

The Messenger



July 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,
July 1st
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the June meeting:

Attendance: 27 in attendance, 1 visitors.

Treasurer: No report.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Librarian: Nothing to report.

Historian: No report. Scott will be taking over as Historian.

First Vice-President's Report: Next meeting will be at the Central Resource Library from 10-5.

Second Vice-President's Report: The video project is underway at the meeting today.

Newsletter: Keep sending in articles, please. Updating the membership list is ongoing. Plan is to have the new, updated membership list available by the next meeting. Check your email.

Exhibits: Not too early to begin thinking about your exhibits for December.

Web Site: No updates.

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Announcements: Booths and exhibits for the GASS are all sold out. Fred Reynolds is looking for volunteers to help with the AAMS booth at Cleveland. Upcoming shows include OKPEX in Oklahoma City and Minnesota show at Crystal Lake. More details on both will be in the newsletter.

What Are you Looking For? Perry is looking for NASA Local Posts. Zack is looking for Japanese forgeries.

Show and Tell: Japan #29; Zep cover from Japan; 1898 post card from Tokyo; US #122 from Japan with cert.; German #B231 with Goering image; WW I Zep post card; Zep Navy cover mailed from commander to his wife.

Program: "Learning About EFO's through the Bicentennial" By Jim McKinzie.

Respectively submitted by,

Michael Keil

**Join us on
Saturday, July 1st for
"Mutiny on the Bounty"
By George Corney**

Meeting Location and Time Change:

We are back at the Central Branch of the Johnson County Library. We have the room for the day. This is the perfect time to talk and trade stamps.

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, June 3rd

Meeting is to be held at Johnson County Central Resource Library
9875 W. 87th St.
Overland Park, KS 66212

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:

38th Annual BJCCA Coin & Stamp Show
JULY 15th

Saturday 9-5

Carthage Memorial Hall
407 S. Garrison Hwy 571
Carthage, MO

Dealers



GASS
AUGUST 10-13

For details go
to stamps.org

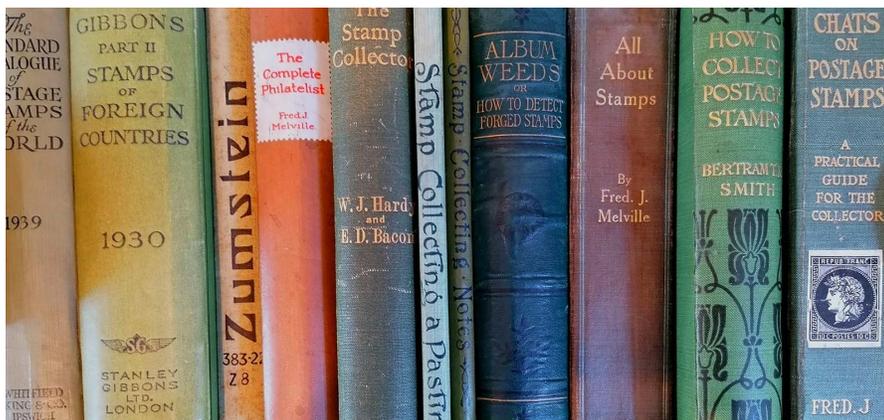


US #4749
Patriotic Star Coil

*Happy Fourth of July
Celebrate Safe!*

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 Jaxx

**The Modern World Stamp Atlas
Kenneth Wood
Van Dahl Publications
225 Pages**

This book serves as a philatelic atlas covering the countries that existed when it was published in 1987. These countries are broken grouped alphabetically for each continent. A large map is supplied for each country depicting all of the major cities. A text accompanying each country gives a concise description of that country. This includes a brief mention of history, climate, political and economic information for each country. The book also gives philatelic examples to aid in identifying stamps from that country. Also included is mail contact information for the philatelic bureau for all country.

This book gives a very quick reference to the modern world stamp collector. Most of the material would be helpful for any beginning collector. I found the philatelic examples to aid in country identification helpful.

Review by Rick Karlslyst

**Newfoundland Air Mails 1919-1939
R.E.R. Dalwick; C.H.C. Harmer
H.R. Harmer Publications**

This book has a bit of everything concerning actual flights, stamps and covers that pertain to Newfoundland...

