

The "China Clipper" Flying Boat  
By Matt Benward

One man realized the need for direct route from the western coast of the United States to the Far East. This man was Juan Trippe the president of Pan American Airways. These planes originated from a request by Pan American Airways in 1931 for the transatlantic flights. In 1933 Martin and Sikorsky were selected to build first six airliners, but the British blocked, the use of Newfoundland and Bermuda as intermediated bases until a British competitor was ready but there were none at that time. These planes were ready to play a short, but very important role in modern aviation.

Only nine years after Lindbergh's transatlantic flight Juan Trippe set his sights on the much larger Pacific Ocean. One problem was navigation across open water (there was no radar at the time). Trippe did notice that Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines could form "stepping stones" across the Pacific to the Far East.

The first Martin M-130, which had a range of 3,200 miles and could carry 36 passengers, was delivered in 1935. On November 11, 1935 Pan American Airways' "China Clipper" piloted by Captain Edwin C. Mustic made the first transpacific airmail flight from San Francisco to Honolulu, Midway Island, Wake Island, Guam, and Manila, The Philippines. Within a year, starting on October 21, 1936 "China Clippers" were carrying passengers. The "China Clipper" soon became the best-known aircraft in aviation history.

-----  
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the Nashville Stamp Show 2005. Our theme for our show is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first flight of the China Clipper. This year we have 20 stamp dealers and 10 post card from all over the country. They have varied stocks of stamps post cards from the US and the rest of the the world. Please stop by for a visit and have a look at their stocks. The dealers are always ready to help and answer any of your questions, problems, or just stop by and chat. Please stop and look at the stamp exhibits. But first and foremost have a lot of fun at the stamp show!

Matt Benward, President NPS

+-----+	
INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
The "China Clipper" Flying Boat	1
The President's Corner	1
Nashville Stamp News	2
Club Information	2
Minutes of the Society	3&4
Contemporary U.S. Challenges	5
The "China Clipper" continued	6

+-----+



## Minutes Review for January 2004 – December 2004

The NPS held its 1/12/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 11/24/03 meeting were read and approved. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 14, 2003. Ken Owen won the door prize. Steven McPeak was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Letters were read from Sharon McCullough and Barry Mann. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli gave the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter and 2003 Annual Report. Matt reported that he expected fourteen to eighteen dealers for the NPS 2004 Stamp Show. The publicity committee reported on Show publicity. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "British Commonwealth Revenues".

The NPS had its 1/26/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 1/12/04 meeting were read and approved. Jamie Auerwick won the door prize. Kevin Baker was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Ken Owen's application received first reading for membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported that he had received word that Debbie Perkins had mint sheets of stamps for sale. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Reports were also presented on the Stamp Show 2004 publicity and the Show cover. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 2/9/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 1/26/04 meeting were read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Wilson Mulinicks was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Ken Owen's application for membership was approved after second reading and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Mrs. Smith, substituting for Marie Farmer, advised that she had sufficient stamp packets prepared for the show. Matt reported that 15 stamp dealers and 6 postcard dealers were committed for the NPS 2004 Stamp Show. Bob Picirilli reported that 62 frames were needed for show exhibits. Matt asked for help for setup and takedown of the NPS Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on the "Basics of Stamp Collecting".

The NPS held its 2/23/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-eight members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 2/9/04 meeting were read and approved. Norm Elrod won the door prize. Jim Jones was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. The Birmingham Stamp Show (2/14-15) was reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that 18 stamp dealers and 6 postcard dealers were committed for the 2004 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 3/9/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and one guests were present. Minutes of the 2/23/04 meeting were read and approved. Yoshiko McCullough won the door prize. James Jones was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt asked for help for setup and takedown of the NPS Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "Airships of the United States".

