

The Messenger



February 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
February 6th 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: 21

Treasurer: \$8,218.45 balance on Dec. 31, 2020. Revenue for 2020 was \$1195.53. Expenses were \$633.10.

Secretary: Nothing new

Librarian: Nothing new

Historian: Nothing new to report.

First Vice-President's Report: Please vote for your favorite program of 2020 by Jan. 29, 2021. Winner will be announced at the Feb. meeting. Programs are lined up for the next two months. Contact Michael if you are interested in presenting a program sometime in 2021.

Second Vice-President's Report: Working on additional filters for the online marketplace. Currently have 464 listings.

Newsletter: Newsletter expenses for 2020 were minimal. Jim thanked everyone for their submissions for the past year and encouraged members to continue submitting articles for the upcoming year.

Announcements:

Tomas announced that the MPS meetings are now listed with the APS virtual club meetings. Please mail your membership forms to Armin so he can get the updated membership directory completed and sent out.

Show and Tell:

Neal showed a "curiosity" he couldn't identify.
Armin had a "Happy 2021" banner he made of Swiss stamps.
Bob Baltzell inquired if the 2001 Fireman stamps were valid first-class postage. They are a semi-postal but not a forever stamp. They may be valid.

Program: Mike's program was "The Women of Antarctica." A good discussion followed.

The minuets for this month may be incomplete due to some connectivity issues I was having with my computer.

Respectfully submitted
Michael Keil

**Log into Zoom on Saturday,
February 6th
For
Neil Becker's presentation,
"Zeppelins on Stamps"**

New U.S. Issues for 2021:

USPS has been slow in getting out information on new issues. Late announcements, the first two listed below.



Castillo de San Marcos
 Priority Mail-\$7.95
 One Design, Pane of 4
 Plus Priority Mail Envelope
 Envelope available in 5, 10
 or 25 packs.
 Issue Date January 24th
 Print Quantity -5,500,000
 stamps, envelope not
 announced.



Lunar New Year: Ox
 First Class Forever
 One Design, Pane of 20
 Issue Date February 2nd
 Print Quantity-
 4,000,000 stamps



Chien-Shiung Wu
 First Class Forever
 One Design, Pane of 20
 Issue Date February 11th
 Print Quantity-
 18,000,000 stamps

Garden Beauty
 First Class Forever
 Ten Designs, Booklet of 20
 Issue Date February 23rd
 Print Quantity-
 600,000,000 stamps

Philatelic Happenings:

According to the Events Calendar on the APS website, the following is tentatively scheduled:

LINPEX
 Sunday-February 28th, 9am to 4pm
 College View Adventist Church
 4801 Prescott Ave
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68506
<https://www.lincolnstampclub.org/events/>

Check their website before heading to Lincoln. Show is conditional based on current health directives.

This was announced last month but not all information was available at our newsletter publishing deadline.

August Wilson
 Forever First Class
 One Design, Pane of 20
 Issue Date January 28th
 Print Quantity-
 45,000,000 stamps



**The Midwest Philatelic Society Website and Blog is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com
 Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.**

Philatelic Ramblings:

I am ever so thankful to our members during club meeting for planting philatelic seeds in my head. Those seeds sprout into articles many times. There were a couple of show-n-tells that peaked my interest. One became a least one full fledged article that you will find on pgs. 5-6. The other seed that grew was from Neil Becker. Neil was wondering how many received from Bernie of Main Street Philatelics in Branson, his mailer. Neil was trying to figure out how it could have been mailed without additional postage. I believe someone on the Kansas side of the line said theirs came with postage due. After much discussion, I said I would call Bernie and ask him. So I did and here is his answer:



Bernie is a cachet maker registered with the USPS. He designs and prints the postcard, puts the stamp on, addresses it and sends to the Fulfillment center (the caves) to postmark, package and mail. Because it is letter size and packaged by USPS, it only needs the current first class rate. So the piece should *not* arrive postage due. He sends these out to customers to notify of upcoming shows he will be attending or changes in his business. He also gives

them out as thank you's for doing business with him. I have quite a few of these from doing business with him over the years and have always enjoyed them. He was appreciative of the fact that several of us were talking about his mailer. Having been in retail myself for many years, it is good to know when a customer notices your advertising efforts. We also talked about his decision to close the shop in downtown Branson but he is now doing the business out of his home. If planning a trip to Branson, give him a call to set up an appointment. He looks forward to seeing us.

