

The Messenger



May 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, May 4th

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Meeting Attendance: 43

The meeting was called to order by Jim at 2 pm.

Treasurer: Financial records were turned over to Betsy for auditing. First quarter report —Receipts, \$216 in dues, \$29 coffee, \$129 donations, \$3.98 interest. Expenses—website and exhibit paid (reported earlier). Current balance \$6507.01, an increase of \$283.00.

Membership: 2 members have paid dues for 2019.

Secretary: Mike reported he sent out several “Missing You” notes to members who have been absent. Mike also asked for a volunteer to take minutes for the May meeting as he will be absent then. Minutes need to be typed up and sent to Jim for inclusion in the newsletter. There were no volunteers.

Newsletter: Nothing new to report.

Librarian: 2016 Scott Catalog (7 vols.) have been donated, along with 4 books by Randy Neil.

Historian: Bob shared the oldest MPS cachet cover from 1931, Midaphil covers, and 3 different histories of MPS, each written at a different time with some variations in the history of MPS.

Old business: Jim sent the sheet around again for members to indicate whether they will be attending the APS show in Omaha in August. A decision on the August meeting will be made next month.

New business: Applications for membership were received from James Jupe and Robert Schroeder. Both were approved.

E&D's next auction is April 28. This will be the next to the last of their auction. Jim said there was a lot of good material, in particular Germany, Canada, and U.S.

Show and Tell: Victor-Old Scott album with Japanese stamps with various cancellations. Reminder from Scott about buying stamps from “boys in the streets” (possible forgeries). Armen—Great Britain souvenir sheet and promotions for a stamp show. Ted read a letter contained in a cover from Palo Alto, CA., written 6 days after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 describing the events and aftermath of that event. Scott reported that the St. Louis Expo was well attended and a great success (sentiments echoed by Dale). Dale shared reports and concerns about possible fake topicals being sold.

Program: Mike Keil—*French Southern and Antarctic Territories*

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Keil, Secretary

Philatelic Happenings:

If you miss the auction then it is pretty dry unless you go really far:

April 28-Sunday at 1:30pm

E and D Auctions
3025 Merriam Ln
Kansas City, KS

May 11

Second Saturday Bourse
Holiday Inn So. County Ctr.
6921 Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO

This occurs each month. I happened to go once when I was in St. Louis for something else and it was worth the morning. Scott is sometimes there.

What You Will Miss (if not there):

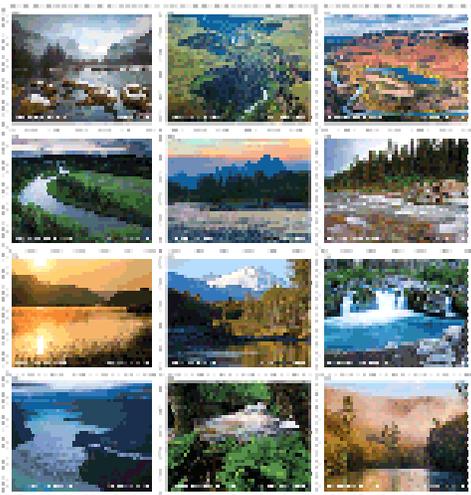
This month's program is titled,

Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

Transcontinental Railroad-Forever, First Class
Three Designs, Pane of 18
Issue Date May 10



Wild and Scenic Rivers-Forever
Twelve Designs, Pane of 12
Issue Date May 21



Ellsworth Kelly-Forever
Ten Designs, Pane of 10
20?????????????
Issue Date May 31



Philatelic Ramblings:

Having recently received the new pages for my Scott's U.S. albums, both singles and plate blocks, I was reminded how much easier it was to mount those new issues back in the lick and stick days. No I did not lick and stick my stamps directly to the pages as a kid. Nor did I ever use hinges. I have always used mounts of some kind. I was taught from the beginning the advantages of using mounts over hinges in protecting that little piece of paper. Too often I see stamps in old albums that are hinged that have been damaged because not everyone is careful in turning the page, smoking or drinking around that collection. Mounts can minimize or eliminate the damage.

But I digress. My frustration with the new issues of today is breaking away that single or plate block from the sheet, cleanly. Some of the sheets have perforated backing, more and more do not. The booklet pane has 10 different designs but I don't need the other 2 on that side or the eight stamps on the other side. AND with all the new issues each year, how much extra postage does a guy need? I guess I can be thankful that my mother is convinced that she is going to win Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes because I mail at least 6 to 10 pieces of mail a week just for that.