The NPS had its 3/22/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 3/9/04 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Mrs. Wise won the door prize. Emmett Sullivan won the participation award. Matt advised that NPS had joined the Southern Federation of Stamp Clubs. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Mrs. Smith reported that approximately 40 stamp packets were handed-out to young Stamp Show attendees. Bob Picirilli distributed the Stamp Show Awards list to club members. A special "thank you!" was made to Richard L. Smith for the excellent job he did with signage for the 2004 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 4/12/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 3/22/04 meeting were read and approved. Nancy Hiehle won the door prize. Barbara Stout was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. The death of Dr. Paul Greene, a long-time member, was reported. A card and flowers were sent. Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the first quarter 2004. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "the Maple Leaves of Canada".

The NPS held its 4/26/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 4/12/04 meeting were read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Chuck Samsel won the participation award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A Stamp Exhibit Award was presented to Norm Elrod. Matt reported a problem with delivery of NPS exhibit frames that Memphis had asked to borrow for the ATA Show in June. Transportation costs for the frames made it unlikely that they would be needed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Stamp donations were received from Frank Reilly (BPS). Thank you! Matt reported that inquiries for a location for the 2005 show had started. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 5/10/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and six guests were present. Minutes of the 4/26/04 meeting were read and approved. Nancy Hiehle won the door prize. Bob Becker was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Mr. Smith suggested the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "the first blood transfusion" as a theme for the 2005 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on the "Stamps of Guatemala".

The NPS held its 5/24/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 5/10/04 meeting were read and approved. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Ellen Willis was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Stamp donations were received from Frank Reilly (BPS). Thank you! Bob Picirilli presented a report on the financial results of the 2004 Stamp Show. Mr. Smith suggested the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "the first elastic bra" as a theme for the 2005 stamp show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 6/14/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 5/24/04 meeting were read and approved. Bill Mullins won the door prize. Axel Hanson was drawn for the participation award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. The death of Dr. Dorothy Brown, pioneering black woman surgeon and guest at NPS Christmas meetings, was announced. Ellen Willis had acted as long-term care-giver for Dr. Brown. Doug Old donated stamps to the Stamp committee. Thank you! The business session adjourned for an APS slide show on "First Day Cover Collecting".

## Minutes Review for January 2004 – December 2004

The NPS held its 6/28/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 6/14/04 meeting were read and approved. Tom Grimes won the door prize. Kevin and Angie Baker's names were drawn for the participation award, but they weren't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt Benward donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for the auction.

The NPS had its 7/12/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/28/04 meeting were read and approved. Chuck Hiehle won the door prize. Jim Butler's name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Nevena Kozekova's application received first reading for NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. The closing of the "Stamp Collector" magazine was discussed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2004 Treasurer's Report. Bob also proposed that NPS donate \$1,000.00 to the APS Building Fund. After discussion, the donation was approved by NPS membership. Matt again asked members to recommend themes for the 2004 NPS Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide program on "Plate Number Coils".

The NPS had its 7/26/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 7/12/04 meeting were read and approved. Jean Winstead won the door prize. Barbara Stout's name was drawn for the participation award, but she wasn't present to win. Nevena Kozekova's application received second reading for NPS membership. Her application was approved and she was welcomed to membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. It was reported that Nellie Becker was seriously ill with leukemia. Jason Spavins reported on the possibility of holding the 2005 NPS Stamp Show at the Frist Center. Stamp donations were received from Frank Reilly (BPS). Thank you! Several additional recommendations for 2005 Stamp Show themes were received. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/9/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 7/26/04 meeting were not available for approval. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Axel Hansen's name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Several additional recommendations for 2005 Stamp Show themes were received. The business session then adjourned for a presentation by Matt Benward on "Guam Guard Mail Collecting".

The NPS had its 8/23/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 8/9/04 meeting were read and approved. Richard L. Smith won the door prize. Ellen Willis' name was drawn for the participation award, but she wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A transmittal letter from NPS to the American Philatelic Society with our \$1,000.00 donation was read to the NPS membership. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 9/13/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/23/04 meeting were read and approved. Wesley Lepter won the door prize. David Price's name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Reports were received that both the Lipscomb gym and the Armory were not available as a site for our 2005 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a preparation of exhibits for the October Stamp Collector Month displays in the Nashville public libraries.