Some of the chapters titles:

- 1919 May, the "Hawker" Attempt
- 1919-1923 Proofs and Essays
- 1921-23 Internal Winter Flights
- 1931 Local Airmails
- 1932-33 Atlantic Flights
- 1937-39 The Big Companies Take Over

This is not the entire chapter listing, there are 41 different chapters. Each are written in an easy to read format. The chapters provide insight into certain airmail events and really contain a lot of detail as well as a good bibliography for further research. Pictures of actual covers, stamps and photos of

Continued from pg 3:

events as well as individuals highlight each description. I will be looking to procure this book for my collection because it contains a wealth of info about certain events which I am interested in, such as DO-X flight, Pan Am Clipper flights, etc. Not much here as far as mailing rate information, but a lot of info about quantities of stamps issued for specific flights. Lots of obscure tidbits of info for the specialty collector. Another wonderful reference book.

Pictorial Membership Directory:

The directory has been published and sent electronically to all members with email. For those of you without email, I will be handing you, your copy in person at the July meeting. If you are unable to attend, I will mail it to you later that week. Thanks for your participation in getting this accomplished. I hope you all find it helpful.

Philatelic Ramblings:

Another postal rate increase coming soon. On page 10, I ask a question about pricing. I have placed my advance order and hope to let you know the answer to that question in a future newsletter.

More counterfeit stamps have been discovered. This time it is with the high dollar values such as the priority rates. The example Linns showed was even tagged. While the tagging is very different than what is produced for the USPS, it will probably escape detection. Also as I have learned, most dealers that I know and talk with, do not check the tagging on stamps. So if the counterfeit is really good and the dealer is not checking the tagging, how many collectors will end up with counterfeits in their collections. This counterfeiting is not only a problem for the USPS but a problem for this hobby. I would suspect that the counterfeiters are trying to solve the problem of the Postmaster General's announcement of destroying mail that is found with counterfeit stamps. If their trash stamps go through the system undetected then people will continue to buy their "discounted postage". But if the USPS destroys enough people's mail then they will stop buying the cheap counterfeit postage on Ebay. Then the counterfeiters will have no market and quit.

We are the archivists, the museums, the historians and keepers of not just postal history but what is produced itself. So it is imperative that our collections have authentic material in them. If you have counterfeit, fake or facsimile stamps, then they should be clearly identified in your collections. And it is also important that we spread the word about the counterfeiters to our non-philatelic friends and how it is costing the USPS millions of dollars. But remind that naysayer, it is ultimately costing each of us in higher postage costs. It is a ripple effect throughout the economy with individuals and businesses. Some of us have been talking with friends about the problem and there is always one in a group that says, "So what! If I can buy stamps cheaper and use them, then I will." Just remind that person that they are committing fraud, it is a postal violation and carries a hefty penalty monetarily and potential prison time. So is it worth it to save a few bucks? I think not!

I hope that those of you that saw my presentation of EFO's have a better understanding of the difference between an error, a freak and an oddity. I will be happy to forward the PowerPoint presentation to you, if you missed it.

JMc

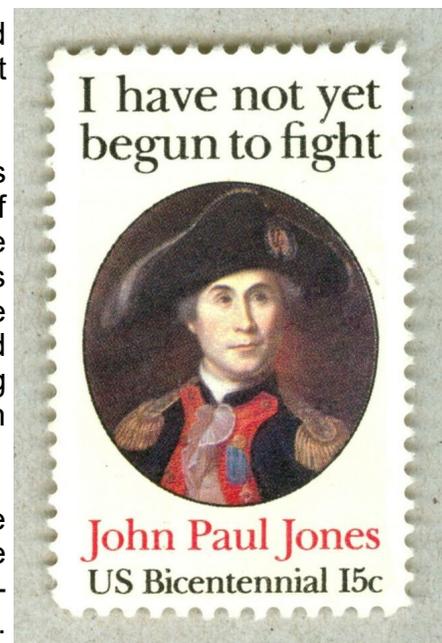
**The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com
Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.**

The John Paul Jones Issue and It's Many Perfs by Jim McKinzie

If I have written about this subject before, I apologize. I could not find where I had, I think I have researched this for so long and thought about it, that I was convinced I had already written about it.

