



# PERF-DISPATCH

## GREATER MOUND CITY STAMP CLUB

Established 1884  
Saint Louis, Missouri



Volume XXX1 Number 9



September 2025

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

When 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month at **7:30 PM**

Membership \$15 for Regular members  
\$10 for email only Perf-Dispatch

### SEPT 22 MEETING

Nathan Esbeck is going to fill us in on the Stamp Act of 1765, a tax Britain placed on documents in the United States. It was one of many things that led to the American Revolution.

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

October.....Philatelic Jeopardy.....Guy Gasser  
November.....Auction Bux.....Jerry Schultz(?)  
December.....Christmas Party....Katrina Whitaker  
**2026**  
January...Lawrence of Arabia ..Michael Hirschfeld  
April....Intro to Match and Medicine....Ron McVay  
June.....TBD.....Alan Barasch

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to present programs for this year. Katrina is hard at work starting to fill out the schedule for next year. Let her know what month you want before it's gone.

### WHAT YOU MISSED

Michael Karasick filled us in on Argentina Revenue Stamps from the province of Santa Fe from 1896 to 1913. They include Documentary, Imports, and Patents. You won't be surprised to learn they all were railroad themed, with pictures of trains. He would like advice on how to turn them into an exhibit for Expo next year.

### WORDS FROM EL PRESIDENTÉ

Hello, my fellow club members. Well, summer is officially gone! Fall will be here officially when we meet on the 22nd. Even though it is unbearably hot at times, summer is my season. I'm sure that everyone has their own favorite season.

We have several fun things coming up to close out the year. First, this month I will be looking for a volunteer to head up the nominating committee (can be a committee of one) to find nominees for the office of president and treasurer, which are up for election this year.

Next month is the annual event that is turning into a time-honored tradition, well maybe not that yet, and that of course is Philatelic Jeopardy! This is the opportunity to earn big bucks for the auction box auction in November. If anyone has a category they would like to see in Jeopardy!, please let me know at the meeting or email me before the end of September.

This takes us to November where we will have two things to do. One will be the election of a club president and treasurer, and the other as mentioned earlier, the big auction box auction to spend all of the auction box earned over the year.

We then close out the year in December with the annual Christmas party, which will be on Thursday, 11 December 2025. If not already on your calendar, please add it now.

There will be more details in future newsletters about all of these events. Be sure to stay tuned!

I want to remind everyone that those who plan on attending OPEL+ each month to please RSVP through the website or email Norb that you plan on attending. This is important so that Norb has a headcount to plan accordingly for seating, and also important to determine if anyone is attending so

that people don't show up for an event that is in question due to no RSVPs.

This month Nathan Esbeck is going to teach us all about the Stamp Act of 1765. Since this act was imposed on the colonies by the King of England, I'm thinking it has more to do with taxes than philately. However, since we are a stamp club there must be some philatelic connection in it. Come listen to what Nathan has to say and find out.

The programs for this year are filled! Thank you for those of you who volunteered. The VP is now working on programs for next year, and has filled 3 months. That leaves 5 months open and looking for someone to fill them. Who wants to fill one of those months? Let's get next year filled now too!

That is all!

Guy

## ■ DID YOU KNOW? ■

**Still tuned in... The earliest known world philatelic exhibition that's close to resembling what we know today took place in November, 1881 in Vienna, Austria. Then in 1890, London hosted the International, and that show was really the precursor to what the international shows have become today.**

## BOURSE

The Second Saturday Stamp Bourse returned on February 8 and is now settled in at their location behind the Forest Park Bible Church. It will be held every second Saturday except for June and August to avoid schedule conflicts with other shows.

## ■ OPEL+ ■

The "Old Philatelists Eating Lunch Plus" gathering in October will be on Monday, October 13 at 11:30 at Sybergs on Dorsett in Maryland Heights. It's a fun time. Why not come on out, have a good lunch, and spend time with your stamp collecting friends.

