

The Messenger



November 2019

Jim McKinzie, President & Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)
Michael Miklovic, 1st Vice President
Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President
Armen Hovsepian, Treasurer
Michael Keil, Secretary

Waldo Public Library
Gather at 1:00
Meeting Starts 2:00
Saturday, November 2nd

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Meeting Attendance: 36 members

First Vice-President's Report: No report.

Second Vice-President's Report: No report.

Treasurer: No report.

Secretary: No report.

Membership: Welcome Barbara Keil, Dale Geller, and Michael Granburg as new members.

Librarian: We have a lot of materials available for members to check out. Contact Neil Becker to check out materials and he will bring it to the next meeting.

Historian: Reminder to try and get displays in local libraries for stamp collecting month.

Exhibits Chairman: Applications for the annual club exhibit are being accepted. The deadline is November 14 with a \$10 fee. Exhibits will need to be in place at the library by 11:30. The show will be at our December meeting.

Old Business:

The nominating committee reported that all the current officers, with the exception of president are willing to serve another year. A slate of nominations will be announced and nominations from the floor accepted for the annual elections in December.

New Business: No new business.

Announcements:

Victor Ellison's wife passed away. Please keep Victor, the family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Jessica Hellings broke her foot but hopes to be up, around, and back soon.

Frank Sheeran is now in the nursing home and his condition has stabilized. His collection will be auctioned off by Kelleher sometime in the future. Updates will follow.

Thank you to Barbara Crompton for organizing the October lunch.

The Greater Kansas City Stamp Show is October 19 at the American Inn, 1211 Armour Rd., North Kansas City, MO.

If you have items of interest that need to go in the newsletter, please get them to Jim before the 15th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter.

Jim Mc. asked that anyone who has arranged to place a display in their local library for Stamp Month take pictures of it and send them to him so he can include in the November newsletter.

Show and Tell: Rodger Mc. shared some duck stamp FDC's.

Armin H. showed some covers that he had affixed the labels from the Pacific '97 Souvenir Sheets as postage to see if they would go through the postal system. They did.

Neil B. asked about if anyone could help him with a color identification question on a Canadian stamp, and about the dating on an old package of Dennison hinges (price-19 cents). Consensus seemed to be that it was from the 1950s.

Barry F. shared some ideas from the Lawrence Stamp Club and about the Stamp Month display at the Gardiner library.

Barbara C. won an award and the Gem & Mineral Show in Arizona for her stamp exhibit, "What's Under Your Feet?". Congrats.

What You Will Miss (if not there):

Program: Bob Baltzell presented a program on the WW II Occupation Stamps of the Channel Islands. It was very informative and many of us probably learned quite a bit about these issues.

Respectively submitted by Michael Keil

Stephen Slack will give the program, "Rajasthan". Should be interesting as Steve is very knowledgeable about the Indian States stamp issues. Always good Show 'N Tell and don't forget about the auction. Bring some items to sell or just be prepared to sit back and BID! BID! BID!

Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

The following issue date was announced too late to include in last month's newsletter.

Holiday Wreaths

Forever, First Class

Four Designs, Booklet Pane of 20

Issue Date was October 25th



This could be it for the USPS stamp program this year. Although two other potential issues had been announced, no dates or other information has been released. Those items were a stamped envelope with, you guessed it, the U.S. Flag and a semi-postal concerning Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It seems that this late in the year it would be better to wait until next year to release but who knows. PTSD issue is still listed on the latest version of the Stamp Fulfillment Services USPS 2019 Stamp Program listing but the Flag envelope is not.

Besides the new Holiday Wreaths issue, no other holiday stamps seem to be forth coming. Why? Could be because there are four holiday issues still available. Two different Madonnas, the Christmas Carols and the Sparkling Santa issues. In addition the Poinsettia Global Forever. Not to be left out, the two Hanukkah, two Kwanzaa, an EID Greetings and a Diwali issue. But they could release a new Madonna or something else and announce tomorrow as with the late announcement of the above Holiday Wreaths.

Philatelic Happenings:

Here's something in the neighborhood:

E and D Auctions

Sunday—November 19th

Auction starts promptly at 1:30pm

1901A Clay St. North Kansas City, MO 64116

This will be the first auction for MPS member and new owner Dale Goehler. It is also the first in the NEW location. Great location will minimal steps.

