

The Messenger



January 2024

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

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OPEN, Secretary

Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

**Saturday,
January 6th
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2**



Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the December Meeting:

Attendance: 33 members in attendance, New membership accepted—Scott English, Executive Director, APS

Treasurer: Dues for 2024 are now due. \$25 for a single membership and \$30 for a family membership. Please include any changes in contact information for the 2024 membership directory.

Membership: No report

Secretary: U.S. postal rates will be going up again on January 21, 2024. Forever stamps will increase to 68 cents and other rates are going up as well.

Librarian: New books in the library: Encyclopedia of U.S. Stamps and Stamp Collecting and History of the United States in 36 Stamps. Also have back issues of Topical Times.

Historian: No report.

First Vice-President's Report: Sign-ups for 2024 programs needed.

Second Vice-President's Report: Exhibits next month at the new meeting place. So far there are 6 competitive exhibits and 1 non-competitive exhibits. Still openings for the one-page exhibits.

Newsletter: Keep sending articles. The newsletter received a Vermeil Award in the 2023 Star Route Competition for the third year in a row.

Website: The newsletter has been archived on the website.

Old business: Elections of officers for 2024. The slate of candidates prepared by the nominating committee was presented. Meeting was opened for nominations from the floor. As there were no nominations from the floor a motion was made and carried that the candidates presented by the nominating committee be accepted.. The motion carried. The secretary position remains open but Perry volunteered to temporarily take the position.

New Business: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to donate \$200 to the Johnson County Library.

Announcements: Directions for the new meeting place will be in the next newsletter. The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May 24-26, 2024; the St. Louis Stamp Show is March 22-24, 2024.

What are you looking for? Per last month, Stephen Slack has discovered that an LED flashlight can be used to identify woven and laid paper. Roger is looking for G.B. Scott #403-406, mint and phosphor tagged. Jim Jupe looking for high denomination G. B. King Edward issues.

Show and Tell: How does Mystic make any money discussion; photo of stamp show in Japan; Italian Zep cover to Seiger; #71 30 cent on cover from Leavenworth, Ks to Germany; 1914 British military post card; U. S, counterfeiting discussion.

Program: Annual White Elephant auction for the benefit of the club.

Respectively submitted by,

Michael Keil

**Join us on
Saturday, January 6th
For Our Annual Club Exhibits**

Meeting Location and Time:

JANUARY'S NEW MEETING PLACE & TIME

We will be at our new location in Independence, MO. We have secured this location for all of 2024.

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. Exhibits displayed and ready for viewing.

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.

Directions to new location (see maps on pgs. 3 and 4)

If coming from the west or southwest: From I-70 & I-435 on the Missouri side, go north on I-435 from I-70 to the second exit which is Truman Rd. After exiting I-435 go east on Truman Rd. approximately 3.7 miles to Pleasant St. and turn South (right). Go to the second stop sign (Lexington Ave.) and turn to the east (left) and then turn into the parking on your right. Westminster Hall sits on the SE corner of Lexington and Pleasant St.

If coming from the east: From I-70 & State Route 291 go north on 291 from I-70. Take the Truman Rd exit. Turn right (west) onto Truman Rd. go approximately 2.1 Miles to Pleasant St. and turn South (left). Go to the second stop sign (Lexington Ave.) and turn to the east (left) and then turn into the parking on your right. Westminster Hall sits on the SE corner of Lexington and Pleasant St.

If coming from the north: From I-435 & Highway 210, go south on I-435 to the third exit (Truman Rd). Turn left (East) onto Truman Rd. approximately 3.7 miles to Pleasant St. and turn South (right). Go to the second stop sign (Lexington Ave.) and turn to the east (left) and then turn into the parking on your right. Westminster Hall sits on the SE corner of Lexington and Pleasant St.



