

# The Messenger



August-September  
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)

In Person or by Zoom  
August meeting  
Saturday, August 6th  
September meeting  
Saturday, September 3rd  
See Details Inside

## **Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:**

**Members present or on Zoom:** 36 in attendance, 1 on zoom.

**Treasurer:** Details of first half expenses and revenue for 2022. January 1 balance was \$8364.89. June 30 balance was \$10,300. Suggestions and a brief discussion of how to use some of the funds followed.

**Audit Report:** Betsy presented the audit reports for both 2020 and 2021. Everything is in order for both years. Copies of the Audit Reports are available upon request.

**Secretary:** Postal rates are going up on July 10.

**Librarian:** Stamp Basics articles now available. Still looking for volunteers to write book reviews for the newsletter.

**Historian:** Scott shared a newspaper article from September 21, 1941, about the Kansas City Stamp Show, donated to the club's history archives.

**1st VP:** The meeting next month will be at the Monticello Library from 10-5.

**2nd VP:** Newsletter is online.

**Exhibiting Chair:** Time to start thinking about participating in the exhibit program in December and preparing your exhibit.

**Newsletter:** Always looking for more articles. Because this is an election year and Jim is extremely busy, there may be some delays.

**Old Business:** T-shirts are still available.

**New Business:** The Nominating Committee for this year is working on recruiting candidates for the annual elections which are held each December.

**Announcements:** There will be a stamp show at Claycomo on September 23-24. More details to follow.

**Show and Tell:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July ship covers; Pakistan "Book Post" cover sent book rate; 3 covers with unusual postal markings; results from Kelleher auction of Chinese items (3); airplane stamp cert.;; Scott number 599 on cover.

**Program:** Bullseye Cancelled U. S. Stamps by Russell Baughman. Excellent program with interesting examples. Thank you, Russell.

Respectively submitted by,

Michael Keil

**Meet in person or log into Zoom on  
Saturday, August 6th for  
"The German Yacht Series 1900-1915"  
presented by Rodger McReynolds**

**New U.S. Issues for 2022:**

**ABOUT ZOOM:**

Please try to connect at 2:00 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.



**Buzz Lightyear**

First Class Mail Forever  
Four Designs, Pane of 20  
Issue Date August 3rd  
Print Quantity –45,000,000

**National Marine Sanctuaries**

First Class Mail Forever  
Sixteen Designs, Pane of 16  
Issue Date August 5th  
Print Quantity—38,000,000



**Elephants**

First Class Mail Forever  
Double-sided Booklet of 20  
Issue Date August 12th  
Print Quantity –175,000,000



**Pony Cars**

First Class Mail Forever  
Five Designs, Pane of 20  
Issue Date August 25th  
At GASS, Great Issue for the show!  
Print Quantity –45,000,000

**James Webb Space Telescope**

First Class Mail Forever  
One Design, Pane of 20  
Issue Date September 8th  
Print Quantity –30,000,000



**New U.S. Issues for**

**Holiday Elves**

First Class Mail Forever  
Booklet Pane of 20?  
Issue Date September 15th  
Print Quantity –Unknown at  
this time.



**Virgin & Child**

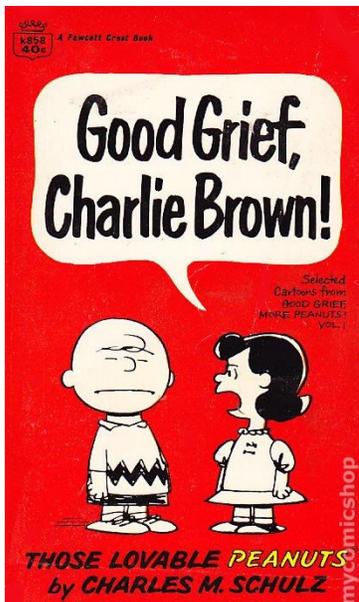
First Class Mail Forever  
Booklet Pane of 20?  
Issue Date September 22nd  
Print Quantity—Who knows?



