

The Messenger



May 2024

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

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**Saturday,
May 4th**
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2



Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the April Meeting:

Attendance: 40 members in attendance with 3 visitors.

Visitors: George & Celest Hampton, and Cindy Harries

President: Rodger noted that the next meeting we will be on May 4th.

First Vice President Report: Armen noted that the APS booklets were selling well this week. 10 members had purchased around \$360 as of that point. Armen asked the members what books they would like to see next month. Some of the areas that the Secretary was able to jot down were France, Plate Coils, FSAT, Netherlands and Guatemala.

Second Vice President report: Jeff Jaax said he had a list of past members that have not resigned up for this year. He thought it would be better for members that know these past members to contact them to see if they would like to return. Jeff also noted he was lining up a TV reporter to interview Jim McKinzie at the stamp show.

Secretary Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: No report.

Librarian report: No report.

Historian: No report.

Newsletter: Jim McKinzie asked the members to keep the article submissions coming.

Website: Rodger reported that a banner for the stamp show had been put up on the website. Then he opened the floor to Rick Karlslyst to update the members. Rick reported that the show will be on the 7th and 8th of June. 12 Dealers have committed, and some still have to pay. The location will be the church the club is presently meeting at. They have 28 tables and are working on the additional 6 to 8 tables needed. He listed several of the advertising sites they will be using and mentioned several nearby stamp clubs he has sent to or was planning to send flyers too. Those members that want to exhibit in the non-competitive displays at the stamp show should let Rick or one of the members know at the next meeting. There will be 6 frames with 12 sides. Comments were made about having food for the dealers. There will not be food this year, but this is being considered for next year.

Exhibits: Jeff Jaxx said to start thinking about presentation for this coming December. The time comes around sooner than you think.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Howard Buhl asked if anyone knew of groups like they had in the past that collected stamps. Groups like churches, VA, and Boys town. It was noted that Boys town no longer was in business and the VA used to, but no longer does. Anyone that finds a group like this Howard would like to know about them.

Shows: The Saint Louis show was a great show. The Rocky Mountain show is in May on the third weekend and is just outside of Denver. Cedar Rapids was having a show in 2 weeks. Dale reported E&D was planning an auction for the 28th of April but asked everyone to please not put it down in stone.

**Join us on
Saturday, May 4th
for Bill Johnson &
"Collecting Western Mail"**

Continued on pg. 2

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, May 4th
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.
2:00pm— 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 can be found on our website. Check out the January or February newsletters on the site.

Philatelic Happenings:

E & D Auctions
1901A Clay St.
North Kansas City, MO
April 28th
Sunday 1:30pm

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
Exhibition Halls A & B
25690 E Quincy Ave
Aurora, CO
May 24-26
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-6
Sunday 10-3

Coming in June:

The Greater Kansas City Stamp Show
June 7-8 2024

Location: 1st Presbyterian Church...Westminster Hall
417 W. Lexington Ave
Independence, MO 64050

Time: 10am-5pm Friday
10am-4pm Saturday

Over a dozen dealers are scheduled to be there so far.
Mark your calendars today!

Continued from pg. 1

Announcements: No announcements.

What are you looking for? No one had a request.

Show and Tell:

Neil Becker – Showed an envelope that just had several stamps just slapped on top of each other.

Bill Johnson – Showed a Canadian #1 and #5 he was able to obtain. These are very difficult to collect. Armen Hovsepian – Described 3 stamps from Iran that were 40,000, 40,000 and 600,000 IRR, showing the inflation presently in the country and indicated it was becoming hard to find used modern stamps. He also mentioned that the country holds the mail until they have enough to send it out.

Mark Durbin - Attended Randy Neils service. A mutual friend that attended the service had the Auction catalog for Randy's auction which was still unwrapped. This was given to Scott Couch.

Victor Ellison – Showed an 1896 Scott Catalog mentioning several of the cost in it and commented on how someone would have to have a pretty good income to purchase stamps at these costs in 1896.

Rick Karlslyst – Mentioned how he collects forgeries and has a Zep cover that if were real would have been worth over \$65,000 and he purchased it for only \$5.00.

Program: Jim McKinzie had the program on "The Beauty of France".

