

The Messenger



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

March 2020

Waldo Public Library
Gather at 1:00
Meeting Starts 2:00
Saturday, March 7th

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Meeting Attendance: 43

Treasurer: No report.

Membership: We have 1 new member, R. James Voelker.
Armen has made up new name tags for 2020.

Secretary: No report

Librarian: No report

Historian: Bob has the list of past MPS presidents from 1925. The list includes past KC postmasters and Judge Henry McElroy who was the first city manager of Kansas City and an associate of Tom Pendergast. Bob also mentioned that Randy Neal had been in the local news lately. Randy formed the first Chiefs cheerleading squad for the Chiefs before they moved to Kansas City.

First Vice-President's Report: The library is very interested in working with us in promoting a stamp collecting program that would be presented at the library. After discussion the membership seems interested in pursuing this. Volunteers will be needed. Contact Michael or Tomas to help.

All the monthly slots for programs have been filled except for March, therefore the program for next month will be an extended show and tell. Bring something to share.

Second Vice-President's Report: There is a new feature on the website, Groups IO. Members need to subscribe but this can be done on the site. It is an open forum for MPS members.

Newsletter: Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Several articles have been submitted, but more are needed.

Dec. Exhibits: Barbara reminded everyone to be thinking about exhibiting at our December event.

Old business: Date for Scott's show has not been set yet.

New board members for 2020 are Barbra Crompton, Perry Kilpatrick, and Dale Smith

New Business: Scott made a motion, and it was seconded, that the club donate \$200 to the APS program "Stamps that Teach." After discussion the motion was tabled pending more information on the program and whether the program was being utilized by any local educators.

Announcements:

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the refreshments at the monthly meetings.

Talk to Barbara if you can help out.

Catalogues for the upcoming E & D Auction are out.

The next meeting will be March 1.

The St. Louis Stamp Expo is March 27-29.

The 125th Anniversary of MPS was celebrated with cake and group pictures.

Show and Tell: Scott shared a Valentine card from 1855. Bob showed an exhibit page featuring a cover addressed to George Linn, maybe send by Linn to himself. The cachet commemorated the 1932 election and was cancelled on Election Day. Ted talked about the book *History of Great Britain in 36 Stamps*.

Program: Barbara's program was about some of the lesser known individuals featured on the Famous Americans stamp series. Very interesting history lesson—Thanks, Barbara.

What You Will Miss (if not there):

March's meeting we will have the auction and an extended *Show & Tell*. No formal presentation. Remember to keep your *Show & Tell* short otherwise you will become the main program.

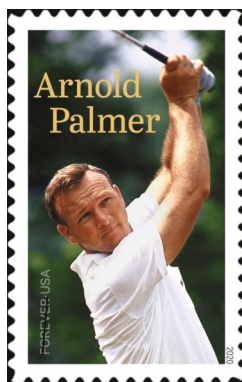
Respectively submitted by Michael Keil

Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

Two issues for March have been announced.

Arnold Palmer

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



Maine Statehood

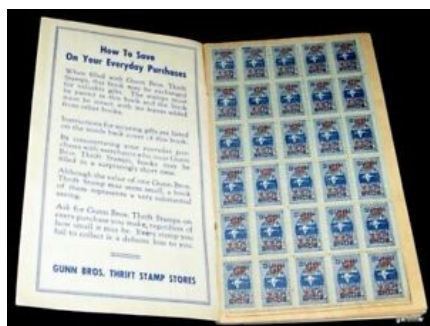
First Class, Forever rate
One Design, Pane of 20
Issue Date March 15th



After we published last month, it was discovered that the Wild Orchids issue has also been issued in coils of 3,000 & 10,000. Which is odd to me but here is the updated info with the order numbers for the strips of 25 from the caves.

Wild Orchids

First Class, Forever rate
Ten Designs, Booklet of 20
760703 Strip of 25 with plate no., \$13.75
from 10,000 coil
750403 Strip of 25 with plate no., \$13.75
from 3,000 coil
Issue Date was February 21st



Philatelic Happenings:

March opens up the weather with some philatelic possibilities:

March 27-29

St. Louis Stamp Expo

St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel
9801 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO

Answer from Last Month's Quiz:

Last month we asked, "What popular stamp was collected by millions of Americans for over a hundred years that no longer has any value as of October 2019?"

