

Official Newsletter of the
NASHVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
(a non-profit organization)

Matt Benward, Editor
P. O. Box 60531
Nashville, TN 37206

Issue #20: Fall '90

Editorial Consultants: Troy Blann, Helen Bodiford, Terry Chaney,
Chris Freeze, Dennis Lloyd, Bob Picirilli.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Fellowship hour
(Buy/swap stamps) at 5:30 pm, Business agenda at 6:45 pm, program
at 7:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Inglewood Branch Library,
4312 Gallatin Road (just south of Issac Litton School). New members
WELCOME! Ages 6 up; parents welcome. Kids under 17 get FREE stamp
packet at first attendance. This newsletter is published in the
Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter -some time during the quarter.
Meeting reminders are mailed out every month.

Officers: Matt Benward, President; Helen Bodiford, First Vice
President; Ted Raper, Second Vice President; Sarah Lloyd, Junior
Vice President; Terry Chaney, Secretary; Chris Freeze, Treasurer;
Bob Picirilli, Delegate at Large.

VISTORS ALWAYS WELCOME !

The leaves are changing color, and fall is here again. This time I am not only President, but also the editor of the fall edition. So please bear with me, because this is my first attempt at it. First, from the results of our election on June 26th, you will see some new faces and some of the same ones. If you have any questions, suggestions, or problems, please come and see me or any of the other officers.

Secondly, as you may have noticed, there are a few new offices listed

noticed that we had no one in those offices. So during the election, Bob Picirilli was elected to Delegate at Large, and Sarah Lloyd to Junior Vice-President.

Next, I am introducing a new column to the newsletter. It is called Nashville Stamp News. It will cover things happening at the Society, member news, and philatelic events in and around Nashville. So if you hear anything, please let me know.

Lastly the attendance at the meeting has increased! If you have any ideas on programs or improvements, please let Helen Bodiford or me know. So see you in the Winter edition when Chris

in the banner. Before the election,
I reviewed the NPS constitution and

Freeze is the new Editor.

Matt Benward, President NPS

***** N A S H V I L L E S T A M P N E W S *****

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY !

On August 25th of this year, Kathryn Redmond, one of our members for many years, passed away. I was not informed of her death until the middle of September.

Many thoughts come back to me of my good friend Ms. Redmond. I first knew her through St. Mary's Bookstore and the (old) Hermitage Hotel, which was her residence for several years.

To me she was the embodiment of Christianity. Never was there a better, loving person than she. Always cheerful -always a bright smile- going out of her way to help others! While retiring from R. L. Polk Company after many years of faithful service, she was not to retire from life. Ms. Redmond remained almost to the end a giving spirit in the light of her beliefs.

As to her hobby of philately, Ms. Redmond collected United States- mint straight from the Post Office. I remember many pleasant times with her in the last few years going over our two collections at her residence- the Metro Teachers Apartments.

The last time I saw her was on just such an occasion, when I showed her my Old Glory collection. She showed me her new mint stamps. I finally remember promising to visit her at a nursing home at Bordeaux. But, to my regret, I never made it due to shortness of time.

Ms. Redmond was unable to make stamp club meetings or to participate actively in her club due mainly in later years to a transportation problem. Thus she was unknown to most NPS members. But to those of us who knew Kathryn Redmonds, we know that as an ambassador, of our hobby, club and Her Lord she shall forever live as one who gave her all to many who came her way. Tears flow for now, but joy shall come later!

DEATH BE NOT PROUD !

-Terry Chaney,
NPS Officer

<----->

PROJECT STAMPS NEEDS STAMPS FOR KIDS

A few years ago Project Stamps was started so that the club would have stamps in packets for kids at the club meetings and at the annual stamp show. This project was taken on by the husband and wife team of Betsy and Woodrow Dawson. They have done a GREAT job, but they need more stamps to fill the packets. So if you have some duplicate stamps just lying around the house collecting dust, please give them to the Dawsons so the club can keep the hobby alive with new blood by giving stamps to kids.

