

The Messenger



February 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, February 2nd

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Meeting Attendance: 43

Meeting called to order by Jim McKinzie at 2:00 pm.

Treasurer: Armen gave the year-end treasurers report. The society lost \$210 for the year ending Dec. 31, 2018. The website costs increased in 2018, newsletter was \$305. The December auction brought in \$616, up from \$567 the year before and income from donations was \$1284, down \$500 from 2017. Bills are paid up to date. 1st VP: Michael circulated the program sign-up sheet. There are 7 months remaining to fill for 2018.

Website: Roger reported that important and items of interest are on the home page. This helps direct people to the information they are looking for easier and quicker.

Library: Neil is working on cataloging and organizing the library listing and will get with Roger to place this information on the website.

Exhibits: Barbara reported that all the awards for the December show have been distributed to the winners and participants. She will begin working on the 2019 show and recruiting exhibitors in July.

Old Business: None

New Business: Betsy will audit the financials later this spring. The August meeting date conflicts with the APS Annual Show in Omaha. Options for what to do about this will be considered and discussed at a later date. At-large board members have not been selected yet for 2019.

Show and Tell: Victor showed some stamps with a baseball theme and a letter pertaining to the 1985 World series in which the KC Royals participated (and won). Armen showed some British stamps with a special ink that produces a 3D-like result and stamps with an ink backstamp that is applied over the adhesive.. Mike reviewed the book *Inspector Oldfield and the Black Hand Society* and donated a copy to the library.

Announcements: The E&D auction will be Jan. 27. There is a large selection of U.S. and German material consigned this time. It was also announced that E & D will permanently close their auction this year, probably in July.

Members were invited to meet at Winstead's at I-470 and Roe on Sunday mornings from 7:30 to 10:00 to talk stamps.

Program: Tomas Griebing presented an interesting and informative program titled "The 1980 Summer Olympics: The Games That Weren't."

A large number of lots were sold at the monthly auction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mchael Keil, Secretary

What You Will Miss (if not there):

This month's program is titled, "3 Years In, What's Changed", by Ted Rights. Should be fun. Speaking of programs, it is past time to sign up to do a program this year. In fact we need someone to do March, HOW ABOUT YOU!!!!

Philatelic Happenings:

A dry month philatelic wise in the immediate area or you could go to:

February 15-16

Cessna Show
2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS

February 15-17

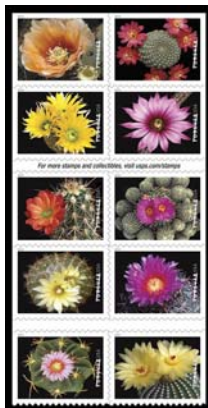
AmeriStamp Expo/ARIPEX
Mesa Convention Center
263 N. Center St., Building "C"
Mesa, AZ

February 23-24

Linpex 2019
Country Inn & Suites
5353 N. 27th St.
Lincoln, NE

Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

Cactus Flowers-Forever, First Class
Ten Designs, Booklet Pane of 20
Issue Date February 15



Alabama Statehood-Forever, First Class
Single Design, Pane of 20
Issue Date February 23

Philatelic Ramblings:

I have a problem, well actually several but the biggest problem I have is space. I need more room for my various collecting habits. Stamps, books and Coca-Cola are the three that take up the most room in the house. The Coke stuff is easier because you can decorate a room with it. You should see the kitchen. Stamps shouldn't take up that much room. They are small, right! But as every philatelist knows they can and do take up a tremendous amount of room especially if you collect covers, plate blocks or sheets of stamps. My book problem spills over into the philatelic world. Although in the last few years I go to a library more now than when I was in college. I still would rather have the book on the shelf than go to the trouble of heading to the library. The Scott Catalogues are why I go to the library. Instead of buying the whole set, I can go look something up on my lunch hour. The Scott's U.S. Specialized is the only one I buy new every other year. If you need to research something deeper such as the U.S. tagging program on stamps you are not going to find that at the local library. But there are ways to borrow a book without buying it, which leads to this month's stamp tip.

Stamp Tip:

We have a nice library of research material that new Librarian Neil Becker is working on organizing. If you belong to American Philatelic Society (APS) then you have a wealth of material available to you from their extensive library. As a member of the United States Stamp Society you have access to the research of U.S. issues by members over many decades. The Red Bridge Mid-Continent Library has a large philatelic section. You can look books up and have them sent to your local branch and pick it up. Let's say you are like me, you just want to reach up from your chair and take the book off the shelf. You can build your own philatelic library by going to used book stores, estate sales, auctions such as E & D, hipstamp, amazon and yes, even ebay. Just know that if you start your own philatelic library be prepared to expand that stamp room. Fortunately, I only have to push the cat out of the way.