Philatelic Ramblings:

Are you a collector, a dealer or an observer of the philatelic world? Why do I ask? Because I sometimes wonder what some club members are looking for. Each meeting starting at 10am, several of us set up tables and drag out material we would like to sell. We also have APS circuit books available before the meeting also. Then there is our great auction after each and every meeting. But yet, there are many members that take part in none of those opportunities. Now if you have a very specialized collecting interest, of either expensive or hard to find items, I get it. You probably are not going to find anything on club day but if it is because you think you can buy cheaper on ebay, don't bet on it. The average American buyer never considers the add on costs when buying, such as sales tax if imposed and mailing costs. With another price increase, stamp dealers on-line are going to increase their mailing costs. You might be able to buy a stamp or two and a much cheaper price overall, at club. Besides when you buy from a local club member, you can immediately inspect the stamp or cover and be assured it is free of faults or accurately described. Each month I hear someone complain that they had to send an item back because it was faulty or the wrong stamp. What a hassle!

I seem to always buy something. Why do I do that! I swore when I got back into this hobby years ago that I would be more focused. But like a squirrel in the yard, I spy something that catches my interest and I go after it. I have expanded my collecting interests to the point that someday I don't know where to begin. But that is a good thing, now that I am retired. I never lack for something to do. I have always been that way, as a kid I never found enough hours in the day to do all the things I wanted to do. It hasn't changed. I have a good friend who has always been into sports. Whether it was playing or watching, that was his thing. I use to tell him, you need another hobby that is not physical. He would laugh and say, "Like your stamps!" I would say, yes or coins or trains or baseball cards. Something to keep your mind stimulated. He unfortunately had an injury last year and has not been able to play sports or go to the games he liked to attend. He called one day and said, "You were right, I should have developed another hobby along the way." I told him it wasn't too late. We will see if that happens but often after a certain age, it is hard to start something new.

So are you bored with your collection(s). Maybe it is time to expand into a new category. This meeting might be the chance to explore that. And for you very specialized collectors, if you haven't found much to add to your collection in long time maybe it is time for you to expand your collecting interests.

I plan to collect till I die. Why, because I look at my uncle who is 92 and still has a very sharp and brilliant mind. He reads, studies and is an expert witness in court cases online. His sister, my mother, had pretty much given up everything when she closed her gift shop and moved to Independence. She sat and watched T.V. all day for the most part. She didn't keep her mind active in retirement and was two years younger than her brother when she died this year.

This hobby will keep your mind stimulated for the rest of your life, if you let it. JMc

Product	Current Prices	Proposed Prices	Proposed USPS increases for July 14th, 2024
Letters (1 oz.)	68¢	73¢	
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	64¢	69¢	
Additional Ounces	24¢	28¢	
Domestic Postcards	53¢	56¢	
International Postcards	\$1.55	\$1.65	
International Letter (1 oz.)	\$1.55	\$1.65	

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is

www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

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

A Media Mail Misadventure (Part 2) by Tomas L. Griebing

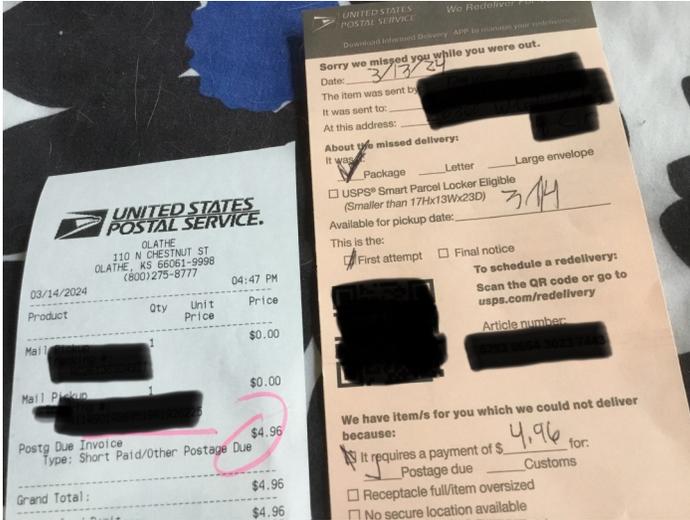


Figure 1

Did you figure out the mystery for the postage-due on my package I described last month (Figure 1)? It turns out that the seller had opted to put the postcard in a padded manila packaging envelope and ship it at the “Media Mail” rate (Figure 2). What was odd was the cover was stamped ‘RUSH’, ‘Confidential’, ‘Media Mail’, ‘Fragile’, and ‘Good Times’. There was also a USPS tracking label stamped ‘Media Mail’. When I scanned this barcode, it showed the item had made multiple stops along the way from the seller to my post office. My postal clerk noted the tape unraveled off the back (Figure 3) and offered to let me keep the hold notice since she guessed (correctly) that I would want to contact the seller.