JMc

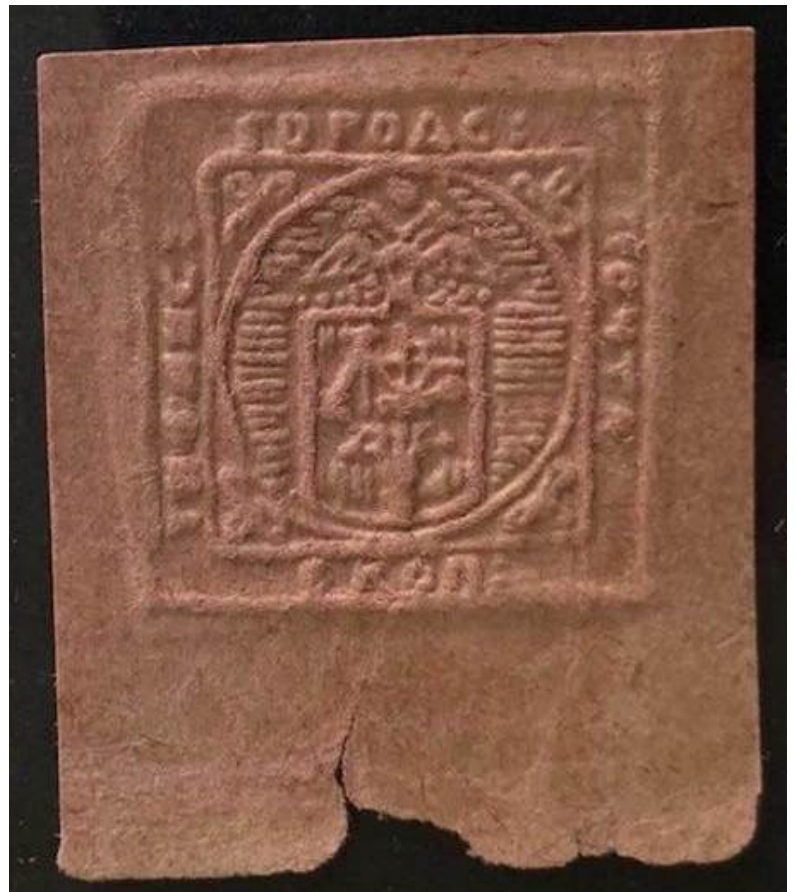
Last Month's Quiz Answer:

Can you identify what the item on the right is and from what country?

The answer that has been given is it is an embossed letter stamp from Tiflis, 1857. If genuine it is an extreme rarity.

And where is Tiflis? Tiflis was part of the Caucasus Viceroyalty of the Russian Empire. Tiflis is present day Tbilisi, capital of Georgia.

Very interesting Armen. We hope you find it to be the real thing!



Steel Wheels Along Iron Rails

Narrow Gauge Railways

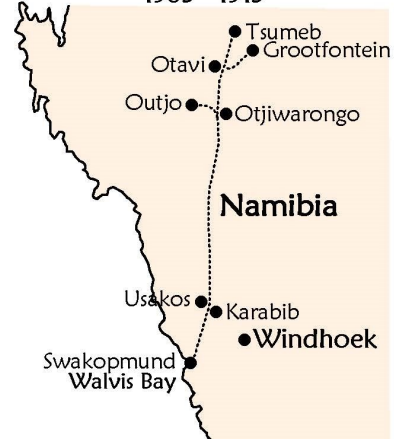
Namibia's Otavi Mining and Railway Company (OMEG)

The OMEG built a 600 mm (1 ft 11 5/8 in) narrow gauge railway extending 352 miles from Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast to the mines of Tsumeb. The railway extracted gem diamonds, uranium, gold, silver and base metals (copper, silver, lead, and zinc) from the earth. Construction began in 1903 and reached Tsumeb three years later. The first 140 miles required 110 steel bridges to cross deeply eroded gullies in sparsely vegetated arid terrain. Most were deck plate girder bridges. The railway, known as the *Otavibahn*, was the longest 600 mm (1 ft 11 5/8 in) gauge railway in the world at its time of construction.