## OFFICERS

President.....Guy Gasser (314-330-8684)  
• President@GreaterMoundCity.org  
Vice-Pres.....Katrina Whitaker (314-479-1219)  
• Vice-Prez@GreaterMoundCity.org  
Secretary.....Phil Schorr (314-843-8493)  
• Secretary@GreaterMoundCity.org  
Treasurer.....Pat Morgan (636-278-0646)  
• Treasurer@GreaterMoundCity.org

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Auction Bux.....Gene Stewart (314-481-9098)  
genestamps@charter.net  
Editor & Librarian.....Phil Schorr (314-843-8493)  
Secretary@GreaterMoundCity.org  
Webmaster.....Pat Morgan (636-278-0646)  
Treasurer@GreaterMoundCity.org  
Club Auction.....David Mahsman (314-330-8202)  
Richard Thies (314-518-4305)

## ■ CLUB WEBSITE ■

[www.greatermoundcity.org](http://www.greatermoundcity.org)

# Whose portrait has appeared on the largest quantity (total number printed) of U.S. stamps?

By Ron McVay and Pat Morgan



**Answer:** DeWitt Clinton, whose portrait was on the Cigarette Tax Stamp on every pack of cigarettes sold from 1878 to 1955. As a result, billions of these stamps featuring Clinton were produced.



## Why is DeWitt Clinton on Cigarette Tax stamps?

None. There was no reason because of any connection to tobacco, but rather as a symbolic nod to his legacy as a builder and reformer. Clinton was a towering figure in New York politics and American infrastructure. As the driving force behind the Erie Canal, he represented progress, development, and state-led innovation. As revenue stamps were official government instruments, featuring Clinton reinforced the idea of civic duty and compliance with public finance. His stern likeness—described as “grumpy” by *TIME* magazine in 1938—was distinctive and hard to miss on packaging.

## About DeWitt Clinton

DeWitt Clinton (1769–1828) was a towering figure in early American politics, especially in New York State, where his legacy is deeply tied to one of the most transformative infrastructure projects of the 19th century: the Erie Canal.

Clinton was born in **Little Britain, New York**, in 1769, and was the nephew of **George Clinton**, a New York Governor and two-term U.S. Vice President (President Jefferson’s second term and President James Madison). DeWitt was educated at **Princeton** and **Columbia University**. In 1828, at 58 years of age, he died in **Albany, New York**.



Clinton believed that infrastructure could elevate society, economically, politically, and culturally. His vision helped shape the American landscape and economy for generations.

## DeWitt Clinton’s Political Career

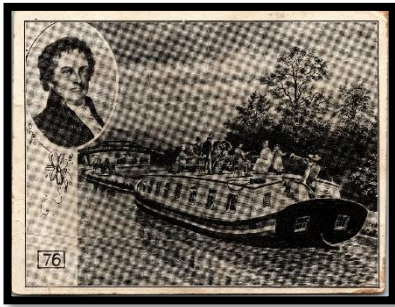
- U.S. Senator: Briefly served from 1802 to 1803.
- Mayor of New York City: Held the office multiple times between 1803 and 1815, advocating for public education and social welfare institutions.
- Presidential Candidate: Ran against James Madison in 1812, gaining support from both Federalists and dissident Democratic-Republicans. Though he lost, he carried much of the Northeast.
- Governor of New York: Served two major terms (1817–1822 and 1825–1828), during which he championed internal improvements and educational reform.

**Fun twist:** Clinton’s image inadvertently became part of a tax fraud scheme. Because the stamps weren’t canceled, unscrupulous manufacturers paid scavengers to collect undamaged Clinton stamps from discarded cigarette packs. These were then reused.

So, while Clinton never puffed his way into tobacco history, his face ended up on cigarette tax stamps as a symbol of state authority and later, a loophole in tax enforcement. Illegally, costing the U.S. Treasury hundreds of thousands of dollars.

