

# The Messenger



April 2021

Tomas Griebing, President (tlginkc@yahoo.com)  
Michael Miklovic, 1st Vice President (stumper1972@aol.com)  
Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President (rodger\_mcreynolds.hotmail.com)  
Armen Hovsepian, Treasurer (info@armenstamp.com)  
Michael Keil, Secretary (mkeil87859@hotmail.com)  
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

From your device or phone  
**April 3rd meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting Starts 2:00**  
**Info will come to your email**

## **Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:** **Members who Logged into our Zoom meeting: 20**

**Guests:** We had one guest, Keith Jantz, who collects US Plate Blocks and some foreign. Welcome.

**Treasurer:** No activity. Armen reported there are 11 individuals who had not responded to his efforts to update the membership list. He and Tomas will reach out to these people to determine if they plan to renew their membership. Armen also announced that Garland Shepard passed away.

**Secretary:** Nothing new

**Librarian:** Nothing new

**Historian:** Nothing new to report.

**First Vice-President's Report:** Several months are still open for programs for 2021. Contact Michael if you want to volunteer. The April program will be an extended show and tell. There is no word yet on when the library will be opening again for meetings. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can start meeting in person again. There was a brief discussion about looking into the Independence library for meetings. Their rooms are much larger and have all the amenities we need. There was a feeling expressed that we are outgrowing the room we presently are using. Downside is there may be a fee required for the use of the room. Another issue is that some people may have a longer drive than at present.

**Second Vice-President's Report:** Newsletter online. There have been some sales lately. The E & D auction catalog is online and has been mailed.

**Newsletter:** No Report

**Exhibits:** The Exhibit program in December may be a virtual event this year. To do this, exhibits would need to be scanned (help with this could be available). A virtual exhibit program would have the advantage of not having a limit on the number of exhibits that could be entered.

### **Announcements:**

Tomas announced APS summer session classes are now listed online.  
ATA classes are online.  
Check out Stamp Smarter zoom meeting listings.  
Happy birthday to Dale Smith.

**Show and Tell:** No show and tell this month.

**Program:** Bob Burney's program on streetcars and trolleys was quite interesting and informative. Lots of good ideas on creating an exhibit for the club's December annual exhibit program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Keil

**Log into Zoom on Saturday,  
April 3rd  
For An Extended Show and Tell Program  
Share your philatelic finds or knowledge with the group!**

## New U.S. Issues for 2021:

One issue announced for April:

### Espresso Drinks

First Class, Forever Rate

Four Designs, Booklet

Issue Date April 9th

Print Quantity –200,000,000 stamps



## Philatelic Happenings:



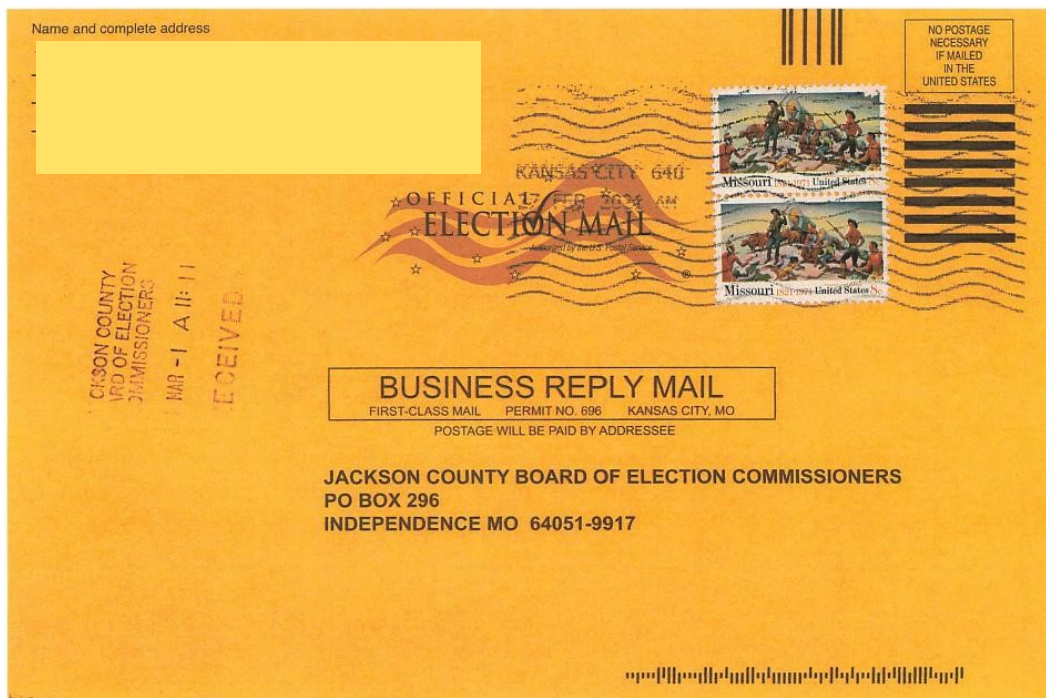
Unfortunately nothing going on for the month of April.