Nominations Are Announced:

The Nominating Committee has announced that the following have been nominated to serve next year as club officers:

President—Tomas Griebing

First Vice President—Michael Miklovic

Second Vice President—Rodger McReynolds

Secretary—Michael Keil

Treasurer—Armen Hovsepan

Nominations for all of these offices are open and will be accepted from the floor at December's meeting. The election will follow.

Thank you to the nominating committee for your hard work.

JMC



Perhaps too many stamps are issued for the demand. If demand is high on a particular issue and sells out, so what! Any retailer or manufacturer knows that too much of anything that is sitting on the shelf too long is lost money. Money tied up in inventory that could be used for something else. If the USPS destroys stamps after so long, what does that loss represent? JMC

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.

Philatelic Ramblings:

In the past year I have acquired two different hingeless stamp albums. Getting these at a really bargain price considering what they cost brand new. Both are of Great Britain and are of a different set of years. With only a few years missing in between in the '70's. The first volume is Davo while the other is Linder. No stamps were involved in either purchase.

Recently I began the task of removing my original collection of Great Britain from my old Harris Senior Statesman World album. In remounting a collection you can learn so much about a particular countries stamps. I certainly have much more knowledge than I did at 12 or 13 years of age when this was probably first put together. I don't recall paying too much attention to perforations or most particularly watermarks at the time. The Harris album basically had one space for each domination of the King George V issues. But in remounting and cataloguing these issues I discovered there were many different varieties. The biggest difference and easiest to identify are the different watermarks. Great Britain created 26 different watermarked papers over time. Mostly they are easy to determine with watermark fluid as opposed to the US issues in the Washington-Franklin series. While in that series it is either USPS single lined or USPS double lined and maybe just part of the "U" is present on one particular stamp, the GB watermarked stamps have much more of the watermark design on a single stamp, as seen in these pictures below.



Great Britain watermark
#33

Great Britain watermark
#35

To give you an example, as on the right, this was first issued in 1912-13. It was Perf. 15x14, deep orange color, two types, I and II. The watermark when first issued was wtmk. #33. Then in 1924 it was issued again. Everything the same except only Type II and it was wtmk. #35. The 1924 issues were typograph printing instead of engraved. I have trouble distinguishing the two printing varieties especially with cancellations. The two different types are also hard for me as I obviously need something with a much higher magnification as I have gotten older. So out comes the watermark fluid, tray and presto, immediate identification. Several of the 1924 issues have the watermark *sideways* and the 2 1/2p even got out on unwatermarked paper. That one is quite rare. While I discovered no rare varieties, I discovered that I had a subvariety on number #259. This is from the series of King George VI with the #251 watermark. It was a sideways watermark and catalogues around \$3.50 used.



Great Britain #162
King George V

After going through what I had in the album, I pulled out my old "extra" stock book. These were all extra accumulations that I used to trade at Boy Scout meetings or some other friends. I discovered a few other varieties that I did not have in the album. Before I finished though I had to soak many of them as they either had heavy hinges or paper obscuring the watermark. It was in this group that I found the sideways watermark. This month's stamp tip I discuss the challenges of getting the paper off these and the Queen Victoria stamps.

It pays to relook at even a small part of your collection, especially if it was put together long ago. New varieties have been discovered over the years that you might have lurking about. JMC

MPS History Quiz:

The first president of the Midwest Philatelic Society was Frank Bescher when the club was known as the Kansas City Philatelic, Missouri and Kansas. When his mailman introduced Mr. Bescher to stamp collecting in 1882 he was already collecting which two of these items?

- A. Bird eggs
- B. Soda pop caps
- C. Tobacco tags
- D. Butterflies

Find the answer to our quiz at the end of this newsletter.

Big Boy No. 4014 Comes to KC:

If you missed this monster steam engine at the APS Omaha Show in August, it is not too late to see it. It is scheduled to arrive at Union Station in Kansas City at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 17th. It is on display for one day, Monday the 18th and then heads out at 8 a.m. on the 19th.



US #922
"Golden Spike Ceremony"
Issued 5-10-1944

It was in service from 1941 to 1961 pulling passenger trains and has recently undergone two years of restoration.

Big Boy No. 4014 is the largest steam engine in the world and the only one still in service. 25 in total were delivered to Union Pacific in 1941 and only eight still exist. It deserves to be recognized with a commemorative stamp. While there are many U.S. stamps with trains and this year's issues were great, we need more. Countries that barely have trains or not at all have produced many more train stamps over the years. More trains, less birds!

