

The Messenger



May 2020

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Waldo Public Library
Gather at 1:00
Meeting Starts 2:00
NO MEETING FOR MAY

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

No minutes since we had no meeting in April due to the Coronavirus.

The President's Corner:

Dear MPS Members and Friends -

Well, another month has passed. I hope everyone is doing well through the current public health crisis. Our lives look quite different from just a few weeks ago. It has been interesting working mostly from home. Mike has moved his office temporarily into our stamp and hobby room. I have started seeing patients through telemedicine which has been interesting, particularly as a surgeon!

Unfortunately, given the ongoing closure of the libraries and the state and regional policies on social distancing and limits on gatherings, we will need to cancel the upcoming May meeting. Hopefully we will be able to connect in person again this summer, but of course time will tell. The MPS Board and I have been discussing some of our upcoming projects which will also likely be delayed or postponed until next year. These include the Stamp Discovery Program and the Great Plains Stamp Show. I have recently been in touch with Scott Couch so more details to come on the show.

I would again encourage everyone to connect virtually by phone, email, or electronic conferencing to stay in touch with one another. Regular USPS mail is also still working, and I have heard from several friends that way. Now is also a good time to think about reorganizing or adding to your collections. I have a few new pieces I just received from a fellow collector in California that I look forward to sharing during an upcoming Show & Tell session. Now is also a great time to start working on an exhibit for our annual show meeting in December. In addition, APS, ATA, and other philatelic organizations have made some interesting programs and resources available online. Check them out, and if someone finds something cool, please share with our club.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy, and wash your hands!!

Best, Tomas

To stay in touch, see the information on Pg. 2 of this newsletter. We are looking for new ways for this club to continue sharing and learning about our wonderful philatelic interests.



US #3106
Computer Technology

What You Will Miss (if not there):

**May's meeting has been cancelled due to this pandemic. We will notify you if there is a change for June's meeting.
Be safe and think of all the catching up we can do on our collections!**

Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

Two issues for May have been announced.

American Gardens

First Class, Forever rate
Ten Designs, Pane of 20
Issue Date May 13th



Philatelic Happenings:

Currently everything known in the philatelic world has been cancelled or postponed. Time to call your favorite dealer or get on the internet and start bidding with the many on-line auctions to get that stamp fix.

New MPS Blog:

Our webmaster, Rodger created a blog on our website back in January and it has been announced at the meetings earlier this year. Since we are unable to meet, in person, this is good time to sign up and start sharing on the new blog.

From the front page of our website, click on "Join the Midwest Philatelic Society Discussion Group." Once there you will have to create a password. Then start blogging. There have been a few posts so far but when more get involved, then there will be more activity.

If you have questions email Rodger. He is happy to help you. Thanks, Rodger.

Answer from Last Month's Quiz:

Who were Francois Fournier and Charles Hirschburger?

In researching early French stamps I ran across these names. It was on the web address that was described in last month's newsletter about fakes and forgeries.

Francois Fournier was born in Croix-de-Rozon, Switzerland on April 24, 1846. Later he became a French citizen, serving in the army during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

Later in life he became involved in the philatelic business by buying the stock of Louis-Henri Mercier, who had gone bankrupt. It was soon that Fournier began a business producing facsimile stamps.

Continued on pg 3:



Voices of Harlem Renaissance

First Class, Forever Rate
Four Designs, Pane of 20
Issue Date May 21st

The U.S. Postal Service has canceled both first-day ceremonies.



France #1291
Col. Denfert-Rochereau and
Lion of Belfort, by
Frederic A. Bartholdi
Issued for the Centenary
of the Siege of Belfort during
Franco-Prussian War.

