



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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CHAPTER 0431

Our 125th Anniversary!!!

1893: The First U. S. Commemorative Stamps

History

Fifteen of the stamps went on sale Monday, January 2, 1893. They were available nationwide, and were not restricted to the Exposition in any way. This was a larger number of stamps than the United States Post Office had ever offered in a definitive series, thanks to the unprecedented inclusion of stamps denominated \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5: no U. S. postage stamp previously issued had cost more than 90¢. As a result, the face value of the complete set was \$16.34, a substantial sum of money in 1893. In approximate 2009 dollars, the set would cost almost \$390. As a result, only a small number of the most expensive stamps, especially the dollar values, were sold. Unsold stamps were destroyed after the Columbian Issue was removed from sale on April 12, 1894.

Summer is over and Fall's just begun and it's finally cooling off. It seems like 2012 has just flew by. I hope everyone has done OK so far this year. Only a few more months and we'll be looking forward to 2013. Things to look forward to:

- 1) Higher postal rates (FOREVER!!!)
- 2) a new President and Congress (please)
- 3) more stamp shows (hey!)
- 4) a new year (hopefully a better one)
- 5) prices (up, down, right, left - who knows)
- 6) the economy (you don't want to know my prediction)
- 7) 23 stamp club meetings!!! :>

Matt Benward, President NPS

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* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2013

We many have found a new place for the show since the Music Valley Event Center has gone out of business. More information in the next issue.

Virginia Smith

In September Mrs. Smith fell and broke her left hip. You might remember that she broke her other hip last year and was just starting to get out and about recently. She's had surgery to fix this new fracture and is now up and walking. The last info received was that she was in rehab and doing good. Get better soon! We all miss you!

Marie Farmer

Marie Farmer was in St. Thomas hospital with a heart murmur. She was in rehab and is now at home. Get better soon! We all miss you.

Al Bollmeier

Al when camping with his brother in Illinois. While hiking on a trail his foot slipped and he tumbled downhill landing hard against a rock. As a result he broke his hip and has had surgery. He will out of commission for quite a while. Get well soon!

Bill Vance's Fall "my stock only" show

Bill Vance will have his biannual "my stock only" show in early November. As more details become known they will be announced at the club.

Articles for the newsletter

I need articles for this newsletter on any aspect of stamp collecting. They can be hand written, typed, or by computer in any format. I would be willing to help write them too. Please contact me at the club meetings or at mbenward@aol.com.

New Members

Amanda Mahon

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #74 Fall 2012

Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:
Marie Farmer

Matt Benward President
Al Bollmeier First Vice-President
David Bodkin Second Vice-President
Wesley Lepter Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke Secretary
Ray McIntire Treasurer
Marie Farmer Delegate-at-Large

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

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

THE Volunteer State PHILATELIC GAZETTE is an official Publication of the Nashville Philatelic Society

Opinions expressed in THE GAZETTE are those of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nashville Philatelic Society or its members.

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The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for July 2012 – September 2012

The NPS had its 7/9/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 6/25/12 meeting were read and approved. An application for NPS membership from Amanda Mahon received first reading. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Bill Vance won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. David Erbach reported on the American Topical Society (ATA) that he had attended in Lancaster, PA. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Ray McIntire presented the Treasurer's Report for the second quarter of 2012 and the Final Report for 2012 Nashville Stamp Show. The Stamp Show report showed a loss of \$445. Both reports were read and approved. A donation of stamps was received from Ray McIntire for the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Matt discussed the need for a new location for the 2013 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for a discussion on "Miscellaneous Philatelic Topics" by Matt and the NPS members.

