

The Messenger



July 2025

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

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July 5th
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2



What You Missed at Our June Meeting:

Members in Attendance: Although no official count was taken, we believe there was 29 members present.

Our Secretary Perry was unable to attend and no one took the minutes. So briefly, it was a fine meeting with several good Show N Tell's plus the program that Jim McKinzie presented on how to collect topicals through his collection of the U.S. Bicentennial issues. There was much to bid on in the auction.

In Other News:

We have some members that received awards for their exhibits at some recent shows.

At NAPEX, in McClean, VA, Tomas Griebeling received the following awards for his exhibit, "From Mark of Oppression to symbol of Gay Pride: The Pink Triangle", Gold Award Multi-frame, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award, American Topical Association First Award and the NAPEX Stephen Luster Award.

At OKPEX, Oklahoma City, OK, Bill Johnson received the following awards for his exhibit, "James W. Denver: The Man and his Times", Large Gold Multi-frame, American Philatelic Society Award of Excellence pre -1900, The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Medal, American Topical Association First Award and the American Philatelic Congress Book Award.

Also at OKPEX, Jim McKinzie received the following awards for his exhibit, "Errors, Freaks and Oddities of the U.S. Bicentennial Period", Large Vermeil Multi-frame Award and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor Pin.

CONGRATS to all! If anyone is interested in how to get started exhibiting, talk with any one of us. We would be happy to help you get started.



Firecrackers, hot dogs and homemade ice cream. All that is great but give me a day learning and playing with stamps any day! See you on the 5th.

***Join us on
July 5th, 2025 for Neil Becker's program on
"Cape of Good Hope Bargain Mail"***

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, July 5th

**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 club auction.

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

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

Several members with material for sale. Bring your want lists. Let those members know what you are looking for ahead of the meeting. It is hard to bring it all, for some.

Philatelic Happenings:

July 18-20

Minnesota Stamp Expo

Crystal Community Center

4800 Douglas Drive North

Crystal, MN 55429

Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

25 dealers scheduled



Make plans now to gas up and go to G.A.S.S. in Chicago this August



The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is

www.midwestphilatelicssociety.com

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

Philatelic Ramblings:

I recently watched a movie about two con artists that attempted to sell some fake or counterfeit stamps of the Weimar Republic. The movie is a 2000 Argentinian film called "Nine Queens". An interesting and suspenseful film, once it gets going. A little slow in the beginning but well worth a look. It has many twists and turns plus a surprise ending. It is in Spanish but subtitled. I caught the film on TCM one night. Check it out!

The Minnesota Stamp Expo will host the First Day Ceremony of the new Schooner post card. While it is a 6 to 7 hour drive to this show, it is straight up I-35 from the KC Metro area. This show might be worth the trip. The shows website lists many great dealers in attendance. Plus programs and exhibits.

Then GASS, at Chicago in August, will be a special dedication ceremony for the other two issues for July. Plus two of the issues for August will have their First Day ceremonies at GASS. So lots of opportunities this summer on the new issues.

I detest toll roads. On the way to Tulsa this last month, I was on I-44 from Joplin to Tulsa. You hit the Oklahoma line and you are told what you will pay. If you have a PIKEPASS it is \$5.40 but if you don't you will be billed for \$10.50. When I use to travel the Will Rogers Turnpike regularly years ago it was only \$2 and change. I didn't see that the road was any better than Missouri interstates. I remember when the citizens of the state were told that once the interstate highways were paid off, the toll roads would go away. That never happened. No tax ever goes away. So on the way back to KC, I went old Route 66. I had not been through those towns in a long time and it brought back good memories of the road side attractions that we visited along the way. Such as Hugh Davis's Alligator Farm in Catoosa that is no longer but the Blue Whale is still there. The Will Rogers museum in Claremore and of course the Golden Driller in Tulsa. The Golden Driller has resided at the Tulsa Fairgrounds nearly all my life. The USPS puts out lots of goofy stamps each year but what would be more fun than a series of stamps with the roadside attractions along Route 66. I won't hold my breath!



JMc

Boston World Expo 2026 Looking for Stamp Donations:



Let's get these stamps together and ready to ship this next month. Anyone that can come early to the meeting and assist in sorting the stamps on paper from those off paper is most welcome. We also need to sort US from Foreign.