S & H Green Stamps

THE SPERRY & Hutchinson Co. sold its first Green Stamps in 1896. Merchants used them to steer customers away from using credit and to create loyalty, counting on more sales to pay for the stamps.

The programs really caught on, especially for grocery and gas purchases. By the late 1960s, nearly 80% of households in the U.S. collected stamps, exchanging them for everything from dry cleaning to funerals.

Stores backed off the stamp business in the early 1970s, softening the blow with lower prices. S&H phased out paper stamps, allowing them to be exchanged for digital greenpoints. Greenpoints continue in the



internet age, but their website greenpoints.com states paper stamps are no longer accepted as of October 2019.

Thanks to Historian Bob for bringing us back down memory lane. Trading or thrift stamps were a big deal when I was growing up. Both grandmothers and my mother were always filling up their little books to go trade them in for merchandise. There were many such companies besides Sperry & Hutchinson. Mom was more fond of Gunn Brothers Thrift Stamps because she thought they had a higher quality of merchandise. Top Value was another such company. These companies helped develop loyalty to the stores that offered the stamps. Much like reward cards of today. Except, collecting the stamps and licking them into the book was more fun. JMC

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

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

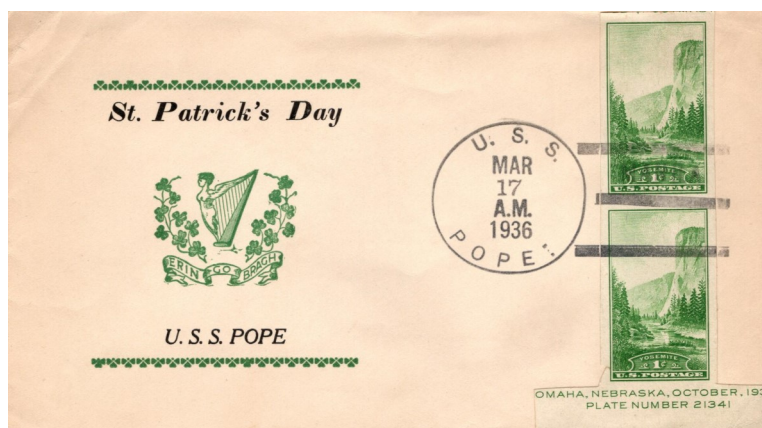
The President's Corner:

Dear MPS Colleagues –

Well, another terrific meeting! It is great to see such enthusiasm and active participation by our members. Special thanks to Barbara for bringing the cake to celebrate the anniversary of our club, and to Rodger for getting our group photos! I appreciate all of the great ideas people have shared for upcoming programming and for use of club funds. The MPS Board will be discussing options and will bring some recommendations back to the membership for approval. Many thanks to Barbara for her excellent presentation on *The Great Americans* series. It was most engaging and I learned about both some people and stamps I didn't really know. Reminder that the program for March will be an extended *Show & Tell* session. Please bring items to share and discuss, or maybe something curious from your collection that you want to learn more about. Chances are, one of our fellow MPS members might have your answer!

Best, Tomas (email: TLGINKC@yahoo.com)

Celebrate Safely This St. Pat's



Happy St. Patrick's Day from the USS POPE (DD 225)
17 March, 1936
3r (AC-TBT) William Schlechter cachet

The USS POPE survived the Battle of the Java Sea (27 Feb., 1942) but was sunk on 29 February, 1942 after her plating was damaged by a near miss from a Japanese dive bomber. The explosion caused uncontrollable flooding and the ship had to be abandoned. Only one crew member was lost. The remainder of the crew was rescued by the Japanese cruiser Ikazuchi. —*Michael Keil*



Thanks Rodger for taking the pictures of our 125th Anniversary celebration. Sorry if any one was cropped out. It was not intentional by this editor or the photographer. Great group and sorry I missed the event. AND most especially the cake!



Based on a suggestion by Rodger, we are starting a “spotlight” section on our membership. The frustration some of us have is getting to know each of our names and putting them to the face. Also what each of us collects. I know over the years members have shared with me, and I with others, items we have no interest in but had discovered someone else collected. We hope to have this feature periodically in upcoming newsletters. Fortunately, Barry had sent me an article for a newsletter that fits right into this. So thanks Barry for kicking this feature off.