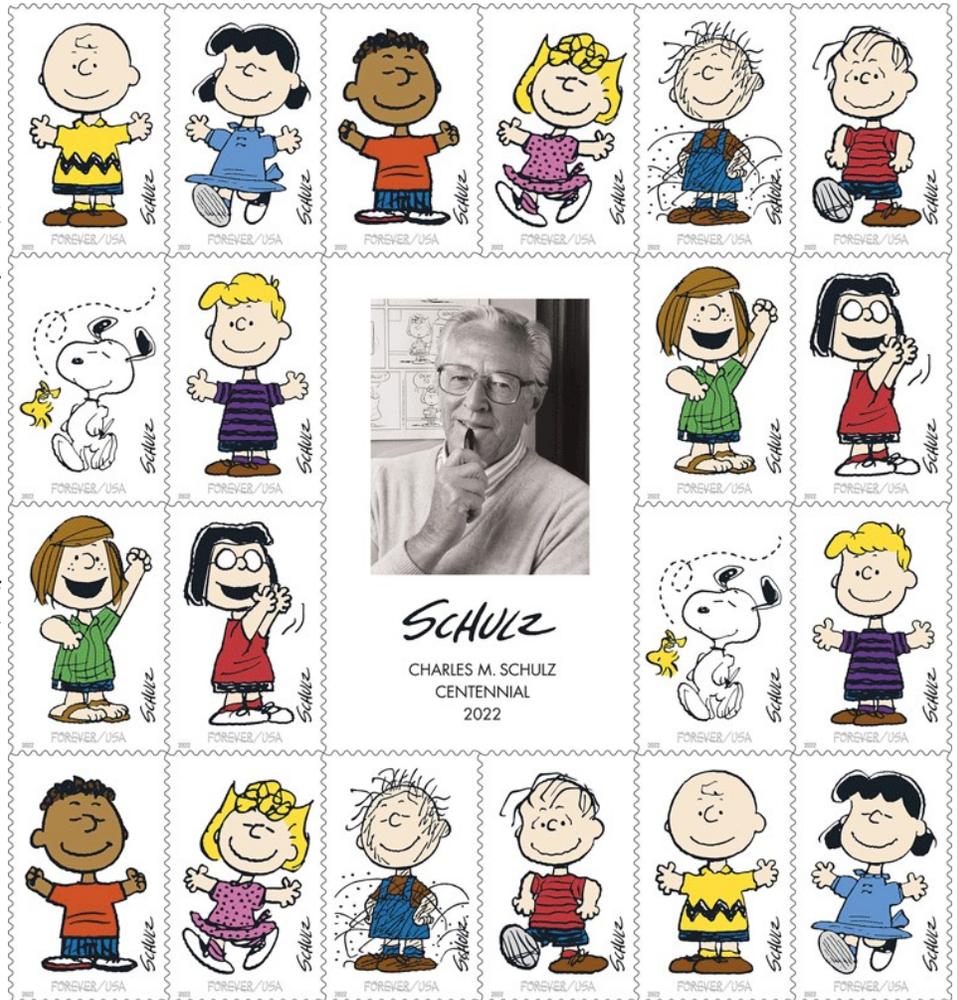
**Charles M. Schulz**

First Class Mail Forever  
Ten designs, Pane of 20  
Issue Date September 30th  
Print Quantity –Why does it  
take the USPS so long to an-  
nounce the technical details?

This issue is long overdue. I was eight years of age when the Christmas T.V. special first aired in 1965. They still show it each year. The first strip was published in 1950. I had been reading the strips in the paper before the T.V. special aired and we even had paperback books with Peanuts comic strips. My brother and I would lay on the floor reading them from cover to cover. Great memories. One of the few new issues in recent memory that captures my attention. Good Job USPS.



JMc



## **Philatelic Happenings:**

We can have really dry months so much of the time and then BAM!, we have a multitude of choices. Grab your cash and head on out to one or more of the following:

**Greater Mound City Stamp Club's StampFest**  
**August 13-14**  
**Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-4pm**  
**Kirkwood Community Center**  
**111 South Geyer Road**  
**Kirkwood, MO**

**The Wichita Show**  
**August 19-20**  
**Friday 9am-5pm Saturday 9am-4pm**  
**Cessna Activity Center**  
**2744 George Washington Blvd.**  
**Wichita, KS**

**The Great American Stamp Show (GASS)**  
**August 25-28**  
**SAFE Credit Union Convention Center**  
**1400 J Street**  
**Sacramento, CA**

*Several of the members plan to attend. Let Tomas or I know if you plan to go. We hope to get a group picture and meet for dinner or drinks or both!*

**The 2022 Omaha Stamp Show**  
**September 10-11**  
*(This show has not been confirmed as to place and times)*

**Gladstone Stamp Club's Greater Kansas City Stamp Show**  
**September 23-24**  
**Friday 10am-6pm Saturday 9am-5pm**  
**Claycomo Community Center**  
**287 S. Drake St.**  
**Claycomo, MO**

## **The President's Corner:**

Dear MPS Friends -

As I write this, we are sitting watching the ocean tides rise and fall on the coast of Maine. Grateful that things are opening up and we are finally able to travel. Summer is a traditional time for travel and that also means some upcoming stamp shows. I know a few of you are planning to attend the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento, California next month. If you are going, please let me know so we can try to organize time for a group photo. Maybe we can all take and wear our MPS T-shirts for the picture! We are also heading to Houston, Texas for their club's show in September. Anyone else going? We have heard great things about it, especially their unique one-frame 'color' exhibit competition. Hope everyone is staying cool and enjoying their summer!

Tomas



U.S. #1391  
Maine  
150th Anniversary of Statehood

**MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, August 6th & September 3rd, 2022**  
**Refer to above for locations on each Saturday.**

10am—1pm Member, dealer buy, sell and swap time.  
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.

# In Memoriam

Robert James "Jim" Voelker

1946-2022



We have lost another member this past month, Jim Voelker. Jim worked for 45 years in the Kansas City Missouri School District as a history teacher and coach of boys and girls sports. Actively involved in Boy Scouts for many years.

As an active stamp collector, you could count on seeing Jim at E and D Auctions actively bidding on lots. If you were after Germany, you may have lost out to him, as he was an avid Germany collector.

The German stamps were his passion although he passively collected other countries that he acquired when going after those German stamps.

Jim passed away on July 4, 2022. He will be missed by all of us that knew him for his knowledge and kindness in sharing that knowledge on the subject.



Germany #1  
Imperial Eagle

## **Location for the August 6th meeting:**

We are back at the Johnson County Library-Monticello Branch for the meeting in August.

The address is: 22435 W. 66th St., Shawnee, KS 66226

We were unable to secure the library on 87th where we have been meeting of late. So we hope to see everyone at the Monticello branch.

## **Location for the September 3rd meeting:**

We will be back at our current location on 87th St. in Overland Park for the meeting in September.

**Johnson County Central  
Resource Library  
9875 W. 87th St.  
Overland Park, KS 66212**

Please make note of the locations for each month. We have the meeting rooms from 10am to 5pm each Saturday. Plus come early and support the dealers that come early for *YOU!*

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

## **Philatelic Ramblings:**

I hope this month is the last for a long time in losing members. With the passing of Jim Voelker, this makes the third month in a row. But life goes on as does this organization but we need to start a recruiting effort in some way. Something to talk about.



US #295  
Pan-American Exposition  
Empire State Express

Many thanks for all the contributions this month. It was very helpful in this busy and stressful election season. Notice that this issue is for August and September. Why? Well I will be on my way by train to Sacramento to GASS when I should be getting out the September issue. And I won't be back until September 2nd. So the logistics just didn't work out. Also I have moved up the deadline for submissions for the October issue to September 10th. November issue will be the same way. So get your submissions to me as early as possible.



Japan #1192  
8620 Class Locomotive

I tried to include all the new issues for September also. Some information is lacking at this time. It amazes me how little is done ahead of time with the USPS or our they just being secretive. It would be nice if the technical aspects of each issue was released further in advance. Doubt that will happen anytime soon. Also I included two months of book reviews. Both books sound very interesting. I will have to check them out sometime. Think about writing a review yourself. Get with Neil on that.

Enjoy this newsletter and sorry for making it a combined newsletter but after the last couple of years, I am in much need of some R&R. Looking forward to heading out to big show!

## Bats as Service Animals? By Andrea Smith

A recent trip to Portugal found us in the Joanina library at the University of Coimbra. Coimbra is one of the oldest universities in the world (even older than Oxford University in England). Founded in 1290 in Lisbon, King John V transferred the University to Coimbra, Portugal in 1537.

Described as the most beautiful library in the world, it consists of 3 very large rooms with floor to ceiling bookcases – filled with over 2 million ancient books and illustrated manuscripts dating back to the 16-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The oldest book was written in 1503.

The shelves are made entirely of oak, which is known for its hard surface, which is difficult for insects to bore into., and for the smell which acts as a worm-repellent.

But ancient books can fall victim to insects known as “paper rodents”. And normal, effective methods for extermination of insects is not possible for these priceless manuscripts.

The solution is a natural deterrent – a colony of common Pipistrelle bats that live behind the bookcases. They emerge at nightfall to consume these flies, gnats, and other pests before swooping out the library windows. It is said that each tiny bat can consume

up to 500 paper eating insects a night. The service they provide is indispensable!

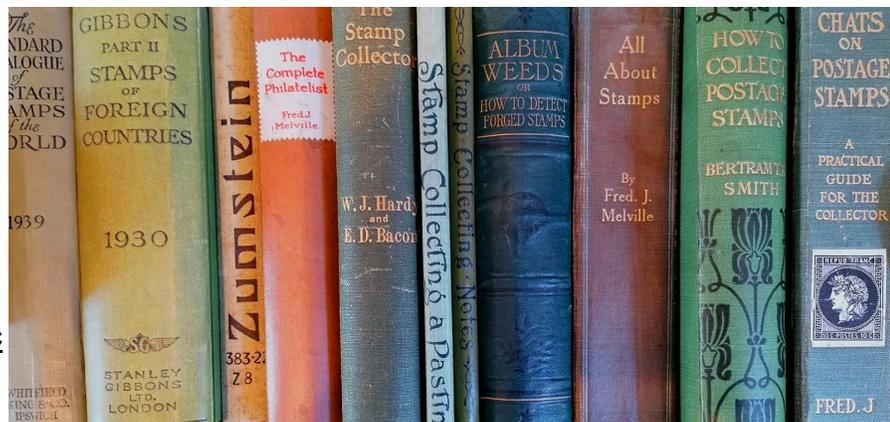
Librarians know the bats have been here since at least the 1800’s and it is possible they moved in when the library was built. Every evening, staff cover the 18<sup>th</sup> century Brazilian wood tables with leather imported from Imperial Russia – to protect from the bat guano. And every morning they roll up the leather covering, and clean the floors, just like their forbearers did.

These tiny marvels are Pipistrellus Hesperus bats, also known as the Canyon bat. It is the smallest bat in the U.S. with reddish or medium brown fur. Its underbelly is white or a lighter color, with black faces and tiny black ears. They live an average of 10-13 years in the wild. Who knows how long they live protected behind ancient bookshelves with a ready food supply?



Romania #4863a  
Bats

**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 of Understanding Transatlantic  
Mail – Volume 1 pp.450

Review by Rodger McReynolds

This book is an exhaustive examination of transatlantic mail from 1840 through 1875. It is broken down into several chapters including Bremen Mail, British Mail, Prussian Mail and French Mail. Each chapter describes postal arrangements, conventions, printed matter, returned mail and registered mail for each of these areas with the French Mail area covered in particular detail. The book is heavily illustrated with hundreds of photos of mail pieces and hand-stamps with many of the hand-stamps extracted into their own illustrations for clarity. Almost every page of the book includes at least one captioned example of what the author is describing.

The author states that *“some may find the textual descriptions of each cover to be lengthy and possibly boring because of the manner in which the information has been presented”*. One of the goals of the book is to illustrate and analyze a great number of covers from as many different rate periods as possible under each of the selected postal conventions. It is expected that the reader will seek out examples of covers of interest and then read the description of the covers, thereby learning the meaning of the different markings and hopefully understand the postal history of the covers better.

When trying to understand the markings and postal history relating to a transatlantic item, there are usually a number of different questions that must be answered: How did the cover get to its destination? What mail systems were involved? Is the rate shown on a prepaid cover correct? What do all the rate markings on the cover mean? Is the cover genuine?

From the markings on a cover we can understand some or all of the following about the cover: a) the name of the addressee; b) the origin of the cover; c) the destination of the cover; d) the treaty exchange offices that handled the cover; e) the postal rates that were prepaid or the postage that was due; f) any credits or debits required by the postal convention under which the cover was handled; g) the desired routing of the cover; h) the name of the vessels that may have transported the cover overseas; i) comments of the recipient; j) other clues that indicate why a letter was not delivered or was forwarded to another location.

If transatlantic postal history for any of the regions covered in this tome are of interest to you, you likely won't find another book that covers the subject in more detail than this one. The book also includes a comprehensive index which lists many postmarks by name making it simple to locate information about a specific one with ease.

**THE BUYERS GUIDE:AN ANALYSIS OF SELECTED U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS  
GENERAL PHILATELIC CORPORATION  
1992 170 PAGES Review by Jeff Jaxx**

In this book, the author attempts to give guidance on acquiring premium quality U.S. stamps. He canvassed roughly 25,000 auction lots of individual U.S. stamps selling for over \$100. By dividing each lot into four sections (scarcity, premium characteristics, comments and caveats), each issue from Scott #1 throughout the Washington-Franklin series is evaluated.

For scarcity the author posts the quantity issued as well as the average number of times each issue is listed per auction. This was completed for both mint and used copies. This book furthermore evaluated every issue for such characteristics as normal centering, margin size, perforation faults and color strength.

**Continued on pg. 10**

## Zemstvos by Jeff Lough

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian postal services were only provided to those areas that were inhabited by the aristocracy or had larger towns and cities. The smaller rural areas had only occasional mail service as would have been required by Imperial or autocratic military, political or economic need. Consequently by 1865 the Czars permitted local more rural areas, called “zemstvos” to establish their own postal systems which were still tightly regulated by the central government. Of these 371 districts, 162 issued their own stamps. Sometimes they issued fewer than a hundred. Some are quite rare and ownership is prohibitively costly. The stamp designs had to be very different from those of the Russian Empire. Mail that went beyond the zemstvo boundary required Imperial Postage.



Figure 1



Figure 2

There were several interesting developments among the different stamps. A couple communities used the payment of the postage to also pay for a newspaper subscription. The one from Lubny (Figure 1) is an example of this. Some stamps had portions of the stamps with numbers on them which were torn off when the stamp was attached at the post office as a way to insure that the postage was paid and the stamp was not counterfeit. These parts of the stamps are called “counterfoils”. Zadonsk issued stamps from 1878 until 1914 and its first five issues had counterfoils. One is shown as Figure 2. Figure 2 also demonstrates the practice of writing numbers on the stamps as another way to insure the stamps were not counterfeited, somewhat similar to having a registered letter.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Atkarsk issued stamps from 1869 to 1885. Its stamps included a portrayal of the imperial eagle as part of the design (Figure 3). Some zemstvos have topical or thematic interest. The 1899 5k blue stamp (Figure 4) that has a black “2” surcharge pictures a swan as part of its well-engraved vignette. Figure 5. An 1872 stamp from Ustysolsk, features a bear coming from the woods. Another well-designed stamp which was more expensive to produce than most other zemstvos was the one issued by Krasny in 1912 (Figure 6) depicts the retreat of the French Army following the Napoleonic defeat in 1812. Figure 7 shows a stamp from Shadrinsk that was printed by typography on yellowish white paper. It shows a horse. The frame has a detailed working often used to discourage forgers. Figure 8

from Gdof is a tete-beche stamp having four six-rayed stars in the inscriptions and no separating lines between the stamps.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

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

### **IONIAN ISLANDS (First in a series)**

I picked this one to start with since it has the fewest stamps – only three. With a 2022 catalogue value of \$355 mint, it is a *relatively* inexpensive way to own a complete country.

Ionian Islands consist of a group of seven major (and numerous smaller) islands off the west and south coast of Greece. They had been a protectorate of Great Britain since they were ceded to them by the Treaty of Paris in 1815.

The first (and only) set of stamps was issued on May 15, 1859. The imperforated, engraved stamps were printed in London by Perkins, Bacon & Co. The inscription, wrapped around the profile of Queen Victoria, reads in Greek "Ionian State."



These stamps bear no denomination, but the orange was used as ½ pence, the blue 1 p. and the lake 2p. They were in use only from 1859 to 1864 when Great Britain ceded the islands back to Greece.

It should be noted that during the WWII Italian occupation of the islands (1941-1943), thirteen Italian stamps (including one airmail and four postage dues) were over-printed "ISOLE JONIE" for use during those years. (Scott catalogue does not list them.)

(Next up: **Quelimane**)



**Continued from pg. 8**

From these evaluations, the author is able to recommend which premium characteristics are reasonable and which are difficult to obtain. These results are found in the comment section for each issue.

Finally, warnings as to which faults to avoid and stamp alterations/repairs are common for each individual issue. This section also gives recommendations of when a certificate is suggested, strongly suggested and essential for each issue.

Overall, I found this book very valuable. By illustrating typical margins and centering for each issue, it is easy to observe when a premium stamp comes up. The recommendations on when to get certification are also helpful (especially for someone with minimal experience). To be warned, this book is not a pricelist but rather gives a comprehensive view on which stamps to pay a premium.

**September's Program will be  
"Bureau of Engraving and Printing: Imprint XV"  
presented by Hans Vergara**

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Jeff L., Andrea S., Neil B.& Rodger Mc. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the October issue will be September 10th.** Happy stamping! *Jim Mc*