The NPS had its 9/27/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/13/04 meeting were read and approved. Robert Hall won the door prize. Trevor Hicks' name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that NPS officer elections would be held during the first meeting in November. He also mentioned that we would have to meet somewhere other than the library for the second October meeting due to early voting at the library. The meeting location would be announced when determined. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/11/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/27/04 meeting were read and approved. Jason Spavins won the door prize. Brenda Perry's name was drawn for the participation award, but she wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A "thank you!" letter from Janet Klug, APS President, for our \$1,000.00 donation was read to the club. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt announced that a location, the Valley Expo, had been found for the Nashville 2005 Stamp Show. Matt announced the appointment of Jason Spavins, Richard Smith, Virginia Smith and Tom Grimes as a Nominating Committee for NPS Officer Elections. The business session adjourned for an APS slide show on "First Day Covers".

The NPS had its 10/26/04 meeting at the Madison Square Shoneys with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/11/04 meeting were read and approved. Jean Winstead won the door prize. No drawing was held the participation award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt, Richard Smith and Jason Spavins reported on the Evansville show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. The NPS was sad to learn of the death of long-time member Mrs. Nellie Becker. A card and donation were sent. A donation of first day covers for door prizes were received from Jason Spavins. Thank you!!! The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/8/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/26/04 meeting were read and approved. Doug Old won the door prize. Doug Lepter won the participation award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. NPS Officer elections were held. The following were elected: Matt Benward, President; Jason Spavins, 1<sup>st</sup> V. P.; Dave Bodkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> V. P.; Wesley Lepter, Junior V. P.; Tom Tribke, Secretary; Bob Picirilli, Treasurer; and Marie Farmer, Delegate –at-Large. Matt reported that eight stamp dealers and ten postcard dealers had committed to the 2005 show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "What are Revenues?"

The NPS had its 11/22/04 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/8/04 meeting were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Tom Grimes' name was drawn for the participation award, but he was not present to win. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2004. Ballots were handed out to select the 2005 Show theme. . The vote was tallied and the "70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Start of Trans-Pacific Airmail" was selected. The business

session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/13/04. No business session was held. Approximately fifteen members and guests joined together for fellowship and good food!!!

4

Contemporary U.S. Challenges  
By Bob Picirilli

Continued in the next issue  
5

The "China Clipper" Flying Boat  
continued from page 1

On December 7, 1941 the Pacific Ocean became a war zone and the "China Clippers" days of its civilian passenger service were over for the duration of the Second World War. The first "China Clipper" to enter war was on the same day as Pearl Harbor was attacked. On its way to Hawaii the "Philippine Clipper" was two hours into its flight when it was ordered to return to Wake Island for patrol duty. Soon after they returned the Japanese attacked their base soon reducing it to rubble. Miraculously the plane suffering 96 bullet holes was still airworthy. Gathering the crew and the rest of the Pan American Airways personnel they made it in to the air and after three days made in to San Francisco with stops on Midway Island and Honolulu.

A second "China Clipper" in Hong Kong wasn't so lucky. It was hit by Japanese fire and burned to the water line. This plane had been in service only three weeks. A third plane was out of San Francisco on its way from New Caledonia to Auckland. After refueling in New Zealand the pilots decided to head west. After flying over the Australia, India, the Middle East, North Africa, and the South Atlantic it arrived in New York City on January 6, 1942 flying 31,500 miles. This plane made 18 stops in 12 counties, flew over the equator six times, and crossed 3 oceans in its month long journey.

During the remainder of the war these plane performed above and beyond the call of duty. They formed the longest air supply line up to that time - from Miami to India - a distance of 11,500 miles. Also they carried supplies across the Himalayas from India to China. This route was called the "Hump" - one of the wildest and most rugged places on earth. Presidents, Kings, and high-ranking military officials were carried on many "special" flights all during the war.

Of the original 28 planes only seven remained intact at the end of the war. These seven remaining planes were sold to New World Airways. By the early 1950's these last 7 planes were scrapped.

-----  
FROM:

NASHVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
MATT BENWARD, EDITOR  
P. O. BOX 60531  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37206

TO:

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org/> \*  
\*\*\*\*\*