<----->

***** N A S H V I L L E S T A M P N E W S *****

NEW STAMP STORE IN NASHVILLE

A member of the Society has opened a stamp shop in Nashville. David Dudley has opened his shop at the Nashville Flea Mart.

The address is: The Hobby Habit
Nashville Flea Mart
Suite 606
1364 Murfreesboro Road
Nashville, TN. 37217

Hours: Friday 4 pm - 9 pm
Saturday 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday 9 am - 6 pm.

The Nashville Flea Mart is in the old Zayre store across from the Genesco shoe factory. When I visited on a Saturday, I found the store without any trouble. Mr. Dudley has a good stock of stamps and covers. Unfortunately, a few weeks before, someone burglarized the Flea Mart and stole some of his stamps and coins, as well as items from other shops.

<----->

NEW PHILATELIC WINDOW IN NASHVILLE

The new philatelic window opened Tuesday, October 2 of this year. I dropped by hoping it was open and spoke with Sonja Geoghagan. She told me the Grand opening would be Wednesday, November 14, and the Society would get an invitation. Also, the Postal Service will have a commemorative cover for the occasion. On sale at the "Stamp Store" are (or will be) all current philatelic items as well as other related philatelic items (stamp pins, games, T-shirts, and stuffed animals).

The address is: Antioch Stamp Store
5424 Bell Forge Lane East
Antioch, TN 37013-9998

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 8 am - 4:30 pm
Phone: (615) 731-3659

Sales persons: Sonja Geoghagan
Jerry McInturff
Jim Watson

<----->

***** N A S H V I L L E S T A M P N E W S *****

THE END OF THE PEX

On July 23 the club voted to change the name of our annual stamp and dealers' display from Nashpex '91 to Nashville Stamp Show '91. Thus the PEX is dropped! Now the public at large as well as we stampers know just what is going on. Also a name change for the club was discussed but it was decided that the official name will remain the same with permission to use the "Nashville Stamp Club" otherwise for public and media use. This change proves we are a club looking to the future while respecting the past.

-Terry Chaney
NPS officer

<----->

BILL CALDWELL MOVING

Bill Caldwell is moving to Idaho to take a new job. Bill said "That he is sad to leave us, but he has to go where the work is." He has already checked out the area, and there is a stamp club. So lets bid Bill a fond farewell and hope he will miss Nashville enough to come back. Keep in touch, Bill!

<----->

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS

The committee to revise the constitution is meeting. So if you are interested, please see Terry Chaney, Chairperson.

<----->

ART TRIBKE RECOVERING

After surgery for stomach cancer, Art is now recovering and is improving at home. The club has sent a "get well soon" card and flowers to Art. If you did not get to sign the card, and wish to send one, please send it to the club, and we will get them to Art. GET WELL SOON Art!

<----->

Notes on the 3 cent "Stuart" Washington
By Louis E. Repeta

In the early 1970's, I lost interest in just mounting stamps in their appropriate places in albums. I wanted to devote some time to the serious study of U.S. stamps. Why U.S.? My major concern was the language barrier I would encounter with philatelic literature in the native tongue.

I joined the Bureau Issues Association and thanks to the late "Cloudy" French, a fascination developed for the U.S. plate varieties on stamps printed prior to 1940. I soon learned this field is immense and many examples were financially out of reach. In 1974 I restricted my study activities to the 3 cent "Stuart" Washington series of 1932. I set out to devote time to the study of this series of stamps for my enjoyment, to have some fun, and as a learning experience for myself. I have continued to work with this stamp for the past 14 years.

The 3 cent "Stuart" Washington is one of the most common stamps of the 20th century. Used copies available in quantity are inexpensive since billions were printed. The series enjoyed a long life of six years before being replaced by the 3 cent Presidential stamp. The 3 cent Stuart continued to be used in the early 40's. Therefore the opportunity for extensive domestic and international use of this stamp existed.

