

The Messenger



October 2025

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

Jeff Jaax, President (jeff.jaax@gmail.com)
Armen Hovsepian, 1st Vice President (info@armenstamp.com)
Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President (rodger_mcreynolds@hotmail.com)
Hans Vergara, Treasurer (jwc1868@yahoo.com)
Perry Kilpatrick, Secretary (kilpatrickp61@gmail.com)
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

October 4th
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2

What You Missed at Our September Meeting:

Members in Attendance: 33

Presidents report – Rodger McReynolds stood in for Jeff Jax who was not able to make the meeting. Rodger announced that the meeting on the first Saturday in February was not available at the church so we will be shifting it back one week to the 31st of January. This will be reported again a little closer to the time.

First VIP – No Report

Second VIP – No Report

Secretary – No Report

Treasurer – Next month is the October meeting and we will have the dinner again before the meeting. Hans will be collecting the \$10 for anyone who will be attending. He reported that the APS books returned about \$30. Finally, he stated that he filed the clubs accounts with the state of Missouri.

Librarian – No Report

Historian – No Report

Newsletter – Jim McKinzie stated that the lunch for October meeting will begin at 12:00 noon on the dot. Bring your own drinks. Jim thanked everyone for the articles and said, to keep them coming.

Website – Rodger reported that Freds Airship presentation was put up on the website.

Old Business – Nothing to report.

New Business – Nothing to report.

Stamp Shows – Omaha will be this month starting the 27th. Quad City will be this month on the 20th. Joplin Stamp show will be on October 4th. CHICAGOPEX will be starting the 21st through the 23rd of November.

What are you looking for - Dave Varner is looking for First Flight Covers. Barry is looking for red boxes. Linda is looking for odd, shaped stamps like the banana from Togo. Ricky P. was looking for members to purchase \$12 more from the APS books.

Show and tell – Fred showed several auction books on philatelic information that are excellent reference material. Stephen showed a recent copy of American Philatelist Magazine that was filled with India and State information. Rick K. showed several covers that were found on the \$1 table that held petition from Russia for the release of political prisoners. Rodger showed a new little tool he made with a 3D printer that helps you determine the perforation measurement.

Presentation this week – Bill Johnson had the presentation “Getting started. What are the basics?” covering the basics for exhibiting.

Join Us For the Annual October Luncheon:

Contact Hans today if you have not already signed up for the October Luncheon. Deadline is October 1st. The meal will be served at NOON. Member cost is only \$10 per person. The club will pick up the balance of the bill. Remember to bring your own drink.



**Join us on October 4, 2025 for
Howard Buhl's program
“Treasures & Fun from 50 Years of Collecting”**

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society



MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, October 4th
Meeting is to be held at 1st Presbyterian Church-Westminster Hall
417 W Lexington Ave
Independence, MO 64050

10:00am—Noon Dealers and members, buy, sell and trade.
NOON—1pm Annual BBQ Luncheon
1:00pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view.
2:00pm—5pm Business meeting, show-n-tell, program 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:

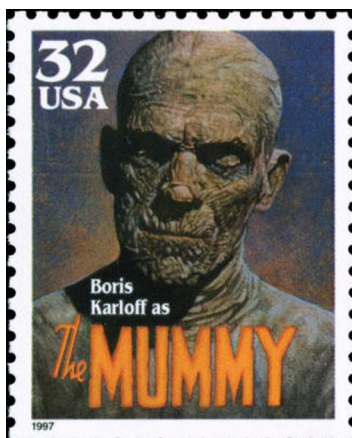
Several members with material for sale. Bring your want lists. Let those members know what you are looking for ahead of the meeting. It is hard to bring it all.

Philatelic Happenings:

September 27-28
Omaha Stamp Show
Metropolitan Community College
South Omaha Campus
2709 Edward Babe Gomez Ave
Omaha, NE
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 10am-4pm
11 dealers scheduled

October 4th
Annual JSC Show
Granny Shaffer's
Banquet Center
2728 N. Rangeline
Joplin, MO
Saturday 9am-3pm
9 Dealers with 24 Tables

October 4-5
MSDA St. Louis Stamp Show
Westbury Center
(Knights of Columbus)
20 Westbury Drive
St. Charles, MO
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 10am-3pm



US #3171
From Classic Movie
Monsters

*Have a
Spooky
Halloween*

October 24-25
Ozarks' Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show
Relics Antique Mall Event Center
2015 W. Battlefield Rd.
Springfield, MO
Friday Noon-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

