

## Jan Kindler

This section of our website reflects part of the stamp collection of Jan Kindler, an FCPS member from 1956 to 1988. His collection was in the care of a non-philatelist for about 25 years after Jan's death. In 2023 the owner donated the collection to our society. We sold the collection, but not before documenting many items you can find here.



Kindler was born in 1920. His parents were Hans Kindler and Alice L. Riddle Kindler, both of whom appear in Wikipedia. Hans is most famous for founding the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC. Alice was an artist, and had one of her murals displayed in the United States Post Office in Ware Shoals, SC. Jan had two siblings who lived in Europe, whom he visited frequently. He also visited his mother, who had moved to France in 1959 (and lived until 1980).

Jan apparently had an interesting life, with no definitive career. Because he died before the internet made it easier to find people, references to him are few and far between. We know that he spent part of his youth in France, since his parents lived there at the time, and eventually came to America, presumably with them.

We know that Jan married and had no children. He served in the American Army Air Corps in World War II (January 1943 to February 1945). We found an article by Jan in the March 1969 *Playboy* magazine, the subject of which was W.C. Fields. The inheritor of Jan's collection used the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>) and found references that indicated Jan was involved with theatrical and radio productions. Other references associate him with humor writers and performers and jazz musicians. He may have been a polyglot and polymath.

Jan collected many things – stamps, postcards, playing cards, jazz, limericks and more. He belonged to many collector organizations and contributed articles to their publications. He wrote for our journal as well as for the Cinderella society and *Scott's Monthly Journal*. Jan also loaned his collections out (like the Sower exhibit scanned on this site). His library contained about 10,000 books when he died.

When Jan took an interest in a subject, he studied it deeply. That is evident from the Sower material that came to us. We are glad that his scholarship is once again available to collectors, as well as his actual collection, disbursed through auction.

Ed Grabowski knew Jan when they were both society members. Ed remembers Jan telling a story of dropping several self-addressed postpaid postcards from the top of the Eiffel Tower. Jan said that one was returned to him through the mail, but we haven't found that card yet.

Please enjoy this memorial to an interesting man and his Sower philatelic studies.

[Photo of Jan Kindler taken October 4, 1988]

Ken Nilsestuen  
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