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

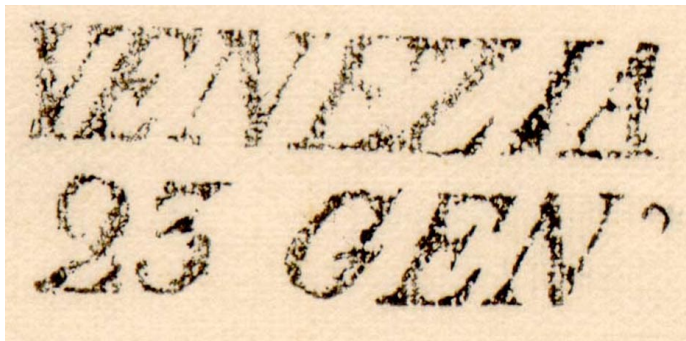
Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.

Continued from pg 2:

Fournier saw himself as a champion of the little man. He wanted to help the average collector of modest means, fill those “holes” on their album pages that were rare and/or beyond their means, with facsimiles of the real thing. Stamp dealers and philatelic societies welcomed him and his business in the beginning but as his business grew and the facsimiles started to be passed off as the real thing by unscrupulous dealers and collectors, it all changed. He soon found that he was banned by dealers and his advertising blocked.

In response Fournier created *Le Fac-Simile* in 1910, to publicize his business. It is said that 25,000 copies of each edition were distributed. WWI caused major disruptions to Fournier’s business. Consignments were seized and postal communications were disrupted. He was in poor health by this time and it declined even further. He died in 1917 and was buried back in Switzerland where he was born.

Enters Charles Hirschburger who was one of Fournier’s employees. He attempted to continue the business though unsuccessfully. Hirschburger died in 1927. To prevent the equipment and stock from falling into the wrong hands, the *Union Philatelique de Geneve* bought it from his widow.



**Fournier Forged Postmarks Also.
A Lombardy and Venetia Forged Postmark**



A Page of Fournier “Facsimiles” of Mauritius

Perhaps if Fournier had printed somewhere on his forgeries the words *Faux* or *Facsimile*, he would not have been so ostracized by the philatelic world. In fact his creations were later created again with those words printed on them by the Geneva School of Arts and Crafts. They used the original equipment that had been donated to the Geneva Museum of History. The students were employed to create 480 representative albums of Fournier’s work which were sold to stamp dealers, collectors and others in 1928. *The Union* prepared a more extensive five-volume collection of his work for its library.



**Fournier Forgery(L) and the Genuine(R) issue
from Liberia**

If you collect stamps of the classic era, it would pay you to study these forgeries. It makes me wonder how many of us have some of these facsimiles of Fournier’s in our albums.

JMC

Philatelic Ramblings:

With Mother's Day approaching, any of us that still have our mothers with us have a more difficult challenge. I was thankful the other day when I got a phone call from a local florist that I do business with who wanted to let me know that they were still working but only taking phone or internet orders. The person that called mentioned that I had sent flowers for Mother's Day last year and wondered if I would like to do so again. It hadn't even occurred to me that it was fast approaching with all that is going on. I placed the order with her right then and there. Because my mother is in an independent living facility I am not able to go in and if she leaves then she has to quarantine for 14 days in her room when she goes back. So very challenging to say the least. If your mother is still with you, do something special. Don't forget her! She won't forget that you forgot!!!



US #2273
From booklet pane
Special Occasions



Egypt #391
Mother and Children
Issued for Mother's Day which is
celebrated on March 21st

We have an expanded newsletter for you this month. Tomas continues with his philatelic terminology articles and Bob Baltzell got inspired by Andrea's article from last month. Bob has been a student, researcher and collector of FDR for a long time. The cornflakes story fits right in. Some of you may remember a program he gave at a past meeting on the Operation Cornflakes story.

Thanks to so many of you sending in submissions. Please continue. It makes this a better newsletter with so much input. If you have sent me an article that I have not used, please resend or remind me. I may have over looked it.

Enjoy the expanded reading. *JMC*

More Problems with Pandemic:

International Mail Service Suspensions

The Postal Service™ is temporarily suspending international mail acceptance for certain destinations due to service impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suspension Due to Foreign Postal Operator Service Suspension			
Bolivia	Fiji	Malawi	Peru
Botswana	French Polynesia	Maldives	Rwanda
Cayman Islands	Honduras	Mauritius	Samoa
Chad	India	Mongolia	South Africa
Curacao	Kuwait	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Dominican Republic	Libya	New Caledonia	Zimbabwe
Ecuador	Madagascar	Panama	

The list is even longer for "Suspension Due to Unavailability of Transportation". Service is suspended for some countries for Global Express and there are "Military & Diplomatic Mail (APO/FPO/DPO) Service Disruptions ". While service was interrupted at times during WWII, was it this wide spread?

Go to the following for a complete list:

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm>

A Question of Terminology (Part 2) by Tomas Griebing

In February's newsletter, I raised a question about terminology related to the set of stamps shown in [Figure 1](#) (Scott Romania 1326-1330). These stamps were issued in honor of the 1960 Olympic Games being held at Rome, Italy. It was the first set of Olympic stamps to use a continuous motif that crossed multiple stamps. The full design is only visible when all stamps and selvage labels are in the correct position. Although a form of se-tenant design, I wanted to know if there was a more specific philatelic term. Neither my resource books nor several



Figure #1

MPS colleagues could answer this question. A thorough search of the philatelic internet was also unsuccessful.

Finally, I turned to the APS Research Library (APRL) for help. Jacqueline Baca and her team set out on this quest, and after searching multiple sources, they came up with the answer. These are called **Composite Stamps**. This term specifically defines stamps in

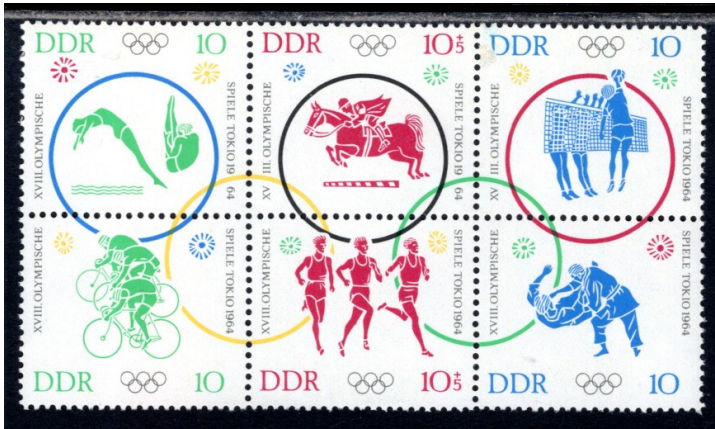


Figure #2

which an overall larger design crosses over multiple stamps. Actually, the examples of both triptych and quadripartition stamps shown in Feb 2020 newsletter are themselves 'composite stamps'. Two other examples of composite stamps featuring the Olympic Rings include [Figure 2](#) (Scott DDR 711-714), and [Figure 3](#) (Scott Libya 258-263) both issued in celebration of the 1964 Olympic Games held at Tokyo, Japan. Incidentally, the 1964 Tokyo games were the first time that Libya fielded a team. The Romanian stamps in [Figure 1](#) are a bit unusual in that they were printed in two separate rows with either the upper or lower portions of the design rather than in a single fully attached pane.



Figure #3

Interestingly, the term **Composite Sheet** differs slightly from 'composite stamps'. These are sets where multiple stamps are included on a single sheet and the designs also cross into the selvage. However, the stamps themselves are not necessarily directly attached to each other and may be separated by considerable selvage material. These have become more popular with the development of self-adhesive stamps. The sheet shown in [Figure 4](#) (USA Scott 3293), with 10 stamps depicting the Sonoran Desert, part of the 'Nature of America' series, is a fine example.

