



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



Volume XXX1 Number 1  **January 2025**

Where Dielmann Rec. Complex
 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

JANUARY 27 MEETING

This month we will hear from Christina Esbeck on “Thinking of You”. Christina is becoming an outstanding collector and exhibitor. It will be fun to hear what she is doing with the Thinking of You stamps.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

February.....Confederates.....Ron McVay
 April.....Beetles on Stamps.....Barb Horter
 June.....Disease on Stamps.....Alan Barasch
 July.....Lick and Stick.....Katrina Whitaker
 October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser
 November.....Auction Bux.....Jerry Schultz(?)
 December.....Christmas Party....Katrina Whitaker

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to present programs for this year. Katrina is hard at work filling out the schedule. Sign up now and you will have plenty of time to prepare.

WHAT YOU MISSED

The Christmas party was a big success. The site for the 2024 version was pretty far north, but they did a great job of making us welcome. The food was excellent, the room looked festive, and Katrina did her usual good job at producing and conducting all the games, including the first game which started as soon as you signed in at the registration table.

WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope that everyone survived the big snow earlier this month. Hey, it’s January, its winter, and it’s too cold for comfort. That’s clearly a statement of the obvious. However, just a few more days and we’ll get back to at least temperatures that are normal for this time of year.

The start of another year has many things for the club to enjoy over the course of the year. We have more shows, bringing back StampFest, and all of the usual club activities that promise to deliver lots of fun and frolic.

First off, let’s congratulate Katrina and Phil on their reelection in their positions of Vice President and Secretary respectively for another 2-year term. I also thank them for running again. The President and Treasurer will be up for election at the end of this year. Anyone want to run?

The APS released the results of the Star Route awards after the publication of last month’s newsletter. They were announced at the meeting, but for the benefit of all, our newsletter received a large vermeil, and our website received a gold. Thank you, Phil, for his work on the newsletter, and thank you, Pat, for your work on the website.

We closed out last year with our annual Christmas party. We had around 30 who attended, and once again Katrina did a great job putting together a program that was full of fun and games. I think a good time was had by all. Catering to You did a great job taking care of us, and the food was delicious. I hope that more will attend this year.

The search continues for a new meeting place and a place for StampFest. I have received several suggestions from club members so far, and that is great. I need more please. Thank you! 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 at least 30 people.

The MSDA has added a third show for the St. Louis area this year. The first one is right around the corner and will have several dealers from around the Midwest. It will take place Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 2 February 2025. Show hours are 10-5 on Saturday and 10-3 on Sunday. The show will once again take place at the Westbury Center (Knights of Columbus Hall), 20 Westbury Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301. Here's a great opportunity to spend all that Christmas money everyone got to add to your collection! Club members, we need to support these shows. Enough said.

A couple months from now is the annual big show of the year, the St. Louis Stamp Expo. A WSP (World Series of Philately) show, this show promises to be another great event with around 35 dealers from across the country. Once again, I am asking for volunteers to support the show. I'll have the list of areas and the numbers that we need spelled out in next month's newsletter. Expo will once again be held at the Airport Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, Berkeley, MO 63134. The dates this year are 21-23 March 2025. Please mark your calendars and sign up to help in one or more areas.

The new year also means a new slate of programs. Right now, we still have four open months.. The VP is working on the program schedule for this year. Who would like to give a program? It doesn't have to be anything fancy or long. It's simply sharing with your fellow club members what you like to collect in this hobby of philately. Sign up early for your choice of month and let's get this year filled quickly.

A reminder that club dues for 2025 were due no later than January 1st. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so soonest. Dues must be paid no later than April 1st to remain on the rolls. We don't want to unnecessarily stress out our secretary

That is all!

Guy

DOPEL+

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus gathering in February will be on Monday, February 10 at 11:30 at Syberg's on Dorsett. I hope to see you there. It's a fun time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know: The first government issued stamp to depict an airplane is US Scott #Q8 in 1912. However, that is not the first stamp to depict an airplane. That distinction belongs to Scott #CL2, an air post semi-official stamp privately issued in 1911. It is known as Rogers Aerial Post.

BOURSE

The Second Saturday Stamp Bourse will return on February 8 at the temporary location at the Forest Park Bible Church at 1517 McCausland Ave. The bourse will be in an attached building behind the church. Parking behind the church is limited, but there should be parking available on the street.

OFFICERS

- President.....Guy Gasser (314-330-8684)
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CLUB WEBSITE

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U.S. Possessions: Alaska

By Pat Morgan

Edited by Lesa Morgan



Photo:
Airmail
service in
Alaska

I recently decided to add possessions to my U.S. collection. So, while at Gene Stewart's shop, I found First Day covers for the 1937 U.S. Possessions issues for Hawaii (Sc. 799), Alaska (Sc. 800), and Puerto Rico (Sc. 801). Looking at them, it dawned on me that Hawaii and Puerto Rico have possession stamps so why does Alaska not have any? By the way, neither does the U.S. Virgin Islands (Sc. 802) but that's for another day. I asked Gene if he knew why and he gave me a puzzled look much like the one I saw of myself in my mind. An opportunity for an article is born!

native population was never willing to be affiliated with the Emperor of Russia. Mail service to and from RCA workers was limited. There was no attempt to provide a meaningful service for personal mail in the territory. Official RCA correspondence carried in sealed pouches is likely to have carried personal mail but only for the officers of RCA.