October 25-26
PINPEX 2025
Jacksonville Community Center
#5 Municipal Drive
Jacksonville, AR (Little Rock Area)
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sunday 10am-4pm
7 Dealers with 23 Tables

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is

www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

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

Philatelic Ramblings:

I must apologize, in that I did not report the passing of a past MPS member, Doc Sklenar. Doc or Don as members knew him by was very interesting guy and a long time collector. He was always an active participant in our club auctions. Doc had a private family practice on the south side of St. Joseph, MO for many years. Before he opened the private practice, he led a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force for 32 years. He participated in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He like to travel and achieved going to all the continents with the exception of Antarctica. It has probably been before COVID that Doc attended one of our meetings. May he rest in peace.

Will Denmark be the next dead country? And some of you thought it would be Greenland! It seems that the rumors that were flying around the trade floor at G.A.S.S. might be true. Linns has reported that Denmark, PostNord, has announced that they will be delivering the last letter at the end of 2025. Jay Bigalke wrote in Linns, "It remains uncertain whether another operator might step in to handle international letter mail after PostNord exits. If that happens, new stamps could continue to be produced, but it appears unlikely that PostNord itself will remain the issuing authority." If that happens Denmark's long-running stamp program would come to a close after more than 170 years. Jay noted that this years stamp pack of 2025 stamps could become historically significant if it becomes the nation's final annual collection. So I thought, go out to PostNord and buy the set. I don't collect



Denmark
#1

Norway currently but, who knows. The only problem was their website offers no stamps for sale. So the packs must be sold out and they have withdrawn all others. You can print a "label" for your postage like you can with the USPS. The end of letter delivery for Denmark does not mean that parcel service is going away. According to PostNord their goal is to become the "Danes' preferred parcel courier." I wonder how long that will last. Can a country do away with letter delivery? Will some private company attempt to do that? What will it cost to mail a letter to Denmark from the US? Will it be even possible? When will other countries follow Denmark's lead? And because of the new U.S. customs regulations, PostNord has paused most shipments to the U.S. The world keeps changing.

I almost forgot there is another show/bourse you may be interested in going to. On October 10th & 11th, the Omaha Postcard & Paper show will be held at the Westside Community Conference Center. Friday's hours are from 4pm-7pm and Saturday from 9am-4pm. The address is 3534 S.108th St. Some of us have gone before and it is a good show to find other items that might tie in with one of your collections. I have found some great items in the past.

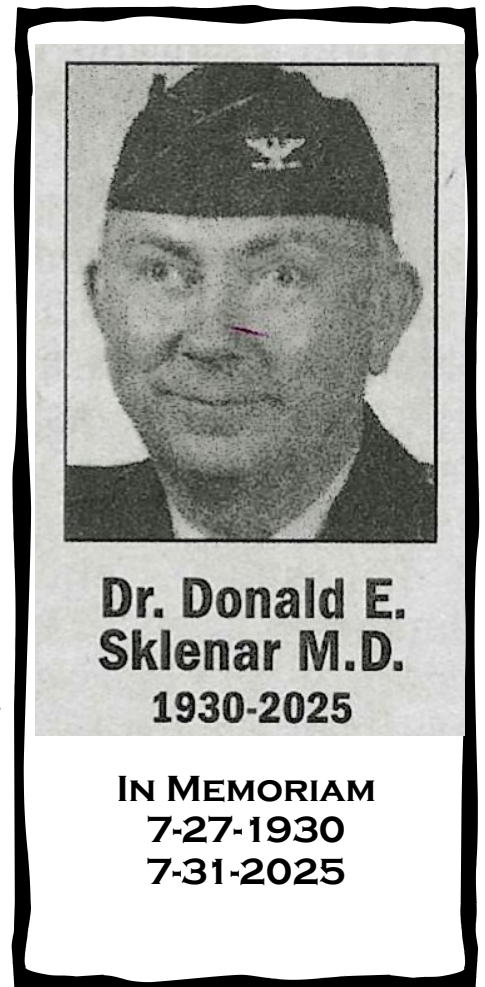


Too many opportunities coming up in October. There is no excuse not to go do something this month. After all October is stamp collecting month! Enjoy!