I will buy at least two sheets of a new issue if there is more than one design in the sheet. I learned the hard way one year after getting the new pages in and discovered that the block of eight ran horizontally but the plate block was vertical. It was too late to buy another sheet so I tore up the sheet for the plate block and bought the block of eight for my singles album from a dealer. I just wanted to cry as I did this year with the STEM issue. I had been at it too long and I was tired when I started breaking up that sheet. I tore off the strip of four but then I screwed up the plate block. Fortunately I was able to order another sheet from the Stamp Fulfillment Services. Lots of extras of those stamps.

Since learning expensive lessons many years ago, I started putting new issues in a plastic container as I get them throughout the year. There they stay until I get all the new supplements to my albums. Then the fun and frustration begins.

Notice I still say "tear" like the stamps are still perforated. Just like I still say record or album or is it CD? Or download!!!! Under Stamp Tips I will explain how you can get a clean "tear" with today's issues.

JMC

Last Month's Stamp Question:

Great Britain issued the first postage stamp valid for the whole country but who was the second country to do so?

If you guessed Brazil, you would be correct. Brazil's congress authorized the new rates and the new postage stamps in 1842. The reason for the change was much like Great Britain and other countries that followed. Sending a letter or package had a maze of rates that made sending anything a long distance a very costly venture.

With the authorization brought new challenges. Brazil lacked the capacity to print stamps that could not be easily copied. It took until 1841 when customs officials confiscated an engraving machine, that Brazil could eventually produce engraved stamps. With the purchase of an engraving transfer machine in 1843, the first engraved stamps of Brazil were produced.



Brazil's first stamps
Known as
the "Bulls Eyes"

We can thank Lester Brookman for documenting this bit of philatelic history in an article for the *American Philatelist*, July 1943.

History Quiz of the MPS from Historian Bob:

The Midwest Philatelic Society was not always our name. At one time or another we went by three of the following names. Which name **is not** one of them?

- A. Kansas City Stamp Club
- B. Kansas City Philatelic Society
- C. Kansas City Precanel Club
- D. Kansas City Philatelic Club

Find the answer later in this newsletter.



Cut off extra selvage first. Fold the sheet down so that backing is folded in and stamps are exposed. You will damage the perfs if you reverse it.

Stamp Tip:

Getting a clean cut or tear from today's self-adhesive issues.

The best and cleanest way is to carefully remove the stamps surrounding what you are keeping then you can use a pair of scissors and cut the backing, leaving an edge all the way around. But what to do with those that you removed. Prestamp some envelopes or have some extra backing that you have saved.

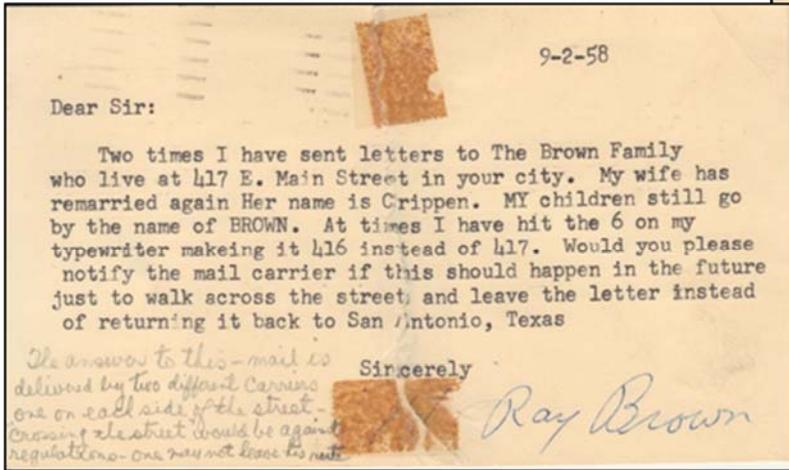
Can you really do that all the time, probably not. You will either have more envelopes than you will ever use with stamps on them or you will run out of the backing that you have saved.



So your next option, which I believe MPS member and dealer Scott Couch shared with me many years ago is to use an Xacto knife. Make sure you have a new blade and that it is clean. Fold down between the perforations where you wish to separate the sheet. Carefully and slowly cut the backing with your blade between the perforations. Occasionally clean your blade with alcohol wipes. This will remove any sticky residue off the blade. If left on the blade you will not get a clean cut.

