

The Messenger



June 2023

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)

Next Meeting
In Person or by Zoom

**SATURDAY,
June 3rd**

**Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM**

See Details Inside

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the May meeting:

Attendance: 35 in attendance, 2 visitors.

Treasurer: No report.

Secretary: Postal rates for the Forever stamps will be going up on July 9 to 66 cents.

Librarian: Nothing to report.

Historian: No report

First Vice-President's Report: Next meeting will be at the Monticello Library on June 3rd from 10-5.

Second Vice-President's Report: The video project is still pending.

Newsletter: Keep sending in articles, please.

Exhibits: Jeff Jaax will be taking over as the exhibits chair.

Web Site: No updates.

New Business: ZOOM service is being discontinued due to cost and lack of interest.

Old Business: Letters of introduction and invitation to MPS were sent out to 72 APS members in the Kansas City area who currently are not members of MPS.

Announcements: None.

Show and Tell: Indian stamp on cover to Saigon, 1903; Registered Canadian letter; Illustrated WW II V-mail; Indian stamp used in Zanzibar and reversed characters on other stamps; John W. Denver letter from 1849.

Program: *Japan C1 & C2: Real or Forged* by Zach Lawrence

Respectively submitted by,

Michael Keil

**Join us on
Saturday, June 3rd for
"Learning About EFO's
through the Bicentennial"
By Jim McKinzie**

Meeting Location and Time Change:

We are at the Johnson County Library Monticello Branch for this month. Sorry for the change in venue but we were unable to get the Central Library for this month.

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

10am—1pm Dealers will be there and good time for members to trade and talk all things philatelic.

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

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

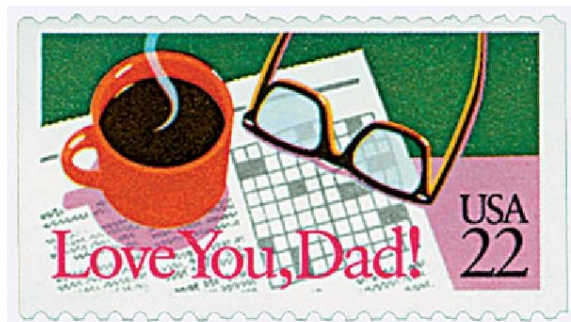
We must be out by 5pm, so be ready to bid, pay with cash and pickup your auction lots.

Philatelic Happenings:

LOUIPEX
JUNE 16-17
Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-3
Lyndon Elks Lodge #2502
904 Ormsby Lane
Louisville, KY
Dealers and Exhibits
Kids Table

OKPEX
JUNE 23-24
Hours 10-5
Reed Conference Center
5800 Will Rogers Rd.
Oklahoma City, OK
Dealers and Exhibits
World Series of Philately

When I owned a variety store and later a gift shop, we sold greeting cards and lots of them. Holiday cards were big business. Christmas, Valentine's, Easter, Graduation and of course Mother's Day. For every hundred Mother's Day cards we sold, we would sell one, yes only one Father's Day card. Kinda pathetic. Of course, if you fail to recognize Dad on Father's Day he doesn't tend to go off on you. Forget Mom and well you might as well move to Siberia.



The stamp world seems to be as bad. This is the only U.S. stamp ever produced honoring Dad but there are several honoring Mom. If any other country has produced anything honoring Dad, my search did not turn up anything. While many of us no longer have our Dad's around, it is still a good day of remembrance of what he did for you. And for all of you who are Fathers,

US #2270
From Special Occasions Booklet

Happy Father's Day

Father's Day is June 18th



McKINZIE, JAMES (JIM)

DEALER

806 N RIVER BLVD

INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050

(816) 916-1288

jimmckinzie1@att.net

Collecting interests:

