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PERF-DISPATCH
GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB
Established 1884
Saint Louis, Missouri



Volume XXX Number 1  **January 2024**

Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

When 4th Monday each month at **7:30**
PM

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hi everyone and Happy New Year! I hope that we all have a healthy and prosperous 2024. Has it been cold enough for ya? I don't know about everyone else, but I've had enough of this cold weather to last me for the rest of this year, maybe next year too! I am definitely looking forward to Spring.

What does 2024 have in store for the Greater Mound City Stamp Club? Well, along with the usual things that we do as a club like, Expo, StampFest, Pot Luck dinner, Christmas Party, and the various programs throughout the year, 2024 is going to require some patience, flexibility, and resilience. This is because the dreaded, but needed, renovation to the Community Center is going to finally begin this year. Here's what I know now and can share.

Phase one, the main entrance, lobby, and west gym will close down from March through September. Yep, that means that we lose our space for StampFest this year. Phase two, the east gym, and the meeting rooms will close sometime this fall for the rest of the year. When depends on completion of the first phase. That means that we are going to have to find another place to meet for a few months. I don't know yet how long this will be. There will also be periods when the electric and plumbing will be shut down during phase one. Depending on when these periods happen, we may have to find another meeting place for a month here and a month there. When the main entrance closes, we will have to enter through the old main entrance, which may be a good thing as it is located on the second floor. There will not be any impact on our January and February meetings. Your club officers will tackle all of this and I'll inform everyone how we will skin this cat once it all gets figured out.

The club finished off the year with its annual Christmas bash. We had 30 attend this year, which is a little disappointing as I was hoping for a few more especially since the club was on the hook for 35, but for those that did attend fun was had by all.

JANUARY MEETING

Are you comfortable with knowing how to check your stamps for watermarks, perf gauges, and all the other skills that really upgrade your collecting? Come to the meeting this month to learn. Check with page 3 to see what you should bring.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2024

January.....Workshop.....Katrina Whitaker
February.....Workshop.....Katrina Whitaker

Speakers still needed for all the rest of this year. Contact Katrina to volunteer and reserve the month when you would like to share your philatelic knowledge with the club.

BOURSE

The Second Saturday Bourse has been resurrected. It will be held in the Epic Empowerment Center at 17795 Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, MO. Look for the sign along the road. This is another opportunity to meet local dealers and add to your collection.

There were many fun games with lots of sweet prizes handed out. I want to thank Katrina, our VP, for putting on another great event.

As is customary, I announce the results of the officer elections and this year's recipient of the Prexie award, if there is one. I also announce these here for those who were not in attendance. The officer positions up for re-election this year were the President and Treasurer. The incumbents threw their hat in the ring, but no one else sought to oppose them. Therefore, myself and Pat Morgan were retained in their current positions at President and Treasurer respectively.

The Prexie award. This award is awarded by the club President to recognize a club member who has gone above and beyond what is asked of club members in support of the club in a myriad of ways over a period of time. It is not awarded every year. I did this year. It is with great pleasure that I announce that this year's Prexie award winner is the venerable Jerry Schultz! Congratulations, Jerry, and thank you for all that you have done for the club!

Have you ordered your club shirt yet?

Many of the club members have already renewed their dues for next year. If you are one who has not yet done so, please take care of that soonest. Also, if you plan on not renewing, why would anyone even think of doing that???, please let Phil know that too. The more info Phil has sooner makes it all work out easier.

The program for the next 2 months comes at the request of several club members. It's a how to workshop hosted by our VP. How to what one may ask? It's how to do the basic things that all stamp collectors should know how to do. The program will cover how to use basic collecting tools, how to use a catalog, how to see and identify watermarks, and how to find and identify basic faults. This program will use a hands-on approach where everyone will get to practice what they learn with stamps donated by dealers in the club. If you don't know how to or are not sure, this is a program for you. If you do know, then you can help those who do not! Now, the VP needs to fill the program list for the rest of this year. Who will step up?

That is all!

Guy



www.greatermoundcity.org



The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus" is simply a gathering of some of your philatelic friends coming together to have lunch and enjoy each other's company. The February gathering will be at Tuckers Place, 14282 Manchester Rd. at 11:30 a.m. on February 12.



Postal rates are going up again this month. A first class 1 oz letter up 2 cents to 68 cents, post cards up 2 cents to 53 cents, but the additional oz rate will again stay pat at 24 cents. At least something didn't go up!

DUES

Roughly 80% of our members have paid their dues and renewed their membership for 2024. For those of you who haven't yet renewed, why not do it now? Send off your payment to our Treasurer, Pat Morgan, or bring it with you to our January meeting. We love having you as a member and we don't want to lose you.

OFFICERS

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GMSC JANUARY WORKSHOP

Please bring the following equipment with you when you come to the workshop
this month, January 22, 2024

Pencil

Eraser

Magnifying glass and/or loupe

Tongs

Perforation gauge

Watermark tray or small black plastic dish

Watermark fluid


Catalogue

Please note: A small number of these items may be available for you to borrow during the workshop, but not nearly enough for everyone to have one. Since you probably should have your own to use for your collecting, it will be better if everyone brings their own. Clarity brand watermark fluid will be available for purchase at a very attractive price.



PERF-DISPATCH
GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB
Established 1884
Saint Louis, Missouri



Volume XXX Number 2  **February 2024**

Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

When 4th Monday each month at **7:30 PM**

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Greetings one and all from sunny Phoenix, AZ! The weather here has been just gorgeous; clear blue sky, no wind, and temps in the mid to upper 70s each day. If it feels like I might be rubbing it in, I am! Next, it's off to San Diego for the next foray. One would think that San Diego would be just as nice this time of year, but the forecast says otherwise. It's supposed to be about 10 degrees cooler than Phoenix. I'll manage though.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Due to the change in schedule for the second Workshop, Ed Bayham has agreed to move his talk to this month. What will he cover? You will have to attend to find out.

This month will be the last meeting before the big show next month, Expo. That means it's time to gather volunteers to help make the show continue to be the great show that it is, because without our help, that won't happen. Phil will have signup sheets at the meeting this month for those who wish to volunteer. Those who can't make the meeting can simply contact me with what you would like to do. Please know what for the meeting or let me know by the first of March what you would like to do. Here's what the show needs based on getting the facilities on Wednesday, 21 March. Some times may change depending on when we get the ballroom.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

February...A Case for Cards & Covers.....Ed Bayham
March.....Workshop.....Katrina Whitaker

Speakers still needed for all the rest of this year. Contact Katrina to volunteer and reserve the month when you would like to share your philatelic knowledge with the club.

Wed, 20 March at 1:00PM - eight to set up exhibit frames.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Last month was the first of two workshops on the basics of philately. Katrina did an excellent job of covering the tools you need to work with your stamps and/or covers. With the help of Guy, who played the role of the "lovely assistant", holding up the various tools as Katrina discussed them, she covered tongs, magnifiers, perf gauges, watermark trays and fluids, and how to read your catalogue. In March we will have "hands on" practice with them. Be sure to bring your tools and any mystery stamps.

Thurs, 21 March at 9:00AM - one to set up the show floor, one to help set up the beginner's room. At 2:00PM - five to help dealers move in, two to put up mailed in exhibits.

Fri at 9:00AM thru Sunday at noon, two for the registration desk (2hr increments), one for the beginner's room, and one for the club table.

Sunday at 3:00PM - one to sign out exhibits, two to take down exhibits. At 4:00PM - eight to take down exhibit frames.

Last month we started the How To program, which was to continue this month. However, since I have most of the support materials and I'm out of town, we will continue with that program in March.

Therefore, this month Ed Bayham is going to talk about cards and covers, if I remember correctly. The VP is still looking for presenters for the rest of the year. Please sign up

Final note. I am asking for maximum participation from you all for Expo. This is the biggest and most compete show in the region, and you don't want to miss this opportunity. While 100% participation is desired, but probably a stretch, let's see if we can break the 80% level.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Expo where there will be plenty of fun and frolic!

That is all.

Guy

■ DID YOU KNOW? ■

Gary "Geddy" Lee, the lead singer for the rock group Rush, is an avid lifelong stamp collector.

■ OPEL+ ■

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus" is simply a gathering of some of your philatelic friends coming together to have lunch and enjoy each other's company. The March gathering will be on March 11 at Helen Fitzgerald's at 3650 South Lindbergh at 11:30.

SHOP LOCATIONS

Bill Raible and Jerry Schultz have moved their shop to 2508 Gravois Rd. in High Ridge, MO. They are only open on Saturdays. Gene Stewart's shop in Fenton remains where it has been at 1461 Larkin Williams Rd. He is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

BOURSE

The Second Saturday Bourse has been resurrected. It will be held in the Epic Empowerment Center at 17795 Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, MO. Look for the sign along the road. This is another opportunity to meet local dealers and add to your collection.

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Volume XXX Number 3  **March 2024**

Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

When 4th Monday each month at **7:30**
PM

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hi everyone. The really big shew is in full stride and going strong, or so I hope. Since I'm writing this before the show opens, but you will all receive it either the day before or the day it opens (I hope it's not later than that), I'm making the assumption that it is going great. I hate to assume though because it is well known what could happen when making assumptions! Those that read this after the show, well, the show is over and what a show it was.