Ultimately, this item had several important shipping problems. The main one was that the seller tried to send it as

“Media Mail”. Originally created in 1938 by the US Postal Service as “Book Rate”, it is intended to reduce the cost of shipping books and other educational materials compared to typical packages shipped by weight. It has a lower overall priority, and can take longer in transit. However, “Media Mail” has several very strict limitations about what can and cannot be legally mailed this way. Per the USPS, it specifically includes books (but NOT coloring books, activity books, blank books for journaling, comic books, telephone books, or catalogs). Cook-books are allowed because they are, ‘....designed to instruct individuals for improving or developing their capabilities’. OK, then why not coloring books since they serve a similar purpose, especially for children? but I digress.... Recorded media such as vinyl albums, DVDs and CDs (but not blank media), atlases (but not single maps), sheet music (either loose or bound), instructional



Figure 2

manuals, educational flash cards and antique player piano rolls are allowed. Magazines, either new or vintage are not allowed because they contain advertising. A single written postcard, particularly if used as an invoice, can be included only inside OTHER media such as a book or atlas, but it cannot be sent this way by itself. And it cannot be blank.

The “Media Mail” rate is also a rate that automatically grants USPS full authority to inspect any item shipped under this method. It is estimated thousands of such mailings are inspected daily. The disrupted tape on the reverse of the cover helped me to realize the item had been opened *en route* by a Federal Postal Inspector who identified (correctly) that it was a single blank postcard which was NOT eligible as “Media Mail”. In this circumstance, they can increase to the equivalent rate of “Priority Mail” (\$9.80) and charge additional postage-due to the recipient. Thus the \$4.96 due on arrival. The light weight of the package and the numerous etiquettes rubber-stamped on the cover also likely tipped off the inspectors.



Figure 3

The second problem was that the seller used regular stamps to pay for part of the original postage fee. Note the stamps franked on the cover (Figure 2). There are three of the new 3-ounce-rate stamps honoring Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winning Canadian-American author Saul Bellow. These are \$1.16 each. Then there is one 'Forever' rate stamp recently issued to honor American pop-artist Roy Lichtenstein currently valued at \$0.68. Then there is a label that looks like a stamp (sometimes called a vignette or 'Cinderella') showing the phases of the moon and the four directions. This has no postal value but was somehow approved as paying \$0.68. Inter-

estingly, these were all hand-cancelled using an ink pen, so perhaps an actual postal clerk missed that this simple label had no postal value and confused it with a 'Forever' stamp?

I contacted the seller to complain and he initially tried to blame his local postal clerks who he claimed are, '....usually high on weed or booze'. He offered me a refund (likely only of the money I had paid directly to him and not the excess postage-due charges) if I returned everything including the postcard to him. I indicated I need the postcard for an exhibit and didn't want to return that. He then sort of tried to blame me stating he, '.... didn't know I wouldn't have wanted to pay extra postage'. Really? I had already paid him extra postage. Slipping the card into a regular envelope and mailing it "First Class" would have only cost him \$0.68. Ironically, he said the postcard wasn't worth that much and so he had not shipped it "Priority Mail". True, but ironically he also cut up an actual USPS Priority Mail cover in order to stiffen the package and protect the postcard. And the illegal use of rate he chose subsequently increased the rate to that of "Priority Mail" (\$9.80). Maybe I was supposed to be grateful I wasn't charged \$5.64 because they missed that the label he used had no postal value? Mailing items not allowed under the "Media Mail" rate and using labels with no postal value to frank covers are both considered forms of mail fraud. Yet somehow, as the recipient, I got stuck with the excess postage-due charges. So my humble postcard turned into a \$12.43 adventure. I found he has now listed another copy of this identical postcard on his eBay store with an opening bid request of \$19.99 plus \$4.20 shipping. He stated it was, '....because of this situation'. There are still no bidders. He has not responded to my most recent email, and his last statement was, '....we'll figure something out'. Yes, well that would be a negative seller review.

I wonder if exhibition judges will let me claim the postcard as 'rare' since that designation is supposed to be based not just on cost, but on difficulty of acquisition - which was definitely true in this case!