Collecting and Enjoying Postage Stamps– by Barry Fitzgerald



Stamp Collecting has been an almost life-long hobby for me. Beginning around age 10 or 11, stamps became a part of my life. It corresponded to my baseball card and coin collections but unlike the two of those, Stamp Collecting is still a passion today at age 75.



When I began about 1954, many individuals collected stamps. It might not involve an album – it might just be tearing a stamp off an envelope and saving it in a jar or similar type of repository. U.S. stamps at that time cost 3¢ to mail a standard letter. Commemorative stamps were the main focus as they were larger and more interesting than the smaller “common” issues. The commemoratives honored people, places, organizations, whatever. Sending letters electronically was not even a consideration.

US #1061
Kansas Territory
“Wheat Field and Pioneer Wagon Train”

Collecting stamps helped me with history and geography, two subjects that I still very much love today. Name a country and I can probably not only tell you where it is located, but facts about it. All 50 states have been commemorated at some point on U.S. stamps and I can rattle off their capital cities. Historical events and subjects like the Olympic Games have piqued me to learn more about them.



US #U543
Pony Express Centennial Issue

My Aunt Esther encouraged me in the hobby. Although not a collector herself, she taught school in New York City for 40 years, returning to Kansas during the summer. She helped me buy my first Scott world-wide stamp catalog in 1957. The book listed every stamp issued world-wide and cost a whopping \$7. Today, there are about 10 volumes and the set costs upwards from \$700.



Australia #171a
Koala Bear, 1938

Australia issued a koala bear stamp in 1938 and it was an early goal of mine to obtain one. It wasn't expensive and I finally got one. A mint copy today catalogs for about a dollar and I have a number of them, but it remains one of my favorites. It is sad to witness the fires in Australia which threaten these creatures. Australia is one of the countries that I focus on. U.S. stamps are my main focus and general foreign through 1963. Canada, Great Britain, Japan, and Russia are other major interests.

Centralia, Kansas, where I grew up, had a population of 560 during the 1950s and early 60s. I have no idea why I started collecting stamps. It may have been because a friend was interested or perhaps “Boy's Life” was an influence. There were always stamp ads in this publication inviting scouts to send off for free stamps and the opportunity to peruse approvals and spend some money. Several adults in the town collected and they helped me with their duplicates. I asked neighbors if by any chance they had old stamps or

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letters that might be of interest to me. While going through some things at my father's newspaper office, I discovered a letter with an Indiana Territory commemorative stamp, issued in 1950, upon it. This really excited me. Discovering things like this find have intrigued me through the years and I still feel the thrill when I come upon something like that. It had no value but to a young collector like myself, it was like gold.

High School got in the way and I cut back on collecting, but I did receive the "Stamp Collecting" merit badge on my way to Eagle rank. There were now other things to spend my money on. The interest was still there thus I did not totally give it up. Janie's mother collected stamps and once I became aware of this, my interest resumed while I was a college student at KU.



**US #996
Indiana Territory**



**Red China Issue #1016
(People's Republic of China)
Circa 1969
Farm Woman**

Military service, of course, put a big dent in my collecting efforts. I went into accumulation mode. For instance, each time my naval ship visited Hong Kong (three times), I negotiated the price of a large box of stamps that a dealer had accumulated since the last time I was there. These included a few stamps from Red China, North Korea, and North Vietnam, which you could not purchase in the U.S. They were not something I collected but they were still fascinating to me, especially since I wasn't technically supposed to possess them.

Along came a working career and children, and I remained in "accumulation" mode. Working for yearbook companies allowed me to accumulate large amounts of stamps, as schools would send their yearbook pages to the company in large envelopes. Over the years, these were placed in large boxes until finally I began to soak them. It seemed like an impossible job for awhile as there was an unbelievable amount of them. Finally the job was finished, but not before my

legs and back throbbed at times.

I attended a meeting of the St. Joseph, Missouri (where we lived) Stamp Club about 15 years ago to get an idea what my collection might be worth. The meeting was interesting, I became interested in collecting again, and shelved the idea of selling the collection. I have been an avid collector ever since. Currently, I belong to three stamp clubs (St. Joseph, Kansas City, and Lawrence) as well as the American Philatelic Society.

Many countries issue large amounts of stamps and that is one reason why I stopped general foreign collecting with 1963 issues. Many stamps are issued with no intention of ever placing them into circulation. They are printed to sell to collectors only.

The United States got on the bandwagon in the late 1980s and began mass-producing stamps. Our Postal Service thought that collectors would buy these stamps and they miscalculated. Many collectors were driven from the hobby by the investment required to keep up with new stamps. Mailing a letter was no longer 3¢, an affordable sum to collectors, young and old alike. Cost reached 22¢ in 1985, 29¢ in 1991, and today is 55¢. By the end of 1947, 100 years after the first stamps were issued, the U.S. had issued about 1200 stamps. If you collect U.S. stamps today, that figure is probably at least 6 times that number, when you factor in all the different types of stamps that our country has produced.

Interest in collecting has waned but the hobby is far from dead as many naysayers will tell you. There are many collectors in Europe, Asia, Australia and the like. However, attempting to interest young people in the hobby is for the most part futile. If you mention stamp collecting to some, you might hear "what is a stamp?" If it isn't electronic, it is of no interest to them.

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Topical stamp collecting is interesting to many people that don't want to necessarily collect general world-wide or even United States issues (did I mention cost?). Topical issues focus on stamps relating to a particular subject or concept. Topics can be almost anything, from stamps with birds, trains and poets, to famous physicians and scientists, along with historical people and events on stamps, which is often a standard theme for many stamp issuing countries.

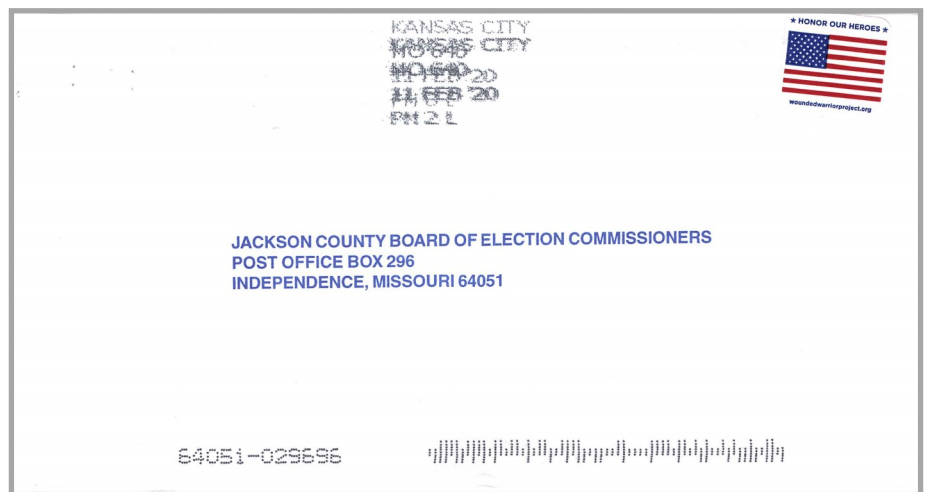


US #5394

Sesame Street, 2019 U.S. issue.

Beautiful pane of 16 stamps with the main interest of selling stamps more than issuing for postage. If this type of issue will encourage people to collect stamps, then maybe we have something.

If stamp collecting is in your blood, chances are that you will rekindle your interest in it, especially when you retire and have time to work on your collection again. It just takes one little spark to get us going again. That is the case with me. At the St. Joseph meeting that I mentioned previously, I realized just how much fun it would be to take up collecting once again and I can honestly say that I am glad that I did so.

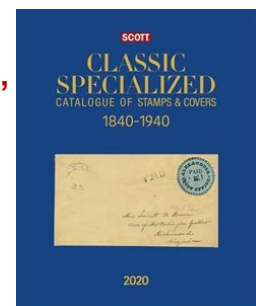


Occasionally, I get to see something that comes into our office that is a little unusual. As is the case with the above example. So what is wrong with this piece of mail? It is properly addressed. It has been canceled of sorts, in that it has a postmark but the stamp is not cancelled. Looks like it went through the USPS automation system. Our office received it in a timely manner. But if you said the problem is the stamp, you guessed correctly. It isn't a U.S. stamp at all but a "Wounded Warrior Organization" label or seal. Why did the Post Office let it go through? I'll let you know at our meeting March 7th. *JMC*

This month's quiz:

In the world of philately, what does the "Scott Number" mean and why use it?

Find out in next month's newsletter.



Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Barry F., Bob B., Mike K., Rodger Mc., & Tomas G. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the April issue will be March 15th.** Happy stamping and see you Saturday, March 7th. *Jim Mc*