

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 that 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 that must be bought by every duck hunter.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well Spring is about over and the long hot summer will be here soon. Not to worry summer is the best time to work on your stamps! There are several stamp shows coming up in the area. Bill Vance's browse is coming up on August 4&5 at the Music Valley Event Center (the same place the as the club show in March). The Evansville, Lexington, and Memphis club shows will be coming up in the next few months. Also, many national stamp auctions are being held live or via the internet. Many stamps seldom seen are available at these auctions. Give a try maybe you'll get lucky and get that stamps you've been look for for years. And don't forget the club - we have lots of fun stuff coming up this Summer!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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Minutes Review for January 2007 - June 2007

The NPS held its 1/8/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/27/06 meeting were read and approved. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 11, 2006. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Nancy Hiehle was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows and the new postage rates were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli gave the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter and 2006 Annual Report. Matt reported that fifteen stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2007 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk titled "Philatelic Research Exposed" regarding French Colonial Postage Rates by Bob Picirilli.

The NPS had its 1/22/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and one guest were present. Dave Bodkin recorded minutes of the meeting. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt reported that seventeen dealers committed for the show. Bob Picirilli said that 20 frames were committed so far and that more exhibits were needed. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 2/12/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 1/8/07 and 1/22/07 meetings were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. David Scutt was drawn for the Participation Award, but was not present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Show committees. Matt reported that 17 stamp dealers plus three postcard dealers were committed for the NPS 2007 Stamp Show. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Matt asked for help for setup and takedown of the NPS Stamp Show. Matt advised that Ricky Wright had not been able to get help from the USPS for a Stamp Show cover cancel. The business session then adjourned for talks by Ruse Tucker, Dave Bodkin, Matt Benward and Tom Tribke on "Post and Postal Cards".

The NPS held its 2/26/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 2/12/07 meeting were read and approved. Steve Meyers won the door prize. Wesley Lepter'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. Bob Picirilli reported that approximately 38 frames of exhibits had been received for the show. Tom Tribke presented sample cacheted show covers representing the 2007 Show theme. Matt asked for help with the setup and take down of the 2007 Stamp Show. Bill Vance offered boxes of free stamp envelopes for use in club member's collections. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 3/12/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 2/26/07 meeting were read and approved. Jeffery McMillan and Len Goodwin's applications for NPS membership received first reading. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Wesley Lepter 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. Twelve packets of stamps were distributed to young people during our stamp show. Matt gave an initial report on the 2007 Nashville Stamp Show and thanked everyone who helped with setup and takedown of the Show. Suggestions were requested for the theme for the 2008 Show. Emmett Sullivan reported that the trailer may need new tires and that he would investigate and report back to the club. The business session then adjourned for a presentation on "Revenue Stamps" by Matt and Tom.

Minutes Review for January 2007 - June 2007 Cont'd

The NPS had its 3/26/07 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 3/12/07 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Matt Benward won the door prize. Milburn Davis won the Participation Award. Forthcoming stamp shows were discussed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that the 2007 Stamp Show had lost money. Chuck Hiehle suggested "the 90th Anniversary of the First Airmail Stamp" as a theme for the 2008 Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 4/9/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/26/07 meeting were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Tommy Burnett'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 and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the first quarter 2007 that was reviewed and approved. Tom Tribke mentioned that he had a supply of Stamp Show covers for sale. The business session then adjourned for a talk on "Philatelic Literature" by NPS Club members.

The NPS held its 4/23/07 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eight members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 4/9/07 meeting were read and approved. Carol Goodin's application for NPS membership received first reading. Jim Young won the door prize. Norman Elrod'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 and Stamp committees. Matt asked again for 2008 Show theme suggestions. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 5/14/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/23/07 meeting were read and approved. Carol Goodin's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and she was welcomed to the club. Matt Benward won the door prize. Jim Young won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli presented the final financial report for the 2007 NPS Stamp Show. The report showed a loss of \$1217.23 for the show. The report received brief discussion and was approved by the NPS members. The business session then adjourned for a talk by NPS members on "My Favorite Stamp".

The NPS held its 5/29/06 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria (Held on Tuesday due to Memorial Day) with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 5/14/07 meeting were read and approved. Amelia Munn's Application for NPS Membership received first reading. Bill Winstead won the door prize. Mrs. Smith won the Participation Award. 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 6/11/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seven members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 5/29/07 meeting were read and approved. Amelia Munn's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and she was welcomed to the club. Matt Benward won the door prize. Norman Elrod'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 and Stamp committees. It was noted that the meeting room was extremely cold and may have contributed to the low meeting attendance for this meeting. Library personnel indicated that building HVAC equipment was not working properly. The business session then adjourned for a talk by Matt and Tom Tribke on "Errors, Freaks and Oddities on Stamps".

EXHIBITING HELPS ORGANIZATION

By Norman Elrod

An exciting way to organize your collection or accumulation of covers is to develop them into an exhibit. Many collectors can talk with you about their favorite collection in such vivid detail that you can follow the story being told with ease. The same can be done with an exhibit. Whether it is a single frame or multiple frames, an exhibit is the organization of philatelic material in such a way that a story is told by the covers.

First Day Covers in an exhibit do not necessarily have to be expensive. A part of the challenge when building an exhibit is to find the best possible cover that will tell a segment of the total story, as you want it told. Some good covers may be found in dealers' boxes at shows you attend or on their web sites.

If you have the covers, and an idea of the story you want to tell with your collection, you have the beginning of an exhibit. As a novice, you can improve your ideas about presenting your collection by viewing similar exhibits and attending the Judges critique at shows.

Helpful reference information is readily available from the American Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Research Library when you have questions about mounting your collection, layout, the title page and synopsis, what an award winning exhibit looks like, and answers to many other questions you may have. Additional information may be found through other club members or on the internet.

After determining you have enough material to build an exhibit it is good to learn some of the judging criteria and terminology. This can be done by purchasing the *Manual of Philatelic Judging* provided by the APS.

Next, contact the show where you would like to exhibit and request a prospectus and exhibit entry form. This will give you information about the club's requirements to enter the show.

By first exhibiting at your local club, you can develop experience and build confidence through comments from friends, the Judges comments at the critique, and other exhibitors. Sharing your collection and knowledge through an exhibit will encourage others to talk with you about your philatelic interests.

After exhibiting you will have the satisfaction of having your collection organized, learning more about your collection, and telling your story in a way that others can learn more about your collection and our hobby.

IS IT A STAMP? Cont'd
by Herman Herst, Jr.

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 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

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