Good time to spend with what you already have piled up in the corner or on your desk.

## Philatelic Ramblings:

It's funny how one thing leads to another. My office received the piece below back from a voter recently. I thought it was worth copying the image to show how the public either doesn't understand about postage paid or someone told this person the stamps they have collected over a life time is junk and only good for postage. What was interesting, recently in The Examiner newspaper, was an item from their archives. The Examiner has a column every Saturday called "Days Gone By". They take excerpts from articles from a certain time period. This article was "From The Examiner during the week of March 8-13, 1971." The First Day Ceremony mentioned was the stamp on the envelope. Keep reading, more to follow.

JMc



and periodicals to supplement the collection in the library."

• "GOV. HEARNES TO ATTEND ANNIVERSARY STAMP FETE" – Gov. Warren E. Hearnes has a firm commitment that he will be present for the ceremony at the Truman Library here May 8, the first day issue of the Missouri sesquicentennial commemorative stamp. May 8 is the 87th birthday of former President Harry S. Truman. Postmaster Edgar G. Hinde Jr. said his office has already received requests for 30,000 first day cover stamps.

• "R-1 OKs BONDS TO

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website and Blog is  
[www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com)

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

## The President's Corner:

Well spring is upon us and we have been enjoying the rain and early blooms. I hope many of you have spent time these past few months working on building your collections, dusting off some items you have had boxed away, or reorganizing your stamp room. The upcoming April meeting would be a great time to share some of your particularly interesting items and your knowledge. Our program this month will be an extended Show & Tell session. Let's see how many MPS members we can get sharing their materials on our meeting. This is also a great time to start working on your entry for our annual exhibit in December. More details about that to come in the near future. Here's to spring cleaning and happy stamping!

Tomas



Poland #1987  
From the 1973 Protection of  
the Environment Series

*In Memoriam*  
*Garland R. Shepard*  
*January 15, 2021*

*Garland was an avid stamp collector who not only belonged to this organization but also was a member of the St. Joseph Stamp Club and the German Philatelic Society. He was always ready to help for our meetings. Usually arriving early from Cameron, Missouri where he lived, so that he could help set up the chairs and tables. He will be missed.*



Garland from a  
MPS group  
picture in  
Early 2020.

## ***Mail on the Electric Trolley's of Kansas City by Ian Drake:***

*The following was transcribed from a voice recording of former member Ian Drake by member Robert Burney on 9/25/2016. Ian was had an avid railroading interest which included how mail was delivered on the rails. Ian passed away in 2017 and was a beloved member of this organization.*

### **Kansas City Postal History: Moving mail on an Electric Trolley Car from the General Post Office to Union Station**

A dedicated mail car once set along a side street, behind the post office when not in service. On the approach of the evening rush hour, the trolley would pull out to begin its route from the General Post Office at 9th Street and Grand Avenue. It proceeded down 9th Street where it switched at Main Street.

The purpose of the mail car's route was to gather late postings from business houses between the General Post Office and Union Station. Two men rode on the mail car, one operating the trolley and the other emptying the collection boxes at the corners of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Streets. As the trolley proceeded along its route, one of the operators would jump off near a collection box with his mail sack, open the box and gather the mail.

Many of the business houses along that route understood the mail car's hectic job collecting last minute mail deposited in those boxes, which supported a quicker postal delivery service from those businesses to their clients and customers. The mail may have moved a little faster because of the efforts of the trolley and its crew, but traffic in that part of the city during evening rush hour was a nuisance to motorists and public transportation. You didn't want to drive behind the mail car because it made stops at every major intersection along its route. It was slow moving across the rails and the car sat motionless at each intersection until collection box pick up was complete. Once the mail sack was thrown into the trolley, it would slowly move to the next collection box.