On September 23, 1979 the U.S.P.S. issued the John Paul Jones stamp in the continued celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. Instead of the issue being printed by the Bureau of Printing & Engraving, the U.S.P.S. let the contract out to the American Bank Note Co. This was the first modern day issue to be printed by someone other than the B.E.P. The stamps were produced on a four-color gravure press owned by J.W. Fergusson and Sons of Richmond, Virginia. The processing which included perforating and trimming, was completed by ABNC in New York City.

While there were no significant differences created while printing the Jones stamp, the processing portion created three major collectible types. Although, many freaks were created throughout the printing process. In the processing, three different perforation types were created. 12x12, 11x12 and perf 11.



U.S. #1789
John Paul Jones

Why the three types? When the stamps were first processed on a line perforator, all four sides were gauged perf 12. This perforation type eventually was catalogued by Scott's as #1789B. Why? Because shortly after production began, the perforation wheels that perforated horizontally were replaced with the perf 11 wheels. Thus creating the perf 11x12 variation which became Scott #1789. Sometime later, the vertical wheels were changed as well, making the remainder of the print run perf 11. The perf 11 variation became known as Scott #1789A.

It is believed that the reason for changing the original perforators were because they broke. Instead of trying to replace them to probably meet the contract deadline, the printer decided to replace the broken perf 12 with the perf 11. Not realizing they were creating a rarity.

It was originally reported in the USPS philatelic release (No. 74) dated November 2, 1979 that "approximately 30 percent of the stamps have 12 perforations per two centimeters [gauge 12] on both the horizontal and vertical edges." The release further stated that "a worn out [gauge 12] perforating wheel was replaced with a new [gauge 11] wheel after about 30 percent of the stamps had been perforated [in both directions] and about 40 percent had been perforated [vertically]."

Robert Rabinowitz concluded in the Linn's Stamp News of February 25, 2002 that "the USPS expected about 30 percent of the John Paul Jones stamps to be gauge 12, 10 percent to be gauge 11x12 and 60 percent to be gauge 11." It didn't work out that way. In a follow up article to Linn's on July 29, 2002, Rabinowitz reported that an undated letter by Riley A. Murray, manager of the Philatelic Sales Branch stated that the USPS searched the country for gauge-12 stamps but were unable to find any. "We, surmise," Murray wrote, "that the post offices surveyed either received stock with other perforation measurements or else they sold any [gauge-12 stamps] received."

"It is also possible that much of the [gauge 12] stock, which was the first to be perforated during production, was destroyed as spoiled stock or stock excess to the amount contracted for by the Postal Service."

"This is because the first stock perforated was the first stored in the vaults and thus would have been the last to be shipped or destroyed."

Continued from pg 5:

So, because of a worn or broken perforating wheel, a modern rarity was created. Had the printer alerted the USPS of the problem, they would have either destroyed one or two of the perforations or had more perforated to eliminate the rarity. While the perf 12 was to be the one and only perforation for this issue and should have gotten the main catalogue number, Scott's decided to give the perf 12 a minor number (1789B). The perf 11 became catalogue number 1789A and the major number 1789 was the perf 11x12. It is believed that more quantities exist of the 11x12 than the other two thus the reason it was given the major catalogue number. Although, it is fairly easy to find the perf 11 even though there are less quantities believed to have survived than the perf 11x12.

While the ABNC estimated that about 20 million gauge 12 stamps were produced very few seem to have been found and survived. No one at the time in the philatelic world believed it would be a problem finding the three different perforations because of what the USPS was reporting and what ABNC was reporting. Though we know now that is not true.

Current catalogue pricing for MNH single of #1789 is 30¢, 1789A is 55¢ and 1789B is \$3,000.

What about postally used perf 12? In Linn's on February 6, 2006 it was reported by Charles Snee that a "scarce 15¢ John Paul Jones stamp with gauge 12 perforations was found in the fall of 2005, in the stock of the Postal History Foundation in Tucson, Arizona." "Richard Amesbury, a long time member and volunteer, recently examined more than 2,000 used 15¢ John Paul Jones stamps that had been filed for use in the foundation's youth education program, hoping to find something of value. Amesbury's diligence and talent paid off." The stamp had a light strike of a common wavy-line machine cancel which ran across the middle of the stamp. Kelly McLearn, who was program director of the foundation at the time, told Linn's that the foundation planned to sell the stamp at auction in 2006.

