

The Messenger



December 2024

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)
Perry Kilpatrick, Secretary (kilpatrickp61@gmail.com)
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

December 7th, 2024
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2

What You Missed at Our November Meeting:

Attendance: 35 members in attendance.

President Rodger McReynolds opens the meeting.

Reports: President—No Report
1st Vice-President—No Report
2nd Vice-President—No Report
Treasurer—Betsy reported that the final audit was complete for 2023 and everything was in good order.
Secretary—No Report
Historian—No Report
Librarian—No Report
Website—No Report
Exhibits—Four members have agreed to exhibit for December
Newsletter Editor—Please send in articles for the newsletter.

Old Business: *Nominations are open for our elected offices. Please consider a position. Rodger would like to step down as President. We are also in need of a secretary.*

New Business: Next meeting will be the white elephant auction to benefit the ongoing operations of this club. Club exhibiting and officer elections will be held also. It was suggested that we buy a complete set of Scott catalogues if there would be a location at Westminster Hall that we could store them. Jim Mc will look into it.

Announcements: Dale and Andrea Smith are working towards retirement. Chicagopex will be their last show with StampSmith. We are sorry to see them go but wish them well. Rick announced the show dates for the next KC area show to be held here at Westminster Hall on May 30 and 31.

Show N Tell: We had several members with very interesting material.

Program: Rick Karlsyst had a very interesting program.

Formal meeting portion was adjourned by Rodger. Declared a short break and we moved on to the Auction.

Respectively submitted by Jim McKinzie

**Join us on
December 7, 2024
For December's Club Benefit
Auction, Club Exhibits and
Officer Elections**

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, December 7th
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. Exhibits displayed and ready for viewing.

1:00pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view.

2:00pm—5pm Business meeting, show-n-tell and program with White Elephant Club Benefit Auction to follow.

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

Directions to new location can be found on our website. Check out the January or February newsletters on the website.

What you will find if you come early to the meeting:

John Harmon will be bringing his stock of Countries M and N for you to look through and purchase.

Philatelic Happenings:

Nothing in December. Hopefully there will be something going on in January.

Newsletter Receives Star Route Award:

The American Philatelic Society has awarded the Star Route Awards for 2024. The Messenger has now received an award for the fourth year in a row. This year we moved up to a Gold award.

This award goes to all members of the Midwest Philatelic Society that contribute to the newsletter during the year. It would not be possible without your help. And thanks to Dale Smith for making the submissions to APS each year for the award.

We are lucky to have so many knowledgeable people in this club that contribute not only to the newsletter but by giving great programs each month. That is what makes this club interesting and viable.

You can see what other clubs won by going to <https://stamps.org/community/star-route>

Thanks again.



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

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS:

Elections will be held on December 7th. This coming meeting!

It is time. Have you thought about it. Would you like to serve in some capacity. Please think about it. We will elect the new slate of officers at December's meeting. The officers are the group that help hold this society together. Without people serving in each office we can not continue. Rodger has served as President for the past two years and would like to pass the gavel. There are probably other officers that feel the same.



**U.S. #1584
Early Ballot Box
Issued December 8, 1977**

Below is a list of the elected offices and their duties:

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Society, including the Board of Directors. He or she shall appoint all committees, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and be an ex officio member of all committees.

The First Vice President shall act for the President in case of temporary absence, and shall be responsible for the programs at Society meetings.

The Second Vice President shall be responsible for club auctions, and shall act for the First Vice President in case of temporary absence.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Society and present them for approval of the Society at the next regular meeting. He or she shall also keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors. A summary of the minutes will be sent to the Editor for insertion in the following month's newsletter (not to include the actual treasury balance), and shall be posted to the Society's website.

The Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the Society, making regular reports to the Society which shall be incorporated into the minutes. He or she shall be empowered to collect all dues and receipts and to pay the bills and disburse the funds of the Society. He or she shall be the custodian of the Bylaws of the Society.

The following offices are appointed by the President after the election:

- Three Board Members At-Large
- Newsletter Editor
- Historian
- Librarian
- Exhibit Chairperson

And any other committee formed as deemed necessary by the Board and/or the Membership.

