

# The Messenger



October 2018

Waldo Public Library  
Gather at 1:00, Meeting Starts 2:00  
Saturday, October 6th

Jim McKinzie, President & Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)  
Armen Hovsepian, Treasurer & Secretary

## Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Meeting Attendance: 30

Despite being a holiday weekend, there was a good group of members present when the MPS Club President opened the meeting on September 1, 2018. One guest was introduced, and the Officers presented their reports.

The program, presented by Rodger McReynolds, was about US Wine Stamps. Only 100 different stamps issued, some with odd fractions and values.

55 items got sold at our monthly auction for \$294.00 and 19 buyers left the meeting happy with boxes of philatelic items.

## Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

October 3rd– **Madonna and Child by Bachiacca**, Forever doubled sided pane of 20, single design

October 10th– **Kwanzaa**, Forever, pane of 20, 1 design

October 11th– **Sparkling Holidays**, Forever booklet of 20 doubled sided pane plus souvenir sheet, 4 designs.

October 16th– **Hanukkah** (Joint Issue with Israel), pane of 20, 1 design



## What You Will Miss (if not there):

The program for this month will be "Germany's First Issues" by Neil Becker.

The October luncheon will feature Joe's Kansas City Bar-b-que in our meeting room at **NOON** for those of you that have scheduled to come. If you have questions (don't remember if you paid to go) please contact Barbara Crompton at rockyrode2014@gmail.com



If you have not been to our meetings in a while, think about coming. We always have a great program and of course the auction where you can eliminate some extra philatelic material or pick up something you don't have.

**Don't forget to sign up to exhibit in December. You can do that at the meeting by talking with Barbara.**

## Philatelic Happenings:

### October 20th

#### **Greater KC Stamp Show**

American Inn – North Kansas City  
1211 Armour Rd.  
10am to 4pm

Scott Couch says that there will be a couple of new dealers to his show plus E & D Auctions will be there with some interesting boxed lots. The shows dealers will feature US and worldwide stamps plus postal history along with paper collectibles and some "weird" stuff.

## Philatelic Ramblings:

I am not the only person to be frustrated with the Post Office when it comes to the new issues. Usually I listen to the Beatles station on Sirius XM Radio in the car but I happened to switch to Classic Vinyl one Sunday afternoon and was listening to Kat Boyd broadcasting from the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame. Led Zeppelin's All My Love was just finishing up and Kat came on and said, "I went down to my Post Office this week to get the new John Lennon stamps but they didn't have any, although they told me they would have some next week." Now one would think that at a minimum post offices in the Cleveland area would have these stamps on hand since the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame is located there. Possibly they had some and ran out. Hard to say. Kat did go on to say that some of her listeners tweeted, "Kat, you can get those on the internet!" But her response is like mine use to be about ordering online. She is going to give the Post Office another chance. I hope she gets them, of course I am still waiting for mine from the caves. *JMC*



## Omaha Show:



Arriving early Saturday morning last month in Omaha gave me the opportunity to hear and meet Scott English, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society. He gave a run down of where APS stood financially and some of what they are attempting to do in the future. Of course his focus that Saturday was to talk about and evaluate the upcoming APS show in Omaha next August.

In listening to the members of their club during the short meeting and on the floor of the show that morning, I came away thinking they really have their work cut out for them. It takes a lot to put on any show, let alone a show that size. If they are not able to pull this off, then there is really no possibility that we could ever hope to do this in the Kansas City area. And perhaps the old show model is dying. I really don't know but I do know if Omaha doesn't get a lot of help from surrounding area clubs, Lincoln, Des Moines and us it will have a difficult time succeeding. If there are members of this club that have any interest in a National APS in our region then we should consider looking into helping the Omaha club out. *JMC*

## Stamp Rooms:



Is your collection stored in a closet, bank vault, scattered around the house or do you have a room dedicated to your obsession. It would be interesting to hear from each of you about what you are doing with your collection. How do you store it, keep it and work with it. Send me a note or email so that we can share in a future newsletter your unique collecting habit. If you want to share a picture of your work space, great just make sure it is the jpg format if possible. It works better with this publishing program. You can send it to [jimmckinzie1@att.net](mailto:jimmckinzie1@att.net) or mail it to me at 806 N. River Blvd, Independence, MO 64050. *JMC*

*I've shown you part of mine, now let's see yours!*

## ***It's Not Too Late:***

Yes, it isn't too late to forward your suggestions for club officers for next year. Read on to see how you can help.

First, the nominating committee will need suggestions and input from the membership and will welcome it. Second, the committee may be calling on you to serve and I hope you will consider it. Think about the listed offices below that we will be electing at the December meeting and who will be good in each of those roles. Maybe you would like to take on a leadership role in the club. Tell the committee. Nothing wrong with that.