First off, March is the month that the CC starts its renovations. The good news is that there will not be any impact on this month's meeting. We continue to march like normal. If and when a month comes that does cause us a problem, I will notify everyone via email as soon as I get the information. Hopefully, it will not be a last-minute notification. It shouldn't be, but nothing is for certain.

As of this writing, I am still soliciting volunteers for some areas of the show. Hopefully a few more will answer the call. Since the show will be over when we meet next, I want to thank now those of you who volunteered to help with the show. Again, a show this size doesn't run well without the help of our volunteers. I'll be more specific in next month's column. Also, don't forget the big box one gets for volunteering!

Looking forward, the next big event on the horizon is StampFest. We are still working out the details and searching for a venue since we know the CC is a no go this year. There will be more to come in the next month or two.

Have you ordered your club shirt yet? If not, it's never too late to order one. Those that do have them, please wear them to the show. I can't think of a better way to advertise the club than walking around the show floor and attending any events with club shirts proudly displayed.

This is the last call for membership renewal. The club has a handful of people who have yet to renew

MARCH MEETING

This will be a Workshop meeting where you will learn how to use your perf gauge, how to check the watermarks on your stamps, and how to read your catalogue to know what the perforations and watermarks on your stamp should be. Bring your tongs and other tools, as well as a stamp or two you need to check. Hope to see you there on March 25.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

March.....Workshop.....Katrina Whitaker
July.....Lick 'n Stick.....Guy Gasser
October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
November...Auction Bux Auction.....Jerry Schultz

Speakers still needed for all the rest of this year. Contact Katrina to volunteer and reserve the month when you would like to share your philatelic knowledge with the club.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Last month Ed Bayham gave a talk on postcards and covers, showing how interesting they can be. An advantage of postcards is that you can see the message they carried, while covers often do not contain the original message. He also shared a book showing art works that have been used on cards.

their membership. Any member who has not renewed by 31 March will be officially dropped from the rolls. Please don't be one of them.

The program this month will be a continuation of the "how to" workshop the VP started in January. You know, the how to do the basic things that all stamp collectors should know how to do. Maybe you don't know, which is exactly why you need to know, and this is the opportunity to be in the know. The program will cover how to use basic collecting tools, how to use a catalog, how to see and identify watermarks, and how to find and identify basic faults. This month we'll start putting hands on these things to enhance the learning process. We may even continue this into April for more hands-on fun depending on what you all want to do with this. The one thing to remember though for this month's program is, bring your tools! Now, the VP still needs to fill the program list for the rest of this year. This is taking too long this year. Who will step up?

This year Expo has the privilege of hosting a USPS first day of issue ceremony for not one, but two new stamps, the Celebration Blooms and Wedding Blooms stamps. This privilege does not come along very often. Here's a great opportunity to be a part of a new issue of stamps.

Last thing for this month is go to the show! If the attendance isn't there, the dealers won't come back and there won't be a show. Support the show. Support the dealers. Support the club. See you at the show!

That is all.

Guy

■ DID YOU KNOW? ■

Did you know: The first postage stamps issued in St. Louis with a first day of issue ceremony were the Louisiana Purchase Exposition issue on 30 April 1904. Gee, I wonder what event it supported???

■ OPEL+ ■

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be at Mike Duffy's Pub & Grill at 6662 Clayton Rd. on April 8 at 11:30. Don't miss out on the fun.

DUES

This is the final month members will receive the Perf-Dispatch if they do not pay their dues for 2024. Annual dues are due by January 1, but you receive a grace period through the end of March to pay them. We still have a few members who have not yet paid their 2024 dues. Please get them to Pat Morgan by the end of this month.

BOURSE

The Second Saturday Bourse has been resurrected. It will be held in the Epic Empowerment Center at 17795 Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, MO. Look for the sign along the road. This is another opportunity to meet local dealers and add to your collection.

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PERF-DISPATCH
GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB
Established 1884
Saint Louis, Missouri



Volume XXX Number 4  **April 2024**

Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

When 4th Monday each month at **7:30**
PM

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hi everyone. Today, the day that I'm writing this that is, is Tax Day! I hope that everyone was able to get their taxes filed on time. If anyone was sweating this out, given the summer like temperatures today, sweating will not be a problem!

It's now official. The front entrance to the CC is closed. We will now need to use the old main entrance until further notice. Everyone should see a map as part of this newsletter showing where that entrance is located, and how to get there. The CC will also have signs posted directing people to that entrance. There is limited parking across from the south entrance (left side of the building when standing on Geyer). Don't use the south entrance. This entrance is for the theater. The good news is that our meeting room remains unchanged...for now. I'll let everyone know when that changes.

The big show is all over but the shouting. The show went very well, and the Expo received many compliments from dealers, exhibitors, and show patrons. Show attendance continues to trend upward with 405 paid, an increase of 45 over last year. It's hard to gauge how many attended multiple days, but an educated guess makes me believe that the show had an overall attendance of around 550.

I want to thank our Expo board and club members, Nathan Esbeck and Tom Minor, for the many hours devoted to making Expo a great show. The head of the board, Fred Boatwright, is not a club member, but I want to thank him on behalf of the club, for the many, many, many hours he devoted to Expo. I also thank Bob Mahoney for running the beginner's room, Alan Barasch for handling the audio visual, and our VP, Katrina Whitaker, for running the registration and various administrative tasks that always plague a show of this size. Thank you to the Renaissance Hotel and their staff for their outstanding support of Expo. Thank you to the USPS for supporting the show and allowing Expo to host a First Day of Issue ceremony, emceed by Nathan. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to

APRIL MEETING

This will be a Workshop meeting where you will learn how to use you preserve your collection. What kind of albums, stock books and so forth are available, should you use hinges or mounts, what do you use to handle your stamps and covers, and much more. Don't miss it on Monday, April 22.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

May.....How and When.....David Mahsman
July.....Lick 'n Stick.....Guy Gasser
October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
November...Auction Bux Auction.....Jerry Schultz

Speakers still needed for all the rest of this year. Contact Katrina to volunteer and reserve the month when you would like to share your philatelic knowledge with the club.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Last month Katrina led a workshop on watermarks. After showing illustrations of the types of watermarks used by the U.S. in the past, Guy passed out a number of U.S. stamps for the members to try to locate and identify the watermarks on them. It was challenging.

all the club members who volunteered their time from start to finish. It took a concerted effort from everyone to make Expo a successful show.

The club attendance this year was 44, roughly 60% of the membership. That is also up a little from previous years, which I greatly appreciate. This is a little misleading as it is based on the 2023 roster, and we know that we will unfortunately drop several members. If I take the losses into account, we are around 68%. My goal is still to get attendance at Expo and StampFest to at least 80% of the membership. Thank you to those who attended and your support. I hope that you found the show beneficial and most of all had a lot of fun mixed in with some frolic!

The next big event on the horizon is StampFest. We are still working out the details and searching for a venue since we know the CC is a no go this year. There will be more to come in the next month or two.

Have you ordered your club shirt yet? If not, it's never too late to order one. All one must do is contact the VP.

The program this month will be a continuation of the how to workshop the VP started in January. You know, the how to do the basic things that all stamp collectors should know how to do. Maybe you don't know, which is exactly why you need to know, and this is the opportunity to be in the know. This time the program will cover how to preserve your collection. There will be more hands-on activities to enhance the learning process. Please remember to bring your tools!

The VP still needs to fill the program list for the rest of this year. I'm not sure why this is taking so long this year, but we need to get these dates filled. Please step up and help put the club as well as have some fun!

That is all.

Guy

■ DID YOU KNOW? ■

Did you know: In 1898, France issued its first stamps for a single French colony, Obock, and with scenes that reflected the colony.

■ OPEL ■

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be at Syberg's Dorsett, 2430 Old Dorsett Rd., in Maryland Heights at 11:30 on May 13. This is the same venue as for our Christmas party. Don't miss out on the fun.

BOURSE

The Second Saturday Bourse has been resurrected. It will be held in the Epic Empowerment Center at 17795 Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, MO. Look for the sign along the road. This is another opportunity to meet local dealers and add to your collection.

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Volume XXX Number 5  **May 2024**

Where Kirkwood Community Center
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When 4th Monday each month at **7:30 PM**

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hi everyone. The days are getting longer and we're getting close to summer. So far the temperatures have been very nice, and other than all the rain, which is sorely needed, the days have been gorgeous. I hope that it lasts for a long time.

MAY MEETING

David Mahsman is going to present the program this month. The title is How and When. He hopes to cover how and when some of our members started collecting, and any stops and starts along the way.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

July.....Lick 'n Stick.....Guy Gasser
October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
November...Auction Bux Auction.....Jerry Schultz

Speakers still needed for all the rest of this year. I believe a couple of members have indicated they will give a talk, but details are not nailed down. Contact Katrina to volunteer and reserve the month when you would like to share your philatelic knowledge with the club.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Last month Katrina led a workshop on how to safely protect and store your stamps. This included various available albums, stock books, and stock sheets, along with a discussion on the good and bad of using hinges, mounts and the like. Various types of mounts and their advantages and problems were covered. Finally she discussed the methods of handling the stamps, using tongs, etc.