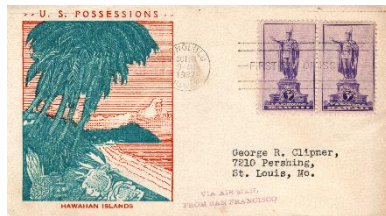
The U.S. government realized that the Russians and the natives who represented the largest portion of the population didn't use regular communication facilities or services, and they did not generally speak English. These people didn't communicate by mail and therefore had not established post offices, nor did they need to issue stamps. Thus, Alaska, as a U.S. possession, didn't have its own unique postage stamps, so no need to overprint any existing stamps. Instead, they used the same stamps as the rest of the United States.

Without any postal services, a plan to establish these services throughout the territory was needed. When important government messages had to be sent to the native leaders, a personal service was required to deliver and read the message content to the recipient. The natives respected the U.S. government. For business, there was a void for confirming delivery dates, receipt of information, and confirming agreements. To accomplish these requirements, the pursers of ships from Seattle would hand deliver trusted business documents. Commercial fishing in Alaska also needed personal mail service as the fisherman had no fixed location. Arrangements were established where the mail was carried by a boat leaving a fishing area, and the ships would deposit it in the first post office they arrived at. The handling of mail "per favore" (Italian

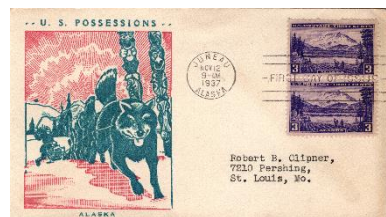
(continued on page 2)

The Territorial Series was issued as a tribute to the outlying possessions, or territories, of the United States. Four 3-cent stamps issued in the latter part of 1937 honored Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Alaska and Hawaii achieved statehood in 1959.

Repeated statehood votes in Puerto Rico have failed.



#799 Territorial Series: Hawaii
FDC - Cachet by Joseph F. Bronesky



#800 Territorial Series: Alaska
FDC - Cachet by Joseph F. Bronesky



#801 Territorial Series: Puerto Rico
FDC - Cachet by Joseph F. Bronesky

Alaska was purchased from Russia in 1867. The existing population at this time was made up of workers of the Russian American Company (RCA) who elected to remain rather than return to Russia. The



Scott No. 799



Scott No. 800



Scott No. 801



Scott No. 802

translates to “for favor”) was common for both incoming and outgoing items until the U.S. Postal services were established throughout the territory. Changes came about over time, but the early handling as well as the changes constituted an “institute of improvisation.”

Following the transfer of the territory to the U. S., a link with the postal system of the United States was established. The first Postmaster was appointed to the position in Sitka and arrived before the actual transfer ceremony, but limited facilities reduced his effectiveness for some time.

USPS supervision of Alaska was initially established under the 8th Division in San Francisco until 1909 when the 13th Division was established in Seattle. The early Alaskan post offices were established in Juneau, Skagway, Eagle, Saint Michael, and Nome. A 1904 postal route map showed 92 offices in the most active towns and settlements. Discontinuance orders from 1909 to 1911 forced the closure of 20 of those 92 post offices. The earliest rail contract to service the mail to and from Alaska was held by the Pacific & Arctic Railroad and Navigation Company using the American section of the White Pass Route Railroad. In 1906, closed pouch mail using this rail contract averaged 1,122 pounds per day. A 1910 report stated the average daily weight was up to 1,463 pounds. The same report showed that Alaska had 89 mail routes totaling 17,827 miles. Those routes broken down were, 1 - railroad (20.6 miles); 7 - mail messenger service (6.85 miles); 26 - Star service (5,220 miles); 39 - special office (2,227 miles); and 16 - steamboat star routes (10,352 miles).

Over time the establishment of post offices throughout the territory was accomplished. As is the case throughout the U.S. many of the original post offices were closed. Collecting postmarks (cancelations) from all the Alaskan post offices is enjoyed by many philatelists like the members of the Alaska Collectors Club (ACC @ <http://www.alaskaphilatic.org/>). The ACC focuses on preserving and studying Alaska's rich postal history, from the territorial era to statehood and beyond.

On January 3rd, 1959 Alaska became the 49th state of the U.S.A. To commemorate the statehood the U.S. Postal Service issued a 7-cent commemorative airmail stamp (Sc. #C53) to mark the occasion.

Lastly, why were there no possession stamps from Alaska?

Answer: There were no stamps in use in the territory before the purchase from the Russians thus the U.S. stamps became the only ones needed as the mail services were being established from the ground up.

Any questions or comments, send me an email pjmorgan622@gmail.com

Alaska was admitted into the Union on January 3rd, 1959, and is celebrated by issuing the 7-cent airmail stamp on that day.



Scott No. C53

Other USPS Stamps commemorating Alaska



Scott No. 1683



Scott No. 2066



Scott No. 3562

Reference(s):

Hall, G. (2002, October 1). Post Offices That Never Were. *The Alaskan Philatelist, Volume 38*(No. 4), 58-60. <http://www.alaskaphilatic.org/pdf/tap/3Q2002.pdf>

Miller, R. (2002, October 1). Postscript to Yesteryears: Links In Chain. *The Alaskan Philatelist, Volume 39*(No. 1), 9-10. <http://www.alaskaphilatic.org/pdf/tap/1Q2003.pdf>