At Truman Road, the mail car switched over at Grand Avenue in order to engage the incline at Pershing Road, where it would run down the incline just past the docks. Upon arrival at Union Station, the mail car stopped at a collection box just outside the main doors to the building's entrance. Emptying this box was the last box along the trolley's route, but it was one of the most important due to the large volume of travelers who added their post to the heap collected.

The final stop for the mail car was at the west end of Union Station where all of the mail was unloaded directly onto what was referred to as the "roundtable". This mechanical device was a circulating wooden table that led to a sorting and canceling area. When the mail was ready for its next stage of delivery, it continued along a platform, where mail tractor trailers were waiting at various angles to the roundtable. Men threw mail sacks into post office trucks, which carried their cargo to various tracks along the station's platforms, where mail sacks were loaded onto hand-trucks which were pushed out to the appropriate trains or pulled by light-duty tractors to RPO cars for various trains scheduled for departure.

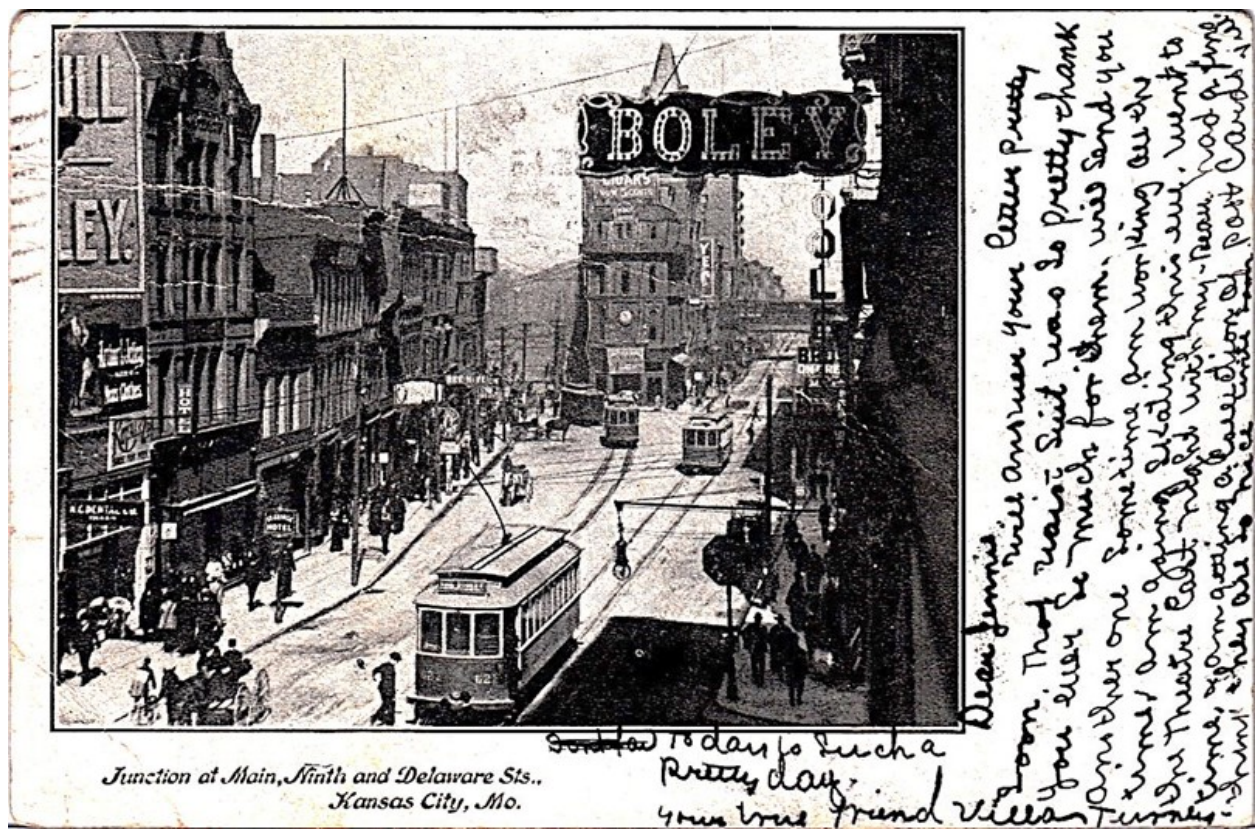
Processing mail at the roundtable saved the train RPO crew's valuable time when those trains pulled out of the station continuing to their final destinations. The "city stuff" was cancelled and the RPO operators didn't need to rework that mail using their own "hammer" (hand-canceling device). Ian Drake remembers his old friend, H. H. Hoover, who was the roundtable foreman. There is a Kansas City Roundtable circular date stamp (postmark) that appear to be very scarce. I have only seen one, owned by Howard Buhl. All of the incoming post from mail trolley cars was canceled at the roundtable. Unlike other city mail trolley systems, none of that mail was cancelled on Kansas City mail trolleys. Ian Drake and Tom Alexander have, on separate occasions, verified there were no hammer cancels associated with mail trolley cars in Kansas City.