I spoke with the CC center and it appears that the main entrance, which as everyone should know, is closed until at least sometime in August, maybe September. Plan on using the old main entrance until further notice. There was a map for clarity in last month's newsletter. Phil may keep it in the newsletter for a while just as a reminder. The CC also has signs posted directing people to that entrance. Remember to not use the south entrance. This entrance is for the theater. The CC also told me that we should not have to worry about a meeting night falling on a night where the water or power is off. The CC has supposedly moved past that point. The renovation work on the rest of the building, which will close all of the meeting rooms, is scheduled to start sometime in September, but could be October. Once that happens, we will move to our alternate site that Michael Karasick graciously offered to us for the rest of the construction. That is expected to go until July 2025. I'll continue to keep everyone posted.

I am still searching for a venue for StampFest. I have a couple more possible places to check. If those don't work, we will probably be out of luck this year. If anyone knows of any possible places we could hold the show, please let me know soonest.

There are going to be two new shows in the St. Louis area this year sponsored by the Midwest Stamp Dealers Association (MSDA). These shows will feature about a dozen dealers from around the Midwest to include a few of the local dealers. If you missed Expo, here's a chance to get to a show and see what you can find for your collection. I would like to see as many of you as possible at the show to help support the show. These MSDA shows are an

attempt to add a little more to the St. Louis area to give all the collectors in the region a couple more opportunities to get out and enjoy the comradery, and add to their collections. The first show is right around the corner, June 1st and 2nd, and will take place at the Westbury Center (Knights of Columbus), 20 Westbury Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301. Show hours are Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-3. The next MSDA show will be 5-6 October, same location, same hours. I hope to see everyone at the show.

Have you ordered your club shirt yet? If not, it's never too late to order one. All one must do is contact the VP.

David Massman is going to entertain us this month with his program of How and When. He is looking at several club members and their history behind how they got started in this hobby. I'm not sure how he is going to present all of this, but I know that the only way to find out is to come to the meeting and find out.

I know that the VP is still looking for a few volunteers to fill out this year's program list. I respectfully ask for volunteers to fill the remaining months for this year. Please let the VP know what you would like to do.

That is all.

Guy

■ ■ DID YOU KNOW? ■ ■

Did you know: A stack or group of 100 or more of any one stamp, carefully sorted and tied into a neat little square or rectangle with string or thread actually has a name or term for this. What's this called? Stay tuned for the answer in next month's column!

■ ■ OPEL+ ■ ■

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be at Tucker's Place, 14282 Manchester, in Marnchester, at 11:30 on June 10. Nine people came to the May meeting. Don't miss out on the fun.

BOURSES

The Second Saturday Bourse has been resurrected. It will be held in the Epic Empowerment Center at 17795 Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, MO. Look for the sign along the road. This is another great opportunity to meet local dealers and add to your collection.

There will also be two MSDA bourses this year, in June and October. Guy has included more info on these bourses in his column. More chances to add to your collection.

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- Club Auction.....David Mahsman (314-330-8202)
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■ ■ CLUB WEBSITE ■ ■

www.greatermoundcity.org



PERF-DISPATCH
GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB
Established 1884
Saint Louis, Missouri



Volume XXX Number 6  **June 2024**

Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

When 4th Monday each month at **7:30 PM**

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hi everyone. Looks like summer is upon us. It will be officially here by the time we meet. The question is, will the rain stay around and keep things tame or go away and the baking will begin? One could say that the baking has already begun!

I am still searching for a venue for StampFest. I'm down to the last two possibilities and as of this writing I'm just waiting to hear back. By the time we meet, I will have a definite answer on whether or not StampFest is a go this year or not.

There is no change to the status of the CC center and our meeting room. We continue to march forward. I don't suspect there will be any change until sometime around September.

The Midwest Stamp Dealers Association (MSDA) help its first show in the St. Louis area earlier this month over in St. Charles. The attendance was not as good as anticipated with only 99 attending the show. What I wonder is where were all of our club members? We only had 27% of our members attend. We as a club need to do better at supporting these shows. I ask that you please support the shows in our area. Many dealers come from far away to make these shows happen. If we don't support the shows, they will end up going away. Everyone will have another chance at the next MSDA show, which will be 5-6 October, same location, same hours. If StampFest doesn't happen this year, this will be the last show in our area until Expo next year. I hope to see everyone at the show.

If anyone remembers the theme for this past year's Expo, it was a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Eads Bridge. Tom Minor is going to enlighten us this month with its history and how it's tied to philately. This should be a very interesting program especially if one likes American history that is also linked locally. I look forward to it. I hope that everyone does.

We finally had several club members come forward and the VP has now filled all the programs for the

JUNE MEETING

Tom Minor is going to fill us in on the historic Eads Bridge this month. I imagine it will include a postage stamp or two and some poster stamps. Tom always has an interesting program.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

July.....Lick 'n Stick.....Guy Gasser
August....How and When Part 2.....David Mahsman
September.....Confederate Stamps.....Ron McVay
October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
November...Auction Bux Auction.....Jerry Schultz

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to fill out our programs for this year. Katrina is already working on the programs for next year. Sign up now and you will have plenty of time to prepare.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Last month David Mahsman took us down memory lane to our younger days when we had just started collecting. We saw what our old albums looked like and heard about some of the stamps we collected. Remembering the old 5 cent and 10 cent approvals, the big bag of stamps for a dollar, and all the other sources for our stamps was fun for everyone. Some of the local dealers from "back then" were recalled. David had so much information he couldn't finish, so we will see him again in August.

rest of this year. Thank you! However, this never ends, so now it's looking to 2025. Please let the VP know what month you want to sign up for in 2025.

I hope to see as many as possible at our meeting!

That is all!

Guy

■ DID YOU KNOW? ■

Did you know: The country that issued the fewest stamps is the Ionian Islands under a British Protectorate. They only issued three stamps, in 1859, before Britain gave the islands to Greece.

Did anyone figure out the answer to last month's did you know? The answer is bundleware.

◆ LINN'S STAMP POLL ◆

The results of the Linn's Stamp Poll were released a short while ago. Here are some of the results.

Most Popular – Waterfalls

Comm. Best Design – Waterfalls

“ Worst Design – Women's Soccer

“ Most Important – Endangered Species

“ Least Necessary – Art of the Skateboard

Defin. Best Design – Great Smokey Mountains

“ Worst Design – Patriotic Block coil

“ Most Important – Florida Everglades

“ Least Necessary – Pinatas

How did you do compared with the overall result?

The Waterfalls stamps were a clear winner, getting over twice as many votes as the Life Magnified set in second place. The Women's Soccer stamp had the worst design among commemoratives, with many thinking it was a vertical stamp, while it actually was supposed to be horizontal. The Priority and Priority Express stamps swept the Best Design and Most Important in the definitive section. The latest Floral Geometry stamp came in second in both the Worst Design and Least Necessary categories for definitives.

■ OPEL+ ■

The “Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be at Helen Fitzgerald's Irish Grill and Pub, 3650 South Lindbergh in Sunset Hills. Good friends, good food, lots of talk – what's not to like? We hope to see you there.

◆ BOURSES ◆

The Second Saturday Bourse has been resurrected. It will be held in the Epic Empowerment Center at 17795 Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, MO. Look for the sign along the road. This is another great opportunity to meet local dealers and add to your collection.

The first MSDA bourse was held June 1-2 in St. Charles. It was a little cramped for space, but it was busy. There will be another one in October.

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WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Greetings and salutations club members. Is it hot enough for everyone? It is for me. I guess it could be hotter, but let's hope it doesn't get hotter. At least we haven't had those long 10 or 12 or more day stretches where the heat index is over 100, yet that is.

JULY 22 MEETING

This will be the meeting where we prepare the notices to go out concerning StampFest. Come prepared to do the big job of "Lick 'n Stick". There will be no additional program. Please come since the more workers we have, the quicker it's done.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

August....How and When Part 2...David Mahsman
September.....Confederate Stamps.....Ron McVay
October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
November...Auction Bux Auction.....Jerry Schultz

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to fill out our programs for this year. Katrina is already working on the programs for next year. Sign up now and you will have plenty of time to prepare.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Last month Tom Minor gave us an in depth look at the building of the Eads Bridge. He explained why it was built – a railroad bridge was needed to compete with Chicago using bridges further north – how it was financed, and all the complicated steps that were needed to actually build the bridge. Do you know how they were able to push the supports down to bedrock, well below the river level, and some of the ways in which that affected the workers? If not, you should have been there.

It's official now. There will be no StampFest this year. Try as I may, I couldn't find another venue. Every venue I tried it was either not available, not big enough, or their policies made holding a show impractical. Did I try every possibility in the metro area? No, but I don't know how feasible, or possible, that would be, and then I simply ran out of time. So, we start back up next year. Based on the renovation schedule, the CC told me that it will more than likely be February or March before they will start scheduling the west gym for next summer and beyond. Since we are a prior user of the gym, we will have the first opportunity for our weekend in August. I already set next year's dates for StampFest provided something else at the CC doesn't rear its ugly head. Everyone put 9-10 August 2025 on your calendars now. I would think that knowing the dates this far out should allow everyone to plan accordingly to support and attend the show. I have let all of the dealers who do our show know that there is no show this year, and that we will see them next year.