I will have all that have been donated on a table to sort at 10am this next meeting.

Thanks,

Jim

You can make hotel reservations now. Multiple hotels have been secured for the big International Boston show. If you plan on going it is not too early to secure your room. Go to the following website to do so:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/bbbdc1d9-e50e-44dd-8bef-eb36c9d1251f/summary>

Bar Coded Stamps: A Tale of Two Postal Systems

By Rodger McReynolds

Over the past several years, barcoding has quietly transformed the world of mail processing. While barcodes have long been used behind the scenes to track and sort mail, recent developments in both the United States and Great Britain have brought barcodes onto the stamps themselves. Though similar in appearance, the motivations and implementation of barcoded stamps in the U.S. and the U.K. reflect two very different approaches to modernization.

The U.S. Approach: Functional Integration

In the United States, the integration of barcodes into postage is primarily a matter of logistics. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has used barcodes since the 1980s—initially with the POSTNET system and later evolving into the Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb). These codes are essential for routing and tracking, but they are typically found on envelopes and shipping labels, not on the stamps themselves.



However, recent issues suggest a subtle shift. In 2022, USPS released a set of Holiday Elves Forever stamps, charming illustrations of Santa's helpers engaged in festive preparations. While the stamps themselves do not display visible barcodes, the backing paper on the booklet includes barcoding. Additionally, some of the elf designs appeared on self-service kiosk postage labels, which featured 2D barcodes directly on the labels. These labels serve a functional role in automation, but they are

not regular stamp issues in the traditional sense.

Unlike the U.K., USPS has not introduced barcodes as a standard design element in its definitive stamps. There is no plan to invalidate older stamps, and collectors can continue to use Forever stamps from any year without concern. For now, USPS barcoding remains a behind-the-scenes tool, with limited integration into retail stamp design.

The U.K. Approach: Full Integration and Digital Innovation

In stark contrast, Royal Mail in the United Kingdom has taken a bold and comprehensive step toward the future. In 2022, it began issuing definitive stamps with integrated 2D matrix barcodes—distinct and scannable codes separated from the stamp image by a narrow gutter. These barcodes are not just for mail handling; they are also intended to enhance security and open the door to interactive digital experiences. For example, scanning a barcode with a smartphone can bring up a promotional video or link to Royal Mail services.



This program represents a major transformation. All older definitive stamps without barcodes were demonetized as of July 31, 2023. To ease the transition, Royal Mail launched a "Swap Out" program allowing customers and collectors to exchange old stamps for the new barcoded versions. Special commemorative stamps were initially exempt from the requirement but may be incorporated into the barcoding program in the future.

The barcoded stamps have stirred debate among philatelists. Some embrace the innovation as a step forward, while others lament the loss of older, simpler designs and the inconvenience of exchanging valid postage. Regardless of opinion, the change is permanent and sweeping.

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Conclusion: A Study in Contrast

The differing paths of USPS and Royal Mail highlight two philosophies. The United States continues to prioritize practical mail handling, with only minimal visual impact on its stamps. Great Britain has embraced a holistic change that affects not just logistics, but also the stamp's role as a medium of communication and security.

As barcoding becomes more prominent in philately, collectors will need to stay informed and adapt. Whether one favors tradition or embraces technology, the barcode is here to stay—and how each country applies it offers a fascinating lens into their postal priorities.

Old Man of the Mountain by Jim McKinzie

While my exhibit was at OKPEX, thanks to Bill & Kathleen Johnson, I was in Tulsa at my 50th High School Reunion. I might be a little biased because of my deep love of the Bicentennial stamp issues and everything related to the Revolution but I think it is time for another Nathan Hale stamp issue. Why Nathan Hale, you say? Cause I went to Nathan Hale High School, so I have been fascinated with his story for a long time. He was all but 21 years old when the British hung him as a spy.



