

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.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well it Spring again so that means it's also time to get out and see all the new stamps that are being issued. As you all know now we've had our yearly postal rate increase last month and this time the first class rate is 42 cents. But of course all the other rates have been raised too. As far there have been 30 new stamps, 12 stamped envelopes, and 2 postal cards to meet those new rate increases. As far as I can see expect to see new rate increases of a penny or two each spring for the foreseeable future with about the same number of new stamps issued each year. Just think by the time 2020 rolls around all they'll have to do is print dollar bills with gum on the back!!! ;>)

P.S. There may be hope - there's "no junk mail bill" in congress!!! Sign up - no more junk mail for you.

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Matt Benward, President NPS

* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2008

Our annual stamp show was held last March at The Music Valley Event Center located at 2416 Music Valley Drive, suite #144 near Opryland Hotel. This was the same location as it was the previous two years. I must thank all who helped out at this year's show. You did a great job! Unfortunately the weather refused to cooperate and Nashville received several inches of snow the night before and the morning of the show. This cut our attendance to about 100 on Saturday and we seemed do a bit better on Sunday than usual with about 100 on that day too. We did a lot better on the financial side and broke even this year. As some of you may have noticed we had no exhibits year since we had only one late entry. This year at the club we will have at least one program on how to create an exhibit. I hope this will get some of our club members interested so that next year we can get back to having the usual number. If any club member has exhibited in the past and would to help out with this program please see let Tom or myself know. Look forward to our 2009 show on March 14 & 15! Remember we always need volunteers.

Articles for this newsletter

If anyone would like to write an article for this newsletter, please let me know. It can be on any aspect of stamp collecting and can be of any length. I was thinking of the topic of "My Favorite Stamp" would be a good start for any collector. It could be from a few paragraphs up to one page. Please let me hear from you. Thanks.

New Members

Warren Flatter - renewal
Maria Flatter - renewal
James Grimm

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #59 Spring 2008

Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:
Marie Farmer

Matt Benward President
Jason Spavins First Vice-President
Dave Bodkin Second Vice-President
Wesley Lepter Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke Secretary
Bob Picirilli Treasurer
Marie Farmer Delegate-at-Large

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

THE Volunteer State PHILATELIC
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The Nashville Philatelic Society is
a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for January 2008 – May 2008

The NPS held its 1/14/08 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/26/07 meeting were read and approved. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 10, 2007. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Bill Vance won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows and the new postage rates were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bill Vance donated a very large quantity of stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Bob Picirilli gave the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter and 2007 Annual Report. Matt reported that sixteen stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2008 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk by Matt on the "1969 Christmas Stamp Pre-cancels".

The NPS had its 1/28/08 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 1/14/08 meeting were read and approved. Al Bollmeier won the door prize. Matt won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt reported former member Ed Saunders, Jr. had died. Matt reported that seventeen stamp dealers and one postcard dealer had committed for the show. Posters and flyers were handed out for advertising the show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 2/11/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 1/28/08 meeting were read and approved. Former member Scott Bastoky requested to rejoin NPS. Members approved and he was welcomed back as a NPS member. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Ricky Wright 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 USPS Sales might not participate in our 2008 Stamp Show. Matt and Steve Meyer said that they would check on USPS's participation. Additional show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. NPS members were advised that no exhibits had been received for the show. Matt asked for help for show setup and takedown. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide presentation on the "6.3 cent Bulk Rate Mail Stamp Story".

The NPS held its 2/25/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 2/11/08 meeting were read and approved. Randal Coble won the door prize. Ricky Wright'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. Mr. Hall donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Tom Tribke presented samples of the show cover cachet representing the 2008 Show theme. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the 2008 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 3/10/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 2/25/08 meeting were read and approved. James Grimm's application for NPS membership received first reading. Steve Meyer won the door prize. Mark Thompson'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. Twelve packets of stamps were distributed to young people during our stamp show. Donations were received for the Stamps Committee from dealers and walk-in guests at our Stamp Show. Bob Picirilli gave an initial report on the 2008 Nashville Stamp Show. Matt thanked everyone who helped with setup and takedown of the Show. Tom Tribke mentioned that he had a supply of Stamp Show covers for sale. The business session was adjourned for a presentation on "Identifying Stamps" by Matt and Tom Tribke.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for January 2008 – May 2008 Cont'd

The NPS had its 3/24/08 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/10/08 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Warren and Maria Flatter requested to return to NPS membership and were approved. James Grimm's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved. All were welcomed to NPS membership. Steve Meyer won the door prize. Forrest Wise's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming Stamps and stamp shows were discussed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A donation was received for the Stamps Committee from Mrs. Swift. Thank you! A preliminary treasurer's report indicated that the 2008 Stamp Show had a slight loss of money. Suggestions were requested for the theme for the 2009 Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 4/14/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seven members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/24/08 meeting were read and approved. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Al Bollmeier won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Donations were received for the Stamps Committee from Matt and Bill Vance. Thank you! Bob Picirilli forwarded the Treasurer's report for the first quarter 2008 and the 2008 Show that was reviewed and approved. The business session was then adjourned for an APS slide program on "What are Revenues?"