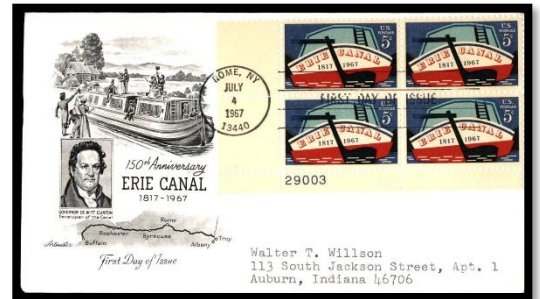


## DeWitt Clinton's Legacy: Erie Canal



Clinton was the driving force behind the Erie Canal, a bold and initially ridiculed idea to connect the Hudson River to the Great Lakes. Despite skepticism, including Thomas Jefferson calling the plan “little short of madness,” Clinton pushed the project forward after federal support failed. As governor, he oversaw the canal’s construction and celebrated its opening in

1825, revolutionizing trade and transportation in the U.S.



## About U.S. Cigarette Tax Stamps

The history of U.S. cigarette tax stamps is a fascinating intersection of public finance, tobacco regulation, and philately. These stamps served as proof that excise taxes had been paid on tobacco products, especially cigarettes, and they evolved significantly over time.

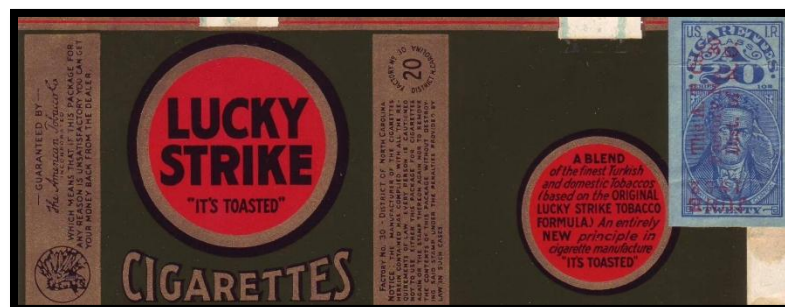
### **Origins and Early Use**

- **Civil War Era (1862):** The U.S. government first issued revenue stamps as part of the Revenue Act of 1862 (July 1, 1862, Ch. 119, 12 Stat. 432), which was a bill Congress passed to help fund the American Civil War. President Lincoln signed the act into law on July 1, 1862. The act established the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, a department in charge of the collection of taxes, and levied excise taxes on most items consumed and traded in the U.S. The act also introduced the United States' first progressive tax with the intent of raising millions of dollars for the Union. These included taxes on tobacco products such as cigars and snuff.
- **In 1897–1898:** Cigarettes were placed in a separate tax class. The earliest cigarette tax stamps appeared around this time, often overprinted with the year and series number.



### **Cigarette Tax Stamps**

- **Purpose:** Tax stamps were affixed to cigarette packaging to show that the manufacturer or distributor had paid the required excise tax.



- **Designs:** Early stamps featured ornate typography and sometimes patriotic symbols. Later versions included serial numbers, overprints, and color-coded classifications based on price or quantity.
- **Series Numbers:** Up to 1932, stamps were numbered by the Year of the series (e.g., 1883, 1898, 1903, etc.)



- By 1932, stamps were numbered by series (e.g., Series 103 for 1933), which helped track tax rates and product categories.