While I was talking to the CC about the gym, I also asked if there was any update on when our meeting room will close. I was told that all of the meeting rooms will be shut down the first part of September. That means that starting with the September meeting we will move to our alternate site. I don't know how long we will have to use our alternate site, but at least through April 2025. That may change. I'll just continue to keep everyone posted as we go along. I asked the CC if the renovation was on schedule. I was told that it was running about 2 weeks behind at this point in

time. Given projects of this nature, I'm surprised that it's not more than that.

The alternate site for our meetings will be the conference room at Michael Karasick's office in Clayton. I thought that I had the address written down, but I can't find it if I do. The address will be in next month's newsletter for sure along with a map to get us where we need to go. Thank you, Michael, for allowing the club to use your facility and at no cost!

Since StampFest is a No Go this year, we are looking at having another club event in its place. We have thought about having a pot luck picnic in August during the weekend that would normally be StampFest. When the VP asked the members in attendance at last month's meeting, the response was a resounding yes. While this sounds easy, it is turning out not to be easy. The biggest concern with holding an outdoor event in August is not knowing just how hot it will be, and we all know that August can be brutal. Therefore, we are exploring more options. I am going to ask for suggestions at the meeting. Please come with ideas to include dates, times, and locations.

Now that StampFest is out this year, that means that the next show of any size will be the second MSDA show in October. This show is also going to be at the Westbury Center (Knights of Columbus), 20 Westbury Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301. The dates of the show are 5-6 October. Show hours are Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-3. The MSDA executive director is also exploring other venues for future shows. I have told him the Kirkwood CC, and he likes that idea. The question is of course availability.

This month's program is still going to be lick and stick. Even though we are not holding StampFest, we are going to send postcards to everyone letting them know that the show is postponed this year, and that we will see them back at the Kirkwood CC 9-10 August 2025. This year's lick and stick will be easier too. We only have to put two stamps on the postcard, and we are only sending out postcards, no letters.

The VP has filled the program list for this year! Now she is working on 2025. Let's get next year scheduled before the end of the year, please. Who wants to sign up for 2025? That is all!

Guy

■ DID YOU KNOW? ■

Did you know: The 15 cent Z grill, Scott #85F, hammered down last month at a Siegel auction for \$2.65 million, \$1.05 million less than the 1 cent Z grill, Scott #85A. There are only two of these known too, but unlike the 1 cent Z grill, both stamps are available to the public. One stamp makes a million-dollar difference!

■ OPEL ■

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be on August 12 at Mike Duffy's Pub and Grill, 6662 Clayton Rd in Richmond Heights. Good friends, good food, lots of talk – what's not to like? We hope to see you there.

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Image by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing

U.S. Zeppelin stamps

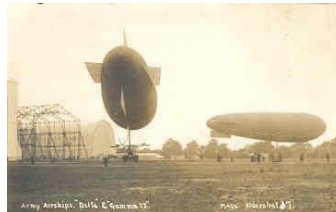
By Douglas Files

A few years ago this newsletter featured an article about the history of Zeppelins in Ohio and showed covers from our state. Next let's turn to the famous U.S. Zeppelin stamps, with their interesting history. Zeppelin stamps are not scarce – most dealers seem to have some for sale and they appear regularly at auction. But demand has outpaced supply for decades, keeping their prices steeper than we might otherwise expect. Zeppelins were steerable balloons with rigid frames. More properly these airships are called dirigibles, meaning their direction could be set. Only airships made by the Zeppelin company of Germany were technically “Zeppelins”. But some brand names are so common that people generalize their names (such as Jello for gelatin or Xerox for copiers). Zeppelin is one of these brand names.

The first Zeppelin airship was launched in July 1900 and their use increased in popularity through the next several decades. Dirigibles were used in combat in World War I and later they carried passengers and mail across the Atlantic Ocean. These airships garnered much media attention; many stamp collectors saved covers which had flown on a Zeppelin.

In the United States many people sent Zeppelin mail to Europe since dirigibles offered the only Trans-Atlantic airmail available in the 1920s and 1930s. Initially high-denomination U.S. definitive were used to send these covers. Several stamps were often needed to make up the unusual rates which were charged. But Zeppelin airmail service became so popular that the U.S. Post Office Department decided in 1930 to issue high-denomination stamps with denominations which conveniently met the Zeppelin postal rates of that period. These included a 65-cent green stamp

The production of the Zeppelin stamps was



showing a Zeppelin over the Atlantic Ocean, a \$1.30 brown stamp showing a Zeppelin between continents and a \$2.60 blue stamp showing a Zeppelin “passing a globe”.

The release of the Zeppelin stamps was timed to coincide with a special Graf Zeppelin flight which was scheduled to travel from Friedrichshafen, Germany to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to Lakehurst, New Jersey in the U.S. These three destinations are all marked on the map in the background of the \$1.30 stamp. The three U.S. Zeppelin stamps were issued April 19, 1930, approximately one month prior to the special flight. The “Zepps” as they were called were each produced in a single color and the designs were engraved, as was common at that time. The degree of skill which engraving required made it difficult for counterfeiters to reproduce the complex designs on these high-value stamps. The Zeppelin stamps were issued in a large horizontal format in sheets of 50. The elongated shape of the stamps was intentional to aid postal clerks in identifying them as airmail stamps. One plate number appeared in the margin of each sheet and selvaige appeared on all four sides of the sheets. This meant that stamps from this issue did not regularly have any straight edges.

The Post Office hoped that stamp collectors would flock to buy the Zeppelin stamps. But after the stock market crash in late 1929 the Depression set in. Many workers were laid off or fired. Most collectors lacked the money to spend several dollars – a large amount at that time - for one stamp set. Some people didn't even have money for food. So fewer than one tenth of the Zeppelin stamps which had been printed were ever purchased from the Post Office. In total only 227,000 stamps were sold. One million examples of each denomination had been produced. The fact that 93% of the print run was destroyed in 1930 contributes to the Zepps' consistently high prices in the philatelic marketplace.



Finances of the Zeppelin issue:

The production of the Zeppelin stamps was not planned as a money-maker for the U.S. Post Office Department. Instead, it was a good-will gesture toward Germany. More precisely, the stamp series was expected to publicize the dirigibles' trans-Atlantic routes and defray the costs of running the trans-Atlantic route. Accordingly, over 90% of revenues from the stamps was paid to the Zeppelin company. The other nations which would host the Zeppelin (Germany, Spain, Bolivia and Brazil) also issued Zeppelin stamps to help subsidize the famous flight.

Postal History

As stated above the first Zeppelin flight took place in Germany in 1900. By 1910 passengers were flying between several German cities in Zeppelins. While on the flight passengers would write postcards to their friends. So souvenir Zeppelin mail already existed in the first decade of the 20th century. The first dirigible to land in the United States was a British craft named R34 in 1919. Five years later the first German Zeppelin flew into the U.S.

In 1927 Charles Lindbergh gained fame for flying alone across the Atlantic. Of course he flew in a small airplane, not a dirigible. But two years after his legendary flight Zeppelins were already carrying passengers and cargo across the Atlantic Ocean. This was before any passenger airplanes made the long trip. In the 1930s dirigibles were the main long-distance aircraft and their primary route ran between Germany and Lakehurst, New Jersey. The U.S. Navy purchased some dirigibles and they carried some mail, but they were not used for civilian passenger transport. Thus it was mostly the German trans-Atlantic Zeppelin routes which attracted mail. Some flights carried as much as 80,000 letters and post cards.

The U.S. Zeppelin stamps were only valid for postage on Zeppelin flights. They were not supposed to be used on any other mail. The green 65-cent Graf Zeppelin stamp (Scott#C13) covered the cost of sending a post card by Zeppelin. The \$1.30 brown stamp (Scott #C14) covered the letter rate for the May 1930 Pan American The U.S. Zeppelin stamps were only valid for postage on Zeppelin flights. They were not supposed to be dirigible flight. This flight originated in Germany, and then went to Brazil and the United States. Specifically the two lowvalue Zepps paid the rate for post cards and letters to go on the last leg of the Zeppelin flight from the U.S. to Seville, Spain and Friedrichshafen, Germany. The precise

postal rate depended on how much distance the item travelled. The \$2.60 blue stamp (Scott #C15) covered higher rates for heavier items and longer distances.



For a letter to complete a round trip from Lakehurst, New Jersey cost \$3.55 to \$3.90, equivalent to more than \$50.00 in 2024 dollars. The average American during the Great Depression simply could not afford these stamps. Mail sent by Zeppelin received special diamond-shaped cachets and cancels. Wealthier collectors purchased Zeppelin stamps and created flight covers.