Siegel's Auctions lists eight used copies of 1789B that have come up for auction in the last eighteen years. The realized price has ranged from \$1,600 in 2022 to \$3,750 in 2010. The latest went for \$1,700 in 2022. I tried to buy one at auction last year at GASS but it went way above my pocket book. Catalogue for this used single is listed at \$3,500. On cover \$14,000.

It would be interesting to find a First Day Cover with a perf 12. Although if what was reported is true it would be very doubtful since the USPS at the time used a first in, last out inventory method. Can't do that in the grocery business.



U.S. #1789
John Paul Jones
Gutter Pair with Black ink doubled
Freak

ABNC certainly had trouble with this issue. The three perfs and the many freaks that were produced. But since it was not really reported extensively and what was reported didn't really alarm or excite the philatelic world at the time, the USPS continued to contract to that printer and then others.

I would imagine there are still perf 12 sheets, plate blocks and singles lurking about out there. Why? Because as I have stated many times in this newsletter, most dealers ignore or don't spent much time studying or identifying the modern issues. You know, because "it's junk, just postage!" I would love to prove them wrong and find a sheet of perf 12 in "face value" bin at a show. Wouldn't that be something!

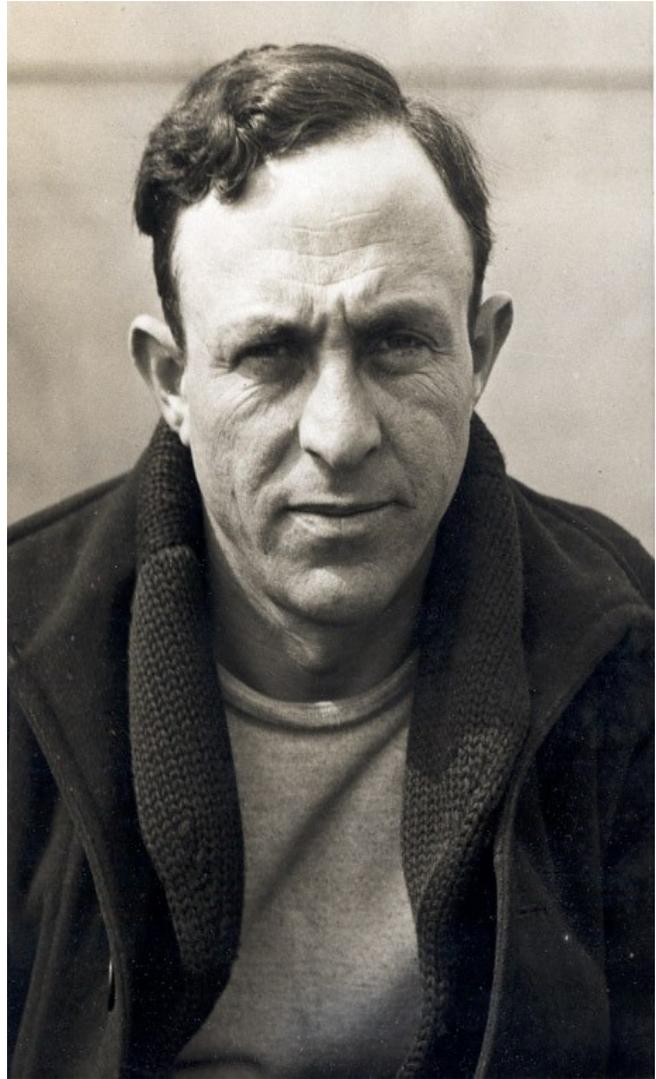
I very much appreciate the help of the American Philatelic Research Library for finding the various few articles written about this modern rarity. Little has been written about this stamp so their help was invaluable.

