzintars Grinfelds, Railroading in the U.S.

12-14 Danny Handelman, Canadian Town Cancels with Animal Names.

15-17 Laurie Harris, Children's Art from Around the World.

18-20 Danielle Henak, Horses Around the World.

21-22 Sara Henak, Puma Concolor.

23-24 Wayne Lord, Railways.

25-28 Devin Luster, Basketball.

29-30 Theresa Meegan, Foxes.

31-33 Kelly Liusz, Christmas in Canada.

34-36 Kristen E. Ollies, Love Through My Eyes.

37-38 Kristen E. Ollies, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

39-42 John Ryle, An Overview of Indiana 4-bar Cancellations.

43-44 John Ryle, Stampless Covers From the Correspondence of Cornelius O'Brien.

1998-99 AAPE Youth Championship Palmares

YOUTH CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS: Devin Luster, Basketball. Also Ralph Herdenberg Award and ATA Youth Award.

LIBERTY AWARD for the best traditional exhibit: Dzintars Grinfelds, Central Lithuania. Also APS Membership Award for the best exhibit by a non-member.

WELSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY POSTAL HISTORY AWARD: John Ryle, An Overview of Indiana Four-Bar Cancels.

HOWARD HOTCHNER AWARD for the best depiction of American History: John Ryle, Stampless Covers From the Correspondence of Cornelius O'Brien.

NAPEX TITLE PAGE AWARD: Kristen Ollies, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

NAPEX CREATIVITY AWARD: Danny Handelman, Canadian Town Cancels With Animal Names.

NAPEX TOPICAL AWARD: Wayne Lord, Railways.

NAPEX THEMATIC AWARD: Danielle Henak, Horses Around the World.

GERTRUDE FITCH NORTON AWARD for an outstanding exhibit by an exhibitor

less than 10 years old: Justin Colton, Prehistoric Animals of the Past.

JPA MEMBERSHIP AWARD for the best exhibit by a non-member: Laurie Harris, Children's Art From Around the

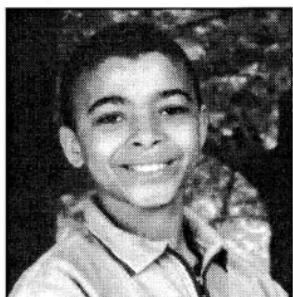


Figure 1. Youth Champion for 1999, Devin Shane Luster



Figure 2. Ada Prill, AAPE Director of the Youth Champion of Champions Competition pinning the 1999 Champion's ribbon to Devin Shane Luster's Basketball.



Figure 3. The judges of the 1999 Youth Champion of Champions competition. From left to right: Nancy Zielinski-Clark, Peter P. McCann and Ann Triggle.

World.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF WORLDWIDE STAMP COLLECTORS AWARD for the best use of worldwide material: Robert Caudill, European and North African Occupations of World War II.

FRAMED AWARD: Kelly Luisz, Christmas in Canada.

MILLENNIUM AWARDS: Dzintars Grinfelds, Railroading in the U.S.; Sara Henak, Puma Concolor; Theresa Meegan, Foxes; Kristen E. Ollies, Love Through My Eyes.

Any viewer attending PSSS and who admired these great youth exhibits had to

agree that the future of philately is in good hands. The exhibitors are very busy young people who lead active lives and have found the time to prepare excellent philatelic exhibits. They all are involved in other activities and hobbies such as playing sports, participating in Scouts or church activities and just being kids. In the April issue of TPE we will picture each of the 1999 participants and present their own words as they introduce themselves to you.

We seek your help in maintaining and improving the AAPE's Youth program and the Youth Champion of Champions competition. World Columbian Stamp

Expo (WCSE), a great supporter of AAPE programs over the years has offered a matching grant of up to \$5000 for money raised by the AAPE for its youth activities. Our generous members have enabled us to raise just over half that amount but we still need your additional help to get the full grant. Not only will your money contribute to the AAPE's youth activities and program but it will be doubled by WCSE and it is fully tax-deductible. Contributions can be sent to Ada Prill, Director, AAPE Youth Championship, 130 Trafalgar Street, Rochester, NY 14619 or directly to the Treasurer. Checks should be made out to the AAPE.

The Mail-In Exhibitor

by John S. Blakemore

My most recent column in this series, in the July 1999 issue (Vol. 13, No. 3), had numerous scores to report, principally because three exhibit chairs had given written invitations to all their mail-in exhibitors to inform me. One of those exhibit chairs was hard-working Ada Prill of ROPEX, who has confirmed to me her chagrin that after the 1999 show, some exhibit boxes got packed by an assistant with ribbons and/or certificates left out. She is sure — and so am I — that this will not happen again in March 2000.

Though six months have elapsed since the July issue, I had a shorter list of scores to report this time. In chronological order of show dates (all 1999) these are:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| FRESPEX | 100 |
| ROPEX 99 | 97 |
| ROMPEX 99 | 100 |
| NOIEX 99 | 97 |
| NAPEX 99 | 100 |
| Minnesota Stamp Expo. | 100 |
| STAMPSHOW 99 | 100 |
| INDYPEX | 99 |
| SESCAL 99 | 100 |

You will see that no score fell below 97; every writer was at least close to being fully content with mail-in handling of his/her exhibit. (The 99 score for INDYPEX came about via a balance of debits and extra credits). As usual, I read comments about shows that are relevant for any exhibitor, by mail or by hand-carry: slowness in advice of acceptance continues to be a sore point. One mail-in exhibitor, who was able to attend part of

the show he reported on, remarked to me that he was disturbed to see that some exhibits — not his, fortunately — went around corners.

In my April 1999 column, I had remarked that the number of mail-in reports per year has slowed but steadily decreased since the late Charles Luk's initiated this column a decade ago. Thus, this time, I have only nine entries reported above, for a six-month period. Mail-in exhibitors are more prone to submit a report when something has gone awry.

Moreover, scary stories such as were reported to Charles in those first years have now — mercifully — become very rare. For example, numbers at 97 or higher have become quite typical. As I have remarked previously, credit for this happy situation should be shared, between the various show exhibit committees, and the community of philatelists who do entrust their exhibits to the mails. Mail-in exhibitors have become smarter about using proper packaging, providing addressed return labels, etc. And this has made it more straightforward for exhibit committee members to handle mailed exhibits reliably and expeditiously. There will always be some "goofs," but we can hope that these will almost always be minor ones, not enough to get riled over.

With that hope in mind, I now advise TPE readers that this is my final regular column under this heading. I believe that the Mail-In column has served a useful purpose, to the extent that it has made the need for itself as a regular column obsolete. In closing, I wish each of you many

enjoyable exhibiting experiences still to come. May your exhibit never be dispatched around a corner. For myself, I hope to continue exhibiting "for fun," and (our Editor willing), may contribute to TPE from time to time, on subjects that seem worth sharing.

Bette Herdenberg
P.O. Box 30258
Chicago, IL 60630-0258
USA

Dear Bette,

I am pleased to inform you that the AAPE Board of Directors voted unanimously to make you an honorary Life Member of the AAPE during its recent meeting in Athens, GA.

This honor is given to you for your outstanding and exceptional work as the AAPE's Director of Conventions and Meetings and your more than exemplary and continuing support of the AAPE since its inception in 1986.

On behalf of the AAPE, its members and the Board of Directors, I wish to express our most sincere gratitude for the work you do for our association. Our best wishes for the future and for many more years as our Director of Conventions and Meetings.

Sincerely yours

Charles J. G. Verge
President