JMc

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>



DEAD COUNTRIES: (Stamp-issuing countries that no longer exist) by Neil Becker

#31 French West Africa

Senegambia & Niger, Upper Senegal & Niger & French Sudan, Dead Countries covered last month, all had ceased to be by 1943 to become French West Africa. Joining them a year or two later were French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Mauritania. Upper Volta was added to the federation in 1947 creating an area over eight times the size of France. In 1958 French West Africa was dissolved and each territory became a Protectorate with the purpose of leading the way to their independence. The Republic of Guinea emerged first in 1958. In 1959 Upper Volta (later named Burkina Faso), Ivory Coast, Niger and Dahomey (Benin) formed the Conseil de l'Entente as independent Republics. Senegal and French Sudan became the Mali Federation and Mauritania became an Islamic Republic in 1960.



The first stamps used in French West Africa were surcharges on stamps of Senegal (3) and Mauritania (4) in 1943, followed by more from Senegal (6) and Mauritania (1) in 1944. The first issues printed specifically for the federation were the Eboue common design type and a definitive set depicting colonial soldiers, both in 1945. A series of 1947-48 featured 21 scenes and people of the various colonies. During the 1950s there were about 30 various commemoratives and common design (C.D.s) stamps. Semi-Postals included C.D.s in 1944 and 1950 with a 1945 France stamp overprinted "A O F" (West African Federation). Air Mails started with C.D.s in 1945 and 2 in 1946, followed by 18 C.D.s and commemoratives up to 1959. There were single sets issued as Postage Due and Official stamps in 1947 and 1958 respectively. After 1958 the territories were allowed to use the stamps of French West Africa until their free governments were established.



First issue #1



#34



#84, Last issue



#36

Is It Illegal to Collect Counterfeit Stamps? By Rodger McReynolds

As some of you know, I've long been fascinated by counterfeit postage stamps. This subject has surfaced multiple times during our club meetings, but consensus has remained elusive. Recently, I took a deeper dive into the legal aspects of collecting counterfeit stamps, and I'd like to share what I've discovered.

Are Counterfeit Stamps Treated Like Counterfeit Money?

According to federal law, both currency and postage stamps are considered obligations of the United States government. Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 8, defines "obligations or other securities of the United States" to include postage stamps. This legal classification means that counterfeit stamps — like counterfeit bills — are subject to federal criminal statutes and may be seized by government authorities.

However, while stamps and currency share legal status as obligations of the government, the laws that govern possession and use hinge on one crucial element: **intent to defraud**.

What the Law Actually Says

The following statutes are most relevant to this topic:

- **18 USC §471** – Prohibits the creation of counterfeit obligations (including stamps) with intent to defraud.
- **18 USC §472** – Prohibits passing, selling, or possessing counterfeit obligations with fraudulent intent.
- **18 USC §473** – Prohibits dealing in counterfeit obligations when intended for use as genuine.
- **18 USC §501** – Specifically addresses the use of counterfeit postage stamps to defraud the postal service.

All of these laws share a common thread: **criminal liability requires intent**. If you knowingly create or use counterfeit stamps to avoid paying postage, you are clearly breaking the law. But if you acquire or possess counterfeit stamps as collectibles, without any intent to deceive the postal service, the legal implications are far less clear-cut.

A Case That Clarified the Law: U.S. v. Cioffi

One significant case, *United States v. Cioffi*, helps illustrate how courts view this issue. In that case, an individual was convicted under Section 472 after selling counterfeit 8-cent Eisenhower stamps to an undercover agent. However, the conviction was later overturned on appeal. The court determined that **mere possession or sale of counterfeit stamps was not enough** to constitute a crime — the government had to prove intent to defraud.

Cioffi was eventually convicted under **18 USC §501**, which prohibits possession of counterfeit stamps **with the intent to use them for mailing purposes**. This highlights the importance of demonstrating that the accused intended to use counterfeit items as legitimate postage — without that, a conviction is difficult.

What About Seizure or Forfeiture?

Even if no criminal charges are brought, could the government still seize counterfeit stamps from collectors?

Under **18 USC §492**, the government may confiscate "counterfeit paraphernalia" — including items that resemble government obligations — even in the absence of criminal intent. Civil forfeiture laws can operate under a lower legal threshold than criminal prosecution. This means that in rare cases, collectors could theoretically lose their items if authorities determine that they are counterfeit obligations.

Continued on pg 6

However, in practice, seizures from collectors are rare and usually involve cases where there is suspicion of fraudulent use or intent to distribute items deceptively. Displaying a counterfeit stamp in an exhibit or private collection with proper labeling and documentation is unlikely to attract legal action.

So, Is It Illegal to Collect Them?