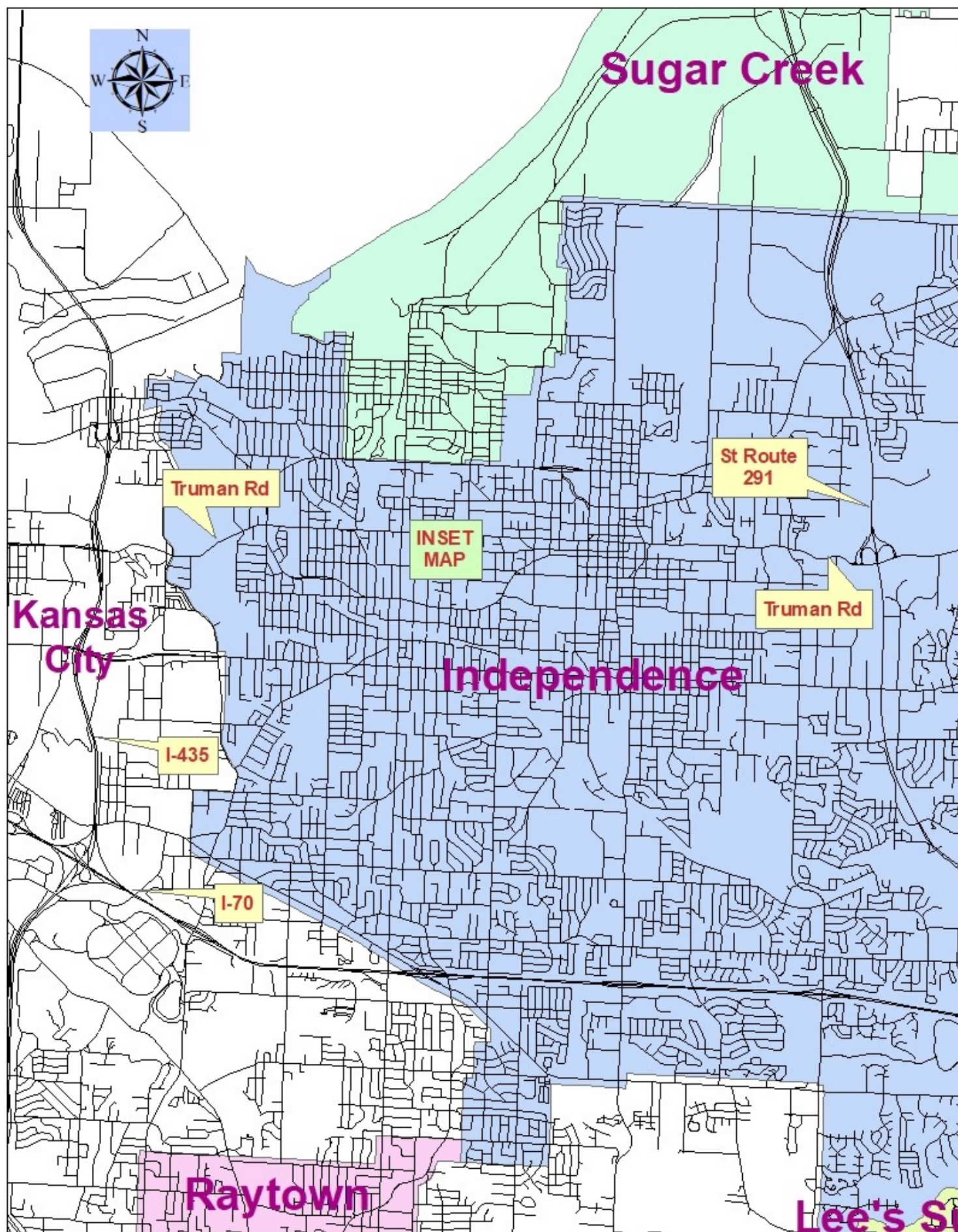
Westminster Hall — Enter from South Doors

Philatelic Happenings:

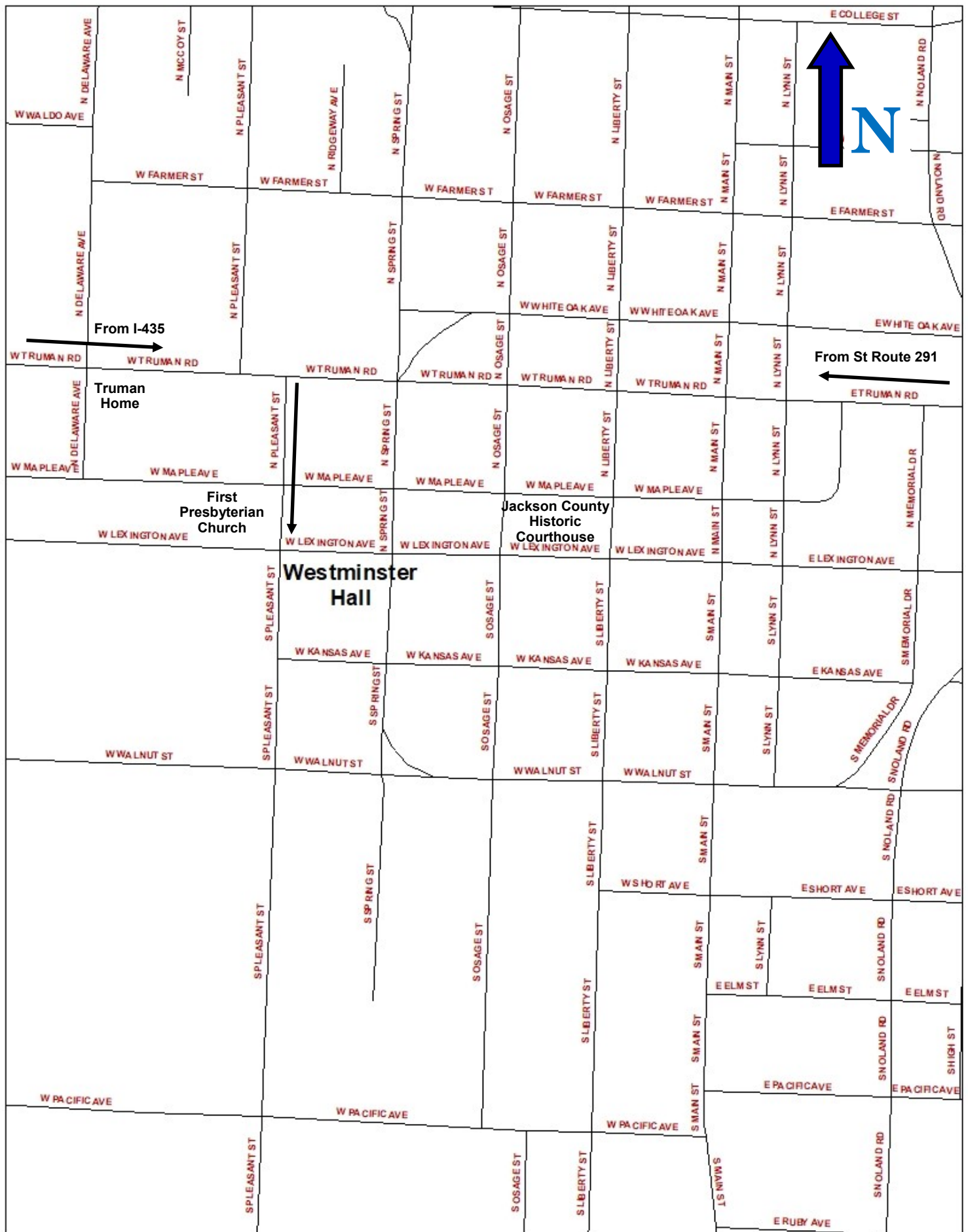
Nothing close happening in January. Although, if you want to travel away from the KC area there are many different shows available. Some are even in warm climates such as Phoenix, Houston and Sarasota. You can look up shows and bourses around the country in the most recent Linns Stamp News or on the American Philatelic Society website under Events.

Dale of E and D Auctions is planning an auction mid January but no date is set at this time.

Map to New Meeting Location:



Inset Map for Directions to New Location:



Jelly Bean Jar Giveaway:

To inaugurate the new MPS Club meeting location for the entire 2024, we have a special “Door Prize”, just for January 6, 2024 meeting.

A large number of 2 cents “reds” stamps, all MNH, are placed in a jar, and all members will have the chance to guess the quantity, whoever comes the closest will get the jar of 2 cents “Reds”, free, as a late Christmas Gift.

Never in MPS history such a unique/exceptional/interesting/valuable/amazing gift been prepared for members who will attend the January 6, 2024 meeting at our NEW Location.



Philatelic Ramblings:

We have a good meeting planned for our first meeting out in Independence. It will include the usual business, show-n-tell, a special drawing and club exhibits. If you get there early enough, you should be able to look at the exhibits and vote on your favorite as we have done in the past.