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

#18 Stellaland & British Bechuanaland

In the mid to late 19th Century, the Boers (African-Dutch) sought to settle on land away from British control. They were primarily farmers and found good land in the area of Bechuanaland, west of Transvaal. In 1882 the settlers, in a 6000 sq. mi. area, united to form the state of Stellaland (named after a bright comet that adorned their skies for part of that year.) The following year they joined with the State of Goshen, a 4000sq. mi. community adjoining them on their northeast border. The new name was the United States of Stellaland. In December, 1884 the country was invaded and occupied by British forces. The United States of Stellaland was abolished in August, 1885 and incorporated into the newly formed Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland.



Stellaland #1

Stellaland's first and only set of stamps was issued in February, 1884 and included five different denominations from one pence to one shilling. The Scott catalogue also lists a 2p on 4p stamp, overprinted in violet "Twee" (Afrikaans for two), that appeared sometime in 1885. It has never been officially authenticated however.

British Bechuanaland was carved out of the southern portion of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and included the former Stellaland – a total area about the size of Greece. It lasted from 1885 to 1895 when it was annexed to Cape Colony (also known as Cape of Good Hope to us philatelists) south of the British Bechuanaland border.

The first stamp issues, 1885-87, were Cape of Good Hope 1871-81 stamps overprinted "British Bechuanaland" in two lines, a total of nine stamps(as in #1.) In 1887 the Great Britain ½ pence vermilion Queen Victoria stamp was likewise overprinted (all capital letters). Also that year twelve British revenue designs were imprinted "BRITISH BECHUANALAND, POSTAGE & REVENUE" in three lines (#11 & 17). In 1888 seven stamps of that set were surcharged with the same denomination (as in #28); the 3p. was surcharged "One Half-Penny" on three lines. Up to 1897 several styles of British Bechuanaland overprints, including reading up (#32) and reading down were issued on eight Cape of Good Hope stamps. Between 1891 and 1894 five denominations of British stamps were overprinted (as shown in #34.)



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 May 4th.

**As listed on pg 2, we have a full day of activities.
Come and join the fun.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

APS Circuit Books by Armen Hovsepien:

Members looking at the APS Circuit Books before the April meeting during our “Buy, Sell & Trade” time.

Come early to buy from this month’s Circuit Books and our member dealers that make the effort to bring and set up their stock before the meeting.

Some members arrive by 10 or 10:30 so that they can spend time looking and buying. Then they head to the Square for lunch before the meeting starts at 2:00.

It is also a great time to talk and share all things philatelic.



Know Your Philatelic Terms by Jim McKinzie

Last month I mentioned a reference book that I have owned many years, “The Stamp Collector’s Encyclopaedia” by R.J. Sutton. Another good reference is the “Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers”. In the front section is a very good reference section of philatelic terms. Below are some of those.

Color Changeling. A stamp which, because of exposure to the environment, has naturally undergone a change of ink colors. Orange U.S. stamps of the early 1900’s are notorious for turning brown as the ink reacts with oxygen. Exposure to light can cause some inks to fade. These are not considered color-omitted errors. Exposure to other chemicals can cause ink colors to change. These stamps are merely altered stamps, and their value to collectors is greatly diminished.

Many times stamp collectors think they have found a rare shade or unlisted color variety. Most often it is a stamp that has been altered by the environment or by an unscrupulous dealer or collector. Always check a specialized catalogue of that country for the most complete information.

Compound Perforation. Normally where perforations at the top and bottom differ from the perforations at the sides of the stamp. In describing compound perforations, the gauge of the top is given first, then the sides. Some stamps are found where one side will differ from the other three, and in this case the reading will be the top first, then the right side, then the bottom, then the left side.

You may think you have a rare stamp but instead you have an imperforate Washington-Franklin that was fraudulently made into a coil, for example. The specialized catalogues list all known perforation varieties.

Earliest Documented Use (EDU). For stamps that do not have a designated first day of issue, the earliest documented use is the date when a stamp was first used in the U.S. mails. These dates are listed in the U.S. Specialized catalogue, and new dates must be documented with recognized certificates from leading expertizing committees.

Paste-up. The junction of two flat-plate printings joined by pasting the edge of one sheet onto the edge of another sheet to make coils. A two-stamp example of this joining is a “paste-up pair.” See Splice.

Postal Cards. Cards that have postage printed on them. Ones without printed stamps are referred to as “postcards.”