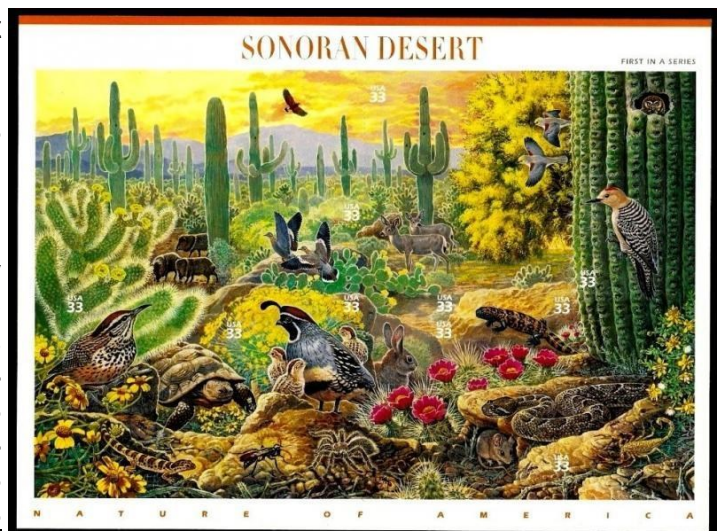


Figure #4

So it appears that triptychs and quadripartitions, and some larger sets are considered se-tenant. But are all composite stamps by default also se-tenant? Tune in to future newsletter for more details....

Operation Cornflakes (Part 2) Hitler Skull Stamps by Bob Baltzell

One of the most fascinating espionage operations conducted during World War II was called Operation Cornflakes. It was organized by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor of the CIA, to insert propaganda mail into the German Postal System (GPS). It was a very intricate and well planned operation but encountered more than its share of set-backs that had to be overcome before finally being launched in January 1945.

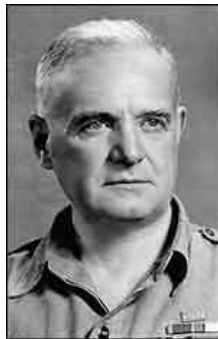


The OSS produced two counterfeit German stamps, the 6pf and 12pf Hitler definitive. Both were pretty good imitations that were good enough to pass through the GPS if not scrutinized too closely. They also produced a parody of the 12pf stamp with Hitler's head resembling a skull and the words "Futsches Reich" (Failed Empire) instead of Deutsches Reich.

Besides collecting World War II propaganda, I also collect material associated with the stamp collection of America's Number 1 stamp collector, President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR). It was while researching FDR's collection that I first encountered the OC story and this what let me to collect WW II propaganda.

For many years the Hitler skull stamp was described by stamp dealers and researchers as, "*printed in Switzerland and sent to widows and next of kin of German casualties*". How this fictitious description of the Hitler skull stamp came about is an interesting story and the result of an understandable mix-up by those sorting through FDR's stamp collection to prepare it for auction in 1946.

When the auction firm H.R. Harmer was chosen to sell FDR's collection, their personnel started going through hundred of albums and boxes evaluating material to make up lots of the most valuable and interesting items. With a collection of over one million items the task was monumental and they ended up creating 2597 individual lots of various sizes for the four part auction. The lot sizes ranged from just a single stamp to multiple boxes, most of boxes having never been seen by the President.



"Wild" Bill Donovan, the first director of the Office of Strategic Service.

During World War II, Bill Donovan, the head of the OSS, sent FDR philatelic propaganda material that had been produced for various covert operations. It can be assumed that the President kept all of this material in a folder or large envelope along with the accompanying letters from General Donovan and other documentation. The Harmer catalog describers created five lots of this material, three of them were included in the Part II auction sold April 1 & 2 and are connected to the mix-up in the Operation Cornflakes story.

Lot 326: “Forgeries 1941, Hitler 12pf red unwmkd, imperf blk of 40, perf blk of 50 with margins, made for espionage or other purposes: o.g., some stamps defective or creased, otherwise good to very fine”.

Lot 738: “Propaganda in Germany, faked Hitler sheet, dark red, showing skull and cross bones design printed in Switzerland and sent to widows and next of kin of German casualties.”

Lot 739, Propaganda in Germany. Underground Newspaper “Frankfuter Zeitung” #451, secretly printed and introduced by clandestine means into Germany where they are mailed to individuals whose address appeared in the death notices of soldiers who are reported to have ‘died for the Fatherland’. 6 pages,”

Lot 326 contained two sheets of the counterfeit Hitler 12pf stamps. The perforated sheet was the same as those used on the OC covers. The imperforated sheet appears to have been a singular example as I have never seen one like it, either real or fake.