Arthur Blumberg and the Wilkins-Ellsworth Nautilus Expedition by Michael Keil

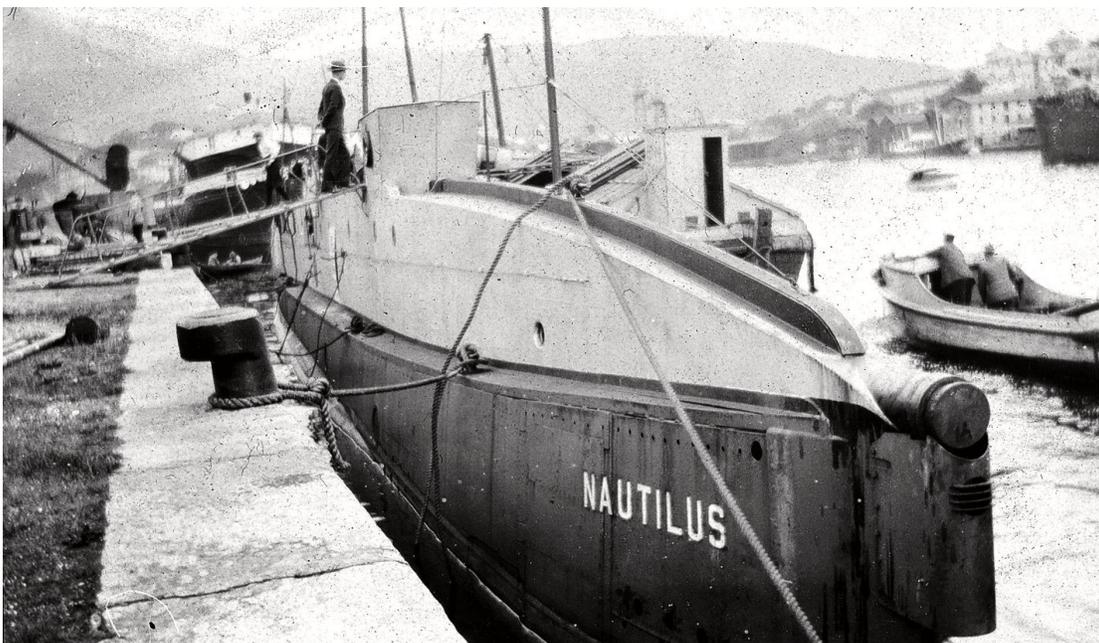
Arthur Blumberg was the Chief Electrician on the *Nautilus* during the Hubert Wilkins attempt to sail a submarine under the North Pole in 1931. Blumberg was a 15-year submarine veteran at the time of the expedition. His journal and photographs, as well as post-expedition interviews, provided important documentation of the expedition. According to Blumberg, *Nautilus* was “the frailest and most vulnerable craft” he ever served on. The diving planes were broken off when the vessel got too close to a “chunk of ice.”

The *Nautilus* was a U.S. Navy submarine (O-12) that had been decommissioned and was scheduled to be scrapped. Wilkins arranged to lease it for a year and renamed it *Nautilus* after the ship in the Jules Verne novel *Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.

The expedition failed to reach the North Pole but did at least prove that a submarine could sail under the ice and possibly achieve the goal of reaching the pole.



Arthur Blumberg



Nautilus in Bergen, Norway after the North Pole attempt.