Stamp Tip:

We have talked about soaking stamps before but in working with some Great Britain stamps I discovered that the British must have used a much tougher adhesive than we did here in the U.S. The extra stamps I had, still had paper on the back from an old envelope. Some appeared to me, that I might have tried to soak them before since some of the paper was gone but not all and the stamp was not damaged in any way. So I got my little bowl out, put warm water in and dunked the stamps. I got busy and forgot about them. An hour or so later I went to take them out. Usually if left long enough I have found the paper separates from the stamp and is floating around all by itself. Not the case this time. In fact, at first touch the paper did not want to come off. I put the first one back in the bowl and picked up another one. Same thing! UGG!! What now? So I picked one up and gently rubbed the paper (not the stamp side), slowly it started to disintegrate. Then I could finally peel what was left, away. Another one I tried, very carefully, to get my fingernail between the stamp and the paper. Success! I was able to peel it all away. There were about 20 in all that I had to do this to.

I also discovered that the adhesive was still present on these stamps after the paper was removed. So I warmed up the water again and gently rubbed the adhesive away under the water. If you don't it could stick to your mount or album page.

I hope this helps. Please refer to the April 2019 newsletter on our website for basic soaking of paper tips.

October was National Stamp Collecting Month:

We asked the membership to talk to their local neighborhood library about putting in an exhibit to promote stamp collecting in October. Three members did so and we are excited to share some of those displays with you.



Bob Baltzell's display at the Mid-Century Public Library Genealogy Center Independence, MO



Barry Fitzgerald's display at the Johnson County Public Library Gardner, KS

Gordon Gilpin also has a display at the Mid-Century Public Library-Red Bridge Branch. Thanks guys for promoting our wonderful hobby. Hopefully some people stopped and looked on their way to the computer stations.

The First Stamp Issues of the German Empire (and a short history of the events and stamp issues of the German States prior to 1872)



The history of Germany goes back many centuries, but for the purpose of this exhibit we can start in 1849, the year the first postage stamp was issued by Bavaria. Fourteen other "states" followed. One other, the Princely House of Thurn & Taxis while not a state, was under contract to deliver the mails in the German area and began issuing their own stamps in 1852.

The stamp issuing entities in the pre-German Empire were:

- Grand Duchy of Baden
- Kingdom of Bavaria
- Town of Bergedorf
- Free City of Bremen
- Duchy of Brunswick
- Free City of Hamburg
- Kingdom of Hanover
- Free City of Lübeck
- Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin
- Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz
- Grand Duchy of Oldenburg
- Kingdom of Prussia
- Kingdom of Saxony
- Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein
- Thurn & Taxis
- Kingdom of Württemberg



Map of the German Confederation 1815-1866



This exhibit will show some of the stamps issued by the "states" (from 1849-1867) and the North German Confederation (1867-70). In addition, the first two issues of the German Empire (1872) will be displayed along with an explanation of their differences.

Time Running Out for Entry in December's Exhibiting:

You've got a great collection. You know a lot about the issues. It is time you share these philatelic wonders and your knowledge by exhibiting this December. The form is on our website or you can contact Barbara Crompton. Deadline for entry is November 18th and must include the \$10 entry fee.

Let's see what you can do this December!

Neil Becker's title page to his Gold Award exhibit from last year.

Answer from Last Month's Quiz:

Last month's question was, "If the Sam Houston issue was the first "zip block" and it is Scott #1242, why isn't the stamp pictured on the right considered the first zip block since it has a earlier Scott #?"

A series of five stamps were issued commemorating the Civil War starting with the Fort Sumpter issue on 4-12-61 and ending with the Appomattox, 1865 issue on 4-9-65. Scott assigned the numbers in 1961, reserving the rest as they were issued.



**US #1181 Civil War Battle of the Wilderness
Issued 5-5-1964**

The Sam Houston stamp was issued on 1-10-64, five months before the Battle of the Wilderness was issued.



**US #1178
Sea Coast Gun of 1861**



**US #1179
Rifleman at Shiloh, 1862**



**US #1180
Gettysburg, 1863**



**US #1182
Appomattox, 1865**

Answer to MPS History Quiz:

Mr. Becher collected (A) Bird Eggs and (C) Tobacco Tags.



**Mr. Frank Becher
First President
Of MPS**

Why was the stamp on the right issued and who was reluctant for it to be issued?

Find out in next month's newsletter.