Working on RPO cars wasn't the most pleasant job on the railroad. Operators could sit down in the car when all the mail was canceled and sorted, but it was usually a bumpy, uncomfortable journey clattering along rough rails. There was no privacy – a toilet seat sat at one end of the car with no privacy

**Continued from pg. 4**

walls. Crews spent many nights away from home and their families. Mail bags were dusty and dirty. Overall, it was tough work.

During the early years of RPO service, women thought they might like to work on the cars and bid those jobs through the railroad unions. Some women were selected, but they did not remain at those jobs for any noticeable length of time ... all due to rough conditions aboard RPO cars.



Postcard from Robert Burney's personal collection.

**Last Month's MPS History Quiz Answer:**



US #231  
Landing of Columbus

Without looking back at the top of this newsletter, do you recall the year on the MPS's triangle logo and what significant event occurred that year to arouse interest in local stamp collectors to resurrect a dormant stamp club?

Answer – In 1893 the U.S. Post Office issued what is generally considered the first series of U.S. Commemorative stamps. The 16 Columbian stamps were issued in conjunction with the popular Columbian Exhibition held in Chicago. Owning a full mint set of this issue is still considered a major accomplishment for collectors of U.S. stamps.

## Why 16¢? By Jim McKinzie

Inspiration flowed this month because of that envelope pictured and the article, on page 2. Why would someone stick two 8¢ stamps on an envelope clearly marked NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES. Due to Missouri Statutes, I can not reveal the name or address of the voter at this time but I can tell you that this voter mailed it from Jackson County and not from out of the United States. Besides 16¢ isn't going to deliver anything, from anywhere, anymore. Part of the explanation could be voters have been misinformed by groups and some in the media, that their ballot will not be delivered unless they affix postage to it. Of course that is true if it didn't have the indicia as that envelope has of "NO POSTAGE NECESSARY..." but some states don't pay the postage of returned absentee ballots. Missouri statutes require that we do. Most states pay the postage back but some don't require that the return ballots come back FIRST CLASS. Missouri statutes require that we do. So lots of confusion with the voters, which leads to frustration with Missouri election officials.

While that may be why the voter put those two Missouri Commemorative stamps on their return ballot, it may also have been that they were trying to dispose of someone's collection. How often do you hear of dealers or other stamp collectors say to someone, "Oh, that collection is not really worth much, but you could use the unused stamps for postage." While that may be true in most cases, it is not necessarily true. New discoveries are made all the time, as I will point out in the next article. Also, I have bought more than one collection at auction over the years that have contained untagged errors. These collections all had "common" stamps from the past 50 years. The untagged errors were not marked and probably the original owner/seller were unaware of what they had. So were those collections "just postage." I submit they were not.

That is not to say that the vast percentage of stamps issued in the last 75 to 100 years are not rare or valuable. Look at how many were issued of that Missouri stamp. According to records from the USPS, 161,235,000 were issued of that commemorative stamp. If only 10% were saved by collectors in some fashion, that would be 16,123,500. That's a lot of stamps. Even 1% saved is over a million. One reason that I started adding the estimated printing numbers of the new issues is to drive home that point. The new issue coming out next month, they plan to print 200,000,000. Granted there are four designs. Only 50 million of each design but 50 million is still 50 million. So let's talk about the \$4 Columbian issue. It was the 2nd to highest domination in the 16 stamps issued of those early commemoratives. According to Stamp Smarter's website, only 27,650 of this issue were printed with approximately 3,000 of them destroyed. That is why it has a high catalogue value. Very few have survived in any condition for the demand from collectors.