750 young people graduated from Hale in 1975. We were fortunate to have 250 at the three night celebration this last month. On Saturday night, the final night, we were at Philbrook Museum of Art. Philbrook is the former mansion of Waite Phillips, brother of Frank Phillips of Phillips Petroleum Company. Waite and his wife only lived in

the mansion for 5 years before they left Tulsa and moved to New Mexico and built an identical home there. He donated the 72 room mansion in Tulsa to the city. Later he donated the ranch in New Mexico to the Boy Scouts, which became Philmont Scout Ranch.



Villa Philbrook back view and gardens

It had been a long time since I had been to Philbrook and it brought back many memories. My mother, I think to wear my brother and I out when we were young, would take us there and sit and read a book while David and I ran up and down the stairs of the gardens to the gazebo that was on the other side of the lake. When some of my classmates decided to walk down to the gazebo and asked me to join, I just said,

"Been there and done that, thank you!"

We got a tour of the museum and the docent was very funny and informative. One of the first paintings he showed us and talked about was "The Old Man of the Mountain." I immediately recognized it because of, you guessed it, my US collection of stamps.

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#29 Puerto Rico

The island of Puerto Rico is located in the Caribbean, east of the Dominican Republic. It was claimed by Spain in 1493 and given the name of San Juan Bautista with the first settlement named Puerto Rico; early in its history the names were reversed. The island remained a colony of Spain until 1898 when it was ceded to the United States following the Spanish-American War. At that time, the 3,435 square mile island had a population of nearly a million people.



Scott #2

Scott #5

Scott #8

The first postage stamps (3) used in Puerto Rico were the 1873 Cuba issue overprinted with an unidentified script (possibly a Postmaster's initials). A different script overprint appeared on four stamps of Cuba's 1874 and 1875 issues. 1876 saw two similar script overprints on five Cuban stamps. In 1877 a stamp inscribed "PTO-RICO-1877" at the top with a

bust of Spain's King Alfonso XII was printed in five denominations and colors, followed by a set of five dated "1878" then six stamps dated 1879 in those respective years. In 1880 an older Alfonso XII appeared on 13 different stamps topped by the inscription "**PUERTO-RICO 1880**" which was replaced the following year by 13 stamps dated "**1881**". This design was redrawn in 1882 with the date omitted. The set expanded to total twenty stamps by 1886. With the death of King Alfonso XII, a young Alfonso XIII was honored on fifteen stamps in 1890. The total with this design had increased to a whopping fifty-eight stamps by 1897. The

400th anniversary of the landing of Columbus on Puerto Rico was celebrated with a single commemorative in 1893. The next new stamp design in 1898 showed twelve-year-old Alfonso XIII on twenty different stamps. During the short-lived Spanish-



Scott #133

Scott #145



Scott #42



Scott #16



Scott #60



Scott #114

American War and a shortage of current stamps, 17 different 1890-97 stamps were overprinted "**Habilitado para 1898 y 1899**" (Valid during 1898-1899) but were only in use between August and October of 1898. That same issue was also overprinted "**IMPUESTO DE GUERRA**" for use as War Tax stamps during 1898.



Scott #211 & 211a

Upon acquiring control of Puerto Rico the US quickly created two provisional stamp issues. The Ponce Issue was simply a violet hand-stamp, primarily for use on envelopes and extremely rare; the Coamo Issue was typeset in sheets of ten. Both were 5 cents and believed to have first seen use in August, 1898. In 1899 five stamps from the US 1899 issue, along with three Postage Due stamps, were overprinted "**PORTO RICO**" at a 36 degree angle, reading up. The 1c, 2c and 8c can also be found set at a 25 degree angle. In 1900 the 1c and 2c stamps were released with the corrected spelling "**PUERTO RICO**".

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Scott #MR7 & 167 on piece



Scott #200



Scott #201, full sheet

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What I recognized was the 1955 3¢ sesquicentennial stamp of the discovery of the rock formation in New Hampshire. The formation, also known as the Great Stone Face, is unfortunately lost to future generations. The face has slid right off the mountain. In 2003 it collapsed. It is a shame that such an interesting and iconic formation is lost. I had always planned to go someday to see it. But I have the stamp and now I have seen a beautiful painting of the mountain.



The hallway to the gallery with the painting.



US #1068
Great Stone Face

Postal Rates Going Up & Up & Up

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Postal Service today filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of mailing services price changes to take effect July 13. The new rates include a 5-cent increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp from 73 cents to 78 cents.

