Things are progressing very nicely with World Stamp Show-NY2016. Every ten years, the United States hosts a world-class international stamp exhibition. The last one was held in Washington DC, aptly called Washington-2006, and it was a tremendously successful show. In 2016 from May 28 to June 4, New York City will host our next international. The show was granted auspices by the American Philatelic Society in 2005.

This will mark the return of the show to New York after a 60-year absence. The first five U.S. international shows were held in New York: in 1913, 1926, 1936, 1947, and 1956. I am aware of three of my friends who attended the last New York show in 1956 — namely, Steven Rod, Stanley Piller, and Randy Neil. That show was held in the brand-new New York Coliseum, along with the Auto Show; the first exhibitions in that building. Rumor has it that the Stamp Show drew more people than the Auto Show on that opening weekend of the Coliseum.

What will this show in 2016 feature, you ask? The plan is to have just over 200 dealers from around the globe and over 60 International Postal Services. There will be several auctions scheduled throughout the week, from both national and international firms. We expect the United States Postal Service to play a leading role in the exhibition, as they have over so many years. There will be more than 50 booths available to host various societies and affiliate clubs. We calculate there to be some 640 slots for seminars and presentations over the eight-day span. Four thousand exhibit frames will be available, including non-competitive exhibits. The non-competitive exhibits will basically but not exclusively encourage new exhibitors to strut their stuff. A Court of Honor will feature invited exhibits and displays. Overall, this will draw the world’s finest exhibits and new never-before-seen material.

Each day will have a theme and activities based around that subject. These activities will be a mix of philatelic and non-philatelic events. There will be a plethora of First Day Ceremonies for newly issued stamps. A full youth area, replete with classes and stamps, will be given a large area. We want to have an entry-level (returning adult collector) effort planned as well.

There is surely something here for every collector at every level. It will be a great opportunity to purchase stamps and covers for your collection and sell duplicate or unwanted material (that frees up money for you to buy the things you want)! You can attend some
of the hundreds of meetings that will be scheduled to help you learn more about your interests. All of this, plus you are in one of the World Capitals, New York City.

Entertainment is abundant, including Broadway and Off-Broadway theaters, concerts, symphonies, ballet, dancing and you name it, it’s in New York. The city’s restaurants are second to none in the world, offering a panoply of cuisines at every price range imaginable — from hot dogs and wraps to the finest haute cuisine. According to the Department of Health, who regulates the eateries in NYC, there are some 24,000 establishments ready to serve you. Baseball is in season, featuring the Mets and the Yankees, as well as professional soccer. There are over 80 museums to choose from, according to www.ny.com, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History/Hayden Planetarium and the Museum of Modern Art, just to scratch the surface.

Did I mention shopping? I mean non-stamp shopping! NYC has it all, from deep discount stores like T.J.Maxx to Tiffany & Company. New York Magazine lists over 2,500 retail stores. If you cannot find it in New York, it may not exist!

Sightseeing is a major industry and there are guided tours or you can do it yourself. The Statue of Liberty (our show logo), and Ellis Island are open to greet you, as they greeted the millions who came to make our immigrant nation their home. The Empire State Building, the United Nations, Rockefeller
Center, Wall Street and the World Financial Center, South Street Seaport, Times Square, Grand Central Station, cruise around Manhattan Island and Central Park in the daytime then Broadway at night, await you. So much to do, so little time! Nightlife is abundant with bars and clubs for all tastes and desires. After all, the city never sleeps, said Frank Sinatra.

What’s next? In broad strokes, over the next several months, we will sell the remaining dealer booths (we have over 80 deposits already) and secure the days and times with the auction companies. After that is in place, we will solicit the Postal Administrations and then the Society booths. In late 2014, we will seek applications for those who wish to exhibit.

What role can you play in this exhibition?

Volunteer — We will need volunteers to help with exhibits, staffing registration and many other tasks. You or your significant other can be of vital importance. If you want to help, please register at ny2016.org and click the “Volunteer” button.

Social Media — World Stamp Show-NY2016 is the first ever international stamp show to utilize social media to promote the event and inform the public. We believe that Social Media will be the communication vehicle of tomorrow, especially for tomorrow’s generation.

I ask users of Facebook to become a fan of World Stamp Show-NY 2016, and help promote stamp collecting by clicking the share button on our daily posts. This can spawn a huge following and will greatly help to put this event in front of people. Also, users of Pinterest and Twitter; please follow us. As the old Faberge commercial said, “I tell two friends, and they tell two friends...and so on and so on....”

Join the Liberty Club — You can support World Stamp Show-NY 2016 by joining the Liberty Club, at three different levels. All give you access to the Liberty Club, which will be a place to relax in comfort while chatting with fellow collectors and friends. Just click <Memberships> on the web site.

The New York Times featured an article about the Hudson Yard development project, which borders the Javits Center where the show will be held. It is very interesting. Go to the website NY2016.org and click at the top, <Articles About WSS-NY 2016>.

Please join me in celebrating our hobby at the next U.S. International Stamp Exhibition.

Learn More, Do More, Enjoy More with America’s Stamp Club!