

The Messenger



October 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
Lunch at Noon
Gather at 1:00
Meeting Starts 2:00
Saturday, October 5th

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Meeting Attendance: 37 members with two visitors, Barbara Keil & Allen Tills

First Vice-President: No report.

Second Vice-President: No report.

Treasurer: \$6610.42 balance.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Membership: We welcomed Adrienne DeWeese as a new member.

Librarian: Nothing new to report.

Historian: Photos from the Omaha show have been added to the history binder. Posters to put up in libraries to promote Stamp Month in October are available. The club's APS journal collection has been donated to a library in Toronto, Canada. It is the largest philatelic library in Canada and they were quite happy to receive the donation.

Old business: No old business.

New business: Bob Baltzell, Perry Kilpatrick, and Richard Spiek are the nominating committee for upcoming club elections.

Announcements:

Payment of \$17 for the October luncheon is due. Cost is \$17 per person and the meal will begin at noon.

Robert Schroeder passed away. Please keep Robert's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

The club was well represented at Stamp Show in Omaha with 20+ members in attendance. Dale reported that both the dealers and APS representatives were pleased with the response to and attendance at the show. Maybe we will be able to get another national event in this region in the not too distant future.

E & D Auction is now operating under new ownership and accepting items for consignment. The new address is 1901 A Clay Street in North Kansas City. The first auction will be in November.

Show and Tell:

Armen had some Great Britain Presentation Pack and a Princess Dianna stamp set with a certificate of authenticity.

Victor shared some Great Britain material acquired at Omaha

Mike shared a cover from the Ice Cap News with photos and autographs of 3 women of interest to the world of polar collectors.

Stephen had some computer generated Indian States stamps as a follow-up to his earlier reporting on forgeries.

Bill asked why there were white borders on stamps. Several offered ideas but no one was sure why.

Dale talked about a stamp catalogue that was delayed in delivery because it had first been sent to the IRS.

Program: Perry presented a program on the Space City Cover Society and NASA Local Post at the Manned Spacecraft Center, now the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Very interesting, and something that, probably, not many of us knew anything about.

Respectively submitted by Michael Keil



**Don't Miss
Out. Contact
Barb Today!**

What You Will Miss (if not there):

Bob Baltzell will give the program, "WWII Occupations Stamps of the Channel Islands". Bring your appetite because it is time for the October luncheon. The luncheon will start at NOON. For those of that have not already signed up and paid, it is not too late if you contact Barbara Crompton today at rockyrode2014@gmail.com. *The deadline is October 2nd.*

Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

Purple Heart

Forever, First Class
One Design, Pane of 20
Issue Date October 4th



Spooky Silhouettes

Forever, First Class
Four Designs, Pane of 20
Issue Date October 11th

According to the Postal Service, "This issuance was produced through a special printing process and beneath the ink of each image lies a layer of iridescent pigment."



Philatelic Happenings:

Drive a little for some philatelic fun but if you do, you will miss the luncheon and our meeting:

October 5th
Joplin Stamp Club Bourse
Sat. 9-5
Continental Banquet Hall
2802 N. Range Line Rd
Joplin, MO

Here's something in the neighborhood:

October 19th
Greater KC Stamp Show
Sat. 10-4
American Inn
1211 Armour Rd
North Kansas City, MO
Scott says he has 5-7 dealers lined up.

It is Nominating Time:

Ok folks, it is that time of year where we are out to twist arms, beg and plead with a few good people to step up and run this organization. With next year being a very busy election year, yours truly is stepping down. The nominating committee is seeking people to fill the officer positions. If you have a suggestion, whether it is a fellow member or yourself, please contact the committee. The committee members were announced at this last meeting and is in the minutes on the first page of this newsletter.

Please consider serving. We need good people to keep this great organization going and to move it forward for future philatelists in the area.

JMC

US #983
1st Gubernatorial Election
In Puerto Rico
Issue Date 4/27/1949



The Midwest Philatelic Society Website is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com
Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.

Philatelic Ramblings:



Purple Heart
USA
41
2007

**US #4164
Purple Heart
Issued 8/7/2007**

A new Purple Heart stamp or is it. The design is certainly familiar. That is because this will be the eleventh issue and the ninth with a similar design. The first was issued in 2003. I've discussed the lack originality with the stamp program before, such as the flag issues, so sorry. I do not understand why another Purple Heart stamp that is just slightly different than previous issues.