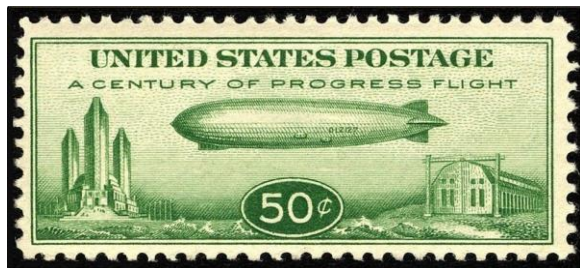
The Graf Zeppelin was the most famous German airship – at least until the Hindenburg crashed and burned in 1937. Its name celebrated the founder of the airship company, Graf (Count) Ferdinand von Zeppelin. Starting in 1928 the 775-foot long Graf Zeppelin carried over 18,000 passengers and thousands of pieces of mail. The Graf Zeppelin was only retired from service after the Hindenburg disaster.

Collector attitudes

Among collectors in 1930, the Zeppelin series was not popular due to its large cost. Many U.S. collectors liked to save at least one of each U.S. stamp, and this set alone cost \$4.55. In today's dollars that is over \$75.00 and during the Depression hardly anyone had that kind of money to spend on a hobby. This being said, most collectors find these stamps attractive and they are still highly sought today.

Hindenburg mail

When the Hindenburg crashed in 1937 it was carrying 17,000 pieces of mail. Most of these were destroyed, and only about 150 items made it through the fire. Many of the Hindenburg envelopes currently in existence bear burn marks. Forgers have attempted to cheat stamp collectors by burning letters and presenting them as Hindenburg items. So beware if you plan to buy a Hindenburg cover.



1933 Baby Zeppelin stamp

A new U.S. Zeppelin stamp was issued in 1933. It carried the lower denomination of 50 cents and it was sold starting on October 2, 1933 at the Century of Progress expo (i.e. the Chicago World's Fair). Nearly 325,000 of this lower value stamp were issued so it is much more common than the other Zeppelin definitive. Four of these 50-cent stamps would cover the round-trip cost of a letter going from New York to Germany (by ship) then to South America, Chicago and Germany by Zeppelin, then back to the U.S. by ship. You could also post a letter on just one leg of the Zeppelin flight for less than

\$2.00. The rate depended on the distance the letter was carried on the dirigible.

Philately

The Scott's Stamp Monthly magazine's U.S. Graded Stamp Report in August 2023 listed the Zeppelin stamps as follows:

In mint, never hinged condition, fine to very fine (grade 75) the 65-cent green is \$175.00, the \$1.30 brown is \$400.00 and the \$2.60 blue is \$650.00. In extra-fine condition (grade 90) their catalogue values are \$450.00, \$750 and \$1200.00. Meanwhile gem (grade 100) copies can sell for several thousand dollars.

Overview

U.S. Zeppelin stamps have developed a reputation as the most desirable and the most expatiation, Caransive, commonly-seen U.S. stamps. Whether this is deserved or not, the reader can decide. The stamps were produced at a time when fine engraving was the rule rather than the exception and they are certainly attractive. The Great Depression occurred just as the stamps were being issued, which fueled collectors ire with such an expensive issue. And the main purpose of the stamps was to promote the Zeppelin flights and to keep them coming to the United States. After the burning of the Hindenburg in the late 1930s Zeppelin flying greatly declined. But this was okay since large airliners could take over transporting passengers quickly across the Atlantic Ocean. These high-denomination definitive still add luster to U.S. collections today. So maybe you will be able to add some to your collection.

Philately

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The model used for the \$2.60 U.S. Zeppelin stamp: the 1928 Graf Zeppelin D-LZ-12 .



Die proof of 65¢ 1930 Graf Zeppelin stamp, signed by Postmaster General Walter Brown. References:

The Controversial Zeppelin Stamps that Enraged 1930s Collectors, Atlas Obscura website, 20 Mar 2017, <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/graf-zeppelin-stamphistory>, accessed 3 May 2024

1930 Graf Zeppelin stamps, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1930_Graf_Zeppelin_stamps, accessed 3 May 2024

Keane, Maribeth and Marks, Ben, Cheryl Ganz of the National Postal Museum on Inverted Jennys and Burning Zeppelins, Collectors Weekly website, 29 Dec 2009, <https://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/an-interview-withsmithsonian-national-postal-museum-curator-and-zeppelinstamps-expert-cheryl-ganz/>, accessed 3 May 2024

Scott U.S. Graded Stamp Report, Scott's Stamp Monthly magazine, Aug 2023, page 52

Zeppelins, Smithsonian Institution National Postal Museum website, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/fad-tofundamental-airmail-in-america-historic-airplanes-unusual-andexperimental-lighter>, accessed 3 May 2024

Editor's Note:

Thanks to Bill Smith, Editor of the Dayton Stamp Club, for allowing me to use this article from their club newsletter. Any problems with the article in the Perf-Dispatch, including less than perfect layout, are the fault of your GMCS editor and not of the Dayton club.



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cancelled for this year but will be back in August of next year.

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

AUGUST 26 MEETING

Earlier this year we all enjoyed David Mahsman's presentation on how and when we all started our philatelic journey, with lots of pictures and memories from the past. David received so much material for it that he couldn't complete it all, so he will be back this month for the second portion of the trip down memory lane.

Hi everyone. This month's column comes to you from Hartford, CT, home to this year's Great American Stamp Show (GASS). The APS along with the ATA (American Topical Association) and FDCS (First Day Cover Society), and the show sponsors, USPS, are putting on another great show. This year's show includes two first day ceremonies, many seminars and presentations, at least a couple dozen societies, an auction (a firm I have never heard of), a couple sessions of Dungeons and Dragons, and of course the Champion of Champion competition for exhibitors and a 75+ dealer bourse.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September....Confederate Stamps.....Ron McVay
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I've only seen one club member at the show so far, Alan Barasch, and I'm wondering why I haven't seen any other club members??? Where is everyone? It couldn't be because Hartford is over 1,000 miles away now, could it? The club did have one other member represented at the show, Christina Esbeck. While she was not there, her champion youth exhibit "Cupcakes" was on display in the show's court of honor, and her new four-frame exhibit "Thinking of You" was competing. Next year GASS will be in Chicago, Schaumburg actually, which is West of downtown and away from the hustle and bustle. I hope that the rest of the club's members will be able to attend that one.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to fill out our programs for this year. Katrina is already working on the programs for next year. Sign up now and you will have plenty of time to prepare.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Since we are not able to hold StampFest this year, the members present at last month's meeting overwhelmingly voted to hold a club pot luck picnic foray next month on Saturday, 28 September. The time and location to follow by next month's meeting.

Guy gave us the latest info on StampFest and on our meeting sites for the coming months. We then prepared post cards for mailing to update those on our large mailing list that StampFest has been

The meeting this month is still at the Community Center. Next month is supposed to be the month we move to our temporary location. Next months newsletter will have all the information on where we are going.

BOURSES

It's time to start thinking about officer elections this year. Next month I'll need a nominating committee for nominations for this year's offices, which are vice president and secretary. Who might throw their hat in the ring? Also coming up this year is the annual auction box auction. Remember that the lots are all donated so please be thinking about what to donate to the cause. In December, which will be here before we know it, is the annual Christmas party. There will be more information on that event in the next newsletter.

Have you ordered your club shirt yet? If not, it's never too late to order one. All one must do is contact the VP.

The program this month will be part 2 of David Mahsman's "How and When". If part 2 is anything like part 1, it will be an interesting and enjoyable evening. I'm guessing that it will be all of that, if not more. Come on out and experience the fun!

The VP has filled the program list for the rest of this year. She is now working on next year. Yes, this is a never-ending process. Sign up early for your choice of month and let's get a jump start on next year.

That is all!

Guy

DID YOU KNOW?

Between the Post Office Dept and USPS they have produced six different board games over the years. The first one, "Uncle Sam's Mail" was released in 1893!

OPEL+

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be on September 9 at Syberg's Dorsett, 2430 Old Dorsett Rd, at the intersection of I-270 and Dorsett. Good friends, good food, lots of talk – what's not to like? We hope to see you there.

The Second Saturday Bourse has been resurrected. It will be held in the Epic Empowerment Center at 17795 Wildhorse Creek Road in Chesterfield, MO. Look for the sign along the road. This is another great opportunity to meet local dealers and add to your collection.

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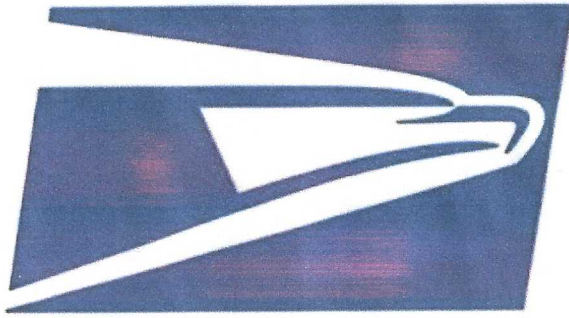
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CLUB WEBSITE

www.greatermoundcity.org



United States Postal Service Mail Delivery Officially Since 1792

On February 20, 1792, President George Washington officially created the modern United States Postal Service by signing a sweeping act that promoted a free press and put privacy safeguards in place.

Mail delivery and an earlier version of the Service had been in place since 1775 when Benjamin Franklin was named as the first postmaster and the Continental Congress paid him a salary of \$1,000 a year.

