

The Messenger



November 2022

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)

Next Meeting
In Person or by Zoom
SUNDAY, November 13th
See Details Inside

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the October meeting:

Members present or on Zoom: 33 members

Treasurer: No report

Secretary: Nothing to report

Librarian: If you currently have any books from the library checked out, please contact Neil.

Historian: no report.

First Vice-President's Report: The November meeting will be on Sunday, November 13 from 1-5. Asking members to begin thinking about doing a program for next year (2023).

Second Vice-President's Report: Nothing to report

Newsletter: No word yet on the Star Award.

Exhibits: Nothing to report.

Old Business: The nominating committee announced the candidates for 2023 offices. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Elections are in December.

New Business: No new business

Announcements: Thanks to Barbara and everyone else who helped with the meal today.

Show and Tell: H. N. Perfs were for Hideki Nagano, cachet artist. Small Great Britain cover.

Program: Program on penguins by Mike Keil.

Respectively submitted by,

Michael Keil



**Meet in person or log into Zoom on
Sunday, November 13th for
U.S. Pharmacy Stamp
Presented by Dale Smith**

The President's Corner:

Well, we are closing in on the end of the year. It's that time to be thinking of holidays and gathering with family and friends. Also a good time to share our interest in stamp collecting with others. How do you share your hobbies? Maybe this includes exhibiting, letting others examine or view your binders of stamps, or writing about your specialty. As we near Thanksgiving, I want to express my appreciation for all of you and everything everyone brings to MPS each month and throughout the year. May you all have a relaxing holiday season.

Happy stamping! Tomas

Philatelic Ramblings:

With the announcement of the 2023 US Stamp program, I would say nothing else will be issued this year. The Hanukkah stamp issued on October 20th looks like the end of new issues this year. If my count is right, 35 new issues came out this year. Wow! With most issues being whatever the current first class rate is and many issues multiple designs on the pane or roll, it is no wonder it is hard to get younger people interested in collecting new issues. It is much more expensive to collect today than when I started. I am even rethinking whether the costs involved in collecting new issues is worth it. It is especially hard when the subjects and design of the new issues are not interesting or particularly pretty stamps.



Hanukkah 2022

While I first started picking up new issues in 1966, the first full year of collecting new issues was 1967. Stamps were 5c and only thirteen commemoratives came out that year. And only one was a "multiple" issue. That was the "Accomplishments in Space" issue. It is still one of my all time favorites in my collection. I still remember picking it up at the downtown Tulsa post office. The pair and Plate Block of 4. Yes, the plate block still was just four stamps. So for a total of 30c I had the plate block and the "singles" for my albums. Add another 10c plus the cost of first day cover envelope and the stamp to send it to be cancelled at the issuing post office and my collection was complete. Just one issue this year, the National Marine Sanctuaries sheet of 16, cost more than I spent in the whole year of 1967. And because I am an idiot, I still collect plate blocks, that means two of those sheets at the cost of \$9.60 each. So I am thinking too many issues at too high of a cost. I quit collecting first day covers years ago because of the cost and space they take up. That same sheet of 16 will cost \$10.08 starting

Continued on pg. 3

NOTICE: DIFFERENT DAY, WEEKEND & TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

MPS Meeting Schedule for Sunday, November 13th
Meeting is to be held at Johnson County Central Resource Library
9875 W. 87th St.
Overland Park, KS 66212

We will not be able to get in until 1pm this meeting.