History Quiz of the MPS:

Historian Bob Baltzell is introducing a new feature to the newsletter, a little history question about our club. So here is this month's question.

In what year was the MPS recognized by the APS as chapter #10?

Find the answer later in this newsletter.

Last month I asked about another stamp issued to honor Woodrow Wilson. I missed one because there are actually two, which member Mark Durbin pointed out. Scott #2218i is in the 3rd sheet of the 1986 Ameripex issue. Ameripex was the International Stamp Show held in Chicago that year.

The stamp I missed was in another souvenir sheet. Ten sheets were issued from 1998-2000, one for each decade of the 20th century. In the 1910's sheet, you will find Woodrow Wilson in a top hat. Good job, Mark! Proof everyday that I don't know everything about every U.S. issue and this hobby.



**#3183k
Woodrow Wilson from
Celebrate the Century
Sheet**

Topical Collecting- Looking for the Unusual - By Andrea Smith



Some stamp collectors just like to collect the unusual. Something different that catches their eye, or tickles their fancy. Not necessarily rare, but unique, maybe a conversation piece.

Many countries have caught on to this fact, and have issued stamps that are unique. They are made of leather, lace, or wood. Stamps are embedded with grit from the rock of Gibraltar, crystals, minerals, pieces of plant material. Some smell like fruit or flowers, taste, and some even glow in the dark. They are limited only to the imagination of stamp designers, and the willingness to give them a try.

In the 50's Germany issued several stamps with adhesive that tasted like peppermint. Odd to be paired up with an Olympic stamp, but they wanted something different.



In 2009, Portugal issued a set of 5 stamps to honor the 200 year celebration of Louis Braille. The stamps feature the 5 senses – Hear, Taste, Smell, Feel and Sight. One is a cup of coffee which really smells like coffee. The vanilla ice cream stick has adhesive that tastes like vanilla. Holographic glasses that change according to the position of the stamp. Ink you can feel coming out of the tube. And finally a file where the ear is sensitive to the noise made by the file when the rough surface is rubbed.

A recent issue from Spain has adhesive that smells and tastes like their famous Iberico ham -obviously not a self-adhesive. Those were the days you had stamps you could lick! Now most flavored stamps must smell, and not taste. If I tell you about the Belgian chocolate you will just get hungry.

Even the United States Postal Service issued some unusual stamps. Remember the eclipse stamp that changed when you placed your finger on it? Those were tremendously popular, even with non-philatelists. And recently, the aromatic Popsicle stamps....what do they smell like to you?



Even Holograms have made an appearance, and don't forget the hidden images. What will they think of next?

Transparent stamps first made their appearance in 2008, when Finland issued the "Frosty Night" stamp. Printed on special film, it was designed by Nina Rintala and shows the mystical atmosphere of a winter's night. The large snowflake, twinkling stars and a flickering aurora borealis makes this a beautiful stamp.



In November 2015, New Zealand issued stamps that were transparent stained glass church windows using examples of windows from all over New Zealand.



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And recently, In September, Spain issued a souvenir sheet to commemorate the artistry of stained glass and glass blowing. But instead of just using a picture of the stained glass, they printed on transparent acetate to achieve the effect of stained glass windows.

So have fun with collecting the unusual, you never know what you might find!

What happened to George?:



So another flag stamp and it is another photograph. Boring! Don't get me wrong, the flag is great but the designs don't have much imagination with exception of last year's folded artistic design that many did not like. So why does the definitive issue each year have to be the flag, what happened to George?

I was born in the era of the 3c stamp as many of us were. The workhorse definitive for first class mail was the 3c Jefferson issue from the 1938 Prexie Series. Then in 1954 came the 3c Liberty issue from the 1954 Liberty Series.

When the first class rate went up in 1958 to 4c, good old Abe became the workhorse. But with the increase in 1963 to 5c a decision was made to issue the first Flag over the White House. I guess James Monroe wasn't good enough to be on millions of letters everyday. The post office was confident in getting their increase because late in 1962 they issued a new 5c Washington stamp in several formats, coil, booklet and pane.