The Articles of Confederation, which preceded the Constitution, also made it clear that the government "shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of ... establishing or regulating post offices from one State to another, throughout all the United States, and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray the expenses of the said office."

And the Constitution made sure that these crucial services were preserved. In Article I, Section 8, the Constitution gave Congress the ability "To establish Post Offices and post Roads." That means it not only does Congress have the power to create a postal system, it had the ability to acquire and control the land for the "post roads" to carry the mail and the buildings needed to maintain the system.

In 1789, that meant 75 Post Offices and about 2,400 miles of post roads. But it was the Postal Act of 1792 that established the foundation of a modern Postal Service. Congress granted the Postmaster General broader powers. And the act addressed issues related to commerce and privacy.

The act ensured newspapers could be sent at low mail rates, which facilitated a free press across the new states. The law also protected privacy by making it illegal for postal officials to open mail unless it was undeliverable. Offenders faced up to six months in jail and a \$300 fine.

And to make sure people knew Congress was serious, section 17 of the act included death as one of the possible punishments for robbing a mail delivery person, or for stealing mail from a post office. (In 1872, Congress reduced the penalty to five years in prison.)

Congress also called for more mail routes to service an expanding nation. The newly expanded service kept its headquarters in Philadelphia but moved to Washington, D.C. in 1800.

In 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act made what was called the United States Post Office Department, become the United States Postal Service. The U.S. Postal Service was an independent agent of the government which meant that the postal service was run more like a business than a government agent. Today, the U.S. Postal Service is still the largest postal service in the United States despite other privatized companies.



1973 8c Postal Service Employees Scott 1489-98



PERF-DISPATCH
GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB
Established 1884
Saint Louis, Missouri



Volume XXX Number 9  **September 2024**

Where Kirkwood Community Center
Room 200
111 South Geyer Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

When 4th Monday each month at **7:30 PM**

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Dear beloved, we are gathered here today to join these men and women of the club together in fun and frolic, comradery, and some club building. Of course, I'm talking about the club's pot luck social event on Saturday, 28 September. The when and where has yet to be finalized as I'm still looking at a couple of places I found that have availability. I'll announce the where at the club meeting, and we'll determine the time at the meeting. I'll put all of that information out in an email for the benefit of those who will not be able to make the meeting.

Fall is definitely not in the air right now even though it officially begins this Saturday. Even so, there's nothing like a get together to usher in the new season. At the meeting, the VP will have a sign-up list for what people want to bring. The club will provide the main dishes, eating equipment, and drinks. Therefore, bring some sort of food, please. If there are any games (indoor or outdoor) that would be fun to do, bring them. We will have a room inside in case of inclement weather. If anyone wants to enjoy an adult beverage, that's BYOB.

This is the month that we move to the temporary location. We'll more than likely be at this location until at least May. I'll let everyone know next year once the renovation completion becomes clearer. We will be at the Dielmann Recreation Center, which is also the Creve Coeur golf course. The directions to this location are in the newsletter.

This is a reminder that it's time to start thinking about officer elections this year. I'll need a nominating committee for nominations for this year's offices, which are vice president and secretary. Who might throw their hat in the ring? Also coming up this year is the annual auction bux auction. Remember that the lots are all donated so please be thinking about what to donate to the cause.

The annual Christmas party this year will be 5 December 2024, at Catering To You. I'll have more

SEPT 23 MEETING

This month Ron McVay will enlighten us about stamps issued by the Confederate states during the American Civil War. I don't know how deeply Ron plans to cover them, but it should be good.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
November.....Auction Bux Auction.....Jerry Schultz
December.....Christmas Party.....Katrina Whitaker

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to fill out our programs for this year. Katrina is already working on the programs for next year. Sign up now and you will have plenty of time to prepare.

WHAT YOU MISSED

David Mahsman gave us Session 2 of his fun talks about how and when we all started collecting, and where it has taken some of us through our collecting, up to the current day. He even pointed out how Topical Time, the ATA publication, didn't spell Lesa Morgan's name correctly. He then explored the internet to discover if one spelling was more common than the other, but he found many people under both Lesa and Lisa.

information as we get closer to the event. Please put this on your calendar now and plan to attend.

Have you ordered your club shirt yet? If not, it's never too late to order one. All one must do is contact the VP.

The program this month will be about Confederate stamps, presented by our oldest member by number (8). Ron has been dealing with Confederate stamps for years. Since Ron was present for the issuing of these stamps, I would think that he has a pretty good idea of what he is talking about! Come on out and hear what he has to say.

The VP has filled the program list for the rest of this year. She is now working on next year. Yes, this is a never-ending process. Sign up early for your choice of month and let's get a jump start on next year.

That is all!

Guy

DID YOU KNOW?

The federal government first taxed playing cards in 1862 to support the Civil War. Except for an 11 year period (1883-1894), the tax remained in effect until it was repealed in 1965.

OPEL+

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be on October 14 at Tucker's Place, 14282 Manchester Rd., just east of I-141. Good friends, good food, lots of talk – what's not to like? We hope to see you there.

BOURSES

The Second Saturday Bourse has been cancelled for the time being, while looking for a new home.

The next MSDA bourse will be held on October 5-6 in St. Charles. The June bourse was a little cramped for space, but it was busy.

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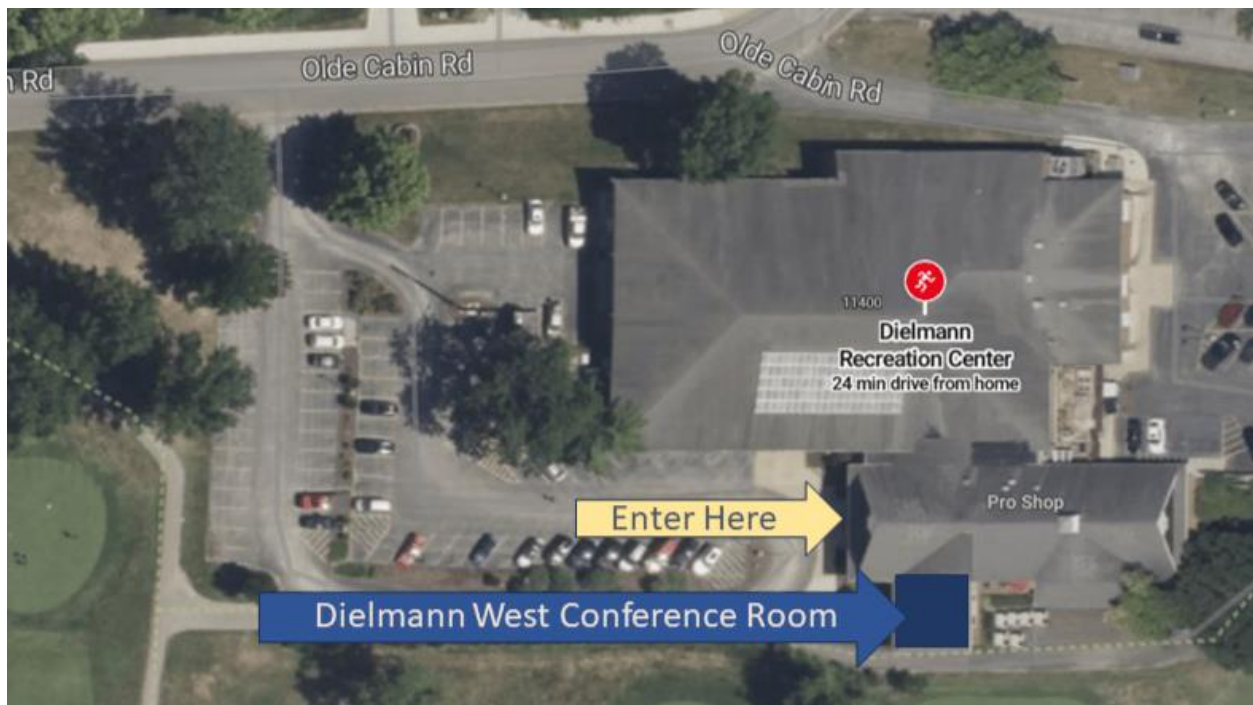
Dielmann Recreation Complex Meeting Location

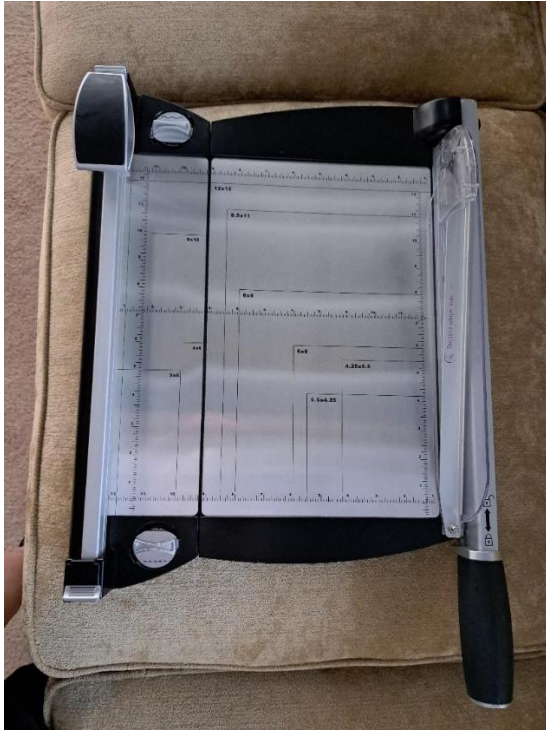
For the September, October, and November Monthly Club Meetings will be meeting at the Dielmann Recreation Center, 11400 Olde Cabin Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141 in the Dielman West Meeting room (see figure below as to where to park, enter the building, and where our meeting room is located). When you enter the building there will also be someone at the welcome desk that can direct you but you can also look for the club's meeting banner.