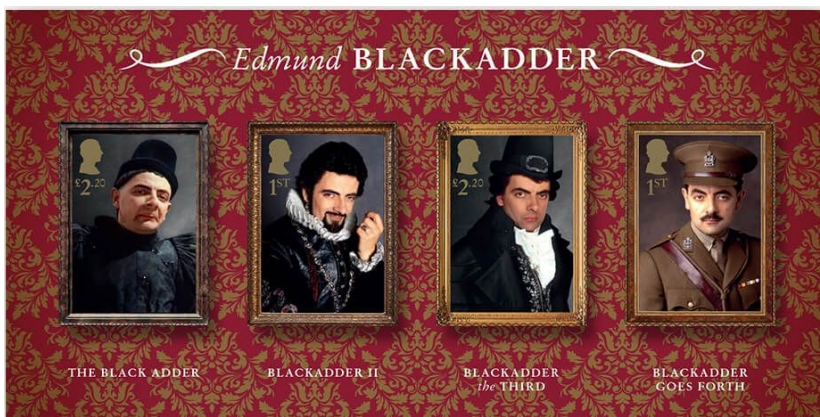
***U.S., U.S. Bicentennial Worldwide, France,
Great Britain, EFO's and U.S. Possessions***

Pictorial Membership Directory:

Above is an example of what your information will look like in the new MPS Membership Directory. The plan is to have this completed by July for the members. To complete the project, help is needed. Some of you have not gotten your picture taken at the meeting. Please see Jim McKinzie before the meeting to get your pic included in the directory. If you are unable to come, then please send Jim a picture of yourself by email to include in the directory. Some of you on your membership form indicated that you did not want some of your information and/or your picture included. That is certainly fine but instead of leaving a blank space where your picture is suppose to be, it has been suggested to have a stamp image in it's place. So if you chose not to include your picture, email your favorite stamp information to Jim. If you have no way to scan it and save as a .jpg file then just email the Country and Scott #.

This project has been several years in the making and the plan is to get it out to the members by July. But for this to happen, we need you to also help proof your information, so that we know everything is correct. A copy will be with Jim at the June meeting. Stop by and check your info and make any necessary corrections. If you did not complete the bottom of part of the membership form as to your collecting interests, then that space is currently blank. Please come by and correct it.

As you can see from the example above, members will be able to see what each other collects and then connect with each other when they have something to trade or sell or just need information about a subject. Covid taught us what can happen when we are unable to meet in person. We hope this project will be another way to stay connected in good and bad times.



Before Mr. Bean, He Was the Blackadder:

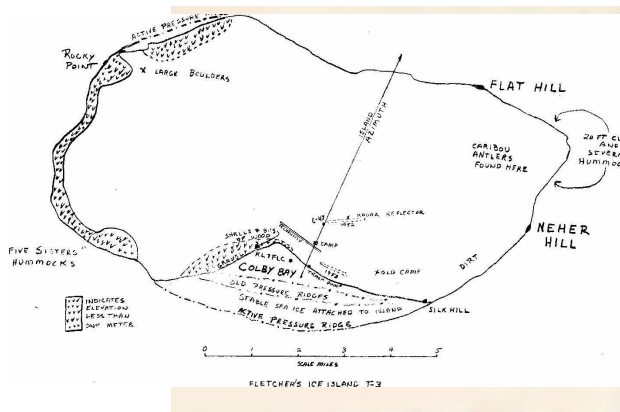
Many of us enjoyed Rowen Atkinson as Mr. Bean but before he created that character he played Edmund Blackadder. The first of the four British sitcoms was set during the reign of Richard IV. Each series was set in a different historical period. The Royal Mail is honoring this very funny series with a special collection of stamp issues. Check them out at their website.

Fletcher's Ice Island by Michael Keil

In 1946 a large, relatively flat iceberg was "discovered" by Colonel Joseph O. Fletcher. Fletcher was attached to an Air Force weather squadron monitoring and recording weather conditions and phenomena for the U. S. military. Fletcher's Ice Island was a chunk of ice that was more than 7 miles long and about 50 feet higher than the surrounding icepack, and more than large enough to land a plane on. In 1952 Fletcher, accompanied by a team of scientists landed a C-47 on the ice and established a research station that would be occupied, off and on, over the next two-and-a-half decades. Officially the iceberg was designated T-3 and the station was known as "Bravo Station" or "Drift Station Bravo."