In general, **no — it is not illegal to collect counterfeit stamps**, provided:

- You do **not intend to use them for actual mailing purposes**,
- You **do not attempt to sell them as genuine**, and

You understand the potential — though rare — risk of seizure under forfeiture laws. Collectors should be cautious and responsible. It's wise to:

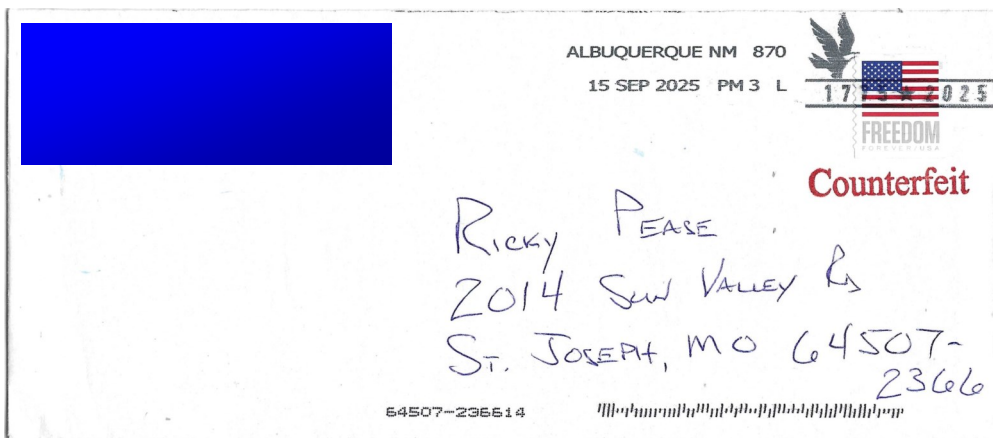
- Clearly label counterfeit stamps as such,
- Keep records of where and how they were acquired,

Avoid acquiring modern counterfeits that are actively used to defraud the postal service.

Museums and philatelic institutions such as the Smithsonian also maintain counterfeit stamp collections for research and educational purposes — so collecting them in a non-fraudulent context is widely accepted in the philatelic world.

Conclusion

Counterfeit stamps exist in a gray area of U.S. law. While making or using them to defraud is unquestionably illegal, **possessing them for educational or philatelic purposes is not inherently a crime**, provided there's no intent to deceive. Still, collectors should be aware of the legal framework and take appropriate steps to ensure their collections are transparent, documented, and ethically maintained.



From the Editor:

I recently received this image from MPS member Ricky Pease. He stamped Counterfeit on the envelope and he determined it was.

How he determined it was counterfeit is on the next page.

Ricky used longwave light with a coil strip that is a genuine issue from the USPS. Notice that the stamp on the envelope glows under the longwave light but the genuine stamps do not.