The NPS held its 4/28/08 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 4/14/08 meeting were read and approved. Matt Benward won the door prize. Amelia Munn's 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 and Stamp committees. Donations were received for the Stamps Committee from Matt, Mr. Hall and Bill Vance. Thank you! Matt asked again for 2009 Show theme suggestions. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 5/12/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/28/08 meeting were read and approved. Nick Munn won the door prize. Amelia Munn won the Participation Award. The new postal rate change beginning today was discussed. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt suggested the "200th Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln" as the theme for the 2009 NPS Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk by Tom Tribke on "A Regent for Bavaria".

The NPS held its 5/27/08 meeting (Held on Tuesday due to Memorial Day) at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 5/12/08 meeting were read and approved. Randal Coble won the door prize. Bob Picirilli 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.

A Big Year for Collecting “Scouts on Stamps”

By Tom Tribke (With a lot of help from the Web) continued from the last issue

Post Communistic Era

In the 1990s Scouting has been reborn in every country where it existed prior to World War II, and it has started throughout the newly independent countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the USSR). Since 1993, 35 countries have joined, or rejoined, the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

What started as a small camp on Brownsea Island is today a growing Movement with members in nearly every country in the world. What started as an outdoor camp to teach skills is today a program that is used successfully in such diverse settings as developing countries and metropolitan inner cities.

About “SCOUT ON STAMPS” Stamps

Briefly, what about the stamps themselves? The first stamps considered to be Scout Stamps were issued in 1900 from the Cape of Good Hope. The three stamps pictured Baden-Powell, the founder, and a boy messenger on a bicycle. The first stamps issued after Scouting actually started in 1907 were a pair from Czechoslovakia in 1918. The first stamp to actually picture a Scout was issued by Hungary in 1925. It was part of a set of sports stamps.

Siam overprinted 19 stamps for their "Wild Tiger" or Boy Scouts in 1919 and 1920. Romania issued 5 full sets of semi-postal stamps during the 1930s; all honoring Scouts. Hungary was the first to honor a World Jamboree with a set of 5 stamps in 1933. Again in 1939 it was the first to recognize Girl Scouts on stamps.

Through 1941, these stamps and just a few others, were all that had been issued in 40 years and are considered the classics of Scouts on stamps. 1941-9 saw 17 more Scout Stamps issued from 11 more countries. By 1949 something new was happening to the hobby of stamp collecting. People were beginning to collect by topic as well as by country. By 1952 Scout Stamp collectors had formally started the Scouts on Stamps Society. Meanwhile, in 1950, the first U.S. Boy Scout Stamp broke all records for first day sales. Another 27 Scout Stamps were issued between 1950-1956.

1957 was the 50th Anniversary of Scouting. No less than 59 Scout Stamps were issued that year; as many as had been issued in the previous 20 years all together. Popularity of Scout Stamps soared, as did the value to the early issues, and the hobby was never the same. Country after country, recognizing the demand, issued Scout Stamps with increasing regularity. Many times since then over 60 Scout Stamps have been issued in a single year.

Is there an organization to help with collecting Scouts on Stamps? The **Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI)** is a nonprofit organization composed of philatelists who specialize in stamps and other philatelic material related to the Boy and Girl Scout movements. Although the majority of its members belong to some Boy or Girl Scout Association, or have at some time been related to Scouting, SOSSI is a philatelic society, completely independent of any of the World Scout Associations, and not a Scouting organization. SOSSI publishes an excellent publication, The SOSSI Journal, about 10 times per year and has sponsored “Scouts on Stamps” catalogs and manuals. You are invited to join! Visit their award-winning website at SOSSI.ORG. There are other organizations and websites related to Scouting and “Scouts on Stamps”. Many links to these sites are shown at the SOSSI site.

How many Scout Stamps are there? There are now approaching 5,000 Boy and Girl Scout [Guide] stamps issued by over 115 different countries. New Scout Stamps are issued every year by one country or another. 25th, 50th, and 60th anniversaries, National and international jamborees are typical events that are commemorated or honored. Single stamps, sets and souvenir sheets are issued.

Are they expensive? An important question if you are, say 12 years old and must pay for the stamps yourself. Some Scout Stamps, especially the older ones, are very expensive. Most of the most recent issues however cost 25-75 cents a stamp or \$1.00 to \$5.00 for a complete mint set. Short sets (sets in which the expensive high values are missing) cost less. Likewise, used Scout Stamps also are less expensive. Sometimes great bargains are available on whole groups of Scout Stamps from a dealer, collector or auction. Ads for this kind of bargain, and others, often appear in the SOSSI JOURNAL. They are placed by dealers who specialize in Scout Stamps. In addition, the SOSSI Sales Service offers Scout Stamps and cachets for sale. Remember though, buying good stamps and caring for them properly, is more like putting money in the bank than spending your allowance or earnings on candy bars.

On the other hand, for the collector who might want to invest in Scout Stamps the opportunity is certainly there. Over the years, dozens and dozens of older issues have increased in value 10 times, 50 times and even more. Many new issues double in

value within a year. A few choice Scout stamps can cost \$10,000 or more and are as solid an investment as classic U.S. stamps.

IS IT A STAMP?

by Herman Herst, Jr.

Continued from page 1

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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