

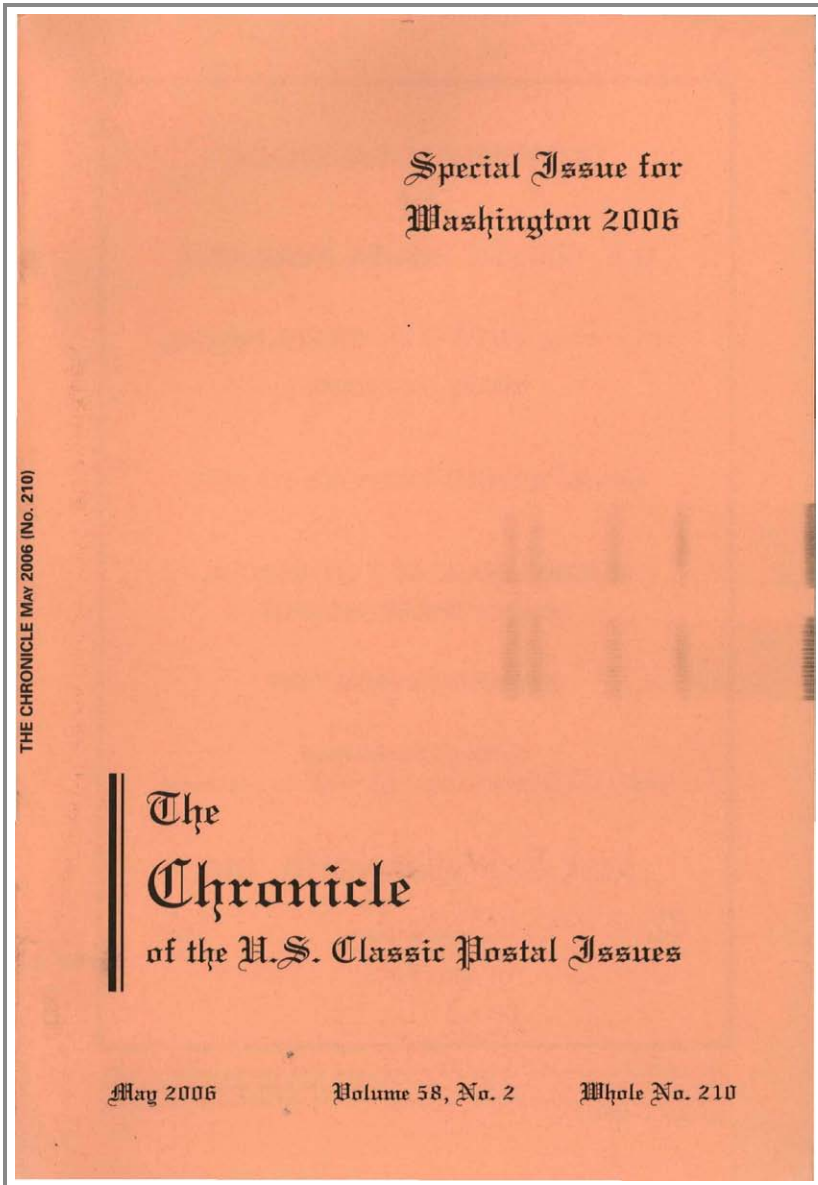


# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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## IN MEMORIAM

### ROY WEBER

I am sad to report that Roy P. Weber died at age 60 on December 25, 2005. In the words of Thomas J. Alexander “Roy Weber was the most persistent and successful researcher of this generation of philatelists.”

Many of you know that Roy served on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, and that he was an active collector of the 3¢ U.S. 1851-1857 stamp. Roy was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. He received his doctorate degree from Cornell University, before moving to New Jersey in 1973. You may not know that he invented the 800 toll-free numbering system, or that his name appeared on more than 60 patents, or that he was a charter member of the New Jersey Inventor’s Hall of Fame. Roy was an AT&T Fellow, an honor bestowed on the luminaries of AT&T for lifetime achievement.

Roy was passionate about our hobby and believed that sharing information was the key to making great discoveries. He founded a study group of 3¢ 1851 collectors that was hosted in his home with his wonderful wife, Arlyne. This group grew from just collectors in the New Jersey area to include those who traveled from as far as California and Washington state. In 2003 he led the team that purchased the original die for the three-cent 1851 essay,

Scott #11-E2. This die unexpectedly appeared on eBay. Roy organized a group of donors, made the purchase and donated the die to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Roy immediately began researching the 11-E2 die to answer all sorts of questions. He actively engaged others, but Roy was the driving force. His research spread to other essays from the 1851–1857 era, when he discovered much of what we thought we knew about this material was not correct.

The results of his work are a manuscript titled *The Three-Cent 1851 Essays and Related Topics*. Roy worked on it up to the time of his death. I have studied the current draft, and at least a dozen prior drafts-in progress. I think Roy Weber’s work is the finest piece of philatelic research that I have seen conducted in my lifetime. I am delighted to say that Roy’s family is receptive to this manuscript being published by our Society. We would be privileged to do so.

It was my honor to have known Roy as a friend. He will be missed.

—Wilson Hulme