The NPS had its 7/23/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 7/9/12 meeting were read and approved. An application for NPS membership from Amanda Mahon received second reading and was approved and she was welcomed into NPS membership. Ken Auerweck 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. Ken Auerweck reported that the NPS sites had 87 "Followers" on Twitter and 17 "Likes" on Facebook. Matt reported that the search for a 2013 Stamp Show location continues. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/13/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 7/23/12 meeting were read and approved. Gerald Payne won the door prize. Mark Bell won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Tom Tribke read an invitation from stamp collectors in Bowling Green, KY who were considering starting a stamp club there and welcomed anyone nearby to attend their informal monthly meetings. Larry Pacl mentioned online APS training courses on "New Collectors" and "Exhibitors" that were starting soon. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Gerald Payne and Virginia Smith donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Ken Auerweck reported that the NPS sites had 87 "Followers" on Twitter and 21 "Likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that the search for a location for our 2013 Stamp Show continues. Ray Raynor, one of our guests, suggested that the IBEW Meeting Hall on Elm Hill Pike be investigated as a possible show site. Tom Tribke will investigate. The business session was then adjourned for an "Ice Cream Social" and a talk on "Postal Buddies Revisited" by Matt.

The NPS held its 8/27/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-five members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 8/13/12 meeting were read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Ken Auerweck reported that the NPS sites had 91 "Followers" on Twitter and 21 "Likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that the search for a location for our 2013 Stamp Show continues. Tom Tribke reported that the IBEW Meeting Hall was not available for non-union functions. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 9/10/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 8/27/12 meeting were read and approved. Gerald Payne won the door prize. Steve Meyers won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Ken Auerweck reported that the NPS sites had 95 "Followers" on Twitter and 21 "Likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that the search for a location for our 2013 Stamp Show continues and that Hendersonville and several hotel locations were just too expensive for our show. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation and computer program by Don Kotval on "Duck Stamps Revealed".

The NPS had its 9/24/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/10/12 meeting were read and approved. Chuck Hiehle won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A report was presented from the Phone committee. Matt reported that several church locations were being investigated as possible sites for the 2013 Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for May 2012 – June 2012

The NPS had its 5/14/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 4/23/12 meeting were read and approved. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Julian Hosnedl won the Participation Award. Virginia Smith with her husband, Joe, and son, Richard, were welcomed back to our meetings after a long absence for illness. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt mentioned that our next meeting would be held on Tuesday, May 29, due to the Memorial Day Holiday. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Nick Munn presented an APS Member Exhibit Award to Jim Cate for his exhibit at our 2012 Stamp Show. Matt provided a box of stamps from APS for the use of NPS members. The business session then adjourned for a presentation on “Sheets of Stamps” by Al Bollmeier, Matt and Tom. At the end of the meeting, Jim Cate’s Application for NPS Membership received a first reading.

The NPS held its 5/29/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 5/14/12 meeting were read and approved. Jim Cate’s Application for NPS Membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Ora Eds won the door prize. Ben Price won the Participation Award. Bill Edwards passed around a humorous article that he found on “Unusual Posts”. Matt read a “Thank you” letter from the Nashville Adventure Science Museum regarding our participation in the “Collector’s Day” program. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Ken Auerweck advised that our Twitter site had 80 “followers” and Facebook had 13 “likes”. Matt asked that anyone who had ideas on a location for our Stamp Show 2013 to please provide them for consideration. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 6/11/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 5/29/12 meeting were read and approved. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Jamie Auerweck won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported upon the recent Huntsville Stamp Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Social Media and Stamp committees. Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Ken Auerweck advised that our Twitter site had 82 “followers” and Facebook had 13 “likes”. Ray McIntire advised that the NPS Checking Account would be charged a \$15 monthly fee unless maintained above a specific balance. To stay above that level money had to be frequently transferred from the NPS Certificate of Deposit. Due to the low interest now being paid for the NPS CD, Ray suggested and received approval to transfer all monies from the CD into a new NPS savings account that would automatically maintain the required balance in the checking account. Matt said that he was continuing to check on possible sites for our 2013 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk and computer program on “Zeppelins Around the World” by Al Bollmeier, Matt and Tom Tribke.