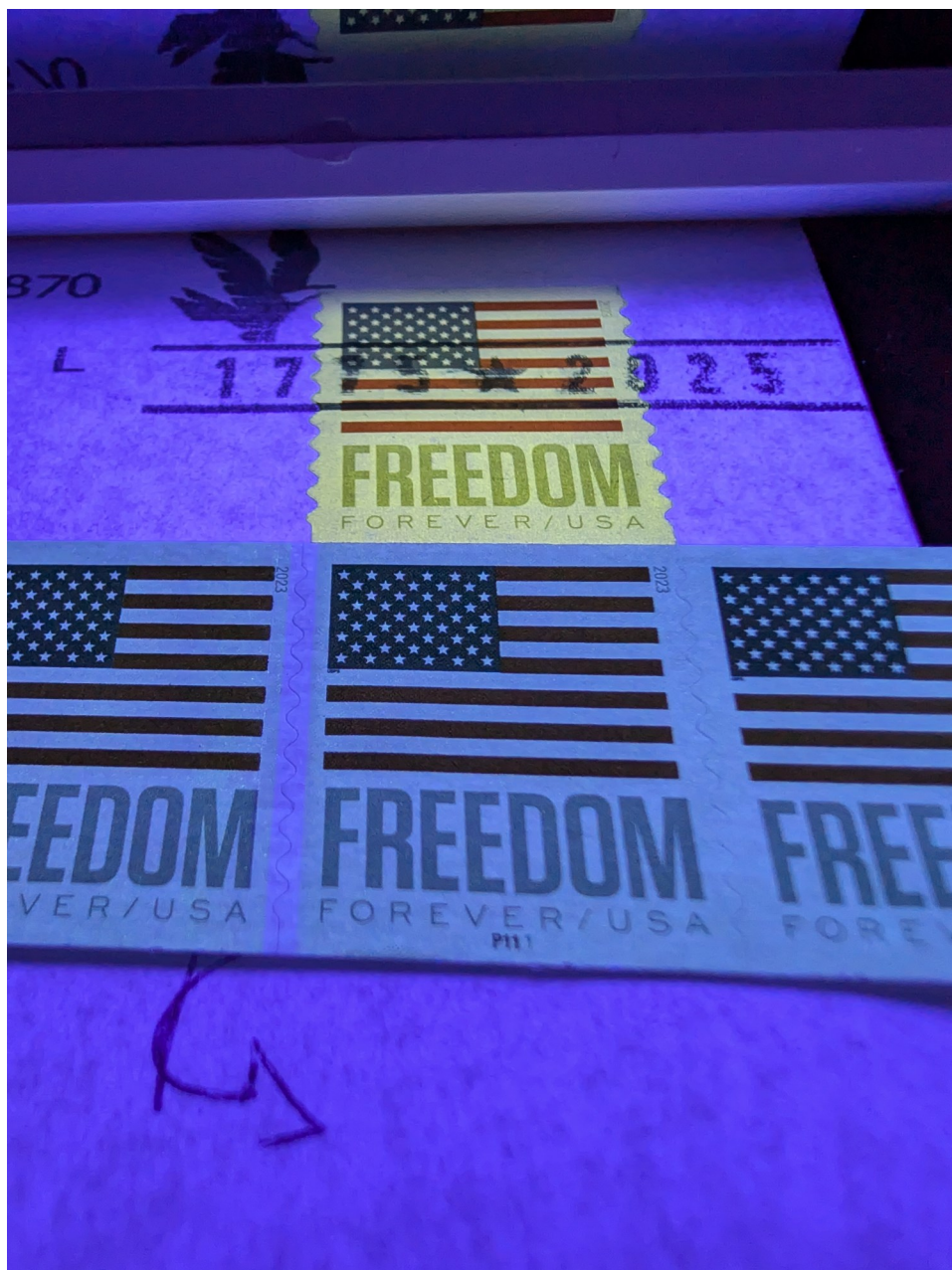
Why? USPS stamps are tagged with an agent that glows under *shortwave light* not longwave. This was an immediate red flag for Ricky.

There are other factors that make it possible to detect the real from the fake. Usually under high magnification the fake or counterfeit stamp is not as detailed and somewhat “fuzzy” compared to the real thing.

I think we would all be surprised if we did this simple check on any incoming mail that we receive.

And don't be surprised if you can not convince friends and relatives that they are buying counterfeit stamps. I have certainly had no luck on that front.

JMc



New Books in MPS Library

The following books were donated and added to our library. They are available for check-out by contacting our Librarian, Neil Becker.

United States Postage Stamps of 1869. Jon Rose (1996)
United States Stamps 1927-32, Gary Griffith (2001)
How to Detect Damaged, Altered, and Repaired Stamps (1996)
Stamp Stories, Joe Kenton (2004)
Facts and Fantasy about Philately, Joe Kenton (1994) (Signed, First Edition)

You can contact Neil by e-mail: nbecker44@gmail.com

One more issue for 2025:

I reported on the Jimmy Carter issue last month but I am repeating it here as it is officially the last stamp to be issued for the year. And the only issue for October. It is surprising that nothing else has been announced. It seems the new issues program ends earlier each year. Who knows, there may be a surprise announcement but I doubt it. I would suspect that there will be a preview announcement within the next month about next years issues.



Jimmy Carter
Forever First Class Rate
One Design
Pane of 20
Issue Date October 1st
First Day of Issue City:
Atlanta, GA
Print Quantity—20,000,000

Carter was inaugurated as the 39th president on January 20, 1977. During his term Carter would make humility and reconciliation recurring themes in his presidency. No other former president has lived to be 100 years of age. President Carter died on December 29, 2024.

The stamp art is a 1982 oil-on-linen painting as a life study by artist Herbert E. Abrams (1921-2003) in preparation for painting his official White House portrait. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp.



COMING!

It's time!

Time for what you say! Time to decide if you are ready to step up and take on a leadership roll in this organization. Nominations will open this month for the five elected offices. We will elect the new slate in December. If you have doubts, don't worry, there are plenty of us that are willing to help you take on a new roll. We have a great organization because of the people in the past that were willing to take on a leadership roll. Now it is your turn. Let President Jeff know if you are interested or if you have a suggestion of someone that would make a good fit in one of the offices.

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Rodger Mc, Ricky P. & Neil B. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the November issue will be October 10th.** Happy stamping! *Jim McKinzie*