T-3 was initially occupied from March, 1952 until May, 1954. It was reoccupied from April until September, 1955, and again in 1957. The station was finally abandoned in the late 1970's. Resupplying Bravo depended on its location at any given time, either from Thule, Greenland or Point Barrow, Alaska. Mail was usually serviced at Point Barrow or an Air Force base in the area.

Covers from Drift Station Bravo have several different cachets with a variety of locations identified. Some say 'Fletcher's Ice Island,' or "T-3" or both. Covers after 1957 say "Ice Station T-3" and/or "Drift Station Bravo." This can cause some confusion for novice collectors. Many covers also include handwritten geographic locations for the day that the cover was prepared.



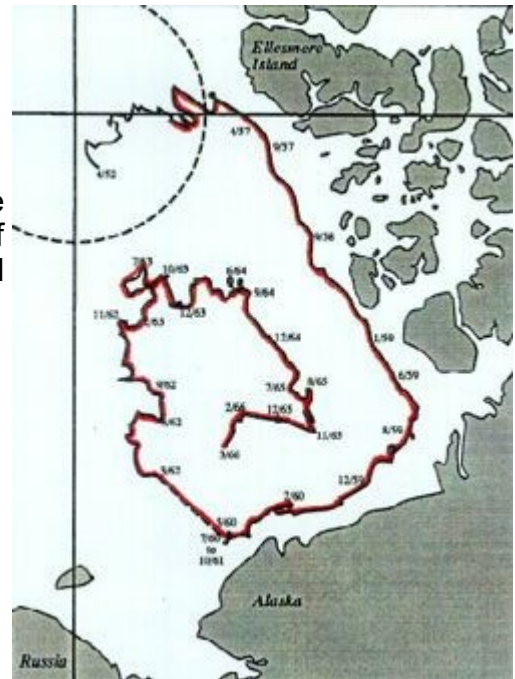
Sketch of T-3 and photograph of Col. Fletcher.



Second occupation cover cancelled 28 September, 1955, last day of occupation. Army-Air Force Postal Service, A.P.O. 23 cancel.

Fletcher in 1952 as Second-In-Command of the Fourth Weather Group, stationed in Alaska.

Map showing the track of the drift of T-3 over a period of about 25 years.



Over the years, as T-3 drifted further south, it began to melt. This photo shows a lake in the middle of the island formed by ice melt in 1969. Photograph from the USGS, 1969.

Ice Station Bravo, 1967. Photo by J. K. Hall.





Drift Station Bravo cachet with longitude and latitude. Signed by the commanding officer. The notation that Drift Station Alpha II has broken up and been abandoned was a reminder of the constant threat to any of the stations located on the ice.



Cover cancelled at Point Barrow, Alaska signed by Joseph (J.) Fletcher.

Philatelic Ramblings:

Are the big philatelic shows going to be a thing of the past. It was recently announced that NOJEX was cancelled due to the cost to mount the show and lack of local club members that could assist with the show. This show was held in New Jersey. While that probably affects no one in this club, it is just another example of a large show biting the dust.

Venues have become increasingly prohibitive in cost. It was reported that the dealers at this particular show chipped in extra dollars above their table cost to keep the show going last year. But the ASDA (American Stamp Dealers Association) pulled the plug based on an analysis that the show would lose too much money if they continued forward for this year.

Some of us have discussed mounting a show in KC but it really never goes anywhere because of the same reasons. Besides the cost, how many of you would commit to volunteering to help put a show on?

I love going to a show because I can see the material I am interested in up close. You make relationships with dealers and other collectors. Many of the larger shows have seminars, where one can learn about various philatelic subjects. Then there are the exhibits. While, I will admit, many of them bore me, I always walk away from a particular exhibit that interests me and I have learned something from it.