I formed a reference collection of this stamp which is basically a study of fundamentals such as intaglio plate making, stamp printing, production varieties and errors, freaks, and oddities. Several "Stuart" plate numbers are elusive and command a premium.

My interest in this series of stamps gradually expanded to include an interest in the postal history of the period. What changes occurred in postal rates and special service fees while the stamp was current? What philatelic and significant historical events occurred during the stamp's tenure? The 3 cent "Stuart" was released during the Washington Bicentennial Celebration and this stamp can be found on a large variety of philatelic Special Event and patriotic covers.

I did not start out to form a competitive exhibit. That an exhibit of philatelic importance evolved just happened to be a beneficial by-product. I visited many stamp shows and at times would come back home mumbling that my material is just as good as some of the exhibits I saw. With encouragement from my wife Rosemary I started to exhibit the 3 cent "Stuart" material in early 1984 at the local and regional levels. My objectives for exhibiting were to entertain, educate and encourage other collectors with similar 20th century material to show. One of the first lessons I learned, if you want to win high level awards, was to cut down on the amount of write-up. My reference collection write-up style was not appropriate. I learned to be brief and concise. The stamps and covers should not appear lost in the surrounding write-up.

After much revision, my approach to exhibiting the 3 cent
"Stuart" has been fairly successful. At the National (WSP) level the

(continued on page 6)

"Stuarts" first received a bronze (I almost gave up after this blow), five vermeils, seven golds plus special awards from the APS, BIA, and SPA. I'm happy to prove it does not take "big bucks" to do well at the national level. I was proud to exhibit at Ameripex where the collection received a large silver medal with the felicitations of the jury.

In order for a specialized single stamp collection to be of philatelic importance, it must contain both stamps and covers. As a single stamp devotee would develop a tough skin to help parry dealer comments like "Is this all you collect?." In the real world this translates to, "I do not have any material for you." Fellow collectors are mystified that a single stamp can hold your attention over a long period of time, or that much depth of knowledge is required.

Just the opposite is true. The study of a single stamp requires the student to become knowledgeable in all phases of stamp design, stamp production, and usage. Stamp production is composed of printing methods, plate preparation, plate layout, paper, ink, perforating, and slitting. An in-depth study of usages requires a background in domestic and international postage rates, an eye for unusual postmarks and cancellations, auxiliary markings, informational markings, and special fee service rates. It would be a great achievement (probably impossible) to find covers showing complete payment for domestic special fee services (registry and special delivery) franked only with the 3 cent "Stuart." Familiarity with the various modes used to transport mail is essential. Land, sea, rail, air mail, and Zeppelin are examples. Mail is also transported outside the postal system by common carriers like Greyhound. Combination and mixed franking on cover are both eye appealing and educational.

Exhibiting forced me to organize my material in an orderly manner for presentation to others. The viewers are not experts in my collecting area. An informative title page makes the viewer curious. Try to catch his attention and rouse his interest. In the presentation, tell a story. Why was the stamp issued, in what forms, how was it printed, plate markings, varieties? Showing an accumulation of material, be it a country collection or a specialized study, is not by itself satisfactory. The exhibit needs some structure. I use a technique similar to the characteristic style employed so successfully by comic strip authors. Combine short phrases, headings, and subheadings with covers and stamps. This headlines the material on the page, and leads the viewer through the exhibit.

Viewers and judges are not going to take time to read large amounts of write-up, unless they happen to be students of this material. Judges do not like to be given information readily apparent, have the exhibitor "parrot back" material obtained from a catalog, or present information generally known. You need to make viewers aware of your philatelic knowledge in a subtle, judicious manner. For example, do not repeat the same title (3 cent "Stuart" Washington) on each page. More effective use of this space would be to call attention to the subject contained on the page by using a heading such as Postal Marking, Special Fee Service, Marginal Markings, ect. Follow this up with an

appropriate subheading such as Fraudulent, Special Delivery, Phantom
Plate Number. This makes reading through the exhibit easier and viewers

(continued on page 7)

know exactly where they are with each page.