The NPS held its 6/25/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 6/11/12 meeting were read and approved. Norma Pacl won the door prize. Ellie Eads won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Social Media and Stamp committees. Ken Auerweck advised that our Twitter site had 83 “followers” and Facebook had 13 “likes”. Matt asked for ideas for the 2013 Stamp Show site and advised that about 10,000 sq. ft. space at a cost below \$3,200 would be needed. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction conduct by Bill Vance.

Collecting the Stamps of Germany

If one visits eBay, it is found that the listings for the stamps of Germany are presented as “Germany and area”. The fragmented nature of 19th century Germany, colonial expansion, three wars and their aftermaths, and the cold war provide the collector with many options for specialization. However, a representative collection across all these areas can be assembled relatively inexpensively.

The first stamp was issued in Great Britain in 1840. Germany did not exist as a sovereign nation, but a number of German principalities and “free cities” issued stamps beginning with Bavaria in 1849. Some 19 different states issued stamps (Bergedorf only 5, Bavaria and Wurttemberg 70 some each by 1900, but most states around 25). In 1868, most of these states ceased to issue stamps in favor of those of the North German Confederation (Bavaria and Wurttemberg, however, continued to issue stamps until 1920). The North German Confederation also issued 16 stamps for Alsace during the 1870 war with France.

Several stamps of this period can be considered to be rare: Bavaria Scott No. 1, Saxony No. 1, and Wurttemberg No. 53 for example. However, about 90% of the 469 regularly issued stamps can be had relatively easily in mostly used condition. One warning—many reprints abound, forgeries exist (both those produced to defraud the postal authorities and to deceive collectors), and fake cancellations are found on those stamps rare in used condition.

In 1872, the German Empire incorporating all these states was formed. Bavaria and Wurttemberg remained somewhat independent, but were under the hegemony of the empire. The empire lasted until the end of World War I. In this period about 132 stamps were issued. All but a handful are inexpensive in used condition, but many color varieties exist particularly for the “Germania” issues. Two Scott listed stamps can be considered to be rare: Number 65B, a bisect known as the “Vineta” Provisional and Number 102, a 3 Mark stamp with a circle watermark. These two are not usually found in German albums as neither were intentional issues of the postal authorities. They are found in specialized catalogs of Germany and are quite expensive.

The “Empire” period saw the issuance of stamps for German offices abroad and for ten colonies. For the offices, regular German stamps were overprinted for use out of Turkey, Morocco, or China. Early on overprints also were used in the colonies, but were replaced with stamps depicting the Kaisers yacht. One area of specialization is the collecting of “forerunners”, German stamps canceled at the foreign offices or colonies before these issues became available.

With the end of WWI and the Versailles treaty, Germany lost its colonies, much of its territory was lost or subjected to plebiscites, and the Weimar republic replaced the monarchy. These areas and the following developments will be discussed in later articles.

1893: The First U. S. Commemorative Stamps continued

Opinion regarding the Columbian Issue at the time was mixed. The set sold well and did not face the sort of criticism that led to the withdrawal of the 1869 Pictorial Issue. However, approval was not universal. An organization called the Society for the Suppression of Spurious Stamps was created in protest over the creation of this set, deeming the Exposition in Chicago insufficiently important to be honored on postage, while some collectors balked at the Post Office Department's willingness to profit from the growing hobby of philately. Ridiculing the \$5 stamp, the Chicago Tribune pointed out that it could be used for only one purpose: mailing a 62½-pound package of books at the book rate. The Columbians did not immediately increase in value after being removed from sale, in part due to substantial speculation resulting in a glut of stamps on the secondary market. However, as of 2006, depending on condition, a full set might be valued at \$10,000 or more.

The 1¢ stamp



Entitled "Columbus in Sight of Land", this lowest value in the set was based on a painting by William Powell and was one of several to be engraved by Alfred Jones. This stamp was primarily used to pay postage on third-class mail.

Continued in next issue

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