Exhibitors, please make every effort to arrive between 10 and 10:30am to mount your exhibits. That gives club members and the judges plenty of time to view your efforts.

I know this venue is a big change for us but ever since COVID and the loss of the library on 75th in Waldo/KC, we have bounced from place to place and different days and times. For the sake of continuity, we hope this will be a good solution. Keep in mind over the history of this club we have been at many different locations. In looking at the history, we were at two different downtown Kansas City locations in the first part of the 20th century. I asked Mickey Marks once, if he remembered when we started going to the Waldo library. All I got was, “Well, it was a long time ago.” I figured he was the only one around that would remember. He did say when they left the last downtown location, they were somewhere else for a while before the club settled on Waldo library location. Let’s hope this works out and we can be there for sometime to come. Let the officers and board know what you think after a couple of meetings.

I recently attended a ZOOM meeting with the American Topical Association. It was an informative meeting about “Energize Your Stamp Club”. While I believe we have a good and strong group, it never hurts to hear what others are doing and see if there is something to incorporate into our organization. I plan to share this information with the officers and perhaps we will implement some of those ideas down the road. There is to be another session on January 23rd, which I plan to log into.

JMc

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.

Missent to Calcutta—Kansas Postal History by M. Zach Lawrence

I don't usually get out of my lane from a philatelic standpoint. This is a departure, but at least it's East Asia related.

This cover from Fort Scott, Kansas doesn't have any year dates on it, but based on the rate (5 cent UPU for a ½ oz) and the stamps affixed, we can date it to the later part of the 1880's (maybe 1888 or 1889)

Rich in Postal markings, a real gem. But let's start with the basics:



Addressed to: Dr. Jim (?) N. Merrisin (The last name is likely – 'Meinrisin')
Care of American Consul
Hong Kong
China

Post Marked: Fort Scott, Kan /Dated Sep 23

Other interest facts about the front:

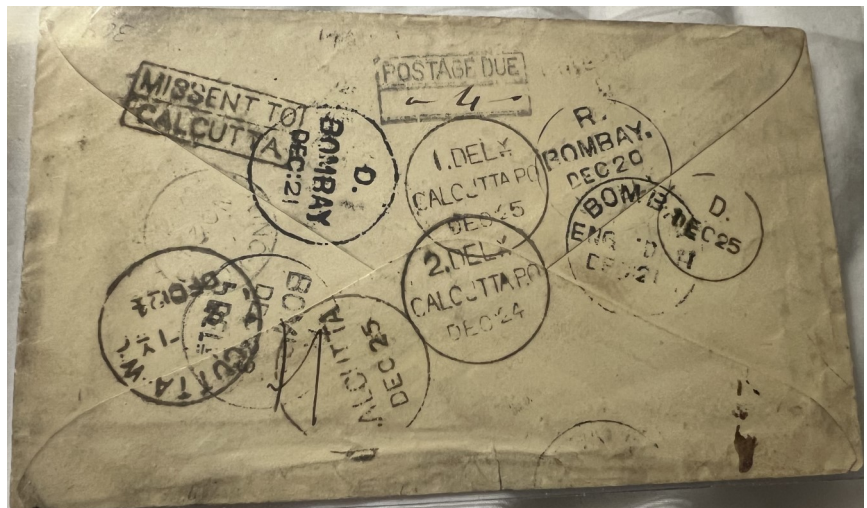
- Postage Due: T
- Hong Kong is marked out: with Calcutta in purple and marked out in magenta. Bombay written twice in magenta.

The back is just wild with 12 postal markings:
(I will attempt to list them by date order.)

- Hong Kong dated Nov. 21 or 24
- R. Bombay Dec. 20
- Bombay Dec. 21
- D. Bombay Dec 21
- Bombay Dec. 23
- Calcutta W. Dec 24
- 2.Dely Calcutta PO Dec 24
- 1.Dely Calcutta PO Dec 25

Other Markings:

- D. Dec 25
- Postage Due – 4 (handwritten)
- Missent to Calcutta
- One marking at the top edge not legible.



With all these marking, one immediately jumped out at me as a Philatelist. 'Missent to Calcutta.' As a Japan expert of certain aspects of 19th century Japanese philately, I am like Captain Ahab hunting his white whale. I have been in search of 'Missent to Yokohama,' ever since Siegal Auctions sold an 1884 example more than a decade ago. -Simply put, there most likely aren't any others.