Postal Curiosities – It's all about the Regulations- By Andrea Smith:

You never know what you might find while digging through a box of stamps and covers! This postcard to a Postmaster in Batavia, N.Y. on September 1958 brought a chuckle, which I thought I should share.



The front is innocuous enough except it has obviously been torn – and then taped together. The 1 cent stamps were placed sideways, and while the address is typed, the words “Air mail” have been handwritten.

On the back of the postcard, (Also typed) is the message sent by the obviously miffed sender.

Dear Sir:

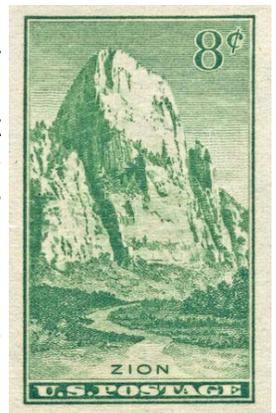
Two times I have sent letters to The Brown Family who live at 417 E. Main Street in your city. My wife has remarried again. Her name is Crippen. MY children still go by the name of BROWN. At times I have hit the 6 on my typewriter making it 416 instead of 417. Would you please notify the mail carrier if this should happen in the future just to walk across the street and leave the letter instead of returning it back to San Antonio, Texas”

A very small, handwritten note (in pencil) was added on the bottom left of the card.

“The answer to this-mail is delivered by two different carriers one on each side of the street – “crossing the street” would be against regulations-one may not leave his route”.

Linn's Stamp Popularity Poll:

How many of us participate in the annual poll of the previous year's U.S. issues? How many of us compare our choices to the results? I find it interesting each year to compare. Although, I must confess I forgot or lost my choices this year but if I remember correctly I wasn't too far off on some of the categories. Such as best definitive design was the Statue of Freedom series. Good looking designs and certainly among my favorites in the last several years. Worst design for the commemoratives was Dragons and second worst was the STEM Education. I had picked the STEM but the Dragons rated right up there in my book. The overall favorite stamp of 2018 was not my overall favorite. The readers picked O Beautiful and I picked the Sparkling Holidays Santa, naturally has a Coke addict and longtime collector. It was the 5th most popular with the readers.



US #747

While I guess I understand why O Beautiful is popular, I don't think it compares with the series that grabbed by attention as a young beginning collector and as it has over the decades with many others. Of course that would be the Farley National Parks issues of 19???. Nothing compares with the artistry of those issues when showing the beauty and diversity of this country. Those issues has compelled me to go to has many of those parks as possible and one of my favorites has been Zion. What a beautiful place. Out of the 10, 4 more to go to.

Midwest Philatelic Society Stamp Auction:

We thought it was time to go over some of the MPS monthly stamp auction guidelines with the new members that have come in and for some of us that forget.

Who can participate— All active members can submit up to 10 lots each month in the auction with no fee. Non-members can submit lots also but are charged a percentage(10%) of the final sale price. Both members and non-members can bid on items.

Bid sheets— Are available on the MPS website that you can download/print off at your convenience. The bid sheets are in two formats. One with a starting bid line and the second with the starting bid line plus a “buy it now” line. For items to be auctioned off there must be a bid sheet.

Not all items end up in the auction— If no bidder number is placed on the bid sheet when items are picked up at the beginning of the auction, then that item does not get placed in the auction. So put your number on the bid sheet if interested.

Secure your bid sheets— Make sure your items are securely together and that the bid sheet is attached in some way. It makes the auctioneer’s job more difficult if multiple items are just stacked on the table and the bid sheet is just placed on top. Remember while tape is a great tool it can also damage your philatelic material. Place your stamp or sheet inside a plastic bag and then tape the bid sheet to the bag.

What can be placed in the auction—Philatelic material or philatelic related material only. (see December Auction for exception)

Describing your lot— The better and more complete your description is, the more likely it will sell. Be truthful. Scott numbers are very beneficial.

I was waiting for a lot to come up but it never did— Did it have a “Buy It Now” price? If it did then someone came along after you and before the auction and bought it from the seller. The risk you take by waiting.

I have more than 10 lots to put out— That’s fine as long as you wait till all members have had an opportunity to put their lots out. If you have more than 10 put your additional lots out not earlier than 15 minutes before the meeting begins. Members that have lots for the auction should try to get to the library between 1:00 and 1:30 to make your lots available.