Lot 738 did not contain the OC Hitler Skull stamp but a parody sheet of Hitler skull stamps (figure 2) produced by the Morales Operation branch of the OSS. It was to mock the Hitler birthday souvenir sheet (figure 1) issued in 1937 and depicts a grotesque Hitler skull glaring straight at the beholder printed in sheets of four perforated stamps with the same inscription along the bottom, “WER EIN VOLK RETTEN WILL KANN NUR HEROISCH DENKEN” (WHOEVER WANTS TO SAVE HIS NATION MUST THINK HEROICALLY). The first copies were printed in the same red ink that was used for the counterfeit 12pf Hitler head stamps. Later copies were printed in green to match the original 1937 souvenir sheet.

Lot 739 was a 6 page propaganda newspaper produced by the British PWE. These were miniature editions reduced in size to conserve paper. The original Frankfurter Zeitung newspaper (FZ) was a German language publication that first appeared in 1856 in Frankfurt, Germany. It was originally a financial market letter that eventually evolved into one of the most respected newspapers of its time. When the Nazis forced the newspaper to close in August 1943, the British Political Warfare Executive (PWE) started producing forgeries of the FZ containing false stories in an effort to demoralize the enemy.



Figure #1
Souvenir Sheet
Issued in 1937
For Hitler's 48th Birthday



Figure #2
Fake OSS Parody Sheet
Without Perforations



Figure #3
Close-up of Hitler
Skull Stamp

Within the archives of the FDR Presidential Library we can find correspondence concerning this material that reveals how the catalog describers incorrectly connected the material.

Continued from pg 7

A letter sent from Eugene Warner, chief of the Mediterranean Morale Operations (MO) branch of the OSS, to General Donovan on Oct 20, 1944 concerning the stamps in lot 326.

My dear General:

Enclosed are some German stamps that MO printed for the mailing of our subversive propaganda inside the Reich to suitable recipients.

I am sending them to you with a thought that a certain well-known stamp collector might want to add them to his album – as they are real collector’s items. One batch is perforated, one imperforate, the latter being even more rare than the former.

General Donovan passed Warner’s letter and stamps on to FDR with the following memorandum for the President.

I am herewith enclosing a copy of the [Frankfurter Zeitung](#), together with copies of a Hitler stamp, which I thought you would like to have for your collection. You may be interested to know that the Hitler stamp was printed in Bern, Switzerland by the Office of War Information (OWI) representatives and is one of many different types of propaganda material that has been secretly printed and introduced into Germany by clandestine means since November of 1942. Every fortnight approximately 500 to 1200 copies of the FZ are likewise sent into Germany where they are mailed to individuals whose addresses appear in the death notices of soldiers who are reported to have died for the fatherland.

W.H. Donovan, Director.

It is clear that Warner was referring in his letter to the two sheets of 12pf Hitler stamps that were sold in lot #326, not the Hitler birthday parody souvenir sheet in lot #738. While the catalog describes lot #738 with the stamp image of “skull and crossbones”, the most misleading part of the description was mistakenly applying Donovan’s comment about the *Frankfurter Zeitung* newspaper, “...**printed in Switzerland and sent to widows and next of kin of German casualties**”. While the birthday parody was printed in Bern, it was not sent to widows and next of kin of German casualties and it could not be used for franking in the German postal system nor could the Hitler skull stamp. The OSS had nothing to do with the British Frankfurter Zeitung operation other than passing along a sample copy for the President.

The President wrote a thank you letter to Donovan that should have linked another one of the five lots (#320 Himmler stamp not discussed here) and #738 (Hitler birthday parody sheet) together and indicates that Donovan sent these to the President a few weeks prior to sending the 12pf Hitler head stamps and the FZ newspaper.

October 5, 1944

Dear Bill,

Ever so many thanks for the Himmler and Hitler stamps. I had heard that there was such a stamp as the Himmler one and it will be an interesting addition to my collection.