When you see material mounted in the exhibition frames, it truly makes you feel good whether it is for the first time or the tenth. Just step back and get an overall view. The large white spaces and balance will be evident. Each page should be able to stand alone and equally important, each frame should have balance. Once your material is organized you can spot the gaps or weak points in your presentation. Your most important material should be positioned on eye level, not high or low in the frames where it might be overlooked.

I have redone many of my pages five or six times. This is normal so do not be discouraged. The exhibit is constantly growing and maturing. To monitor progress, I photocopy my exhibit pages and review the pages over time. I can see the positive development as experience, material, and knowledge are gained.

I have had help from many sources building this collection. In the beginning I obtained material as a result of personal visits to dealers and via the mail. Help in the form of knowledge has come from other collectors, as a result of joining several specialist societies and through correspondence. Since I started to exhibit four years ago I have received counsel from two very fine judges who shared their time with me. Exhibiting has given me some good publicity. As a result, it has alerted people to what I collect. Armed with this knowledge, several full time and two part time dealers have helped me immensely with material for my exhibit.

There are many single stamps and short series that have the potential to offer both a collecting challenge and exhibit reward. For example, the U.S. 1 1/2 cent side-faced Harding, the usage of the 5 cent Monroe of the Presidential Series, the 1, 2, and 3 cent National Defense issue, and the usage of the 5 cent Teddy Roosevelt, all seem to be good candidates.

Editors note: Mr. Repeta's "3 cent 'Stuart' Washington" was exhibited at Nashpex '88. It was a very interesting exhibit and won the grand award and a gold medal.

<----->

Plate Block Marginal Markings
by Kirk Nichols

Marginal markings are those found in the margins of sheets of stamps which are not part of the design of the stamp and are used in the making of plates and the printing of stamps.

The first marks used were guide lines, printing companies' name or imprint, and plate numbers. There has been an endless procession of additional markings ever since.

Other markings include split arrows, letters, initials, stars,

lines, bars, dots, and other registry marks. Some of these marks were used on flat plate printing, while others were only used on rotary press

(continued on page 8)

issues. In several instances, the same mark or variations were used on both flat plate and rotary issues, years apart. Marginal markings have helped determine the price of various issues due to the infrequency of their occurrence and the fact that most people do not save the selvage on which they occur.

In the course of study of these marks one learns a great deal about the engraving and printing business. They help explain the occurrence of errors, freaks, and oddities which are very much a part of collecting.

When I first got the idea for my "U.S. Marginal Markings" exhibit I had just started collecting plate blocks. The various markings such as plate numbers, electric eye markings, imprints, miscellaneous letters, arrows, and stars were very interesting. I wanted to know what they were and their reason for being there.

Going through my plate blocks, it did not seem like there were too many different markings and it would be easy to make an exhibit. Little did I know that seven years later I would still be looking for new markings and discovering old ones which have never been written up.

Research for my exhibit started with Scott's Specialized Catalog. The explanations in the front give most of the basic markings and what they are used for. Also, by going through the listings for each stamp, different markings are listed for some issues making it easier to find additional material. I also used a book, "United States Postage Stamps", published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, for further research.

The first time I exhibited, one of the judges, William Dunn, President of the Bureau Issues Association, encouraged me to do more research and rewrite the exhibit. He introduced me to the BIA and its journal the "United States Specialist." Since then my library contains a nearly complete run of the journal and nearly one hundred other volumes on U.S. stamps.

The material in the exhibit is for the most part inexpensive in comparison to some exhibits. I collect on a very limited budget and cannot afford the expensive pieces I would like to have. The most expensive piece (which I do not have) needed to complete my exhibit is a Scott's #539 with "S20" marking and lists for \$15,000.00. The least expensive is the margin line on Scotts #634 at \$0.15.