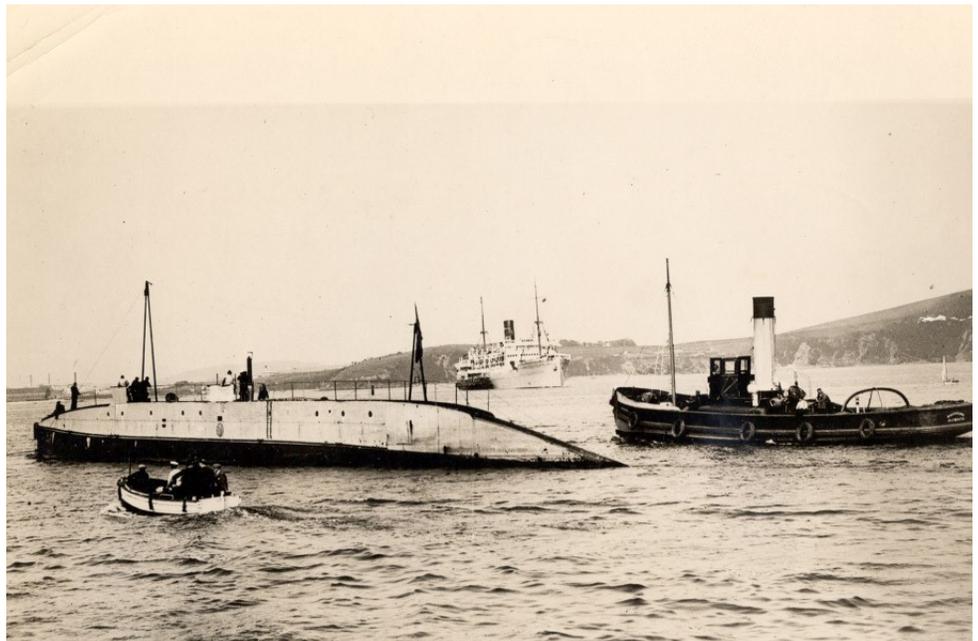


Cover carried aboard the Wilkins North Pole Expedition by Artur Blumberg, cancelled Hight Bridge, New York on 4 April, 1932. Back stamped Hackensack, New Jersey. "Carried by submarine Nautilus on Wilkins Polar Expedition." Signed by Arthur Blumberg Chief Elec. (USN) Arctic Submarine "Nautilus"



Blumberg at the gyroscope in the *Nautilus*.

Nautilus at Portsmouth, England.



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

#9 Ponta Delgada, Angra & Horta

If you fly 900 miles straight west from Lisbon, Portugal, you will find the Azores Islands, part of Portugal and a former Colony. The first major island is San Miguel and the town of **Ponta Delgada**. To the northwest is the Isle of Heroismo, the base of the former administrative district of **Angra**. On the westernmost island of Faial is the Town and Bay of **Horta**. These islands have been a stopping place for Atlantic travelers since the 15th century.

Stamped mail was first used in 1853, with stamps of Portugal used on outgoing mail, cancelled with the barred numeral "48" for Angra, "49" for Horta and "50" for Ponta Delgada. In 1892-93, a set of stamps bearing the names of each of the three districts were issued, followed by a second set in 1897-1905 using a new design. The designs were identical to those of the regular Portuguese stamps (which were inscribed "CONTINENTE").



After 1906 no further stamps were produced for these three districts and stamps from Azores were used on all outgoing mail until after 1930, when only Portuguese stamps were used.



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:

Northern Cardinal Stamped Envelope

Forever rate

Ten different envelope formats

Issue Date July 9th

First Day of Issue City is: Bird City, KS

Print Quantity– No information is available



Bird City, KS! Where is that? North of Goodland on U.S. 36 nearly to the Colorado state line. As of the 2020 census, the population was 437. Don't bother driving the six plus hours, there will be no first day ceremony.

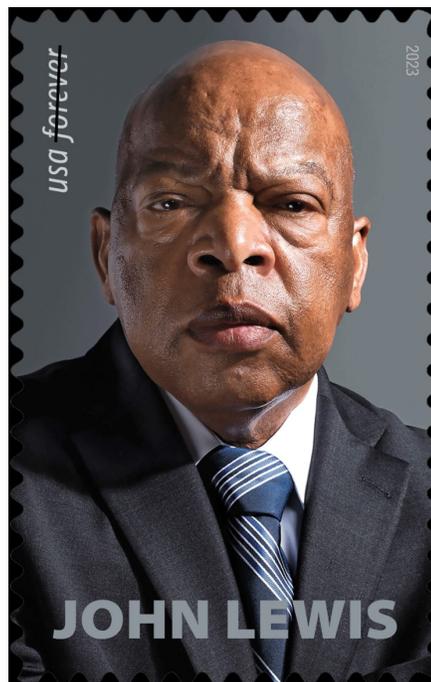
John Lewis

Forever rate (66¢)

One design, Pane of Fifteen

Issue Date July 21st

Print Quantity– 30,000,000 stamps



The Waterfalls issued last month has a print quantity of 34,992,000 stamps.

Question: USPS website lists the John Lewis stamp on available for preorder at the 63¢ forever rate but it is not to be released and shipped until July 21st. The rate is scheduled to go up to 66¢ on July 9th. So if you preorder it, do you get the old rate? Same with the new envelope, old rate or new rate?

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