This cover is a treat. East Asia, India, and Kansas with some unusual and rare markings.

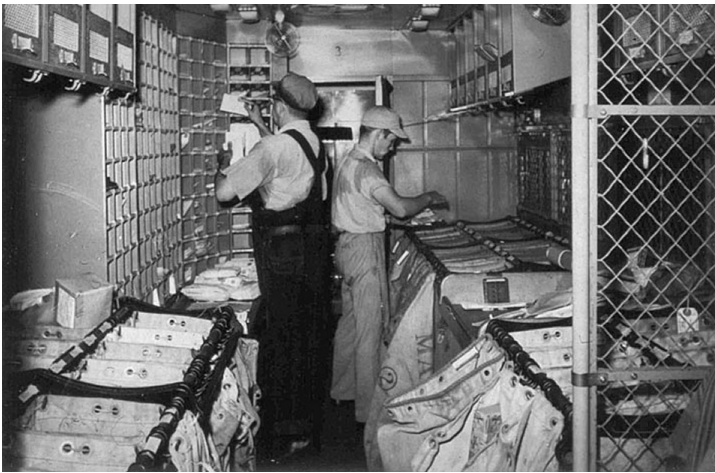
HPO Cancel's of Past by Jim McKinzie

When you have collected stamps as long as I have you begin to think you know everything about the hobby. But then I go to a show, read something in a philatelic journal or buy a collection and I am humbled by the fact that I don't know everything. Recently I bought a collection and in it were some covers. Those of you that know my collecting habits, know that covers have never been a big thing to me. First day covers as a kid, covers that fit into my bicentennial collection, Coca-Cola related covers and other odd things to perk my interest I might add to my collection. But it is not a great passion as I know it is with many in this club and the hobby as a whole. So as I was looking at this collection I noticed that these covers had interesting cancelations. I knew all about RPO's, APO's and DPO's but HPO's! Never heard of them.

HPO stands for Highway Post Office. As rail service began to decline before WWII, the post office saw a need to develop something similar to the Railroad Post Office (RPO), to take up the slack where there was a need. Remember, this was a time when the United States Post Office wanted to get the mail delivered in the most efficient and timely manner possible. So on July 11, 1940 the plan to use vehicles on highways to deliver and sort mail became into existence with Congress and the President signing into law the Highway Post Office Service.



1941 White Model 788



**Clerks working aboard a
1941 White Model 788**



**President Franklin D. Roosevelt deposits a letter into
the inaugural February 10, 1941 HPO bus.**

The law disallowed the Highway Post Office Services to service any area which already had adequate railroad facilities. Further, the service could also be contracted out and the specifications required that bus-like vehicles be equipped in a similar fashion as the previously successful Railroad Post Office cars.

The first route was established on February 10, 1941 between Washington D.C. and Harrisonburg,



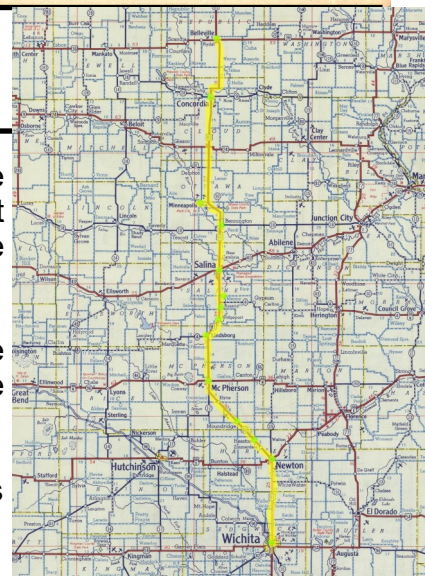
Virginia. Only two additional routes were added before our entry into WWII. Post war saw expansion to 20 routes by 1950. Routes grew, expanded, collapsed and changed over the next

two decades. They kept the routes around a 150 miles in length so that the vehicles would not have to refuel before arriving at the end point.

As the Post Office started taking advantage of the new automation sorting and handling technology available and started building regional centers to sort the mail, the Highway Post Office system started to decline. By June 30, 1974 the final trip was made on the Cleveland to Cincinnati route and the whole system was gone.

