

Grading of Postage Stamps
By Bob Allen

The most widely accepted terms in the grading of stamps are: Very Good, Fine, Fine to Very Fine, and Extremely Fine.

Centering is probably the most generally accepted criteria used in the grading stamps. The following would apply:

Very Good - Perforations cut the design.

Fine - Perforations are very close to the design on one side or reasonably close on two sides.

Fine to Very Fine - Fairly close only on one side.

Very Fine - Very well centered with no sides being close and reasonably balanced.

Extremely Fine - Almost perfectly centered.

Color is another factor to be considered in the grading of stamps. Any fading, oxidation, or chemically altered colors should be considered. Anything short of the fresh color in which it was issued detracts from the grade.

Perforations are still another considerations in the grading of stamps. A pulled perf detracts more from the grade than a short perf. An Extremely Fine

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, here it is Winter time again and stamp season is just beginning. The first show of the season is in Birmingham, Alabama and it's one of the best. There is usually from 25 to 30 dealers who have a wide and varied stock. Next, in March is our show here is Nashville. We will have 20 dealers - some are ones we have met before and others will be new to us. This year's show will be bigger and better than ever. Winter is the best time to work on stamps, since it's icy and cold. It's fun to sit in your favorite chair, get out your stamps, and fill in all those empty holes. But first and foremost have a lot of fun and we'll see you at the next club meeting!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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* NASHVILLE STAMP NEWS *

Christmas Party

The annual Christmas was held on December 11. As party goers came the amount of food grew and as we found later - we were lucky. When it came time to eat there were 30 members and visitors. Christmas music played and people ate and had a good time. As the meal ended everyone helped put the room in back in order. All in all everyone left full and happy !!!

Nashville Stamp Show 2002

Our annual stamp show is being held this year at the Tennessee National Guard Armory at 4303 Sidco Drive. As last year committees have been appointed run the show smoothly as it was last year. Also we need people to help before, during, and after the show. So if you would like to be on one of committees, please contact the Chairperson. Also I must thank everyone who helped out in 2001. You did a great job !!! Thanks.

Bob Allen

This year Bob Allen passed away. He was a local stamp dealer for many years with his shop at the Nashville Flea Mart. He was a past member of and Vice President of the NPS and Preseident of the Brentwood Stamp club.

New Members

Eden Bujjoni Michael McKibben
Jim Butler Ken Petersen
Sean Crane Leslie Peterson

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

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Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting a 6:30 p.m., and Program at 6:45 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Madison Branch Library, 610 South Gallatin Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

Kids under 17 get a FREE stamp packet at their first attendance. Ages 6 and up are WELCOME!

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Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for July - December 2001

After a meeting location move from the Inglewood to the Madison Library during the 2nd Quarter 2001, the NPS began the remainder of 2001 with renewed strength and vigor. Highlights of our club's activities follows.

The NPS had its 7/9/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/25/01 meeting were read and approved. Jim Butler's membership application given second reading and approved and Jim was welcomed to the club. Milburn Davis won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Inquiries from Chinese, Japanese and Chicago collectors desiring an exchange of philatelic materials were reviewed. Ballots were distributed for voting on a show theme for the NPS 2002 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a presentation John DeFevers on "The Dealer - Collector Relationship".

The NPS had its 7/23/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 7/9/01 meeting were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. A vote was held on the 2002 NPS Stamp Show theme and the "100th Anniversary of the birth of Charles Lindbergh" was selected. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 8/13/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 7/23/01 meeting were read and approved. Milburn Davis won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Tom Tribke reported that a contract had been signed for rental of the Armory for the NPS 2002 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a presentation by Clark Hicks on "Identifying New Issues".

The NPS had its 8/27/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/13/01 meeting were read and approved. Leslie Petersen won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Chuck Mock donated postcards for the monthly mailing. Thank you! Matt reported that fifteen to sixteen dealers have committed to the 2001 Show. Matt, Tom Tribke and the Bakers reported on the precancel and prefin show in Chattanooga. Matt and Tom also reported on the Chicago APS 2001 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 9/10/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/27/01 meeting were read and approved. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. The business session then adjourned for a preparation of exhibits for the October Stamp Collector Month displays in the Nashville public libraries.

Minutes Review for July - December 2001 - Continued

The NPS had its 9/24/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/10/01 meeting were read and approved. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 10/8/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members were present. Minutes of the 9/24/01 meeting were read and approved. Sharon VonMann won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. The Bakers, Matt and Tom reported on the Anniston, AL stamp show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Dr. Green donated stamps for packets. Thank you! Matt reported that approximately twenty dealers had committed to attend the NPS 2002 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "the APS".

— The NPS had its 10/22/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/8/01 meeting were read and approved. Clark Hicks won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli gave the Treasurer's Report for the 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2001. Matt and Tom reported on the Evansville stamp show and the Bakers reported on the Memphis stamp show. The membership approved the addition of a "One-page Exhibit" category and award for the NPS 2002 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 11/12/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/22/01 meeting were read and approved. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "Irish Philately".

The NPS had its 11/26/01 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/12/01 meeting were read and approved. Mike McKibben won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt reported that sixteen dealers have committed to the NPS 2002 Stamp Show. Kevin Baker is working on the show cover. Also, Trevor Hicks is repairing the NPS trailer. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/10/01. No business session was held. Approximately twenty-five to thirty members and guests joined together for fellowship and good food!!!

Continued in the next issue

Grading of Postage Stamps
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centered stamp with one pulled perf any be graded as fine. A single Extremely Fine centered stamp with only one short perf would still be Extremely Fine, but the stamp with several short perfs fall into the same grade as those with pulled perfs would be graded in the Very Fine to Fine range.

On the lighter side maybe the following grading systems could be used:

Superb (forget this one as someone will always find a fault).

Very Fine and Fine (lets keep these grades).

OK (Just that, not too good, not too bad).

PB (Pretty Bad - much more realistic than very good).

And, if you are real honest, RL (Real Lousy).

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TO: