



PERF-DISPATCH

GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB

Established 1884

Saint Louis, Missouri

Volume XXVII Number 5



May 2021

Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO

When 4th Monday each month at 7:30
PM

Membership \$15 for Regular members
\$10 for email only

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hello club members! We're on the down side of Spring and Summer is just around the corner. Things are opening back up and we're on our way back to a normal environment. This should bode well for future shows and philatelic events as more and more people become willing to start participating in such things.

Those that didn't make last month's meeting missed a very good presentation on cupcakes on stamps by Christina Esbeck, and the cupcakes that she brought in for a nice tasty treat afterward. Christina and her sister Philippa were the bakers. The cupcakes were very good even though I heard that more cupcake ingredients and batter ended up spread around the kitchen than in the cupcake tins!

At last month's club meeting, and this is more for those who were not in attendance, we decided to try a different approach to the bimonthly club auction. The club members decided to try and post the auction on the website ahead of the meeting so that members could see what was up for auction ahead of time. This will hopefully generate more interest in the auctions and speed things up at the meeting as members can come prepared to look at the stamps of interest. The future hope is that this approach will make the auctions better organized and prepared. The goal is for the club to start having auctions every month instead of every other month. All of this requires that someone collect the lot information and put everything together for posting to the website. Dave Mahsman and Richard Thies volunteered to take this task. Thank you, Dave and Richard!

Now, for this to work members will have to submit lots to them or post them on the auction page of the website by the deadline. The information needed for the lots, where to send the information or how to

MAY MEETING

This month Ed Bayham gives us a presentation on another of his ship cover collections, this one on U.S. Navy Receiving Ships. Ed's talks always supply us with interesting information. Ships ahoy!

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

June.....Stampfest Prep.....Guy Gasser
July.....1904 World's Fair.....Tom Minor
August..AlliedOcc.Terr.PostWW2..Nathan Esbeck
September.....5 Minutes.....Katrina Whitaker
October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
November...Auction Bux Auction.....Guy Gasser
December....Christmas Party.....Katrina Whitaker

SHOWS

Gene Stewart has a bourse the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9AM to 3PM. (3rd Saturday in June). It is now located at The Aviator South County on the northeast corner of I-55 and Lindbergh, behind The Mattress Firm. Different name, same location. Don't miss out, and be sure to wear your mask.

post it, and the deadline went out in three emails over the past couple weeks. Every club member except for one has a valid email address so everyone received it. However, almost 40% of the club's members never even opened the email to see what information it contained! That, my fellow members, is not good.

The cornerstone to any organization is communication throughout its members. Today's modern conveniences make communication much easier. However, if one doesn't use such technology, communication breaks down and the organization is in trouble. Think about trying to do this through club meetings, phone calls, and snail mail. It would take a very long time indeed. This newsletter is a prime example. Members get it once a month. It is very difficult to get anything done with a once-a-month communication about what's happening.

The club relies on email and its website for rapid communication to all its members. I realize that most of us probably get more emails on a daily basis than we can stand. However, I ask that you check your email on some sort of regular basis for important emails. I, as your president, generate almost all email communication to the club, but I don't do that unless needed. Therefore, the number of emails sent out will be minimal. All I ask is that everyone open them and read them.

The planning for StampFest continues. Many contracts have gone out and Tom Minor, who once again volunteered to be the show chairman, has already received several contracts back. I have heard that Jerry Schultz has agreed to handle the auction, but I haven't confirmed that with him yet. We still need someone to step up and take the concession stand. Who will that be?

The program this month has something to do with the Navy, its ships, and I guess the mail that flows to and from the ships? I'm not really sure what the program is all about, but Ed Bayham is going to clear this all up for us. Come hear what he has to say. I'm sure that he will enlighten us all with some interesting facts and stories.

Like to give a program? Just let our VP know and she'll get you scheduled. The sooner the better as whomever speaks up first will have the best choice of months.

The breakfast club meeting remains on hold until we can find another location to hold it. I'm open to suggestions for a place to hold it.

SOCOPEX continues its monthly show, but next month, June, it will be on the third Saturday, the

19th. Please make a note of it. Everyone is cordially invited.

See everyone at the meeting. That is all!

Guy

Did you know: The American Banknote Company printed the Overrun Countries set of 1943-1944, Scott numbers 909-921, not the Bureau of Engraving and Printing who had printed all US stamps from 1894 up until then.

PAGE 3

This month I give you another story from my Dead Countries collection. I would much rather use a story from one of you about something in your collection, or about interesting philatelic facts that might be of interest to our members. Remember, you get 20 Auction Bux for each published article. That could be the difference between winning and losing an item in the Auction Bux auction.

www.GreaterMoundCity.org

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DEAD COUNTRIES

Ionian Islands

By Phil Schorr

When I started collecting dead countries I was told the place with the fewest stamps issued was Kionga in eastern Africa, with only four stamps issued. However, as time went by and I did some research of my own, I stumbled upon the Ionian Islands, which only had three stamps issued. I have yet to find anywhere with fewer stamps issued.

The Ionian Islands are a group of seven islands off the west and south coast of Greece, fairly close to the mainland. Possibly the best known of the seven is Corfu (Kerkyra), although that isn't saying a great deal since none of them are really well known.

These islands have been ruled by many different countries throughout history. They were probably first settled by Greeks somewhere between 1,200 and 900 B.C. They remained a backwater area until 434 B.C. when Corfu had a disagreement with its rulers in the city of Corinth. Athens intervened and triggered the Peloponnesian War. The islands fell under the control of Venice in the 13th Century. While the Ottoman Turks defeated Greece and took control of the mainland, they never were able to successfully occupy the islands. When Napoleon defeated Venice in 1797, France took over the islands and retained some control over them until 1809, when the British fleet defeated the French navy. By 1815 the islands became the United States of the Ionian Islands, under British protection. The British did a great deal to upgrade the communications, education and justice systems, and issued their only stamps. However, the inhabitants of the islands began to develop strong feelings of being Greek and wanting to be part of Greece. The British delayed any such change since they were valuable naval bases for the fleet.

In 1862 the Greeks overthrew their unpopular king and George I of Denmark was named king. He was the brother of Queen Victoria's daughter-in-law, the wife of the future king Edward VII of England. Queen Victoria then transferred the Ionian Islands to Greece as a coronation gift for George I, and they have been a part of Greece since 1864.

There is a connection in all of this to recent events. One of the children of George I was Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark. He married Princess Alice of Battenberg, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria. The youngest of their five children was Philip, born June 10, 1921 on Corfu. When Philip was one year old, Greece lost a war to Turkey and the Greeks blamed the royal family for the loss of territory. They fled to England where Philip was raised without ever learning Greek. Due to his royal background, Philip met Princess Elizabeth of England as a teenager and began corresponding with her while serving in the Royal Navy during WW2. After the war he proposed to her and they were married in 1947. This is the same Prince Philip who has been married to Queen Elizabeth of England for all these years and just recently passed away at age 99.