Please refer to our website where the By-laws are posted for more information.

Consider running for an office. You will find it greatly rewarding.

Philatelic Ramblings:

Just got back from Chicagopex. It is a great show and one of the largest shows left. So many of the stamp shows are disappearing. There are many reasons for that. One big reason is that it takes a lot of volunteers to mount a show, especially one as large as Chicagopex. While buying online is great, I think going to a show is much more rewarding. Besides interacting with the dealers, you can meet and talk with other collectors and exhibitors. I always walk away having learned more about this great hobby of ours. One thing I heard over and over in Hartford this summer and again this show was they wished they had a local stamp club or that it was stronger. We are very lucky to have the great group that we do. But will it be here in the future? Not if members don't step up and take on leadership roles. We have officer elections this month. We are in desperate need of someone to be secretary. What does that consist of? Taking the minutes at each meeting and then forwarding them to the newsletter editor. Do they need to be perfect? No! Once I receive the minutes, I read over them and make any additions or corrections as I recall the meeting. So two sets of eyes and ears are recording for the history of the club, what occurred at each meeting. Rodger has indicated he would like to step down. He has been in the presidents role for the past two years. And this is not the first time he has taken up the mantle of president. He served this organization in the past. There are many capable members that could take on either roll. Please consider doing so.

I had planed on including the rest of my trip to Hartford this issue but I felt there were other items that needed to be included this month. Since I try my best to keep the newsletter to 10 pages because of costs, I will defer the rest of the trip to a future newsletter.

JMc

MPS at Chicagopex 2024 by Jim McKinzie

What a great show! And MPS had a great representation both in attendance and as exhibitors. We had a total of nine members plus one spouse (who if we work on it, we may turn her to the philatelic side). Three of us had exhibits and all won a least one award for their exhibit.

We took the group picture on Friday afternoon but we left Tomas out. Tomas picked up Michael at Midway that evening, so on Saturday I found them both at



**Above from left to right
Fred Reynolds, Scott Couch, Bill Johnson, Kathleen Johnson,
Jim McKinzie, Andrea Smith, Charles Wunch & Dale Smith**

**At left from left to right
Michael Miklovic, Andrea Smith & Tomas Griebing**



Continued from page 4

Dale and Andrea's tables. Michael found more pretty little pieces of paper for his collection. In fact, I believe we all found great material for our particular collections. I know I did. I was able to pick up two great items for my exhibit plus I have now completed my Columbians with the purchase of the \$3 value. It has eluded me all my life. It's already mounted in my book. It looks great!

I also found some French items that are holes in my collection from our friends at StampSmith. It was rather bitter sweet, sitting there looking through their stock and realizing that may be the last time, since this is their last big show. I remember when I got back into collecting and finding their booth and other topical dealers at a show to fill out my US Bicentennial worldwide collection. All those other topical dealers have been gone for some time. Now Dale and Andrea, the last of the true topical dealers will be closing up. We wish them well in their retirement!

All three of us that exhibit, took home at least one prize. It was only fitting that Bill Johnson took the highest prize home of the three of us for his Denver exhibit. Bill has given programs at our club meetings in the past about this fascinating historical figure. Bill won a Large Gold medal, the 2nd prize from the American Topical Association and the American Philatelic Society Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence. Three awards are not bad for a collection of old envelopes.

Tomas Griebing took two prizes home for his Pink Triangle exhibit. This fascinating exhibit of Nazi oppression during WWII and beyond was awarded a Large Vermeil and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor. Tomas has also given a program to the club on this subject in the past.

And who would have thought that me, Jim McKinzie would take home a prize for my first time exhibit on EFO's. This collection of stamps and other philatelic items that many collectors have thrown out or over looked in the past was awarded a Large Silver. Not bad for a rookie.