Driving direction from I-270 (north or south).

- From I-270 EXIT At Exit 14, MO-340 toward Olive Blvd Eastbound
- 0.6 mi Turn right onto Old Ballas Rd
- 0.3 mi Turn left onto Olde Cabin Rd, keep right to stay on Olde Cabin Rd
- 92 ft Arrive at Dielmann, use the first entrance, and park on the west end of the building.

Dielmann Recreation Center





Those of you who have been members for several years will remember Paul Hicks. He was a member until he developed heart trouble and passed away. Paul was an engineer who always researched any equipment he was going to buy, bought the best and took great care of it. Above are photos of two mount and paper trimmers he purchased. His widow, Veronica, would like to sell them and wonders if anyone in the club would like to buy them. The larger metallic one is 17.5 inches long, 15 wide, and 3.5 tall. It has a regular guillotine cutter on the right side, a slide cutter on the left side, and comes with an instruction book. The smaller one measures 8.5 inches long, 4.75 inches wide and 2 inches tall. It is more of the usual type of mount cutter we see and use. Both are in like new condition.

If you are interested in either of these, you can contact Veronica by email at teachvh@att.net.

Listing something for sale is not something we usually do, but the circumstances of one of our members passing away, and a chance to help his widow, is what led your editor to include it this time.



PERF-DISPATCH
GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB
 Established 1884
 Saint Louis, Missouri



Volume XXX Number 10  **October 2024**

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 Dielmann West room
 11400 Olde Cabin Rd.
 Creve Coeur, MO 63141

When 4th Monday each month at **7:30 PM**

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

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Well, club members. It's that time again. The time where everyone can earn big bucks, auction bux that is! Yep, it's time for your favorite game, Philatelic Jeopardy! It's an evening of fun and frolic along with some friendly competition. Who will take home the championship this year? Will team Secretary, who knocked off the defending champion VP team last year repeat, or will team VP regain the crown? Perhaps team Treasurer will rise up and become the new team to beat? The question to the answer will be determined soon enough. The more that play, the more it pays and the more fun it is. Oh, and don't forget to do your homework!

I have received some disturbing news from the Kirkwood Community Center. I assumed that the rates for everything would increase after the renovation is completed. What I didn't expect is how much the rates would increase. There will be a rate increase all right; a huge increase. In past years, we paid \$1,900.00 for the gym for StampFest. I was told that the cost for the gym will now be, get this, \$4,950.00! Really? Yes, really. Notwithstanding that I think this is absurd, I asked if there was any sort of grandfathering or negotiating given our tenure with the facility. The answer is a plain and simple no!

This startling realization made me afraid to ask what the new room rate will now be for our meetings, but of course I had to ask knowing that I would not like the answer. And I don't. We are currently paying \$21 for the room for our meeting. The new rate...\$50.00 per hour! Good grief! The new rate does include a 30-minute set up and take down period at each end. Haha. Given that our meetings generally last 90 minutes, that would be \$75.00 per meeting or \$825.00 per year.

The question now is where do we go from here? If we keep our meetings at the Kirkwood CC, dues will have to go up by about \$10.00 per person. I think we can find someplace cheaper that works just as

OCTOBER 28 MEETING

This month we will be treated to the ever-popular Philatelic Jeopardy contest. Guy does a great job of coming up with the large array of answers, for which we are challenged to provide the questions. Be sure to study the Did You Know items in the Perf-Dispatch issues from this year, since you just might find one or more of them in the quiz. Don't miss this meeting, it's a fun time and provides you with AuctionBux to spend in the big auction. Your money does you no good in this auction, only AuctionBux may be used to buy the items.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

November.....Auction Bux Auction....Jerry Schultz
 December.....Christmas Party....Katrina Whitaker
 January.....Thinking of You.....Christina Esbeck

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to fill out our programs for this year. Katrina is already working on the programs for next year. Sign up now and you will have plenty of time to prepare.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Our meeting took place in the substitute venue we will be using until at least May. Since our planned speaker ran into car trouble, we spent our time working out the details for the Pot Luck meeting.

DUES AND PARTY

well. Your club officers cannot do this alone. This leaves me no choice but to task every member of the club, every member, to look for another place to hold StampFest and our meetings. This is effective immediately. No place is off the table. It can be CCs, rec-plex, parks facilities, schools, churches, meeting halls, fraternal organizations, veteran organizations, meeting space in office buildings, etc. We will need at least 4500 square feet of space for StampFest.

Here's what I need from the members. Everyone knows our meeting dates and times. StampFest is scheduled for 9-10 August 2025. The week prior, 2-3 August is possible. After determining if the dates are available, I will need a person's name, contact info, and the name of the place of anyone contacted about space. I will do the negotiating and cost analysis with whomever you provide, but if you get more info that is fine too. We have basically 6 months to get this figured out. Time starts now. Oh, almost no one probably knows this, but the reason we ended up at the Kirkwood CC is from a recommendation from one of our club members.

The MSDA held a show here October 5-6. It was poorly attended by club members, which is sad. Only 10, not counting the five who were there as dealers, attended. We need to do a better job at supporting these shows, and I ask that the club do that going forward. Better shows will not come to the St. Louis area if we don't support them.

Next month is the big auction. Those who are donating lots, please contact Jerry and let him know what you are donating so that he can have everything ready prior to the auction.

That is all!

Guy

DO YOU KNOW?

October is the philatelic month; National Stamp Collecting Month, World Postcard Day (1st), and World Post Day (9th). Maybe there should be more!

OPEL+

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will be on October 11 at Helen Fitzgerald's, 3650 S. Lindbergh. Good friends, good food, lots of talk – what's not to like? We hope to see you there.

Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter are two items – the Dues notice for 2025 dues and a form for the Christmas Party. Please read the dues notice carefully since you may not owe any dues if you have paid ahead or are a new member who joined since the end of July. Dues are due by the end of December.

The Christmas Party form helps us know how many members might attend. Payment is appreciated with your reservation, but is not required until the night of the Party. However, it helps us know how many will attend, since we have to meet a minimum number and the club ends up paying if we don't have that many attend.

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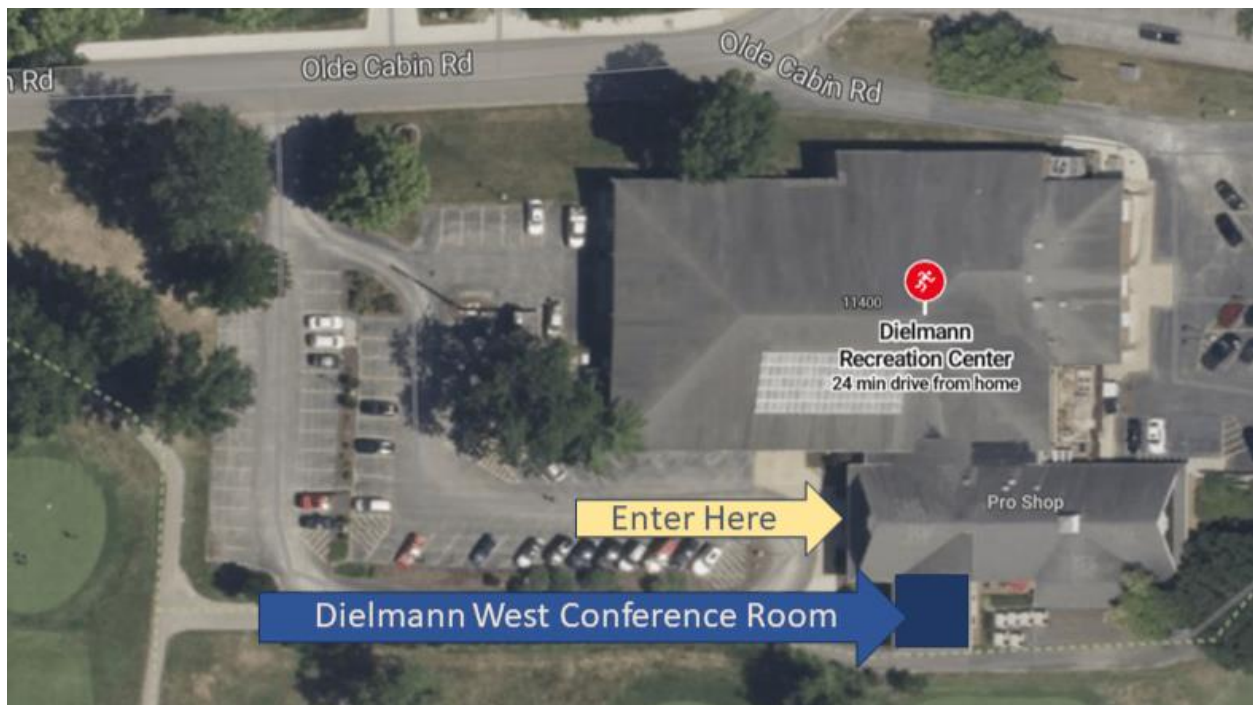
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Driving direction from I-270 (north or south).