We must support shows when we can. If we do not, then they will no longer exist and that would be a great loss to philately. That is why I try to include info about upcoming shows in the newsletter each month. Sometimes they are a little distance from the KC area because that is all there is. Such as this month. It's a little over 7 hours to Louisville and just over 5 hours to OKC. Yes it means at least an over night stay but it can be fun little vacation, especially if you include some of the local sites of the area. There is much to see in both towns. Google "attractions" for either town and you see what I am talking about. And the food, a good steak in Oklahoma City or a good bourbon in Kentucky. Bourbon is a food, isn't it?

On another subject but related in a way. I have heard a lot of grumbling about auction houses, websites and their sellers fees. Many complain that the ebay and hipstamp fees are too much. The auction house wants too much to list that item or collection you want to sell. Just remember there is a cost to doing business. Do you realize that grocery stores, for example, work on a margin of profit of around 1 to 3%. You have to sell a lot to make that worth while. A lot of expenses go into running a business. Rent, utilities, employees, advertising and taxes just to name a few. And there is never a guarantee that you will sell much of anything when you have a business. That is why you see so many come and go. So next time you complain about what it will cost you to sell some of your extra or no longer wanted extra philatelic material, think about what it's costing that company to list your item. And what they will make off that item in comparison to their expenses. You can always save those costs by putting your item in the club auction but don't expect it to go for a lot. Typically items in the club auction go for way less than catalogue value. If you have little to nothing in the item then anything you get is great but if it is a really good item wouldn't have been worth the 20 to 25% to list it with a bigger venue with a bigger customer base?

JMc

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



Speaking of shows, the big one is coming up soon! GASS is August 10-13 in Cleveland. Home to the Rock and Roll Museum. While Cleveland, Ohio sounds a long way off, it is not as far as Hartford, CT is and that is where it will be held next year.

All the dealer tables have sold-out and both show hotels are booked solid but there are plenty of hotels in the Cleveland area.

You can go to the APS website, stamps.org, and find more info. While you are on the website go ahead and pre-register for the show to save you time before you arrive.

MPS member Fred Reynolds will be there working at the combined booth for the American Air Mail Society and the Zeppelin and Airship Collectors. Fred is also sponsoring a program on Zeppelins and Airships, on Friday of the show. His program will include a presentation of Graf Zeppelin II, a Show and Tell and discussion groups.



Any of you a big Beatle fan? The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has a special Beatle exhibit going on this summer. It is called "Get Back to Let it Be."

Great Britain #2420
From Beatles Memorabilia sheet
Tray and Buttons featuring
The Beatles



Great Britain #2423
From Beatles Album Cover s
"Help!"

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

#8 Sarawak

The Northwest coastal regions of the Island of Borneo are known as Sarawak. They were under the influence of the Bruneian Empire from the 16th to the 19th century. In 1839, James Brooke, a British explorer, arrived in Sarawak and soon after assisted the Sultan of Brunei in putting down a rebellion. He was thus awarded the position of Rajah of Sarawak. He and his descendants governed the state from 1841 to 1946.

In 1869 the first postage stamp, featuring the image of Sir James Brooke was issued, followed in 1871 by a similar issue with the image of Sir Charles Johnson Brooke who had succeeded his uncle in 1868. Four different stamp designs (1871, 1888, 1895 and 1899), along with a few surcharged issues followed until his death in 1917. The successor, son Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, was featured on three different designs in 1918, 1932 and 1934, along with a 1946 commemorative set.



#1 - 1869

The 1934 design was used in 1942 by the occupying Japanese with a Japanese character overprint. The design was also reissued with 20 stamps overprinted **BMA** (British Military Administration) in 1945 and also with the "GvLR" indicia on 15 stamps in 1947. (The last Rajah ceded control of Sarawak to the British in 1946.)

The succeeding stamp issues were all British issues: Silver Wedding - 1948, UPU - 1949, George VI definitives - 1950-52, Coronation - 1953, Elizabeth II definitives - 1955-7 and Freedom from Hunger - 1963.