The competition was fierce in all categories both multi-frame and single frame exhibits. Neither one of the three of us chose to do a one frame exhibit. But I have an idea for one in the future. That is what is great about going to a show. It stimulates your mind. Actually I have an idea for another multi-frame exhibit also. But the competition is fierce with both. There were 32 exhibitors in the multi-frame category



MPS member Bill Johnson by the first frame of his nine frame exhibit. "James W. Denver- The Man & His Times"



MPS member Tomas Griebing by the first frame of his three frame exhibit. "From Mark of Oppression to Symbol of Gay Pride: The Pink Triangle"

Continued from page 5

and there were 70 exhibitors in the single frame category. Plus two youth single frame exhibits. That is a lot of frames and exhibitors. There were many fascinating exhibits displayed. I always learn something walking along and reading these exhibits.

One of the new items I bought at the show for my exhibit is below. I had an over-inked single of this Articles of Confederation bicentennial era stamp. But this transition piece, I had to have. It really shows the problem this sheet had. The plate was not wiped off of the excess ink during production after it was inked by the printer. So cool! This item fits in the freak category, by the way.

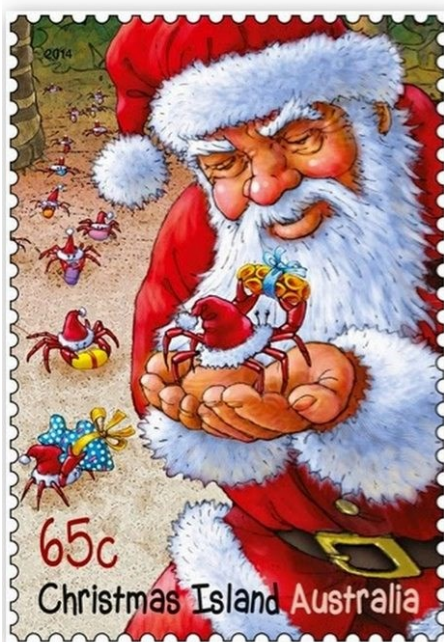
Went to a couple of seminars and had a good time with our fellow club members and others that I have met over time around the country. Consider heading to the next big show. Such as the St. Louis Show in March. You will find it extremely satisfying.



MPS Member Jim McKinzie by the first frame of his three frame exhibit. "Errors, Freaks & Oddities of the U.S. Bicentennial Period"



**U.S. #1726
Excessive inked transition piece of the "Members of Continental Congress in Conference"**



**Christmas Island #532 and #533
Above left— Crab offering gift to Santa Claus
Above Right— Crab holding gift-wrapped coconut**

**Merry
Christmas
And I want to
go there!**

Collecting Habits by Barry Fitzgerald:

I always enjoy reading our newsletter, knowing that it takes a lot of work and dedication before we receive it. We are lucky that Jim puts together such a fine and informative item. His Philatelic Ramblings are well worth reading. Thus, I thought I would do some rambling of my own, as Jim always asks for material.



I wasn't planning to write a story but then my eyes focused in on an ad in the November American Philatelist magazine, which immediately sent the wheels spinning in my head. The "Wish Central" ad on page 9 always has some really nice stamps for sale but they are completely beyond my financial ability. This month's ad featured a 1901 4¢ Deep Red Brown & Black Pan-American imprint plate block of six, available for the bargain price of \$5,100 (list price is \$6,000). In addition, there are two other stamps on the page listing for \$21,250 each.

The ads are of interest because my birthday cake (if I get one) will hold 80 candles next month. I worry about what will happen to my collection upon my demise and I want my heirs to have somebody that they can trust. Obviously, there are individuals that purchase these stamps, and I am not going to be critical. More power to them. However, in my pea-size brain, wouldn't they get more enjoyment out of purchasing \$5,100 worth of normal stamps like I do. You could purchase 1,700 stamps at \$3 each for that amount and fill a lot of empty spaces. Again, my brain is working overtime, telling me that this would be much more enjoyable.

I think most of our members collect somewhat similarly to what I do. We have some members that specialize though, and I do enjoy hearing about their efforts to obtain rare stamps or covers. Covers are different from stamps. They are specialized items and may equate to purchasing fine art and antiques. Thus, I see the pleasure in finding that one thing that you want for your collection.