Because of the coil, George was on millions of pieces of mail throughout much of the 60's until, you guessed it, another rate change. This time to 6c in 1968 with FDR and new Flag over the White House. Even before the rate went to 8c FDR was replaced by Eisenhower. Then the flag design and Eisenhower just got the denomination changed to 8c with minor changes to the design.

Stamp collectors of the past learned who the Presidents were through the many issues. What does the collector or casual stamp user learn today? How many ways you can you photograph the US Flag, I guess!

JMC



#807 Thomas Jefferson & #1035 Statue of Liberty



**From Liberty Series
#1036 Abraham Lincoln & #1038 James Monroe**



**#1208 Flag Over White House &
#1229 George Washington**

Love, Hearts and Flowers:

I am definitely on a rant about the USPS stamp program. I believe there is a definite lack of imagination especially with the repeat issues each year. Take this years love stamp. Pretty but boring. There have been over 50 different love stamps issued since the first one in 1973. I was a sophomore in high school when that issue came out. Why a stamp about love? Not something I really understood at the time. The design was ugly but years later seeing the original sculpture that inspired the stamp design I understood it better but still not completely.



It was nine years before the next love stamp was issued. In 1982 Mary Faulconer designed a stamp that proved to be quite popular. The word love spelled out in flowers. With that the love stamp program was off and running. An issue nearly every year after that.

US #1951 Love Stamp

Capitalizing on the Raphael Cherub craze of the 90's, six different issues were created in 1995 and 1996. Two were issued in February and three in May 1995. Some in booklet or pane and in two different denominations, the first class rate (32c) and with the additional ounce (55c), the popular rate for wedding invitations.



US #1475 Love Stamp And The Love Sculpture by Robert Indiana in Philadelphia, PA



**Cherubs from Sistine Madonna by Raphael
US #2948 and #2958**

One of the most interesting designs came in 2001. Using a rose for the "O" of Love and the love letters between John and Abigail Adams as background, three different designs were created in different formats and denominations.



**US #3496
Rose, April 20,
1763 Love Letter
by John Adams**



**US #4122
Hershey's Kiss**

In 2007 love was paired with chocolate. The iconic silver wrapped Hershey's Kiss was depicted on that year's issue. A booklet pane of 20 was issued for the 39c stamp.

The creativity in the US stamp program is always hit and miss. This year being a prime example.

Australia's design in 2015 is very creative. Four stamps, heart kite, sky writing heart, hot air balloon shaped as a heart and finally a cloud shaped heart.



**Australia
Strip of 4, #4249a**

It is odd that for all the love, the day or what inspired it is never mentioned or depicted in the US program.

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In 1981 Great Britain issued a stamp about Saint Valentine's Day in a series about folklore. Why folklore? Perhaps because there is so much unknown and a lot of myths behind St Valentine's Day and the man or men behind the lore.



**Great Britain #933
Love Birds, Angels and Heart**



**Italy #3365
Saint Valentine of Rome**

Italy issued a beautiful stamp about Saint Valentine of Rome in 2016. But which St. Valentine? It is uncertain whether he was one individual or a pseudonym of several persons.

An early reference to Saint Valentine's Day is found in the works of Geoffrey Chaucer (ca. 1343-1400), who states that birds pair on this day. This may have been the idea behind the souvenir sheet, issued by Denmark in 1999 for St. Valentine.



**Denmark
#1151a Souvenir Sheet**



**France
#2696 & 2697
#2750 designed by
Yves Saint Laurent**

France wins the creativity award. In 1999 the first heart shaped stamp was issued by France. Two stamps issued in two different formats.

Then the very next year another heart shaped stamp designed by none other but Yves Saint Laurent. This started a tradition of the great houses of fashion designing the stamp each year, such as Chanel and Christian Lacroix.

I believe it is time for some creativity to come into the US stamp program. Perhaps they might sell out quicker.

JMC

**This year's US design
Hearts Blossom**



Answer to this month's quiz:

Here is the answer to our new quiz question:

The MPS is the sixth oldest chapter of the APS having joined on November 30, 1894. This year will mark our 125th anniversary. The club was actually started in 1893 and went through various name changes before officially being known as the Midwest Philatelic Society.

With this being a landmark anniversary year, perhaps we should do something special. Any ideas?



**US #1382
Intercollegiate
Football,
100th Anniversary**

Only two others issued by the U.S. about football. What were they?

I am finishing this up just after the playoff game. Sorry to see the Chiefs lose but it was a great season. Most exciting season since I have lived here. Patrick Mahomes and the rest of the team can be proud and you can bet they will be back even stronger next year.