#10 - 1888



#124 - 1934



#193 - 1950



#200 - 1955

ABOUT ZOOM:

We have currently suspended our ZOOM account. The decision was made due to lack of interest in recent months and the cost. This subject can be revisited if the need arises again in the future.

New Issues for 2023:

Waterfalls

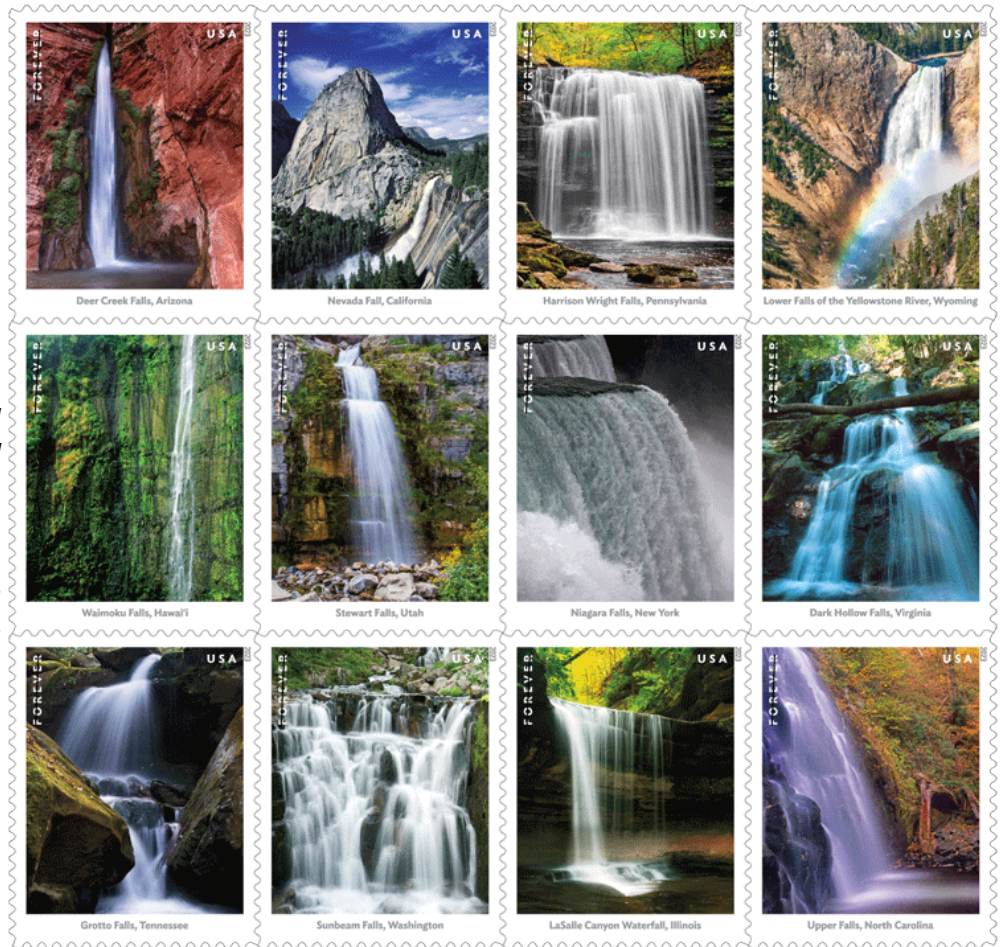
Forever rate

Twelve designs, Pane of 12

Issue Date June 13th

Print Quantity- ???????

You would think they would know the print quantity ordered by now. The Postal Bulletin where this information is released will not be out until the first week of June and it was not in the last bulletin dated 5-18-2023.



2023-24 Duck Stamp

\$25 rate (not for postage)

One design, Pane of One and Pane of 20

Issue Date June 23rd

Print Quantity– 2,468,185 for Pane of One

53,600 for Pane of Twenty

Designed from original art of Minnesota Artist Joseph Hautman



Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Mike K. & Neil B. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the July issue will be June 15th.** Happy stamping! *Jim Mc*