Splice. The junction of two rotary-press printings by butting the ends of the web (roll) of paper together and pasting a strip of perforated translucent paper on the back of the junction. The two-stamp specimen to show this situation is a “spliced pair.” Splices occur when a web breaks and is repaired or when one web is finished and another begins.



Paste-up Pair

Is Photography Art? by Jim McKinzie

From the time Louis Daguerre publicly announced his commercially viable photographic process, the art world argued whether a photograph was art. While Joseph Nicéphore Niépce was the first to fix an image that was captured with a camera, it took at least eight hours or even several days of exposure in the camera to capture that image and the earliest results were very crude. With Louis Daguerres development of his daguerreotype process, that only required a few minutes of exposure to produce clear, finely detailed results, the art world started to take notice. Daguerre was an associate of Niepce's and it is conceivable that Niépce had a hand in Daguerres new and improved process. The French obviously consider the two men the "Fathers of Photography" based on the stamp they produced in 1939.

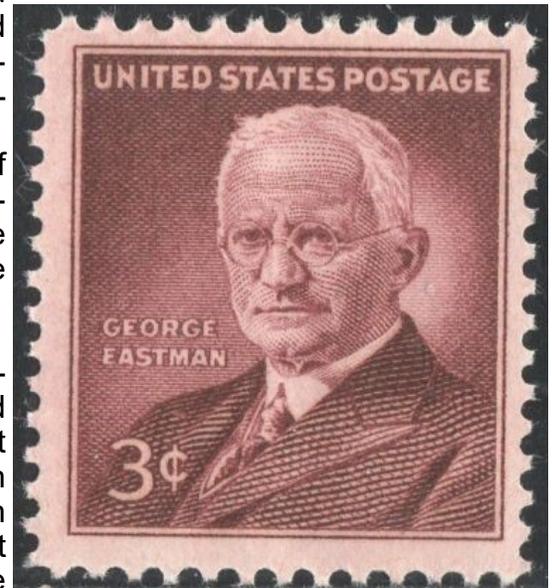


**France
#374
Centenary of Photography**



**France #2039
Woman under Parasol, by Eugene Boudin**

Many critics were dismissive of photography and saw it only as an industrial imitation of art for commercial purposes. Up until then, art was recreating images and the world as realistically as possible. With the advent of photography, the art world was forced into a new direction. Impressionism grew out of that movement. The artists of the impressionism movement went from realism



**U.S. #1062
George Eastman**

to portraying emotions and impressions. Changes in the art world continued to change with the George Eastman's invention of the film rolls. Eastman made it much cheaper and easier for the average person to take a photograph. The modernist art movement pushed the art world further away from realism.



**France #1628
Head of Marianne, by Salvador**

Photography and the development of better film made photographs easy to reproduce and disseminate all over. But still the art world considered photographs not art. This continued into the 20th century. Photographers started becoming very innovative and slowly critics and the art world started to take notice. One of those photographers was Ansel Adams.

Adams work has stood the test of time. He was an American landscape photographer and environmentalist. He was best known for his black-and-white images of the American West. He founded an association of photographers advocating “pure” photography which favored sharp focus and the use of the full tonal range of a photograph. The organization was called Group f/64.

Sixteen stamps on a pane are being issued this next month in honor of this American photographer. His beautiful photography is in museums and has been exhibited around the world.

Art critic John Szarkowski wrote, "Ansel Adams attuned himself more precisely than any photographer before him to a visual understanding of the specific quality of the light that fell on a specific place at a specific moment. For Adams the natural landscape is not a fixed and solid sculpture but an insubstantial image, as transient as the light that continually redefines it. This sensibility to the specificity of light was the motive that forced Adams to develop his legendary photographic technique."

This issue by the USPS was long overdue. But then, it took along time for the world to recognize photography’s contribution to the world.



**U.S.
New Issue for 2024
Photography of Ansel Adams
“Road After Rain, Northern California” 1960**

New Issues for May 2024:

Ansel Adams

Forever First Class Rate
Sixteen designs, Pane of 16
Issue Date May 15th
First Day of Issue City is:
Yosemite National Park
Print Quantity– 20,000,000

A first day ceremony is planned in the park.



Hope you enjoyed this month’s newsletter. Thanks to Tomas G. Armen H. & Neil B. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month’s issue. **Deadline for the June issue will be May 15th.** Happy stamping!

Jim Mc