The proposed adjustments, approved by the governors of the Postal Service, would raise mailing services product prices approximately 7.4 percent. If favorably reviewed by the commission, the price changes would include:

Product	Current Prices	Proposed Prices
Letters (1 oz.)	73¢	78¢
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	69¢	74¢
Additional Ounces	28¢	29¢
Domestic Postcards	56¢	62¢
International Postcards	\$1.65	\$1.70
International Letter (1 oz.)	\$1.65	\$1.70

The Postal Service is also seeking price adjustments for the Special Services products. Notably, the Postal Service will apply a price reduction of 12 percent for postal insurance when mailing an item.

As changes in the mailing and shipping marketplace continue, these price adjustments are needed to achieve the financial stability sought by the organization's Delivering for America 10-year plan. USPS prices remain among the most affordable in the world.

Following a directive from the PRC, the Postal Service is filing two sets of prices for Marketing Mail and Package Services products. While only one set of rates will go into effect on July 13, these prices address the pending proposal to eliminate Bound Printed Matter and expand Marketing Mail, pending the commission's approval. USPS will release additional communications to address price changes in these categories.

The PRC will review the changes before they are scheduled to take effect. The complete Postal Service price filing, with prices for all products, can be found on the commission's website under the [Daily Listings section](#). The Mailing Services filing is Docket No. R2025-1. The price tables are also available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index.—From Press Release

As long as there is a post office in this country the value of forever products will increase in value. Think of a sheet or roll of stamps you may have bought at 55¢. That sheet or roll of Forever stamps has increased in value over 30%. How often can you get that kind of return in the stock market or at the bank?

The collectors that quit will the advent of self-adhesive stamps might regret that decision. The older Forever adhesives have been rising in value each time the price goes up on the new issues. Of course, there are other factors at play. Just like a bank or the stock market, there are risks. Will the post office always be around? How does the Chinese counterfeit market affect prices and your ability to sell down the road? Will the USPS demonetize older stamps someday? Something to think about.

New issues for July 2025:

Schooner

Forever Stamped Card Rate

One Design

Available in the following formats:

Single-cut cards

Double-reply cards

Sheet of 40 cards

Issue Date July 18th

First Day of Issue City:

Crystal, MN

Print Quantity—1,200,000 stamped Cards



This new stamped card features a two-masted schooner sailing in open water. The stamped card designer and illustrator, Libby VanderPloeg, started with pencil sketches before using Adobe Illustrator to finish the art. The illustration was based on a photo taken by Billy Black of the Columbia schooner, a 2014 replica of the original built in 1923.

Benjamin Franklin

Forever First Class Rate

One Design

Prestige Booklet -2 panes of 10

Issue Date July 23rd

First Day of Issue City:

Washington, D.C.

Print Quantity—750,000 prestige booklets

This prestige booklet commemorates the 250th anniversary of our nation's postal system and celebrates the enduring impact of stamps on our shared heritage.

Two self-adhesive sheets of a new intaglio printed stamp featuring Benjamin Franklin are available exclusively with the booklet. The stamp is based on an 1875 reproduction of an 1847 5-cent stamp, one of the first official U.S. postage stamps.



Stamp Items to be Withdrawn from Sale

by the USPS, June 30, 2025

(Forever) James Webb Space Telescope

(Forever) Roy Lichtenstein Pane/20

(Forever) Chief Standing Bear

(Forever) Ansel Adams Pane/16

(Forever) Mighty Mississippi Pane/10

(Forever) Waterfalls Pane/12



*Happy
4th*

New issues for July 2025 continued:

