

United States – Maximaphily Report for 2012

In 2012 the North American Maximum Card Study Unity (MACSU) continued to strive to increase the awareness of maximaphily within the United States. One strategy was the continued publishing of MACSU's quarterly E-Journal, the "North American Maximaphily". The journal was improved in 2012 with a move to better publishing software. Four quarterly E-Journals were published in 2012 and were distributed at no cost to known maximum card collectors and the Presidents of the various maximum card clubs around the world. Anyone wishing a copy of the E-Journal may contact the MACSU President at terryw7633@comcast.net .

Another strategy used to meet the MACSU goal of increasing awareness of maximaphily in 2012 was the opening of its club website. This website can be accessed at www.macsu.org . The site offers members the opportunity to share scans of their favorite maximum cards, download copies of recent MACSU Journals, and provides links to a variety of other maximum card websites. In 2013 this web site will be expanded and improved.

MACSU had a presence at a national stamp show with the hosting of a booth at the AmeriStamp Southeastern Expo that was held in January in Atlanta. At this Stamp Expo MACSU President, Terry Watson entered a four-frame exhibit, entitled "Celebrating the Century through Maximum Cards" which won a Silver Medal. Maximum Card exhibits are rarely seen at American Stamp Exhibitions and Stamp Shows.

All maximum cards realized in the United States are collector-made as MACSU does not produce maximum cards, nor has the United States Postal Service produced cards in decades. Most maximaphilists in the United States realize only a small number of USA cards for their personal collection and maybe a few duplicates for trade or selling on the internet. Close to 100 different USA 2012 stamps were used in the realization of maximum cards in 2012. Some of these maximum cards were made in very limited numbers (less than 5 copies), while several cards were realized in multiples of 50 cards. A few collectors also are active in realizing non-USA cards.

The United States participated in the 2011 Maximum Card of the Year Contest by entering a card that used a stamp commemorating a painting by the American artist Edward Hopper. The painting entitled "The Long Leg" is a seascape that pictures a sailboat and a lighthouse. With the card featuring several popular themes, it is hoped that it will score well in the contest.