

Westpex Celebrates 250 Years of The Golden City

The sixty-sixth annual WESTPEX show will be held April 24 – 26, 2026 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA, just a mile south of the San Francisco International Airport.

This open exhibition will feature over 250 frames of exhibits, and participation by the Collectors Club of San Francisco, The Collectors Club, the Western Cover Society and the Hawaiian Philatelic Society. This is a World Series of Philately exhibition with the Grand Award winner eligible for the 2026 Champion of Champions competition.

The show's bourse will include 70+ national and international dealers in stamps, postal history and stationery and supplies, filling the bourse with items desired by general collectors, specialists and exhibitors. The show will once again have a large four day auction by Schuyler Rumsey Auctions with a vast number of lots ranging from single items to large collections which will be available for pre-auction viewing.

Numerous specialty societies, clubs, and study groups will hold a variety of meetings and seminars during the three-day event.

There is a WESTPEX sponsored Youth Area with free stamps and supplies for young collectors. On Sunday, April 26th, a Boy Scout Merit Badge program is scheduled.

Continuing the tradition of a local show theme, WESTPEX 2026 will be celebrating "The Golden City, San Francisco, Still Young at 250: 1776-2026" (see below). WESTPEX will offer a special Cinderella souvenir sheet as well as cachet covers.

You will not want to miss this 66th annual WESTPEX Stamp Show. It will officially open at 10 a.m., Friday April 24th. Complete show details, hotel reservations, exhibit applications, schedules, and theme story will be available at www.westpex.org.

The Golden City, San Francisco

By Michael S. Turrini

On July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, a group of determined colonists pledged their "lives and sacred honor," giving birth to the United States of America.

Just one week earlier, on June 27, 1776, on the opposite side of the continent, a small Spanish expedition and a handful of colonists established a simple camp beside a lagoon they named Nuestra Señora de los Dolores. Seventeen Spanish soldiers, seven colonists, two friars, and five Native Amer-

icans tending pack animals, bore witness to the quiet beginning of what would become San Francisco.

Long before 1776, this land was the home of the Ramaytush Ohlone. WESTPEX respectfully acknowledges the Ramaytush Ohlone and other indigenous people whose villages, trade routes, and community sites covered the San Francisco Peninsula, including our show site, for many years. Their stewardship shaped the land that the Spanish later appropriated. Just as we preserve and share stories across time and distance through philately, we recognize the enduring presence and histories of the Ramaytush Ohlone and other indigenous people on this land. We honor their ancestors and descendants.

Such was the birth and founding of San Francisco, California. Although located three thousand miles west of Philadelphia and Independence Hall, the heritage and history of both the United States of America and San Francisco were forged over the past two hundred fifty years.

As our nation commemorates its 250th anniversary, WESTPEX 2026, the second-largest philatelic gathering on the North American continent, proudly marks the same milestone for its long-time and only home: San Francisco.

Over the centuries, San Francisco has grown from a camp of explorers into one of the world's great cities—known variously as "The City," "Golden Gate City," "Paris of the West," "Baghdad by the Bay," and many more.

From such a beginning, followed by a few decades of negligent colonial rule, small arrivals of 'Yankee Traders', ventures by American mountain men, and then the chance discovery of gold, San Francisco emerged onto the world stage and proudly established its prominence.

Today, it is known as a tourist destination, a financial hub, and a center for major businesses and sporting events, attracting entrepreneurial ventures, world-class performing arts, venues for movie productions, and active political movements that have spread across the entire nation.

The city's story is one of determination and reinvention. Shaped by waves of immigrants, entrepreneurs, and workers, San Francisco has embodied progress in civil rights, gay rights, labor movements, education, and social justice. It has survived devastating fires, two great earthquakes, riots, and even political assassinations—yet has emerged stronger, its seal proudly bearing the phoenix that symbolizes rebirth.

Spanning 250 years, San Francisco continues to welcome people from every corner of the globe, sharing cultures and heritage, and sparking new ideas. It remains a beacon of compassion and caring, innovation, and diversity.

In 2026, WESTPEX® is honored to celebrate San Francisco's 250th anniversary. We invite the philatelic world to join us in honoring this remarkable city and to revel in "the world of stamps."

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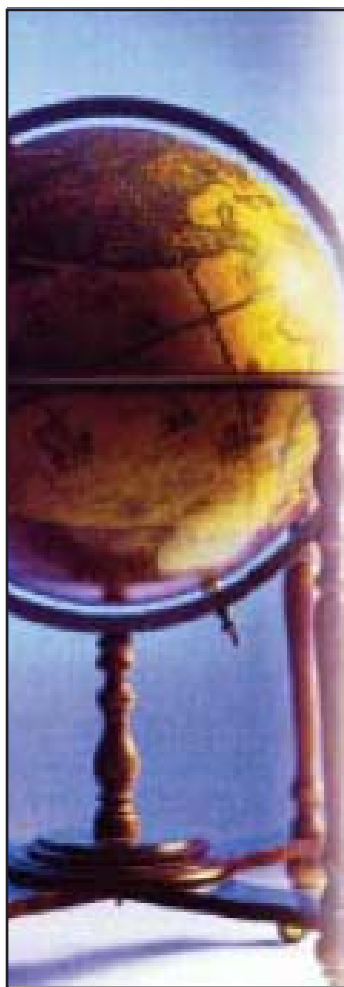
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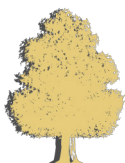


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