Delays resulted from labor shortages and military operations. A 56.5 mile branch was completed in 1908 from Otavi to mines near Grootfontein.

During World War I, German troops moved inland by the time South African troops reached Swakopmund in January, 1915. German forces destroyed the railroad as they retreated, and South African forces reconstructed a 1,067 mm (3 ft 6 in) narrow gauge line over the route to Karabib in 1915. German troops surrendered following defeat at Otavi in July, 1915. Service was re-established over the remaining 600 mm (1 ft 11 5/8 in) narrow gauge line from the railway shops at Usakos with freight transfer facilities at Karabib.

Narrow Gauge Railways of Namibia
1903 - 1915



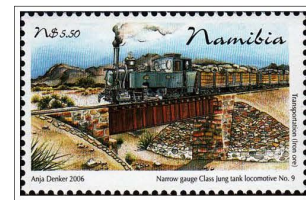
Issued 9 August 2006, Lithographed, Perf. 14 3/4 x 14



Construction of OMEG railway line



Henschel Class NG15 locomotive No. 41



Narrow Gauge Class Arnold Jung tank locomotive No. 9 with high-side gondolas

The first locomotives designed for regular service were fifteen 22-ton (21.7-long-ton; 24.3-short-ton) 0-6-2T built by Arnold Jung. Henschel & Sohn built twelve locomotives similar to Jung's design and three 0-6-0T tank locomotives. Twenty 8-wheel auxiliary tenders carrying 8 cubic meters of water and 3.5 tones (3.4 long tons; 3.9 short tons) of coal were built to enable tank locomotives to complete longer runs. Henschel & Sohn built three HD class 2-8-2 in 1912 with separate 8-wheel tenders for long-distance running. These weighed 59 tons (58 long tons; 65 short tons) (including the 26-ton (25.6-long-ton; 28.7-short-ton) tender) and remained in service for 50 years as the 2-8-2 type became standard for the railway.

By 1913, train service included 4 express trains, 14 mixed trains, and 29 freight trains each week. Express and mixed trains included a baggage car, a car for African passengers, and a coach for first and second class passengers. The passenger cars carried concrete ballast in a depressed center section to minimize the possibility of wind tipping a lightly loaded car off the rails. Express trains stopped only at designated stations, but other trains stopped at intermediate points when transport was required. Equipment included: 96 low-side ore gondolas, 55 high-side gondolas, 20 limestone gondolas, 20 boxcars, 12 tank cars, 4 stock cars, 3 passenger coaches, an executive business car with a kitchen, a bathroom, and an office convertible to a bedroom at night. There were also some self-powered steam rail cars with a coal bunker, a mail compartment, 2 compartments for Europeans, and 4 for Africans.

Stamp album page created by Viking Exhibition Pages. Personal collection of Robert T. Burney aka Andrew M. McIntosh

Non-Denominated Postage of the U.S. by Jim McKinzie

Bob Baltzell's Show-N-Tell of the US Semi-Postal, Heroes of 2001 started a good discussion but was not quite accurate or complete. Hopefully this will help. If you go to this link on the USPS website, you will discover what is not considered a forever stamp. Basically unless it says "Forever" on the stamp it is considered the rate at the time it was issued. So the easiest way to know what rate non-demoninated postage is would be to go by a chart. Fortunately there are several good charts out there. USPS has one:



**United States #B2
Heroes of 2001**

<https://pe.usps.com/text/qsg300/Q604a.htm#ep1019296>

The following link is probably the best one I have ever run across:

<https://alphabetilately.org/G2.html>

So Bob was asking about the stamp pictured at the left. What is its denomination or originally postal rate? When originally issued the first class postage rate was 34¢. When it was taken off sale, the rate was 37¢. So it was selling at that rate when it went off sale and is "frozen" at that rate. If you stick it on your letter today you will have to add 18¢ more to the letter to meet the 55¢ first class rate. This stamp sold for 45¢. 11¢ above the first class rate. The

balance going to "provide assistance to the families of the emergency relief personnel killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty in connection with terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001". When the rate went up, the selling price stayed the same. Less funds went to the families. The stamp was only authorized for sale until December 31st, 2004. If you have some of these that you plan to use for postage that you bought when it first went on sale, you have done well. You have saved 21¢. Not a bad return for your investment, in fact really good return. The chart is invaluable to understand what the current rate is for all the semipostals. It also helps for the letter denominated stamps.