**US #244**  
**Isabella and Columbus**



**US #1426**  
**First Day Cover**

Also, to those of you that still collect first day covers. Did you catch how many the Independence postmaster said he already had in hand to postmark "first day" of the Missouri issue, 30,000! And he had another two months to go before May 8th. But how many of us collect because of the potential value. It is certainly not my motivating factor. It never has been. Sure it is lot's of fun when you discover something that is an error or somewhat rare but I enjoy the history, the art and what is behind the issuance of that little paper beauty.

Back to the envelope that started this discussion. Maybe the person knew the stamps were soon to be 50 years old and that it was Missouri's 200th birthday this year. Not sure if I or anyone else will know positively why the voter placed those two stamps on their return ballot envelope but I am glad they did and that I saw it. Inspiration comes from many strange or mundane places!

## Collecting Back of the Book (BOB) by Jim McKinzie

BOB or Back of the Book. I find that a strange term because of my lifelong fascination with those issues. So what does that mean. Basically anything that is not a regular or definitive issue or a first class rate commemorative. What is BOB is basically the rest, such as the Airmail, Special Delivery, Postage Due, Hunting Permit(Duck) and the Revenue stamps.

Since I became a collector, it has been my goal to complete the Airmail and Special Delivery sections. I completed the Special Delivery some time back but just completed the Airmail with the acquisition of the \$2.60 Graf Zeppelin issue. That was the last I needed. How exciting to mount that in the empty space. Certainly there are some errors that I am missing and may never own. At least there is no "hole" on the pages anymore. And while that was a thrill, I am more gratified to have the Special Delivery issues completed along with some unusual or errors.



**US #E16**  
From collection  
Postmark Oct 7, 1950  
TULSA OKLA

My fascination with the Special Delivery began as a very young collector with my first little group of stamps. In that group was the stamp pictured on the left. I still keep it in my collection of Special Delivery, even though I have also added a Mint not Hinged (MNH) copy. I keep it because of the post mark. Growing up in Tulsa gives it special meaning. Although I realize today, it might have more value if it was still on the envelope.

Last year in the October issue of the United States Stamp Specialist was an article about a new discovery. A plate flaw has been discovered on the E2 and E3 issues.



**US #E2**  
Messenger Running  
Special Delivery



**US #E3**  
Messenger Running  
Special Delivery

The E2 replaced the first Special Delivery issue on September 6, 1888. E3 was issued on January 24, 1893. No design change, same plates were used, just a color change but why? Because of the Columbian Issues. The 1c Columbian was blue and the 4c Columbian was ultramarine and the post office was concerned that clerks and sorters would confuse the two. Orange was picked probably because this color was not being used in the Columbian series. The closest was with the \$1 issue which was issued in the salmon color. And with it being a high denomination, not a risk. The E3 is considered by many as the "Columbian" issue of the Special Delivery stamps.

According to Stephen Rose, the author of the Specialist article, there is a consistent plate flaw to be found on both issues plus on the proofs. There were only two plates used on both issues. Plate number 552 and 73. The flaw appears to be found on plate number 73 at position 46L. The flaw has not been found on plate 552. It has also been found on a cardboard plate proof.



**US #241**  
Isabella Pledging Jewels



**US #E3  
With plate flaw**

The flaw is a gouge probably from an errant engraving tool. It runs from the "S" in POST running through the fourth pearl towards the right of the "N" in TEN. It is consistent according to the author and I would concur. Because as soon as I finished reading the article I started looking. I searched hipstamp, ebay, dealers and at shows. Nothing until recently I saw on hipstamp an E3. Eureka! At last!!! Here was an E3 with the plate flaw in the 1¢ auction. When I found it, it was up to a big whopping \$7.15. It was used and it was not very well centered. But I didn't care. The used catalogue value for this issue is around \$50 for very fine. I put in a bid of \$25.50. I had the bid for the next day or so. It started creeping up, then boom I lost it. It was at \$26.75. So I went up again to \$50 something. It was closing

that night. So I watched that last hour. I had it, then I didn't. Put in another bid with 3 minutes left of \$75.50. Boom, I had it. Till I didn't. Someone out bid me at the last second. Darn it!!



Did this deter me. NO. I started looking again. A couple of days later, there was another E3 with the flaw, this time MH. Still not centered great but actually better than the used copy that I lost in the bid. This was on ebay with a price and not in an auction. I bought it. Paid less than what I was willing to pay for the other one, even with the shipping. The image above is my copy. I have enlarged that area so that you can see the flaw. To have

**Above magnification of the flaw  
and to the right a stamp without  
the flaw on the E3**

found and now own a copy of a recently discovered variety of a group of stamps that you have coveted since a young boy is exciting. It goes to show that even after 128 years, new varieties can be discovered. Are there errors or varieties lurking about in your collection or in that "junk" collection you turned down? Look closer, you never know what you might find. I am still looking for the E2 with the plate flaw. Let me know if you find one in your collection and want to sell it. Also, I would recommend if you enjoy this kind of information on U.S. stamps, join the United States Stamp Society so that you can enjoy the specialized research of their members.



*In a future newsletter I will discuss other varieties of the U.S. Special Delivery Stamps. Some of which I have in my collection. By the way, what do you specialize in that you could write about for a future newsletters?*



## Philatelic or Word Quiz

In the article from The Examiner newspaper on page 2, it mentioned the word “fete”. What is the meaning and origin of the word.

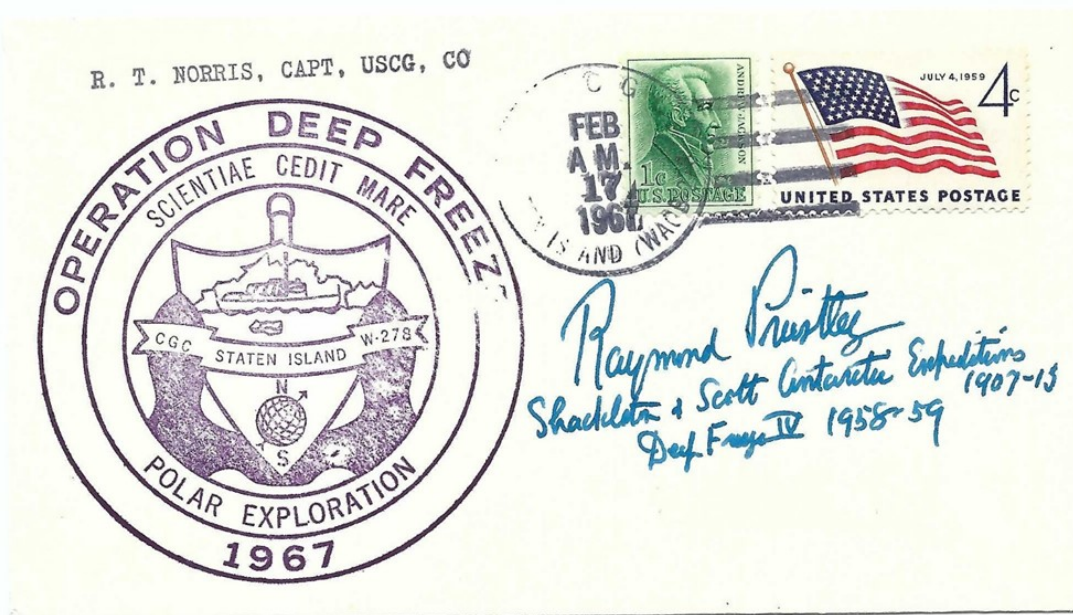
*Find out in next month's newsletter.*

## They Were Also There by Michael Keil

Many people know the names of most of the great polar explorers—Perry, Scott, Shackleton, Byrd, and others—but these men were not alone on their expeditions. There were dozens of other, lesser-known individuals, who were there as well. In the coming months I will introduce you to some of these unsung heroes of Polar exploration by sharing some items from my collection.

We will start with Raymond Priestly. Priestly was born in England in 1886. He studied geology (1905-07) before joining Ernest Shackleton's *Nimrod* Expedition to Antarctica (1907-09) as a geologist. He returned to Antarctica in 1910 as a member of Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated *Terra Nova* Expedition (1910-13) during which Scott and five others died. Priestly was one of the six who survived of the expedition. With the outbreak of World War I, Priestly joined the Royal Engineers, serving for the duration of the war and was awarded the Military Cross. After the war he returned to school, earning his degree from Cambridge in 1920. He served in both academic and governmental administrative positions until his retirement in 1952. He was knighted in 1949 and from 1955-58 he was the deputy director of the British Antarctic Survey.

Priestly returned to Antarctica in 1956 and again in 1958-59. He was president of the Royal Geographical Society from 1961-63 and the United Kingdom's Exchange Observer with Operation Deep Freeze during that same period. He passed away at age 87 in 1974.



Operation Deep Freeze cover from the USCGC *Staten Island* (WAGB-278), cancelled February 17, 1967. Autographed by Raymond Priestly.

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