The Purple Heart as an award goes all the way back to American Revolution when it was called the "Badge of Military Merit." Three individuals were awarded this honor by George Washington in 1783. Sergeant Elijah Churchill, Fourth Troop, Second Troop of Light Dragoons, Sergeant William Brown of the 5th Connecticut regiment and Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2nd Connecticut regiment, one of Washington's most important and successful spies. These men were thought to be the only recipients but it has been recently discovered that others received the medal as well. Although Washington intended the Badge of Military Merit to be made permanent, it was allowed to lapse after the army was disbanded in June of 1783. At the end of the Revolutionary War, no federal decoration was awarded to American servicemen until the Navy Medal of Honor was created in 1861 during the Civil War.

It took until 1932 for the award to come back and become what it is today. To mark the bicentennial of Washington's birth, Gen. Douglas MacArthur spearheaded an effort to revive the medal. It was designed to commemorate bravery, but also recognized soldiers with wounds. MacArthur is awarded Purple Heart No. 1. Later, during World War II, the medal was changed into a recognition of combat injuries and deaths. Over time, the military has further modified the award, adding different types of injuries and different types of combat. For instance, soldiers wounded in acts of terrorism now qualify for the Purple Heart, as do soldiers injured in friendly fire.

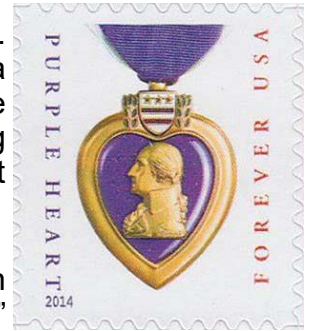
So back to stamp design. An interesting design could be an artist rendition of Washington awarding one or all three of the original recipients. Since it is ever so popular to have a multitude of designs on one pane of stamps, why not a block of 4 designs. You could have each soldier on a stamp receiving the award with the fourth stamp depicting both medals, the original Badge of Military Merit and today's Purple Heart. Or since they love to use photographs on stamps today, I am sure there is a picture of MacArthur receiving that first Purple Heart. That could be an interesting design but maybe wait till 2032 on the 100th Anniversary.



**US #4504
George Washington
Issued 4/11/2011
Additional Ounce Letter Rate**

I believe the redundancy of the stamp program could be one the contributing factors to the disinterest of older collectors in continuing to collect U.S. stamps. And I know redundancy of designs has been a common occurrence over time, just look at all the Washington/Franklins issued between 1908 and 1922.

The one thing I will say about the current design, it does have good old George on the stamp since he is depicted on the medal. And we don't get many stamps with George anymore! Two good websites helped me in this research, an article by T. Christian Miller from 2010 on NPR's website and on the Military Order of the Purple Heart's website is an article by Professor Ray Raymond. Both websites have more info about the fascinating history of the Purple Heart.



**US #5035
Purple Heart
Issued 10/1/2015**



**US #4529
Purple Heart
Issued 5/5/2011**



**US Scott #1424
Gen. Douglas MacArthur**

MPS History Quiz:

In 1936 the Midwest Philatelic Society organized a train excursion for members to attend a major stamp show. The round trip cost was \$3.99 per person if they could get 75% of the members to make the trip to which city?

- A. Chicago
- B. St. Louis
- C. Denver
- D. Omaha

APS Journals Given to Toronto Philatelic Library:

This year it was decided to dispose of our bound copies of the American Philatelist. We owned a complete bound set from the first issued to 2002. Armen has been storing them the past few years and needed to find a different home for them. As no one else seemed to have room for these extensive research and historical journals, the word was put out by Bob Baltzell that we had them available for the taking.

The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto, Canada contacted us and they arranged with a shipper to have the collection picked up. Armen deserves a lot of at-a-boys for all the hard work he put into sorting, boxing, itemizing and getting it ready to ship.

The Foundation is the largest philatelic library in Canada. We are pleased that this valuable resource found a deserving home. Their website is <http://www.greenefoundation.ca>

Stamp Tip:

When to have a stamp expertized or graded is a dilemma for a lot of collectors. You have found something that could be worth a lot or very little. You have spent time looking for a watermark, checking the perforations and trying to determine type or color or both. Yet you still are not sure what you have. In that case it might be worth the fees to give you peace of mind. If you are interested in selling the stamp or auctioning it off then, if it is a valuable stamp, it can help bring a higher price. But if you really don't care which variety it is and you don't plan on selling it in the near future, why spend the money?



**US #344
Altered with
fake perforations**

I had a stamp, a Washington/Franklin, that I had acquired as a child. It was in an envelope with other stamps that I could never identify. As an adult with more knowledge I still could not determine what it was, so for peace of mind I sent it in to APS. The reason I could not identify it was because turned out to be a faked coil.