I spend a lot of time reading auction catalogs looking for markings and have been very lucky on several occasions acquiring many I have bid on. Mail auctions are necessary since there is not a stamp dealer within 250 miles, so it is very hard to look for a stamp in dealers stock. The NORPEX stamp show held annually every October provides some opportunities to find new material. The expensive material is very easy to find, while conversely, the lower priced items are very difficult to find because many dealers find it is a waste of time to mess with them. At present, I am trying to find postally used items with marginal markings on them. This is even more difficult than finding mint

items.

(continued on page 9)

I do not know the exact amount invested in my exhibit, but do know that 5000+ hours spent in research, acquisitions of material, exhibiting, corresponding, and listening to judges' critiques have and will continue to be fun. A hobby started seven years ago will continue for the rest of my life, as there is no end to this particular area of U.S. stamp collecting. If any of you reading this feel you would like to exhibit just look at your collection; there is a subject somewhere that can be made into an interesting exhibit and you probably have a lot of the material on hand. Just tell a story with a beginning, middle, end, seek the advice of your fellow collectors and exhibitors, and enjoy.

<----->

IS IT A STAMP ?
by Herman Herst, Jr.

It has perforations. If it is unused, it may have gum on the back; if it is used, it can be cancelled. It has the name of the country on it. It may have a denomination of money on it. It may be a piece of paper and appear to show postal use.

A piece of paper may fulfill all of the above specifications, but that does not mean it is a postage stamp. Sir Roland Hill's invention of a bit of paper to collect a tax has been extended to other fields as well. The field most frequently encountered and confused with postage stamps is that of revenue stamps. These stamps are issued for fiscal purposes to collect taxes.

The stamp printed in greatest numbers (until its discontinuance a few years ago) was the one picturing DeWitt Clinton which was found on every pack of cigarettes. It was issued for revenue purposes, and the best way to show the tax was paid on each pack of cigarettes, until the present tax method was instituted, was the time-honored one of putting the stamp on the item.

When one borrowed money on a mortgage, sold a house, or bought a share of stock, the tax was paid with a revenue stamp. In this country, since the Post Office and the Treasury Department are separate entities, postage stamps and tax stamps were entirely different devices.

Other Government Departments also have issued stamps for revenue purposes, such as the Duck stamps which must be bought by every duck hunter.

In many countries, the same stamps are used. In Great Britain, and most of the Commonwealth, the stamps are inscribed "Postage and Revenue," and may be used for either purpose. This is often the means by which a swindle is put upon the innocent, uninformed collector, for the stamp may be worth pennies, while postally used it can be a rarity.

There is one protection against being cheated in stamps, and that

is knowledge. Most stamp dealers are honest, but it is a fact that there are many professionals who are themselves uninformed on some philatelic

(continued on page 9)

facts, just as are their customers. There is less justification for a dealer to be philatelically uninformed than for a collector to be, but it happens. An informed dealer should be able to tell whether a stamp has been postally or fiscally used by studying the manner in which it was canceled.

A Commonwealth stamp that has been canceled in pen and ink (with a few exceptions, such as early New Zealand where such items are greatly sought if they bear the name of an early Post Office), is a stamp to be avoided. So is one with a colored cancellation mark. (This latter may indicate telegraphic use, which again is not a postal cancel.) With the United States stamps, this fear does not exist to the same degree.

In fact, in this country (and in Canada and many others), two distinct series of stamps usually are used for each purpose. So a postally used revenue stamp, or a fiscally used postage stamp can become an unusual item, greatly sought by specialists, and in some cases, worth a considerable premium.

If you are confused, there is no need to be. Every standard stamp catalog in the world deals at length with anomalies of this sort, so there is little need for a collector or a dealer to be uninformed. Collectors must want to take the time to learn all they can about the hobby in which they are putting their hard-earned money!

- copied from the newsletter of the Virginia Philatelic Forum

<----->

Nashville Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 60531
Nashville, TN 37206

To: