

The Messenger



December 2023

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

Rodger McReynolds, President (rodger_mcreynolds@hotmail.com)
Armen Hovsepian, 1st Vice President (info@armenstamp.com)
Jeff Jaax, 2nd Vice President (jeff.jaax@gmail.com)
Hans Vergara, Treasurer (iwc1868@yahoo.com)
Michael Keil, Secretary (mkeil87859@hotmail.com)
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

**SUNDAY,
December 3RD**
Room available 1:00PM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the November Meeting:

From our November meeting held on October 28th.

Attendance: 29 members with 2 visitors.

Treasurer: Forms for the State of Missouri have been filed.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Librarian: Nothing to report.

Historian: Working on creating a timeline of MPS Shows from the past.

First Vice-President's Report: Sign-up sheet for 2024 programs was passed around.

Second Vice-President's Report: Nothing to report.

Newsletter: Nothing to report.

Exhibits: There are still several open slots for exhibits. Registration forms for the December exhibits program are available and were handed out. They are also available on the MPS website. One-page non-competitive exhibits will probably be allowed this year if there are any open frames. Use the same registration form for these entries. Need to get registrations in ASAP (November 1 deadline?)

Old Business: Nominating Committee is looking for a candidate for Secretary for 2024.

New Business: None

Announcements: A new meeting place has been secured for 2024. Westminster Hall of the 1st Presbyterian Church in Independence. Details and directions will be published in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

What Are You Looking For: Jim Jupe looking for Tristan da Cunha.

Show and Tell: Wake Island Pan Am Clipper cover; KC Western Auto Serviceman's covers; 1861 Pink & Pink Rose; How to identify flat plate vs. rotary press Washington/Franklins; WW II Prisoner Post-US and German; WW II Patriotic Cover; Albert Forsyth and Charles Anderson cover; Swedish stamps on packages.

Program: Tom and Tonya Rhein on producing high quality auction catalogues for high-end auction houses.

Respectively submitted by,

Michael Keil

**Join us on
Sunday, December 3rd for
our Annual Club Auction Fundraiser**

Meeting Location and Time:

DECEMBER'S MEETING PLACE & TIME

We are at the Monticello Branch of the Johnson County Library this month. The meeting is on **SUNDAY**. Special meeting for officer elections and the Annual Club Benefit Auction. There is no formal program for the December meeting.

MPS Meeting Schedule for Sunday, December 3rd
Meeting is to be held at Johnson County Monticello Library
22435 W 66th St
Shawnee, KS 66226

1:00pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view.
2pm— 5pm Business meeting, officer elections with Auction to follow.
We must be out by 5pm, so be ready to bid, pay with cash and pickup your auction lots.

JANUARY'S NEW MEETING PLACE & TIME

We will be at our new location in Independence, MO. We have secured this location for all of next year.

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, January 6th
Meeting is to be held at 1st Presbyterian Church-Westminster Hall
417 W Lexington Ave
Independence, MO 64050

10:00am—1pm Dealers and members, buy, sell and trade.
1:00pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view.
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.

Map and directions to the new location will be in next month's newsletter.

Philatelic Happenings:

Slim pickings this month! Maybe in the new year.

Merry Christmas from Germany



Germany
On Left:
#3136
Santa & Celebration,
Issued 2019

On Right:
#B546
King Caspar Offering Gold
Issued 11-10-1977
From Souvenir Sheet



Nominating Committee:

The following offices are up for nomination and the following members have agreed to serve:

President—Rodger McReynolds
First Vice-President—Armen Hovespian
Second Vice-President—Jeff Jaax
Treasurer—Hans Vergara
Secretary—OPEN

Nominations from the floor can be made at the December meeting. Please consider serving. It takes all of us to make this club successful and keep it thriving. The position of secretary is open. No one seems to be willing to step up. What is the secretary's primary job? To take the minutes of all meetings of the society. Then to forward the minutes in a timely fashion to the newsletter editor so that the minutes are included in the next newsletter.

Newsletter Receives Star Route Award:

The 2023 Star Route Awards from the American Philatelic Society are out. We have received an award for the third year in row for our newsletter. We received a Vermeil for 2023.

Thanks to all of you that contributed last year to make this possible. Without your contributions this award would not be possible. Please continue and the rest of you, think about what part of philately that you are passionate about. Write it down and send it in. 12pt Arial is preferred in a Word or Microsoft Publisher document. Or if hand written, that can be taken care of, no problem!

The Star Route Awards also include Website design and content. Although we have submitted it, in the past, we should consider doing so in the future. Perhaps looking at the youtube video that APS has made with a discussion from Scott English, Executive Director and two of the judges might give some insight as to what they are looking at on both the newsletter and website. Here is the link for that video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgHWtR6kYio>



Exhibiting Time Soon:

The annual club exhibits have been moved to the January 5th meeting due to lack of time and space at the December meeting. The exhibitors should arrive between 10:00 and 10:30am on that Saturday to mount their pages in the frames. Contact Jeff Jaax if you have any questions concerning the exhibiting.

New Feature to the newsletter. There are now hyperlinks to websites in blue. If you click on those links it should take you directly to the page. Will keep working on this in the future. Try them out and let me know if you like this feature.

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is

www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

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

In Memoriam

Gregory Grayham

1952—2023



Gregory Grayham belonged to our organization for many years. He usually sat right up front, in front of the podium. He was an avid collector for much of his life. He was also a member of the Gladstone Stamp Club. Above is a picture from another group he belonged to. The Pinot's Palette group he attended had a celebration of life in honor of Greg. Every attendee got to try their hand at painting and could pick up one of Greg's finished paintings.

A man of many talents. Greg will be missed by all those groups he belonged to.

Philatelic Ramblings:

Just got back from Chicago. Chicagopex was great fun. Lots of dealers to buy from and interesting exhibits to study. Our local dealers, Tiger Collectibles and StampSmith were there with booths and lots to look at. A group of us went out on Saturday night and had wonderful Chicago deep dish pizza. It will take me a month to loose the weight I gained eating it.

Of all the exhibits, I enjoyed John Hotchner's "United States Postal Counterfeits—The Classic Period to Modern Times 1895-2004, perhaps the most. It was fascinating with a lot of detailed information. John gave a talk in front of his exhibit on Saturday afternoon that was well attended. Later I said to him how surprised I was that so many of the collectors listening to his talk didn't know anything about tagging. His comment back was, "They all collect 19th century more than likely." I guess that is what continually surprises me about the lack of interest from many collectors of anything but what they collect.

To further my knowledge I went to a seminar on Friday afternoon given by Stephen Knapp and Peter Schwartz. The subject was "U.S. Experimental Stamps of the 19th Century: Another Collecting Frontier". I walked away with a little more knowledge of our hobby but with many more questions. It is also rabbit hole I don't plan on going down. My collecting interests are diverse enough.

Just two examples why I make every effort to attend these big shows. There is a lot of available knowledge at the shows. You should consider going to St. Louis in March since it is close. The St. Louis Stamp Expo is scheduled for March 22-24. Let's try to get a big group there and have some fun! *JMc*

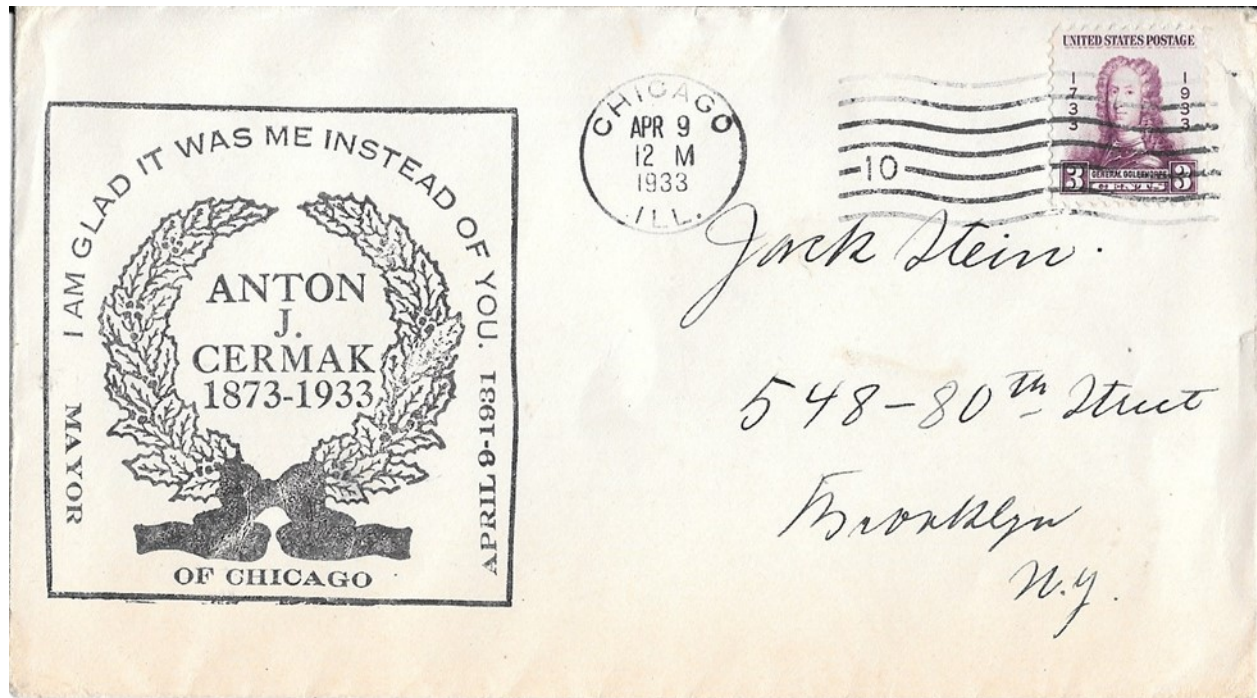


And Fred Reynolds too!

From left to right—Scott Couch, Dale Smith, Andrea Smith, Jim McKinzie, Bill Johnson, Tomas Griebing, Mike Miklovic

Forgotten History by Jeff Jaax

About nine months ago I purchased an album containing a number of first day covers. Included in this album was this cachet.



I was intrigued. Who was Anton Cernak and what was the significance of the cryptic "I am glad it was me instead of you!" quotation? Using google, I discovered that Anton Cernak was born in Austria-Hungary (now Czechoslovakia) in 1873. He spent his first birthday in Ellis Island when his family emigrated to the United States. They eventually settled in central Illinois with his father becoming a coal miner.

When Cernak turned 15, he also became a coal miner. When the miners went on strike a year later, Cernak moved to Chicago. He became a stableboy for the horse-drawn streetcar company. He saved his money and was able to purchase a horse and cart a year later. He began selling firewood. With his profits, Cernak expanded to start a successful trucking business.

With his success, Cernak became involved in Chicago politics. Because of his ethnic background, he was able to garner the support of the large Eastern European population. As a member of the Democrat Party, Cernak was elected the Mayor of Chicago in 1930. As mayor, Cernak pushed for job creation for Poles, Czechs, Germans, and the increasing black communities. Because of this, many in the black community left the Republican Party and joined the Democrat Party.

In 1933, Cernak traveled to Miami, Florida to meet with the President-Elect Franklin Roosevelt. Roosevelt was to be inaugurated two weeks later. As Cernak was shaking Roosevelt's hand, Guiseppe Zangara tried to assassinate Roosevelt. He fired five shots at Roosevelt. Roosevelt was unhurt but Anton Cernak was struck in the chest. Roosevelt cradled the mortally wounded Cernak in his arms as they were rushed to the hospital. Cernak's final words were to Roosevelt "I'm glad it was me instead of you!"

Editor's Note:

IF Zangara had successfully assassinated Franklin Roosevelt, with the inauguration 17 days away, who would become President? John Nance Garner was Roosevelt's running mate and became his first Vice but does that qualify him to become President if the President elect dies before the inauguration. An interesting Constitutional question. It would have been much more of a "Constitutional Crisis" than the made up ones of the last few years by the media and political pundits.

The Library Corner:

Reviews of Books found in the MPS Library that you can check out.

To checkout a book contact Librarian Neil Becker at a meeting or nbecker44@gmail.com



Review by Jeff Jaxx

**The Three Cent Stamp of the United States
1851-1857 Issue
CARROLL CHASE
TATHAM STAMP AND COIN COMPANY
1942
374 PAGES**

This book documents just about everything known about this issue. It begins with explaining why this stamp was produced and preceded into the various design features encountered in the proofs. The bulk of this book delves into the 11 specific plates produced during the six year production run of the 3 cent stamp. This includes detailed descriptions of the early, intermediate, and late versions of each plate. The types of paper and gum are also briefly examined. The book concludes by examining the known cancellations encountered in this issue. This book is a comprehensive study and would be useful for the philatelist specializing in this series.

New Product to the Stamp Trade to Detect Watermarks:

Wayne Youngblood was demonstrating and selling a product that has been out for some time in craft market. It has only recently been found to be useful by our philatelic community. Un-du Original Formula Sticker, Tape and Label Remover will remove any label and any self-adhesive stamp from paper while leaving no residue like Goo Gone or other products out on the market. You can remove the stamp and then reapply or you can remove the adhesive completely with the application of more product.

The real beauty of this product is it will also detect watermarks. And it does not evaporate quickly. So those really hard to detect watermarks as on the Washington-Franklins, you can really study and probably identify accurately as never before.

Wayne was selling it for \$12 or \$13 for a 4 oz. bottle. It is currently selling on Amazon for \$15.29 or a 2pk for \$23.99.

Since it leaves no residue it is much safer to use on your stamps and it has a dual use. Try it out.

JMc



Dead Countries: Stamp Issuing Countries That No Longer Exist by Neil Becker

#12 Palestine

You can fly northeast from the Philippines or southeast from Japan about the same distance to find the Mariana Islands. These 14 volcanic islands run in a string north of Guam. The largest is less than 46 square miles in area and has around 43,000 residents. Only three other islands in the string are inhabited; the other ten have active volcanos. They, along with Guam, are currently U.S. Territories.

The Mariana Islands were discovered by a Spanish ship in 1521 and formally claimed as a colony of Spain in 1667. As a result of the Spanish-American War, Spain ceded all their Pacific Ocean islands (except Guam), but including the Marianas for 837,500 Gold German Marks (a little over 4 million U.S. dollars at that time) in 1899. After WWI the Treaty of Versailles stripped Germany of all her colonies and the Mariana Islands were placed under the trusteeship of Japan. The U.S took over administration as a territory after WWII.

The postal history of the Mariana Islands is rather simple for the stamp collector. Until 1899 stamps of the Philippines were valid for postage. Immediately prior to the transfer to Germany, six values of the Philippines 1898 issue were hand-stamped "Marianas Española" in two lines inside a box. These stamps were only valid for use on a single mailing from the Island of Saipan to Manila in December 1899.



#1



#16

The first stamps as a colony of Germany were from their 1889-90 issue, overprinted "Marianen", at a 48 degree angle, in 1899 (Scott 11a-16a). A new printing in May, 1900 placed the angle of the overprint at 56 degrees (Scott 11-16). There were six values overprinted from 3pf to 50pf.

The "Kaiser's Yacht" stamps were put into use in 1901 with thirteen values. They were in use up to 1919. A 3ph (1919) and a 5m (1916) were printed on lozenges watermarked paper but were never placed in use.



#23



#29

Subsequent postage use was from Japan (1919-1945) and the United States (1945-present).

U.S. Fancy Cancels:

Found a nice copy of U.S. #36 with a red fancy cancel at Chicagopex. It is quite vivid and striking. So of course, I had to have it. Besides I didn't own this particular Scott #.

Fancy cancels are a fascinating facet of philately. If you would like to know more there are several books of the subject or you can go to

https://stampsmarter.org/features/Home_Features.html and towards the bottom of the page is a section called "Cancels and Markings". There are two data bases on fancy cancels. One is 1870-1894 cancels and the other is 1895 to present.

Check it out!

JMc



U.S.
#36
George Washington

Minutes from the October 7th Meeting:

As there was no newsletter for November, the minutes for the October meeting are included here.

Midwest Philatelic Society

Monthly meeting, October 7, 2023

Attendance: 33 members and 2 visitors.

Treasurer: Nothing to report.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Librarian: Library addition—*Dealers Guide to Chemical Restoration of Stamps*.

Historian: Nothing to report.

First Vice-President's Report: Working to reserve meeting space for Jan. 6.

Second Vice-President's Report: Registrations for the December Exhibits are now being accepted.

Newsletter: Because there will be two meetings in October the newsletter for both will be September 15. There will be no November newsletter.

Exhibits: Need to get registrations in ASAP (November 1 deadline?). 3 applications have been submitted so far.

Old Business: Discussion about meeting place. No decision made, but most agree something needs to be done about the "floating" meetings.

New Business:

Announcements: Thank you to Barbara for arranging the October meal and taking care of all the details.

Gregory Graham passed away last week.

Show schedule is printed elsewhere in the newsletter. The November meeting will be on October 28.

Dues are payable in January.

What Are You Looking For:.

Show and Tell: China ink; Sierra Leone cover; Bicentennial test stamps; 1-1-1945 Metered Official from Great Britain; ½ cent on cover; King Charles stamp; Vance Auction Catalog.

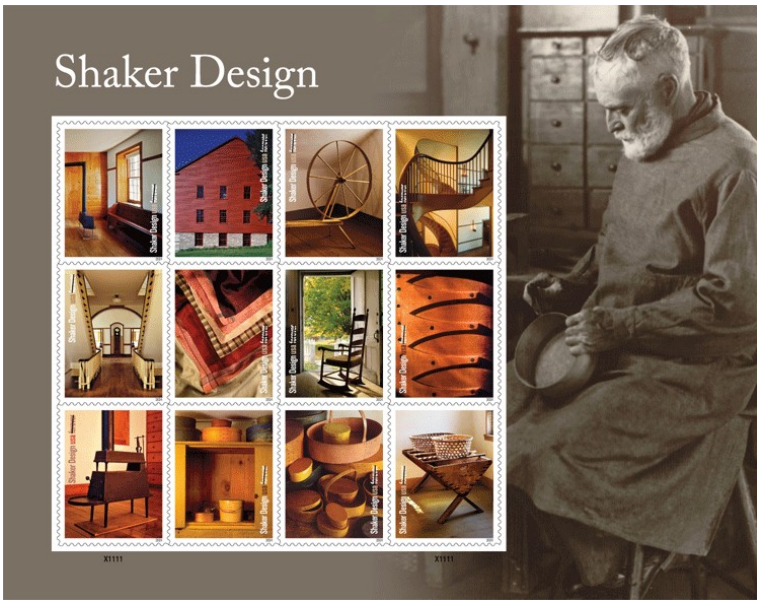
Program: The Sacred Cow Issues of Bundi by Stephen Slack.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Keil

New Issues for 2024:

Here is a sneak peek of some of what is coming from the USPS next year. Are there any that thrill you?



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