According to collectors, these covers can be quite scarce for some of the routes and trips. While rare they are not expensive to collect. There are

Special Trip 1 and Trip 2 covers from First Trip of the Highway Post Office between Belleville and Wichita, Kansas (map on right)



First Trip covers and Last Trip

covers and normal HPO cancellations on mail.

StampSmarter has a wonderful section all about this interesting piece of philatelic history. Besides lots of information, it has pictures of the many different vehicles that were used plus a catalog of covers and routes with maps. You can download the information also. Just follow the link below to access more information.

Cover intended for First Trip HPO between Belleville and Wichita, Kansas

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

#14 Confederate States of America

The Confederate States of America (CSA) was formed in 1861. It should not be necessary to dwell on the history or geography of the CSA other than its postal stamps and system. However it may be surprising to hear that the Confederate Post Office was established on February 21, 1861, before the Civil War officially began!

Early in the war, postage stamps for CSA were not available, thus covers bearing US stamps and Postmaster's Provisionals (represented by "PAID", hand stamped in various formats) were known from nearly 300 post offices throughout the Confederacy.

The first stamp, printed in 1861, showed a portrait of Jefferson Davis and had a 5c denomination. It was rather crudely lithographed and was imperf. (as were most of the CSA stamps.) A 10c stamp featuring Thomas Jefferson was also printed that year. Both were re-issued in blue and rose, respectively (Scott #4 & #5.)



CSA #1

CSA #2

There were two new designs in 1862. A 2c green (needed to cover the postage for drop letters and circulars) depicted Andrew Jackson. A new design for the 5c Davis stamp was printed by two different printers, resulting in a light blue stamp with fine impression and a blue stamp on thin paper and dulled, blurred printing. (Scott #6 and #7.) A 1c stamp honoring John C Calhoun was printed this year, but was never issued (Scott #14.)



CSA #3

CSA #6

In 1863 a brown 2c Andrew Jackson stamp (#8) was issued. This and the other stamps of 1863 were all engraved and had sharper, brighter designs. April saw a "Ten Cents" stamp (#9) featuring a side-view bust of Jefferson Davis looking much older.



CSA #14

CSA #8

The same design also appeared in April 1863 with the "Ten" redrawn as "10" and was printed twice more in 1863 and 1864 with minor changes: #10 was framed with widely-spaced lines; #11 (Die A) had no frame lines; and #12 (DieB) exhibited several minor changes, most notable (to me) was the heavy hair shading lines at the back of the head were reduced to one jagged line. All four of the issues shown below can be found with a variety of blue shades (and even green), depending on the printing run or different printing companies.



CSA #9

CSA #10

CSA #11

CSA #12

Finally, a 20c stamp became necessary to cover the additional cost of running the blockade along the Mississippi River for mail going west. What appears to be the traditional "Stuart" portrait of George Washington was used on the 1863 stamp design.



CSA #13

Collectors should be aware of counterfeits of most of these stamps. Especially beware of counterfeited postal markings and covers.

New Issues for January 2024:

Love

Forever rate

One design, Pane of 20

Issue Date January 12th

First Day of Issue City is: Romance, AR

Print Quantity– 200,000,000 stamps



The following is scheduled to go in effect on Jan 21st, 2024.

Product	Current Prices	Proposed Prices
Letters (1 oz.)	66¢	68¢
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	63¢	64¢
Domestic Postcards	51¢	53¢
International Postcards	\$1.50	\$1.55
International Letter (1 oz.)	\$1.50	\$1.55

Pillars of Creation

New Priority Rate

One design, Pane of 4

Issue Date January 22nd

First Day of Issue City is: Greenbelt, MD

Print Quantity– not reported at this time



Cosmic Cliffs

New Express Rate

One design, Pane of 4

Issue Date January 22nd

First Day of Issue City is: Greenbelt, MD

Print Quantity– not reported at this time



Lunar New Year: Dragon

Forever Rate

One design, Pane of 20

Issue Date January 25th

First Day of Issue City is: Seattle, WA

Print Quantity– 22,000,000, stamps



Constance Baker Motley

Forever Rate

One design, Pane of 20

Issue Date January 31st

First Day of Issue City is: New York, NY

Print Quantity– not reported at this time

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