It takes a lot of people to pull off what we do each month and we are capable of so much more. We are a large group, with lots of talent. Read the officer duties that are to be elected and let's help the committee bring a great slate.

The following offices are up for election:

**President**-The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Society, including the Board of Directors. He or she shall appoint all committees, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and be an ex officio member of all committees.

**First Vice President**-The First Vice President shall act for the President in case of temporary absence, and shall be responsible for the programs at Society meetings.

**Second Vice President**-The Second Vice President shall be responsible for club auctions, and shall act for the First Vice President in case of temporary absence.

**Secretary**-The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Society and present them for approval of the Society at the next regular meeting. He or she shall also keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors. A summary of the minutes will be sent to the Editor for insertion in the following month's newsletter (not to include the actual treasury balance), and shall be posted to the Society's website.

**Treasurer**-The Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the Society, making regular reports to the Society which shall be incorporated into the minutes. He or she shall be empowered to collect all dues and receipts and to pay the bills and disburse the funds of the Society. He or she shall be the custodian of the Bylaws of the Society.

All other positions are appointed by the new President with the board's approval. He or she will be needing suggestions for those positions at the end of the year. We will include a list of those positions in a later newsletter. *JMC*



**Scott #1582**  
**Let's here from YOU!**

**If you have a suggestion but for some reason would like to be anonymous, here is your chance:**

**Office** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email your suggestion or mail it to me and I will forward it to the nominating committee.**



## Get the Creeps! - Andrea Smith

Halloween is an annual holiday celebrated each year on October 31. It originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints and soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallow's Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating sweet treats. Did you know that *One quarter of all the candy sold annually in the U.S. is purchased for Halloween?* What is your favorite candy?



**Austria  
Scott #2021**

Collecting spooky Halloween themed stamps has intrigued many a collector, and many countries have complied by issuing stamps with that theme. Even the U.S.P.S. has issued spooky stamps with enhancements.



**Scott #1548**

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow was issued by U.S.P.S. in 1974 and much appreciated by collectors of all things Halloween.

On Sept 29, 2016 the U.S.P.S. issued the popular Halloween Pumpkin or "Jack 'O Lantern" stamps. These stamps really thrilled Halloween collectors all over the world.



**Scott #5137-40**

Then, during the years 1997 to 2004, the United States Post Office made use of technology that allows a hidden image to be printed within the stamp design that can't be reproduced by using photographic techniques. They produced nearly 1.75 billion postage stamps that contain a "hidden image". The First U.S. Stamp with a hidden image was the U.S. Air Force 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue (Scott #3167). The hidden image was "USAF" with a star within a circle.

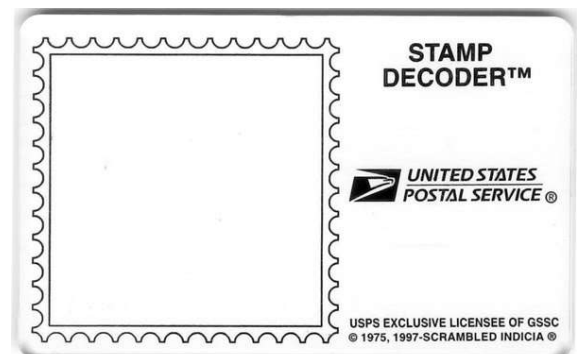
In 1997, the "Classic Movie Monsters" (Scott #3168-72) was the second series issued with Hidden Images. At that time, with the declining interest in philately, the Postal Service was using every promotional effort to arouse interest in stamp collecting. It sent out 124,000 "Get the Creeps" kits to teachers nationwide in order to get youngsters interested in the hobby. The hidden images that relate to the stamps include masks on The Phantom of the Opera stamp, Dracula has a pair of bats, bolts of lightning on Frankenstein's monster, Egyptian Deities on the Mummy, and the Wolf man has howling wolves.



**Scott # 3168-72**

### How is this accomplished?

Scrambled Indicia® is Graphic Security Systems Corporation's patented pre-press process that scrambles, distorts, intertwines, overlaps or otherwise manipulates images making encoded information on them unreadable by the naked eye and can't be copied by current color copiers and digital scanners.



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These covert designs are only visible when viewed through a special device called the "Stamp Decoder" which is an optical lens manufactured for reading hidden images and symbols on selected U.S. Stamp issues. On most of the stamp issues, the decoder should be placed horizontally (with the printed wording on the decoder facing up) to view the images while other stamps may require turning the decoder to a 15 degree angle to view them. The first U.S. Stamp decoder was issued in 1997, reissued in 1998, and finally in 2005. Unfortunately, these decoder devices can be difficult to locate.



Not to be outdone by the U.S., in 1997 Canada also issued a "Supernatural" series of stamps (Scott 1665-68).