Was it worth sending in for to be expertized, yes because it satisfied my need to know and I learned more about the unscrupulous dealers and collectors of the past.

What about grading a stamp? Personally I have never had a stamp graded and I don't see the point. I would only consider grading a stamp if I planned on selling or auctioning the stamp and I was positive that it would bring a high grade which should equal a higher price. You can determine whether a stamp is very good, fine, very fine or extremely fine yourself by looking at the US Specialized by Grade section of the Scott Specialized Catalogue. They have very good images showing the difference between grades.

The more tools you have and the more knowledge you gain about the stamps you collect, will save you money in the long run. Then with the money saved you can send in those very few difficult issues that you want a professional opinion on.

Zip Codes:

Introduced in 1963 by the United States Post Office Department, zip codes were designed to move the mail faster and more efficiently. ZIP is an acronym for Zone Improvement Plan. It was chosen to suggest that the mail travels more efficiently and quickly (zipping along) when senders use the code in the postal address. Each number in the five digit code identifies a different point of delivery. Each state was given the first two numbers, such as Missouri's zip codes start with 63-65 and Kansas 66-67. The second and third digits represent the sectional center facility (Processing and Distribution Center), and the fourth and fifth digits represent the area of the city (if in a metropolitan area), or a village/town (outside metro areas). While the zip code boundaries are defined geographically, outside the state geographic lines, they are not bound by other political geographic lines such as a county or city line. For example you may have a Blue Springs, MO zip code such as 64015 but live in the city of Independence, MO. The zip code lines were drawn up in 1963 and really have not changed in any significant way since then. But city lines have changed dramatically in the past 50 years, especially in metro areas. Cities have annexed into unincorporated areas which grew their boundaries, often into other zip codes.



To educate the public and get them to use zip codes on their mail, the post office started a campaign using a character called Mr. Zip or Zippy. He was first developed to be used with the forerunner of zip codes, the postal zones. USPS archives tells the origin story as: *Mr. ZIP was based on an original design by Howard Wilcox, son of a letter carrier and a member of the Cunningham and Walsh advertising agency, for use by a New York bank in a bank-by-mail campaign. Wilcox's design was a child-like sketch of a postman delivering a letter. The figure was used only a few times, then filed away. Later, AT&T acquired the design and made it available to the Post Office Department at no cost. ... Miami-based Post Office Department artist Joe Lawrence retained the face but sharpened the limbs and torso and added a mail bag. The new figure, who Lawrence had dubbed Mr. ZIP, was unveiled at a convention of postmasters in October 1962. Mr. Zip and the phrase "Use Zip Code" became a big promotion with buttons, signage, games, on stamp booklets and in the selvage of sheets of stamps. Thus was born another item to collect. Zip blocks, like plate blocks, the four stamps with the selvage of Mr. Zip or the phrase promoting the use of zip codes.*

With the Christmas issues in October of 1985 postal patrons and collectors saw the end of Mr. Zip on stamp selvage. Mr. Zip had really fallen out of use with the advent of zip+4 in 1983.



US #1511
"It all depends on Zip Code"
Issued 1-4-1974



US #2166
Poinsettia
Christmas 1985
Issued 10-30-1985



US #1245
Sam Houston
Issued 1-10-1964
First stamp issued with Mr. Zip in the selvage

Continued from pg 5:

Eventually even the phrase “Use Correct Zip Code” went away from use in the selvage of a sheet of stamps. It took a long time to educate the public into using zip codes but now it is a standard part of your address. If you have a zip code and an address, you can look up most anything on the internet, google maps, etc., and determine where it is. The zip code blocks and the zip labels on booklet panes have made an interesting collecting niche in the philatelic world that many of us still enjoy today. A lot of this material is available at reasonable prices from dealers, at auction, and on hipstamp.



JMC



US #1217 and #C72
Booklet Panes with Zip labels

The Zip Code Board Game
Produced by Lakeside Lifetime Games

Answer to MPS History Quiz:

While we were unable to arrange transport to this year's APS Omaha show, they did succeed in 1936.

The answer to the quiz was (D) Omaha and they rode the Zephyr.

Perhaps if there was still passenger service between KC and Omaha we could have achieved what they did in 1936 but I would bet it would have been a lot more than \$3.99 a person.



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 an earlier Scott #?

Find out in next month's newsletter.

US #1181 Civil War Battle of the Wilderness