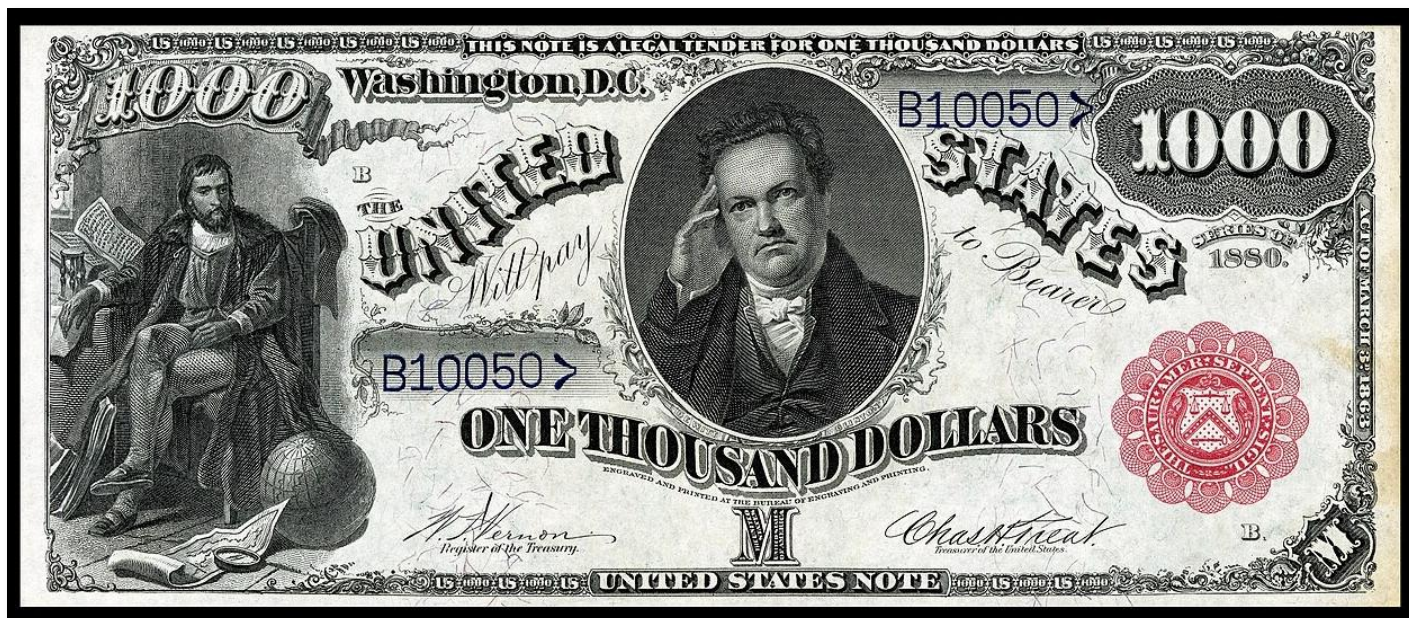
- **Price Classes:** In 1910, cigarettes were taxed at \$1.25 per thousand, independent of weight. Beginning in 1917, tax stamps were divided into classes depending on the retail price of the cigarettes. Cigarette classes were A and B. Class A cigarettes, the most common type, were for cigarettes weighing less than three pounds per thousand. Class B cigarette stamps were for cigarettes weighing more than three pounds per thousand.



### DeWitt Clinton on currency?

In addition to the billions of cigarette tax stamps, Clinton appeared on two versions of the \$1,000 bill issued by the U.S. Treasury between 1862 and 1880, both classified as Legal Tender Notes. These were large notes used primarily for interbank transactions, not everyday circulation.





The exact number of Clinton \$1,000 bills printed is not publicly documented, but they were extremely limited compared to later issues featuring Grover Cleveland. The Clinton notes are considered rare to extremely rare today. Most surviving examples are held by museums or elite collectors.

While Clinton's face did grace high-denomination currency, his \$1,000 bills were more symbolic and functional.

### **Conclusion**

If you knew the answer, I am guessing you now have learned more about DeWitt Clinton, having read our article. Even the stamps in the back of the book have stories to investigate. Collecting every version of these stamps could prove to be a lifelong endeavor all on its own, so approach with care. Hope you enjoyed learning about Clinton and what he did to end up on billions of stamps. If you have any questions about revenue stamps, reach out to Ron McVay ([r.mcvay@netzero.net](mailto:r.mcvay@netzero.net)) or about the article, Pat Morgan ([pjmorgan622@gmail.com](mailto:pjmorgan622@gmail.com)).

### **Sources:**

- [Introduction to United States Taxpaid Revenue Stamps](#)
- [DeWitt Clinton - Wikipedia](#)