The American Topical Association has numerous stamp checklists that relate to Halloween. Some popular ones include: Ghosts, Bats, Death, Dracula, Monsters, Vampires, Witches, and of course black cats. The Halloween checklist has 147 stamps that are worldwide stamps with the theme of Halloween. **BOO!**



Sources: United States Postal Service; Michael Baadke, Linn's Stamps, October 5, 2000, [www.philaquelymoi.blogspot.com](http://www.philaquelymoi.blogspot.com); <http://www.hiddenimagestamps.info>

### Santa, Oreos and a Coke!:

When USPS introduced this year's holiday stamps, which I believe to be the best group ever, I was most excited about the Sparkling Holiday issue. I could not believe my eyes, for there was the Sundblom Santas or as most of us in the Coca-Cola world call them the "Coca-Cola Santas". Great designs but why wouldn't they be except where was the Coke bottle. The booklet pane of four designs as reported had the bottle cropped out but I know those designs and they were from some of the original ads developed by Haddon Sundblom for the company. The article I was composing in my head for this issue was not going to be kind to the USPS. Then came the announcement of a souvenir sheet and there it was, the famous shaped bottle known all over the world. Although, it was still left out of the stamp but part of the sheet.

Canada  
Scott #1665-68



Why did I care if that bottle of Coke was left out? Stamps are history, recording, commemorating and teaching current and future generations about events and our culture. Coca-Cola is a huge part of our culture and intertwined with historical events. WWII GI's all over the world looked forward to that bottle of Coke, as other generations of GI's have.



The new issue has reminded me of when I became rather confused near Christmas one year when my schoolmates and I were discussing what we left for Santa on Christmas Eve. Everyone seemed to leave different kinds of cookies for the jolly old guy and I remember one friend said "A peanut butter sandwich." But everyone said they left Santa a glass

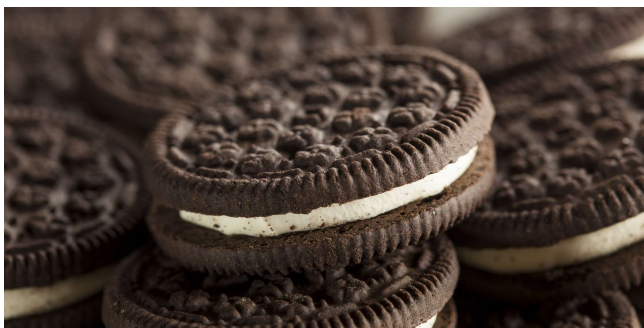


A small part of my other passion.



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of milk. I went home and asked my mother why we didn't leave milk for Santa. I remember most vividly her saying because "Santa is tired of milk by the time he gets here!" So Santa always got Oreos and a Coke at our house. Dad always made sure we had Oreos in the house and Mom still loves a Coke.



I am sure in the future when I look at these issues in my album, they will always remind me of happy times so long ago and why I still think there is nothing better than Oreos and a Coke! JMC

### Stamp Issues That Excite:

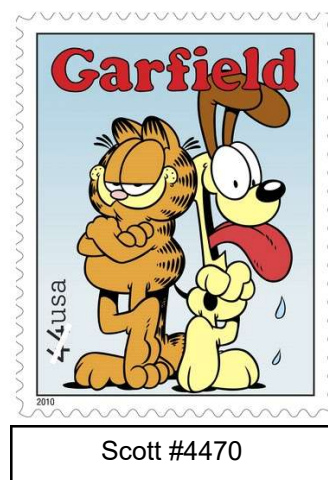
Some of the old fogeys of the stamp world complain about the new US issues and other countries that crank out a mountain of new issues each year. I have been part of that chorus at times and I do wonder about the need for so many issues each year but I have started changing my mind about what is issued and why.

I have written about how exciting the Sparkling Holiday issue is to me and Andrea's article reminded of other good times with my little brother. We would sit in front of the TV late on Friday nights watching Frankenstein, Dracula, Wolf Man and the Mummy. So the Classic Movie Monster issue is a favorite because of what it reminds me of each time I see it.

When the Garfield issue came out a few years ago, a co-worker was so excited. She is a Garfield fanatic and went to the Post Office at lunch that day to get it. This past week a piece of mail came across my desk with the new Scratch and Sniff Frozen Treats stamps. This was the first to come across my desk. I showed it to several people in the office. So excited they were that I am ordering five booklet panes this weekend for them.



So while I may not love every new issue, someone else probably will like what I don't and is that not part of what this hobby is all about. JMC



#### Stamp Tip

If you have a stamp tip you would like to share, please send it to the editor for a future publication of this newsletter.

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter and thanks to Andrea Smith for her contribution. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the November issue will be October 15th.** Happy stamping and see you Saturday. Jim Mc