- From I-270 EXIT At Exit 14, MO-340 toward Olive Blvd
- 0.6 mi Turn right onto Old Ballas Rd
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[Dielmann Recreation Center](#)





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Volume XXX Number 11  **November 2024**

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When 4th Monday each month at **7:30 PM**

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WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Greetings, club members. Can you believe that the year is coming to an end already and that this is the last newsletter for the year! Time just flies by faster and faster each year. And this weather. Talk about crazy. I don't remember a November this warm in my recent memory. I wonder if it is a sign of how mild this winter will be, or whether or not we will have to watch out. I guess we'll find out soon enough.

NOVEMBER 25 MEETING

This month will be the big AuctionBux auction. Many items will be up for bids, but they can only be purchased using the AuctionBux you have earned through the year. You should each receive your activity sheet from Gene Stewart before the auction begins, showing the total amount of Bux you have earned. Our auctioneer, Jerry Schultz, will guide us through all the items. Some will sell for less than 100 Bux, some for more. Don't be hesitant to bid if you want an item. I'll hope to see you there.

Last month's Philatelic Jeopardy was filled with fun and frolic, and given that I was finally able to find an online platform to use, I think that everyone will agree that this year's game was the best ever if for nothing else that I could put the game on the big screen TV in the meeting room. Everyone could see it, it tracked the scoring, and displayed the "questions" as we went along. This year's game went right down to Final Jeopardy with team VP pulling out the win as they were the only team to get the correct question, and snatched victory from the jaws of defeat! Congratulations to team VP.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

December.....Christmas Party....Katrina Whitaker
 January.....Thinking of You.....Christina Esbeck

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to fill out our programs for this year. Katrina is already working on the programs for next year. Sign up now and you will have plenty of time to prepare.

New venues. The search goes on for a new meeting place and a place for StampFest. I have received several suggestions from club members so far, and that is great. Thank you! I have received several to the point that I have to make an organized list and work my way through it. While I do that, I still need more so please keep looking and let me know what is out there. As a reminder, we need about 4,500 square feet of space for StampFest, which will take place 9-10 August 2025. The space for meetings is simply a large meeting room that will hold as least 30 people.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Last month we held the Philatelic Jeopardy contest. Guy always does a great job of coming up with categories and answers, looking for the questions. It was a tight contest throughout, with first one team, then another, in the lead. Team Vice President pulled out the win on Final Jeopardy.

This month closes out the year with two big events, election and auction. The first is the election of a Vice President and Secretary for another 2-year term. Since the Nominating Committee didn't have any report for last month's meeting, we will be taking nominations from the floor. If anyone would like to run, you will have to have someone nominate you. If the club wants the incumbents to

remain in office, someone will have to nominate them too. Don't be shy. Step right up and throw your hat in the ring.

The second event is the annual Auction Bux auction, and our auctioneer will be the one, the only, the venerable, Jerry Schultz, again. Thanks Jerry! Remember, all lots for this auction come from donations so please contribute those philatelic treasures that are no longer your philatelic treasures, but will become someone else's philatelic treasures. If you have not done so, please email or call Jerry with the description of the lot(s) you are submitting so that he can have everything organized and able to lay out when we get there.

The annual Christmas party closes out our year and is right around the corner. This year it will be Thursday, 5 December 2024, at Catering To You, 12775 New Halls Ferry Rd, Florissant, MO 63033. At the time I am penning this, we have 14 confirmed. Please let me or the VP know if you are coming at the meeting or if you can't make the meeting, via email, phone, or text. There is also a place to RSVP on the website. Everyone please RSVP so that we can get an accurate headcount as we are on the hook for that number regardless of attendance. Members can pay at the meeting or at the door, but we need to know who is coming.

The VP is now working on the program schedule for next year. Yes, this is a never-ending process. Sign up early for your choice of month and let's get next year filled quickly.

The APS is supposed to release the results of the Star Route awards this week. Will there be gold in them thar hills? Stay tuned.

That is all!

Guy

■ DID YOU KNOW? ■

The smallest stamp in the world was issued by Bolivar in 1863. It was a mere 3/8" x 1/2".

Bolivar was a State in the Confederation of States of Columbia, and each State could issue its own stamps. In 1883, Columbia became a republic and the States could no longer issue their own stamps.

■ OPEL+ ■

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering will not be held in December. It would fall too close to the date of the Christmas party. We'll see you again in January.

DUES AND PARTY

Everyone should have received their dues notice and Christmas party reservation form with the Perf-Dispatch last month. Please be sure to return them to our Treasurer, Pat Morgan. According to our constitution and bylaws, dues are due by December 31. Bux awards for paying dues are only given if paid by Dec. 31. While you do receive some time beyond that date, paying now would be helpful. If you plan to attend the Christmas party on December 5, please let Pat know soon. While payment is not due until the night of the party, paying ahead of time would be greatly appreciated.

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What is the First Christmas (Postage) Stamp?

By: Pat Morgan



Figure 1. 1962 US Christmas Stamp (Scott #1205)

What is the first Christmas stamp? If you limit your answer to U.S. postage stamps, the answer is Scott #1205 (fig. 1). The #1205 features a wreath with a red bow, two candles, and the inscribed words “Christmas 1962.” This stamp was issued in Pittsburgh, PA, on November 1st, 1962, at the annual convention of the National Association of Postmasters.

For many years before this USPS-issued Christmas postage stamp, there were Christmas Seals—stamp look-alikes with no postage value—sold to raise money for causes like tuberculosis treatment. While these seals were popular to adhere to Christmas mail the customers also demanded Christmas-themed postage stamps and since 1962 the USPS has issued at least one Christmas stamp every year.

However, if we broaden our scope beyond the U.S. to answer the question of what was the first Christmas stamp worldwide, Canada can, and does, claim the world’s first Christmas postage stamp connection. While I expect nearly all of you have seen the Canada Scott #85 (fig. 2) and #86 (fig. 3) stamps issued on December 8th, 1898, I wonder how many of you ever looked close enough to observe they both say “XMAS 1898”?

In 1898, Canada issued the Scott #85 and #86. They were not intended to celebrate the Christmas holiday, but to mark the inauguration of the Canadian 2 Cent Imperial Penny Postage. Because they were specifically created to be used starting on Christmas Day they were inscribed with “XMAS 1898” (fig. 4) giving them the distinction of being the first Christmas stamp.

In 1898, the Imperial Postal Conference in London agreed to standardize a penny postage rate for domestic and international mail throughout the British Empire. So why is the Canadian stamp 2 Cents? Currency conversion, the English Penny was worth about 2 Canadian cents at this time. As a result, Canada saw a 1 cent rate reduction on December 25th, 1898 since the previous Canadian postage rate had been 3 cents.



Figure 2. 1898 (CA Scott #85)

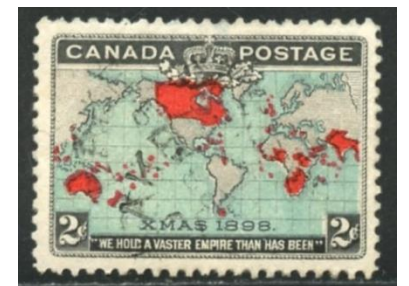


Figure 3. 1898 (CA Scott #86)

Interestingly facts about the stamp design beyond the inscription of “XMAS 1898”:

- due to the electrotpe printing method used to produce these stamps, there are many variations of these stamps,
- the stamp used a Mercator projection map so that the countries in the British Empire all appeared larger than they were,
- the inscription at the base “We Hold A Vaster Empire Than Has Been” was a phrase taken from *A Song of Empire* written by Sir Lewis Morris for Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee in 1887, and
- the crown at the top of the design is the Crown of St. Edward.



Figure 4. “XMAS 1898” (CA Scott #85/86)

As is often the case when answering trivia, be sure you include all the context of the question. As you have learned the answer changes from one country to another and can vary by over 60 years.

As always, I hope you enjoyed this article!



Feel free to send any questions and comments to me at pjmorgan622@gmail.com.

Catering To You

12775 New Halls Ferry Road,
Florissant, MO 63033



DIRECTIONS:

From South or West

- I-270 North to Chicago
- Take exit 30 towards New Halls Ferry Rd
- Merge onto Pershall Rd (go 0.3 mi)
- Turn left onto New Halls Ferry Road (go 1.8 mi)
- Turn left (go 295 ft)
- Turn left (go 118 ft) - Destination on the left

From East

- I-270 West to Kansas City
- Take exit 30A toward Old Halls Ferry Rd
- Merge onto Dunn Rd (go 0.6 mi)
- Turn right onto New Halls Ferry Road (go 1.7 mi)
- Turn left (go 295 ft)
- Turn left (go 118 ft) - Destination on the left