**First "letter"
denominated
stamp issued by
the USPS
#1735**

There is A thru H of stamps with a letter denomination. The USPS has always made attempts to increase the postage rate but they must have Congressional approval. Many times they have needed to go ahead and print more stamps in anticipation of the approval but Congress can scale back the request. Perhaps not giving the post office the full requested increase. By using a stamp with the letter designation, they could go ahead and print and when given the final approval of the increase, the post office had the stamps ready to go. Before they started using the letters, two Christmas stamps were issued with no domination. They are pictured at



**#1579 & 1580 United States
First Non-Denominated Postage
Stamps Issued by the U.S.**

the right. The USPS wanted to raise the rate of first class postage before the Christmas mailing season. The congressional approval was very slow that year. The stamps needed to be printed and distributed to the post offices around the country for them to be available during the Christmas mailing season. So they left off

Continued from pg. 5:

any denomination. The rate that year was 10¢. The approval for the increase was finally given but would not go into effect until December 31st, 1975. So the rate stayed the same through the Christmas season and those two issues sold for 10¢.

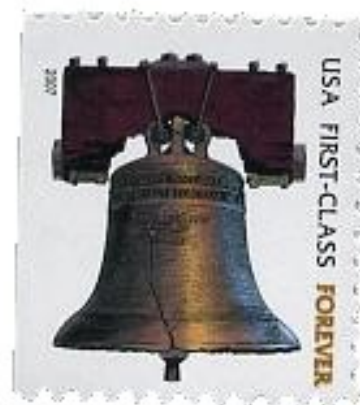


**US #3452
Statue of Liberty
First Class Rate 34¢**

**US #3965
Lady Liberty & US Flag
First Class Rate 39¢**

Eventually the USPS decided it should quit the letter designations and went to printing "First Class". While some collectors and the public think these are "Forever", they are not. They are still good postage but at the rate they were issued for.

2007 brought in the first "Forever" stamp by the USPS. I truly believe, rate changes were the motivating factor behind the Forever stamps. Once the USPS has approval, they can immediately make the rate increase



**US #4125
"Forever" Liberty Bell
Original Sale Price 41¢
Still valid at current First
Class postage rate**

go into effect without printing new stamps. Every Forever stamp immediately goes to the new first class rate. Also they have made the calculation that most users are not going to buy and hoard Forever stamps. For the most part that has held true. The mountain of mail I see through my office has a Forever stamp on it that was bought at the current price.

So having the chart on hand is important to know what additional postage you may need to add to that "old" non-dominated stamp. Especially on the semi-postals. It is also helpful to determine the non-denominated that are not valid postage for the regular consumer. We will hold that discussion for a later time. There is much to learn and to know about this fascinating topic of the non-denominated stamps of the USPS.

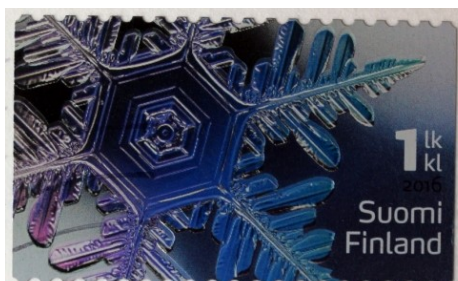
Thanks again for our meetings Show-N-Tell. You give me inspiration for articles to fill out this newsletter. Keep it up!!

Another useful website:

[Non-Denominated U.S. Stamps \(kenmorestamp.com\)](http://kenmorestamp.com)

I have bookmarked them all!

