

Use a citation manager to easily keep track of sources

I recently completed writing a draft of an article on the Port Hood Provisionals. A search for references over 25 years had revealed over 70 articles about the Port Hood Provisionals and other closely related information. I also found over 90 auctions or articles showing illustrations of Port Hood Provisional items. Over the years, as the number of references increased, keeping track of the articles and auctions of which I had copies, and the information they contained, quickly became a challenge.

Gordon Smith

In response to my lamenting this difficulty, one of my children suggested that I use a citation manager, a software tool that that they used to help them keep track of and cite sources as they went through the research process for their university courses.

A citation manager is a great support for researchers and writers. Among its benefits, it:

- is an efficient way to keep track of your references;

- helps keep track of what you have read;
- assists in keeping research organized;
- allows you to create separate, but linked, collections of information on different aspects of a subject or separate subjects;
- permits you to easily remember, access, and reorganize sources found over months or years;
- allows you to link related items, which is particularly useful when looking at auction listings and tracking the same item through various auctions;
- enables sorting your list of citations by name, publication date, etc. which allows you to compare and consider information in different ways;
- lets you tag items with key information that can be used to sort and filter references related to different topics;
- enables the automated creation of a bibliography in different citation styles;
- with a bit of wrangling, allows the automated creation of an annotated bibliography;

- with the installation of an add-on to your word processor, enables the input of appropriately styled citations directly into an article.

I downloaded **Zotero**, a free, open-source program that offers great support, but there are others like **Mendeley** or **Endnote** that offer similar functionality. The use of Zotero has helped me organize my references, sort my information, and keep my data instantly accessible over a period of years. Using this software has enabled me to easily add more information and pick up my thinking, despite breaks in my research that have lasted many months.

I highly recommend using a citation manager for writing articles, whether long or short.

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Editor's note: Zotero can be found at zotero.org while Mendeley (which is also free to use) is at mendeley.com

Endnote costs \$220 for a full license or \$120 for a student license; more info is at endnote.com

Reports of Secretary-Treasurer and Council

Since the time of the Spring 2023 issue of *TPC*, we have signed up five new members and lost one member who died.

New Members

2081 Melanie Rogers
2082 Marjory J. Sente
2083 Scott Pendleton
2084 Ingo Nessel
2085 Jonas Hällström

Closed Album

Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

We have \$8,926.82 in the bank as of Sept. 6, 2023.

A reminder to all members; be sure you inform the treasurer promptly of new email addresses and/or street addresses. Dues statements are sent by USPS each year, whether you owe or not.

Respectfully,

Alan Barasch, Secretary-Treasurer.

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The WU30 Council met at the Great American Stamp Show on Aug. 12.

They discussed whether to reinstate a breakfast. There was no support for it among those at the meeting; this discussion has been had before and appears settled. President Lloyd de Vries pointed out that the traditional Sunday morning time slot presents a conflict to various people who would like to attend.

The Council discussed, briefly, the

fact that the Literature Competition awards are announced at a separate meeting Saturday afternoon, not at the WU30 meeting. Again, there was no support for taking them back.

De Vries expressed dissatisfaction with the job he has been doing as president and offered to step down, but was asked to stay on.

As announced at the public meeting, Alan Barasch will spearhead WU30 efforts to sponsor a YPLF participant, opening a dialog with the A.P.S.

Members who would like to propose a candidate for a writing/editing track should come forward; please reach out to any member of the WU30 council.

At the general membership meeting, Gary Loew spoke about a mentorship program for editors [*See article, page 1*].



The Philatelic Communicator

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Recruiting and mentoring philatelic editors

The Winter 2023 and Spring 2023 issues of *The Philatelic Communicator* devoted considerable space to the subject of philatelic editing.

Much of the content focused on the challenges faced by philatelic editors and by the hobby itself. I share those concerns and at the Writers Unit #30 meeting at the Great American Stamp Show (Aug. 10-13), I offered a proposal. I'd like to share that with readers of *TPC* and solicit your thoughts.

The hobby of philately has never been healthier! There are more collectors today than ever in the history of the hobby. But philately certainly has its challenges and disruptions. To cite three examples:

- Stamp shows are facing a leadership problem and need new volunteers and a new business paradigm;
- The old-guard dealer network is retiring, and philatelic commerce is becoming predominantly web based;
- Exhibiting needs new participants and additional exhibiting models to attract the youth of philately.

A WU30 Challenge

But there is one challenge facing philately that should be of particular concern to the Writers Unit #30: the current cohort of esteemed philatelic editors is aging out and we are not actively developing the next generation. I also believe that many current editors of society journals and stamp club newsletters and bulletins would benefit from better editing skills.

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T. E. LAWRENCE

The writer as stamp art director



Hejaz, 1916 / Presentation of postage stamp designs

Christie's

In the midst of the Great War, the Arabs of Hejaz seized the opportunity to revolt and rid themselves of Ottoman hegemony. In this they were abetted by the British, personified by the rogueish intelligence officer, Col. T. E. Lawrence, better known today as Lawrence of Arabia, author of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

Following the Arab revolution, Ottoman postage ceased to be valid in the Arabian peninsula. According to Christie's, "The Arab Bureau inquired with the Survey of Egypt, where T.E. Lawrence was assigned, about the possibility of creating new postage stamps. Lawrence and Col. Ronald Storrs did the initial research on design, and Storrs reports in his 1937 memoir, *Orientalism*: 'we decided that the best proof that [the revolution] had taken place would be provided by an issue of Hajaz

[sic] postage stamps... It was quickly apparent that Lawrence already possessed or had immediately assimilated a complete working technique of philatelic and three-color reproduction, so he was able to supervise the issue from start to finish.'"

The image above is the frontispiece of *A Short Note on the Design and Issue of Postage Stamps Prepared by the Survey of Egypt for His Highness Hussein, Emir & Sherif of Mecca & King of the Hejaz*, Cairo, 1918. Just 200 were printed, with the actual stamps mounted on the page.

The stamp art was worked up by two Cairo designers, Agami Ali and Mustafa Gozlan. Lawrence later wrote to his brother, "It's rather amusing because one has long had ideas as to what a stamp should look like, and now one can put them roughly into practice..."