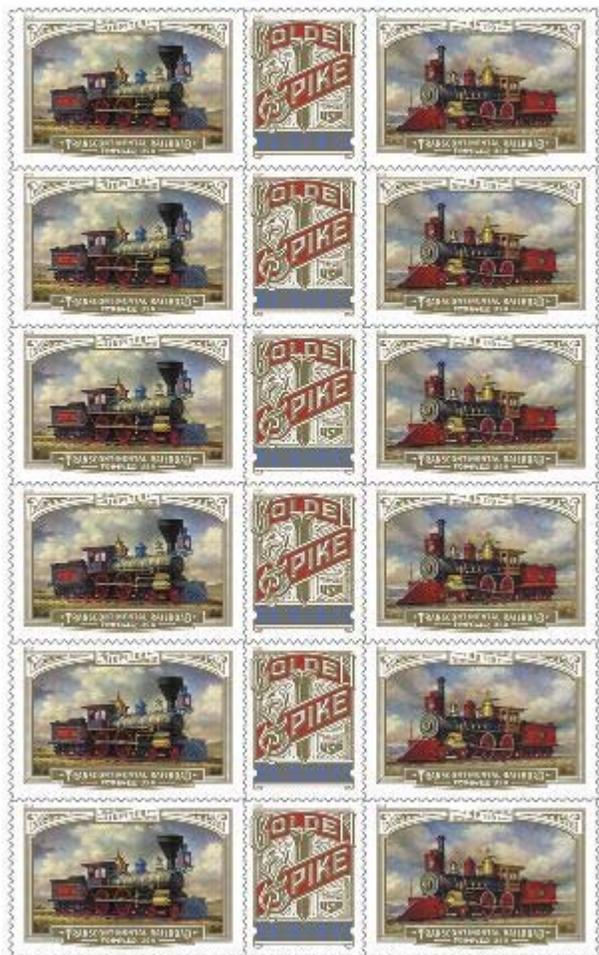
Club Donation— Some items in the auction are club donation which then the proceeds go to the club. If you have something for donation please speak with the 2nd Vice President-Rodger McReynolds who is in charge of the auctions.

December Auction— The December auction is for the benefit of the club. All proceeds go to the club. It is also the only auction of the year that non-philatelic material can be entered into the auction.

We hope this clears up any confusion about our auctions. It is a great way to get rid of extra unwanted stamps, albums, catalogs etc. Plus a great way to buy each month. Always fascinating as to what lots more than one person is interested in. Let the bidding begin!

Deeper into a New Issue:

Railroads and trains still bring the little boy out of me. I have been fascinated with trains my whole life as I know many members share that same fascination. From the first train set to the first train ride, I was hooked. So collecting stamps of trains became a side collection. Many years ago I read Stephen E. Ambrose's book, *Nothing Like It In the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*. Excellent book describing the race between two great railroad companies and the hardships that were endured by those men who built and connected the east and west parts of our great nation.



So when the new issue was announced recognizing the 150th anniversary of that golden spike going into that final rail connection, I was quite excited. What I was not prepared for is the divide over the design of the new issue. Once the designs were released, the knives came out on several of the stamp blogs. Why did so many dislike this design of this great American achievement? To some the designs are "gaudy" or reminded one of "the Russian stamps of the 70's and 80's. Well perhaps so and I thought the frame around the two train designs does remind me of something. So I pulled one of my American Bicentennial collection binders out and yes, here is something very similar from the countries of Romania and Rwanda.



**Rwanda #722
Surrender at Yorktown**



**Romania #2605 with Label
Washington Crossing the Delaware**

So what if they are a little gaudy and not engraved but then what stamps are anymore! Better than last year's Dragons or the Service Dogs coming out this year. I plan to save each single, the strip of 3, the plate block and a full sheet. Plus I will get any first day cover offered which I almost never do anymore and anything else that gets offered. Crazy? Yes. Obsessive? Probably, but what collector isn't, especially when two hobbies converge.

MPS quiz answer:

Here is the answer to our quiz question from pg 3:

IS "D", The Kansas City Philatelic Club was never used by this group.



*Nov 15, 1974, first U.S.
self-adhesive (Scott 1552)*

The U.S. issued their first self-adhesive stamp in 1974 but what was the first country to issue a self-adhesive stamp?

Find out next month.