250 Years of Delivering

Forever First Class Rate

Twenty Designs

Pane of 20

Issue Date Jul 23rd

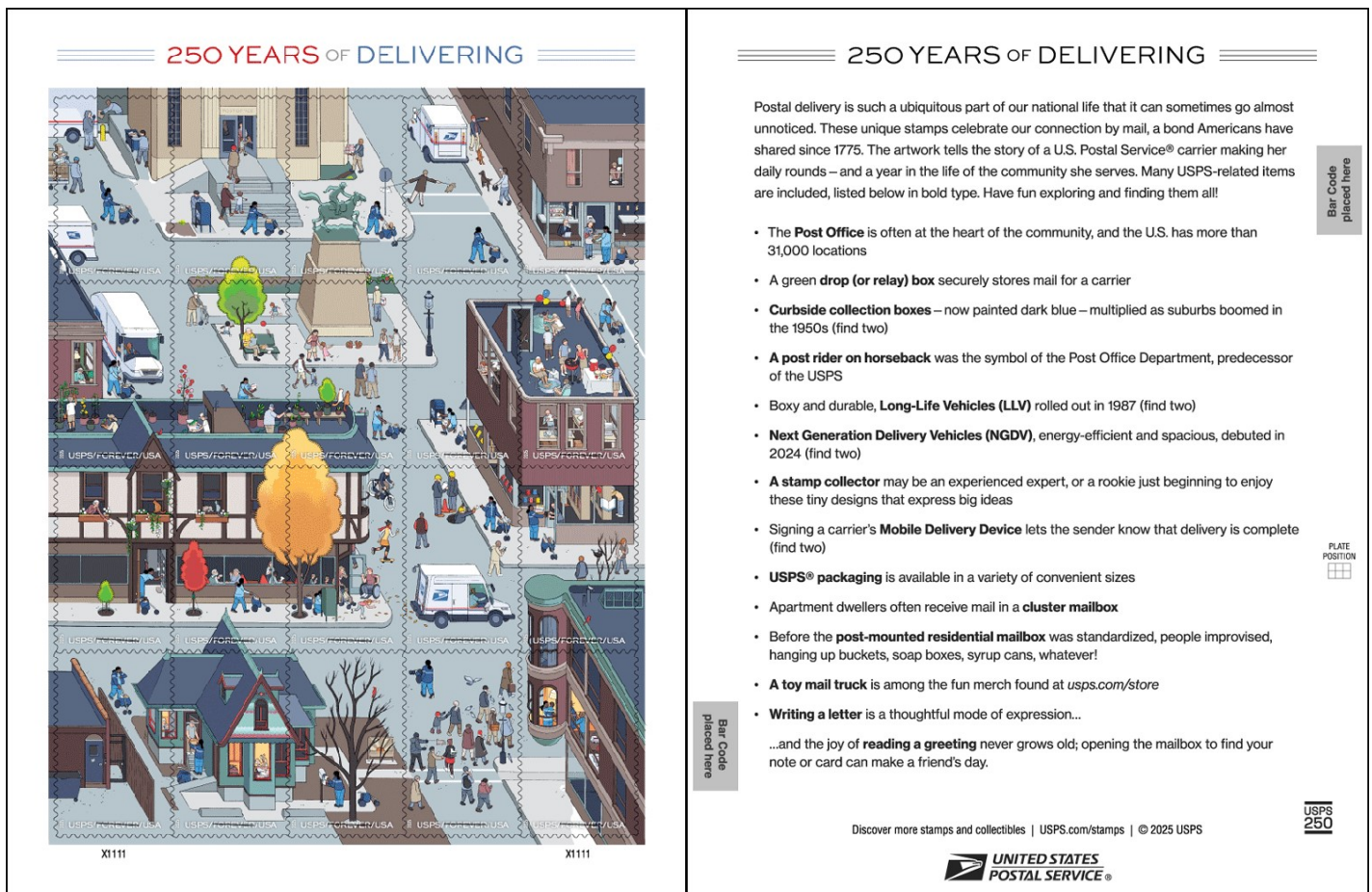
First Day of Issue City:

Washington, D.C.

Print Quantity—25,000,000

Issued to celebrate a major U.S. Postal Service anniversary, 250 Years of Delivering is an illustrated pane of 20 interconnected stamps representing the ubiquitous presence of USPS throughout the years and the vital role the postal system has played in American life since 1775.

The design is by cartoonist Chris Ware that invites the public to spot a fun array of familiar postal items and icons while following a mail carrier on her rounds through four seasons of the year.



Front and back of this issue celebrating the USPS semiquincentennial.

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Rodger Mc. Dale G. & 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 10th.** Happy stamping!

Jim McKinzie