As the Snow Flies:



**Finland #1506
Snowflake Foil Stamp
January 22, 2016**



**Netherlands
Postbleed Personalized
Stamp 2009**



**Canada #2849
Kluane National Park
July 3, 2015**

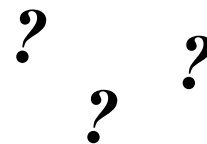
Stamp Tip:

Covid has brought on unforeseen challenges in our hobby. Virtual meetings and no shows to name a couple. For me it has brought to the front a skin problem. Dry and cracked hands. How did this become a problem? Because I have been cooking and cleaning much more than in years past. Home too much and if I am going to bring home food that I have to heat back up, I might as well just cook dinner. The scalding water that I was taught to use to wash dishes is not very friendly to the hands in the winter months especially. So why is this a challenge for our hobby? I want to put lotion or skin cream on my hands to soothe and restore them but want to head up to the office to “play” with my stamps after dinner. That is where the stamp tip comes in. Suck it up buddy. Leave the lotion off until after you have finished with the stamps for the day. Even lotions or hand creams that don't seem greasy can leave a residue on your stamps, album pages, mounts, etc. While you're at it, leave the bag of potato chips, especially the new Cheetos Popcorn, in the kitchen. You want clean, dry, pristine hands to work this hobby of ours. Any foreign substance can destroy those delicate pieces of paper we so dearly love. Now, I know somebody is going to say, “Why don't you wear rubber gloves when washing those dishes?” No thanks, isn't a mask enough!



This Month's Quiz:

What is an Omnibus issue and what is considered the first?



Find out in next month's newsletter.

Exhibitors Resource:

There is an interesting website that looks to be a great resource for stamp exhibitors. Steve Zwilling has recently designed a website that has tips, resources and links to exhibits. If you are into exhibiting or have been thinking about it, this would be a site to check out. Even if you don't have an interest in exhibiting, you can learn a lot by looking at these award winning philatelic exhibits, from India to the Canal Zone. Here is the web address: <https://exhibitorspress.com/>

The President's Corner:

Well it is now 2021! They say hindsight is 2020, and I am sure most all of us are glad that year is now in the past. Here's looking forward to a brighter future ahead, and hopefully a time when we can gather again in person. The New Year is also traditionally a time for resolutions and new outlooks. Do you have some resolutions related to philately or your specific collections? We would love to hear about them. Maybe you can share during our upcoming February meeting or as a future piece in the MPS newsletter. Happy stamping everyone!

Tomas

Did You Say Futbol?:

Oh, you meant FOOTBALL, sorry!
Never mind!

GO CHIEFS



**Cuba #2469
FIFA World Cup
in Spain
1982**

The Polar Star by Michael Keil

The 44-year-old U. S. Coast Guard Cutter *Polar Star* (WAGB-10) is currently deployed to Antarctica for her 25th Operation Deep-freeze. Only the USCGC *Glacier* completed more ODF tours (28 years, beginning in 1955). *Polar Star* is the only heavy ice-breaker in the U. S. fleet, meaning she is the only vessel capable of clearing a path through the ice to McMurdo Station so that other ships can deliver food, fuel, and personnel to the station. *Polar Star's* sister ship, the USCGC *Polar Sea* (WAGB-11) is no longer in service and is being cannibalized to provide parts and equipment to keep *Polar Star* operational.

Congress has approved funding for a new generation of Coast Guard Cutters that will have increased defense and law enforcement capabilities, whether any of these will have ice-strengthened hulls to operate in the Antarctic is unclear at this time. Other existing icebreakers do not have the same capabilities as *Polar Star*. In contrast, Russia currently has over 50 icebreakers with the capability to operate in Antarctic-like ice conditions, China has 4, and even India is working on developing a ship capably of operating in the McMurdo ice.

ANTARCTIC TREATY

30th ANNIVERSARY



First Day of Issue
50 cent Air Mail



Commanding Officer
USCGC POLAR STAR (WAGB-10)
PLEASY POST OFFICE
SEATTLE WA 98199-3120

CAPTAIN W. M. MONCRIEF
COMMANDING OFFICER



"BACK TO BACK DEEPFREEZES
... THAT'S COOL." HOVE TO AWAITING FUEL IN
DEEPFREEZE '86 MCMURDO SOUND
10TH ANNIVERSARY IN COMMISSION TODAY



USCGC GLACIER (WAGB 4)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96866



William Stahl
255 Huntington Bay Road
Huntington, N. Y. 11743

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