My stamp collection began back in the good old 3¢ mint U.S. days. I still continue to buy American stamps at my local post office (they are good about stocking the latest issues) and sometimes from Scott Couch when certain issues aren't available. My goal at the end of the year is to have a complete set outside of the imperfs and other non-standard items. I build my own albums and have small binders for each year.

My wife was surprised to find out that forever stamps are now 73 cents. My coffers hold enough "forever" stamps to take us to the year 2200, so she never worries about finding a stamp when she needs one.

Our club meetings are wonderful. I love buying lots (I take them home and evaluate what I have purchased) and filling spaces. The auction is great, and I enjoy the bidding. Armen keeps us on our toes and George Corney always has \$1 packets that meet my needs. John Harmon's red boxes of foreign stamps help fill many spaces. The UPS books are valuable and fun.

Continued from pg. 7

I recently purchased some Liberian stamps from John and while checking the catalog, I sighted the listing of a 2014 souvenir sheet of six stamps honoring Yosemite National Park. Why Liberia needs to honor the park with six stamps (as far as I know, it has only been on one USA stamp) is mind boggling. Of course, I know the reason – collectors will buy them. APS had an article about this also. The stamps aren't for sale within the country itself – only for collectors, although they are legal for postage. There is a firm that contracts with the country to put out the stamps. No harm, no foul, I guess.

This might be something to consider. Possibly the hobby should focus more on collecting topical stamps, which might be of more interest to younger collectors (I doubt it, but . . .) and others that enjoy specific topics. I, myself, have enough on my plate just collecting the countries that I do, but occasionally I will spot some Boy Scout or cat stamps which I enjoy. Maybe, if I were starting over, I might specialize in topical issues.

In a previous submission, I mentioned my fascination with the Australian Kaola Bear stamp. The 1938 Ecuador "Liberty Carrying a Flag" (Scott 366-372) stamps were also always on my bucket list as a kid. I have enclosed a picture of one of them. The seven stamps together catalog for under \$10 mint. Again, in my way of thinking, this suits my needs more than the Pan-American block. However, I will gladly accept it if someone wants to gift it to me.



In conclusion, we have an amazing hobby. No matter how we approach it, there is always something out there that we didn't know about or would like to have within reason. History and geography are two of my passions. I thank stamp collecting for allowing me to pursue those interests.



Canada #3411
Hanukkah "Festival of Lights"
Issued 2023

Happy
Hanukkah

If you are reading this on-line and are not a current member of the Midwest Philatelic Society, please consider joining us at our meeting location on Saturday, December 7.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

#23 Year-end Quiz—Name the Country

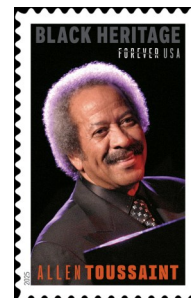
Here is a new twist on the series: Below is a list of historical facts about this Dead Country. Some might be intentionally vague, but all will be factual. Challenge yourselves and see how far down the list you have to go before you know the name of the country. Come to the December meeting and we'll see who did the best.

1. This country came into being as a kingdom in December, 1918 with the amalgamation of six states.
2. The first official postage stamps were issued on January 16, 1921.
3. Its name was not officially established until October 3, 1929.
4. Stamps bearing that name first appeared early in 1931.
5. There were only two kings: the first was assassinated in 1934; the second was deposed in 1945.
6. In December 1944 the country became known as a Federal People's Republic.
7. The country was a Communist state, beginning in 1945, but refused to align itself with Russia.
8. The Federal Republic issued over 2400 stamps (not counting B.O.B.).
9. The man who was named President in 1945 remained until his death in 1980.
10. After 1980 there was much dissention over who would take over as President.
11. Disagreements became violence and war, with the loss of millions of lives, until 1992 when the country was dissolved and the various states became independent nations.

Good luck!

New Issues Coming in 2025:

We present some of the new issues coming next year. We will let each of you determine their relevance and artistic merit.



More 2025 Issues:



Other issues have been announced, like the Boston World Expo but their designs have not been released as of this newsletter.



Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Neil B. 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*