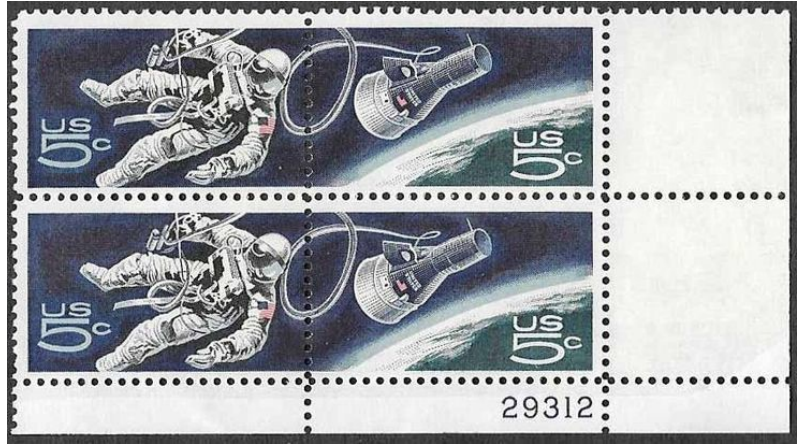
1pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view, dealers time.

2pm— 5pm Business meeting, show-n-tell and program with Auction to follow.

We must be out by 5pm, so be ready to bid, pay with cash and pickup your auction lots.

January 22nd if the rate new rate is approved. I don't even want to add up what I have spent on new issues this year. I know it is a small fortune.

So which issue is a better design? Which tells the better story? The issue from 1967 shows a U. S. astronaut floating in space and the Gemini Space Capsule. While the pane below from this year has some beautiful photographs of marine life, what is the story? A single stamp from that pane on an envelope doesn't tell the receiver of that letter anything. The astronaut or the capsule alone on an envelope reminds us of an achievement that the U.S. and mankind made in the sixties. To me that is the problem with the stamp program of recent years.

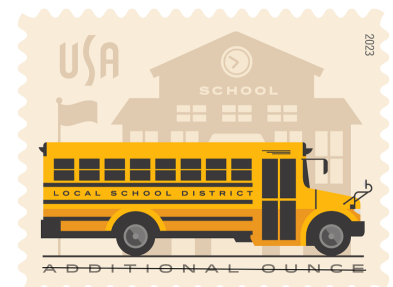
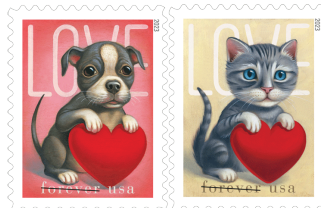
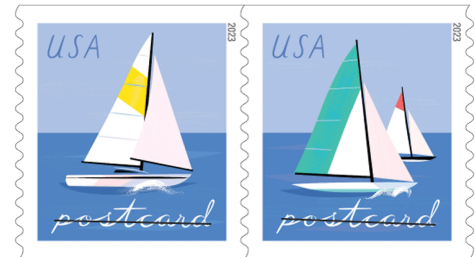


US #1331-1332
Accomplishments in Space

It does not tell the American story. It doesn't celebrate the American story. The rest of the images on this page are from the 2023 stamp program. How are they telling the story of this country? And where is the beauty or originality in telling that story? I don't see it. *JMc*



National Marine Sanctuaries
Scott #5713



Philatelic Happenings:

The closet you will get to spending any money on your hobby in person this month is Chicago, with the exception of our meeting on November 13th.

CHICAGOPEX 2022 Set for Nov. 18-20

CHICAGO, Sept. 5, 2022 - Chicago Philatelic Society (CPS) will present its annual philatelic exhibition, CHICAGOPEX, Nov. 18, 19 and 20, 2022, at the [Westin Chicago Northwest](#), 400 Park Blvd., Itasca, Ill. 60413.

For the second time, this year's show is hosting AmeriStamp Expo in partnership with the [American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors](#). This event includes the Single Frame Champion of Champions competition, which highlights the top single frame exhibits from World Series of Philately shows around the United States held during the prior year. AmeriStamp Expo also features the annual AAPE Single Frame Team competition.

Sponsored by AAPE and Women Exhibitors, philatelic exhibiting expert Liz Hisey is presenting a free two-day activity entitled "You Be the Judge," where participants learn about philatelic judging. On Friday, the hour-long session will go over judging fundamentals, including treatment and importance as well as the scoresheet. Participants will have an opportunity to judge actual exhibits, and on Saturday, there will be a two-hour session where they get to compare their findings with those of the show's jury. The activity is open to exhibitors and non-exhibitors alike, and there is a limit of 10 participants. Those interested should email Liz at lizhisey@gmail.com.

In addition, three specialty societies plan to convene at CHICAGOPEX: [Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society – International](#), the [Rossica Society for Russian Philately](#) and the [Bermuda Collectors Society](#).

CPS expects more than 280 frames of philatelic material to be on display at this World Series of Philately event – it is the largest in the Midwest. 2022 marks the 56th anniversary of the show's philatelic literature competition, with books and other materials on display. The competition also accepts digital entries.

The show bourse is expected to feature at least 70 dealers from the United States and Europe, offering a vast array of material to interest everyone from the beginning collector to the advanced collector and exhibitor. The U.S. Postal Service and the U.N. Postal Administration will also attend.

The show includes a youth / beginners' booth, as well as club meetings for the Chicago Philatelic Society, Germany Philatelic Society Chapter #5, the Illinois Postal History Society and the convening societies. All meetings and talks during the show are free and open to the public. The schedule will be posted to the website ahead of the show.

Saturday night will feature a catered awards banquet. Tickets must be purchased in advance; dress is business casual. Please see the [CHICAGOPEX website](#) for details.

Admission and parking are free. Show hours are: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees are asked to contact the [hotel](#) (phone: 630-773-4000) to make reservations and to mention CHICAGOPEX for the special room rate.

About Chicago Philatelic Society (CPS):

Organized Oct. 8, 1886 as a continuation of the Chicago Stamp Collectors Union, which was organized in Dec. 1884. CPS is chapter no. 1 of the [American Philatelic Society](#) and one of two organizations with the longest uninterrupted service to philately in the United States.

Follow CPS on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/chicagopex>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Chicagopex>

For more information, contact: Melanie Rogers, Publicity Chair, CPS, chicagopex@gmail.com; 312-593-7909

Club Exhibiting December:

Have you ever considered exhibiting? Are you intimidated by all the exhibits at big shows? You don't have to be intimidated by our club exhibit. It was designed by the late Bob Burney to be more relaxed and to be open to all. No matter your expertise or what you collect. We all have a story to tell about what and why we collect. So why not tell yours. Exhibiting chair Barbara Crompton is looking for your exhibit for the December club exhibition. Get the application form off the MPS website and jump into a new world of fun.

DEAD COUNTRIES: (Stamp-issuing countries that no longer exist) by Neil Becker

#3 Manchukuo

In 1931 as part of a program of continuing expansion into mainland Asia, Japan invaded Manchuria and established the Manchu State, called Manchukuo with a land area nearly twice the size of the state of Texas. It emerged as an independent state in 1932, but was and remained, in reality, a puppet government to Japan up to 1945.



Pagoda at Liaoyang
Scott # 41
1934

Scott #27
1932

Over the next thirteen years Manchukuo issued 168 stamps including 4 airmails. Only two of those carry a catalogue value over \$100. The first stamps in 1932 were 18 definitives. The top panel of each stamp contained five Chinese characters reading "Manchu State Postal Administration." In 1934 the words in the panels were changed to say "Manchu Empire Postal Administration" using six characters.



Orchid Crest
Scott #105

New definitive designs were introduced in 1935-36. In 1937 the 2f, 4f and 12f were surcharged with four different surcharged, primarily to pay postage to China. Over twenty commemorative issues were also released between 1935 and 1945.

With the surrender of Japan in 1945, Manchukuo was dissolved and the territory reverted back to China.

The \$10,000 Letter- by Andrea Smith

It is always amazing what one can find in a box of stamps and ephemera that are purchased from a collector or an Auction.

Sifting through several albums, a short page titled "Phantom Philately" caught my eye. There were 3 stamps with trains on them, mounted neatly on the page. Upon closer examination, I noticed that only one of the stamps was a real U.S. Stamp.



Continued on pg. 6

A paragraph below the stamps explained “these stamps were designed by the motion picture industry for the film “The Letter” produced in 1929, to simulate a stamp for key shots. They somehow got used in the regular US. Mail, and an investigation led to the confiscation of the stamps and plates. It was contended it bore too close a resemblance to the 5 cent Parcel Post of 1912.”



Intrigued, I discovered that “The Letter” was originally a 1929 Black and white silent movie based on the story by William Somerset Maugham. It tells the story of a married woman who kills her lover out of jealousy and is brought to trial.

It was the first full sound feature movie shot at Astoria Studios in Queens, N.Y, but produced by Paramount Pictures. The starring role of Leslie Crosbie was originally played by Jeanne Eagels. The 1940 Warner Brother’s remake was played by Bette Davis, who received an Oscar for her role.

It seems that Leslie Crosbie knew her lover was seeing another woman, so she wrote a letter to him begging him to please come see her. Which he did, but when he told her he wasn’t in love with her any more she shot him.

Her defense in the trial was that she hadn’t seen him in months, and he showed up unexpectedly – she claimed she shot him as a prowler. So, what about the \$10,000 letter? The new girlfriend had the letter and asked for \$10,000 to destroy the evidence. Leslie Crosbie was acquitted.

Great story, but I don’t think these stamps were necessarily the ones used in this movie.

Phantom Philately is the collecting of fake or bogus stamps, and the name comes from author Fred J. Melville’s book, **Phantom Philately**. Printed in 1923, the book is a comprehensive A-Z of cinderella, bogus and fantasy issues.

Two of the stamps pictured above are bogus, and the real U.S. stamp was printed in 1913, one of a set of 12 Partial Post stamps. (Scott# Q5).

In the 1940’s, there were counterfeiting laws against showing any genuine U.S. postage in movies. But to get around this law a stamp collector by the name of William O’Hara – a tax accountant for the movie studio (who should have known better) suggested they use labels that look like stamps. They were produced in three different colors – red, green, and blue, and features a train and the words “Postage/Mail Train/3 Cents 3.”



Supposedly it was first utilized on an envelope in the movie “A Letter for Evie”, a 1946 romantic comedy released by MGM. The letter was a key part of the plot.

They were probably successfully used in many movies. Unfortunately, William O’Hara thought it was such a great idea, he sent them to his friends. He wrote an article for a stamp journal and offered a free set to anyone who wanted them. In fact, he mailed out 488 sets of them to people in all but 5 states in the U.S., as well as Canada, England, and the Netherlands. He told them not to use them on private mail, but you can guess what happened.

Continued from pg. 6

An avid Stamp Collector wanted to create a unique cachet by sending himself an envelope with the bogus stamp as the only postage. A postal employee noticed the label on a letter, notified the postal inspector who called the Secret Service, and of course the Secret Service got involved. All remaining stock was turned over to them by the movie studio and O'Hara. But there are still many, many copies floating around. Possession of these movie stamps are no longer considered counterfeit and are now very collectable as Cinderellas.

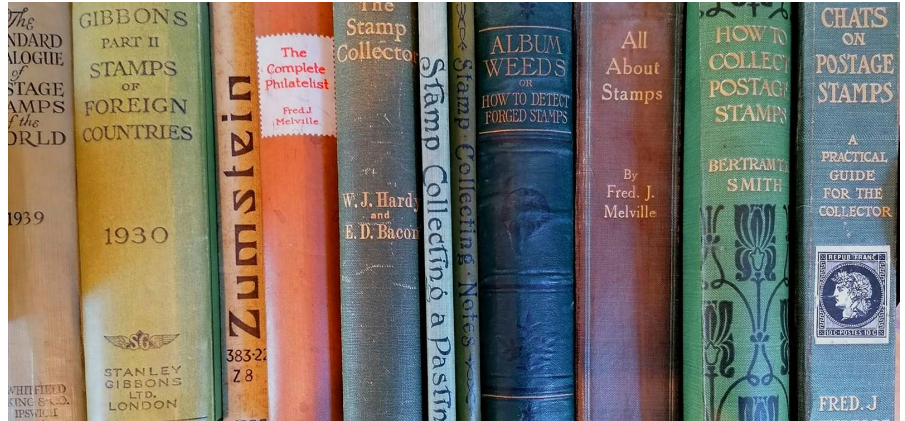
So, you never know what you are going to find in a box, and what the **real** story might be.

References:

https://www.pennypost.org/pdf/farrell/Movies_FarrellCollection.pdf

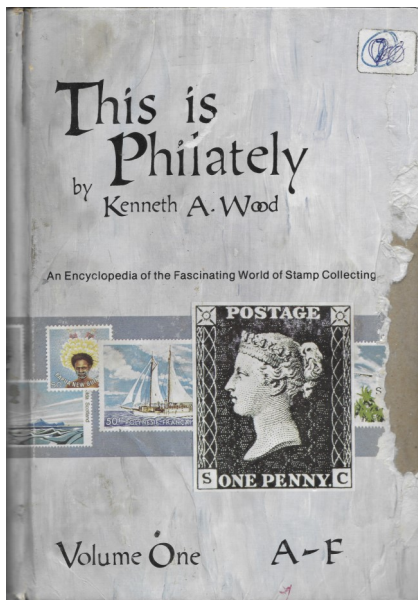
<http://www.centralfloridastampclub.org/pages/pics3/102009insa.pdf>

**The Library Corner:
Reviews of Books Found in the
MPS Library that you can
check out. Check with Librarian
Neil Becker at a meeting or
nbecker44@gmail.com**



Review by Jeff Lough

Wood, Kenneth A. *This is Philately. Volume One. A – F.* (Albany, OR: Van Dahl Publications, 1982.)



This set of books provides an alphabetical listing of philatelic-related terms including some for beginners, some for the more advanced, as well as historical and geographical names. The entries are short, seldom exceeding a few sentences. Many items are included that are not in many contemporary resources and some are pretty interesting. I was struck by one term, Amur, that led me on a few philatelic journeys. The book is well organized and has many nice illustrations of stamps, covers and maps. All these features are common to each of the three volumes. It is a 3 volume encyclopedia. The book is old and in some ways out of date. This set is for both those who are somewhat new to philately as well those who are interested in a different take on stamp collecting or who are interested in its history. There are many books, articles and parts of old time dealers' offerings that provide similar information but, since it is in our library, few are generally as accessible. I would give the series a rating of 7 out of 10. The author was, at the time, a noted British philatelist who is on the role of Distinguished Topical Philatelists of the ATA, and had been editor of the journal, *Stamp Collector*.



US #2283
Pheasant

Watch out wildlife it is hunting season!



Canada #p6ab4/4
Baby Moose
Personalized Postage Stamp from 2014



Great Britain #615
350th Anniversary of Mayflower Leaving
Plymouth, England

From England
the Pilgrims came
by sea on the
Mayflower



US #548
The Mayflower
From Pilgrim Tercentenary Set

That started a tradition
that became
a *most* American Holiday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



US #2840a
From Norman Rockwell souvenir sheet
"Freedom From Want"

Nominating Committee Announces 2023 Slate of Officers:

The following members have been selected by the nominating committee to serve as our elected officers for 2023:

- President—Rodger McReynolds
- 1st Vice-President—Armen Hovsepian
- 2nd Vice-President—Jeff Jaax
- Secretary—Michael Keil
- Treasurer—Hans Vergara

Nominations can be made from the floor at the December meeting when the officers will be elected for next year. All other club positions are appointed by the incoming President.

ABOUT ZOOM:

Please try to connect at 2:00pm on meeting days or shortly after. Once a show-n-tell or program is in progress, there is not a current way to notice that you are trying to log in.

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

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Neil B., Andrea S. & Jeff L. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the December issue will be November 15th.** Happy stamping! *Jim Mc*