My best to you,

Very sincerely yours,

“F.D.R”

Even today, some unscrupulous dealers still use the false description to deceive novice collectors into buying fake covers with the Hitler skull stamp affixed and cancelled on the envelope. It took Sgt Herbert Friedman (US Army retired) years of research, interviewing OSS personnel, examining documents and piecing together the results to determine the truth. Besides never finding an authentic used cover with the skull stamp, using one on the outside of an envelope would have been too obvious to employees in the German Postal System that the mail was counterfeit. You can read more about Operation Cornflakes and other philatelic propaganda items at Sgt Friedman’s informative website: <https://www.psywar.org/stamps.php>

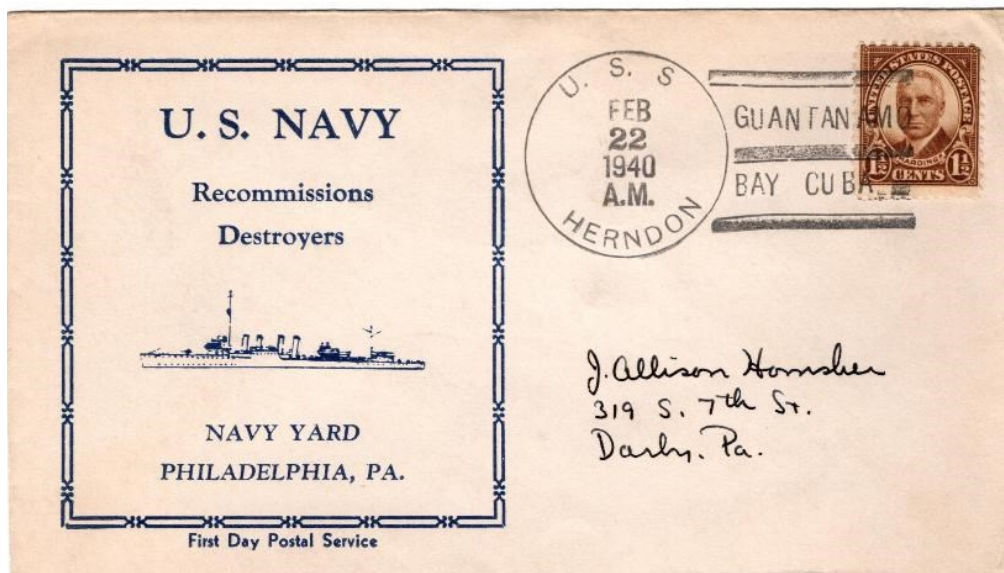


Figure 4. The skull stamps were affixed to propaganda material inside the envelope.

The "Famous Fifty" Destroyers by Michael Keil

By mid-1940 the British navy had suffered staggering naval losses to Germany and her allies. On September 2, 1940, Great Britain and the United States reached an agreement by which Britain received 50 World War One era destroyers from the U.S. Navy. These destroyers became known as the "Famous Fifty." In exchange the United States was given permission to establish naval bases at British owned territories in the Western Hemisphere. These bases were established in Newfoundland, Bermuda, Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Antigua, and British Guiana.

Of the fifty destroyers, sixteen were manned by Canadians, five by the Royal Norwegian Navy, and one by the Polish navy. Nine were transferred to the Russian navy in 1944. One destroyer, the ex-USS YARNALL (DD-143), sailed under 5 different flags during her career, the United States, Great Britain Canada, Norway, and Russia.



USS HERNDON was rechristened the HMS CHURCHILL and later as the Soviet destroyer DEATELNY. DEATELNY was sunk by the German submarine U-286 on 16 January, 1945.

This month's quiz:

How is the picture to the right philatelic related?

Find out in next month's newsletter.



Be safe, follow the recommended guidelines about the virus and we all will meet again soon. Happy Mother's Day to all you Mothers.

JMC

Czechoslovakia #582
Mother and Child

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter . Thanks to Bob B., Mike K., & Tomas G. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the June issue will be May 15th.** Happy stamping and enjoy this extra time with your collection. *Jim Mc*