

"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



APS 037461
CHAPTER 0431

Our 125th Anniversary!!!

Our Country's First Two Postage Stamps

Congress finally provided for the issuance of stamps by passing an act on March 3, 1847, and the Postmaster-General immediately let a contract to the New York City engraving firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, and Edson. The first stamp issue of the U.S. was offered for sale on July 1, 1847, in New York City, with Boston receiving stamps the following day and other cities thereafter. They consisted of an engraved 5-cent red brown stamp depicting Benjamin Franklin (the first postmaster of the US), and a 10-cent value in black with George Washington. Like all U.S. stamps until 1857, they were imperforate.

The 5-cent stamp paid for a letter weighing less than 1 ounce and traveling less than 300 miles, the 10-cent stamp for deliveries to locations greater than 300 miles, or, twice the weight deliverable for the 5-cent stamp. Each stamp was hand engraved in what is believed to be steel, and laid out in sheets of 200 stamps. The 5-cent stamp is often found today with very poor impressions because the type of ink used contained small pieces of quartz that wore down the steel plates used to print the stamp. On the other hand, most 10-cent stamps are of strong impressions. A fresh and brilliantly printed 5-cent stamp is prized by collectors.

The use of stamps was optional: letters could still be sent requiring payment of postage on delivery. Indeed, the post office issued no 2-cent value for prepaying drop letters in 1847, and these continued to be handled as they had been. Nevertheless many Americans took up using stamps; about 3,700,000 of the 5¢ and about 865,000 of the 10¢ were sold.

Welcome to the Nashville Stamp Show 2012. Our theme for our show is the 165th anniversary of of our country's first 2 postage stamps. This year we have 21 stamp and 1 cachet dealer from all over the country. They have varied stocks of stamps and post cards from the US and the rest of the world. Please stop by for a visit and have a look at their stocks. The dealers are always ready to help and answer your questions. Our stamps club maintain tables at the entrance to help our fellow stamp collectors with any questions, problems, or just stop by and chat. But first and foremost have a lot of fun at our stamp show!

Matt Benward, President NPS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Our country's 1st 2 postage stamps	1
The President's Corner	1
Nashville Stamp News	2
Club Information	2
Minutes of the Society	3&4
My brother's stamp collection	5
Grading of Postage Stamps	6

* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2012

Our annual stamp show is being held this year at The Music Valley Event Center located at 2416 Music Valley Drive, Suite #144 near the Opryland Hotel. This is the same location as in previous years and has worked out well since we moved the show there several years ago. Lastly as always we can't have a show without volunteers. So if you help out please let us know so we can make our 2012 show a great success!

Richard Greer passes away

Richard Greer, Jr. passed away on Sunday, February 12, 2012 at age 62. He had been a member of the club for 2 years and collected plate blocks. He was a familiar face at our meetings until just before he passed away. He always helped out at the annual stamps show by setting up the table and helping dealer carry in their stamps. He was survived by his wife, Sheila Greer, and their sons Steve and Michael and many grandchildren. Richard served in the United States Army during Vietnam from June 1971 until has honorable discharge in June 1974. He was also an avid bicyclist and bike bike mechanic for many years. We will all miss him.

The Eads Museum

After lots of hard work Ora and Ellie Eads have opened their museum. The Eads Museum is located at 154 Main Street South in Carthage. The phone number is (615) 735-0085. The building is an old tobacco Warehouse near the city police station. There are 34 galleries filled with antiques, old cars, stamps and other treasures from both America and abroad. Local and national heritage is on display, and you can follow the history of our great nation and its founding, with a tour through this museum. A reasonable admission price, lots of galleries to explore, along with a gift shop....will not be a disappointment! So congratulations to Ora and Ellie for getting their museum open!

New Members

Annette Wheeler
Gerald Payne
Arthur Cole

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #72 Spring 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

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

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 Philate-
lic Society or its members.

This publication is free and copies
may be requested by writing to our
PO box or emailing using the info
email address on our web page.

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

The Nashville Philatelic Society is
a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for December 2011 – February 2012

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/12/11 at the Madison Branch Library. Approximately nineteen members and guests joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!!

The NPS held its 1/9/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and two guests were present. Norma Pacl won the door prize. Al Bollmeier won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Mention was made of the increase in postal rates as of 1/22/2012. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp Show and Social Media committees. Stamp donations were received from Larry Pacl and Al Bollmeier. Thank you! Ray McIntire mentioned that microscopes for philatelic study were available for purchase online. Matt reported that eighteen stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2012 Stamp Show. Matt asked for articles for the newsletter and for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation by Ken and Jamie Auerweck on the "Stamps; Interacting through Social Media".

The NPS had its 1/23/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/28/11 meeting were read and approved with corrections. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 12, 2011. Minutes of the 1/9/12 meeting were also read and approved. Julian Hosnedl won the door prize. Tom Tribke won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported that the USPS Sales Service Site was very difficult to use and did not offer new philatelic materials that he knew should be available. Steve Meyer advised that "Collectors Day" was coming up in May 2012 at the Nashville Science Center. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt reported that eighteen stamp dealers had committed for the show. Matt asked for help for show setup and takedown. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 2/13/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 1/23/12 meeting were read and approved. Applications for NPS membership from Annette Wheeler, Gerald Payne and Arthur Cole received first readings. Randy Horton won the door prize. Ora Eds won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. The recent Atlanta APS Show was reviewed and Matt distributed APS pins and patches from the show. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Virginia Smith's condition was updated and a card was sent wishing for her recover from her injuries and coming surgery. Al Bollmeier and Frank Yost donated stamps for the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Ray McIntire gave the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter and 2011 Annual Report. This report was reviewed and approved. Jamie and Ken Auerweck reported that 7 Facebook and 63 Tweeter internet participants were watching these sites. Posters and flyers were handed out for the 2012 Show. Nick Munn distributed Show Exhibit forms for exhibitors. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the 2012 Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation on "Philatelic Exhibit Preparation 101" by Matt.

NPS held its 2/27/12 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 2/13/12 meeting were read and approved. Applications for NPS membership from Annette Wheeler, Gerald Payne and Arthur Cole received second readings and were approved and they were welcomed into NPS membership. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, Social Media and Show committees. Richard Greer, Jr. recent death was announced. Also, a card was sent to Emmett Sullivan hoping for his speedy recovery from recent surgery. Stamp donations were received. Thank you! Ken and Jamie Auerweck reported that there were 9 Facebook "Likes" and 68 Tweeter "Followers" for our NPS sites. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Tom Tribke displayed the Cacheted cover formats for 2012 Show covers. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. Matt reported that twenty stamp dealers had committed for the show. Nick Munn advised that eleven exhibitors with twenty-four frames of exhibits had been committed. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for September 2011 – November 2011

The NPS held its 9/12/11 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/22/11 meeting were read and approved and approved. Larry Pacl won the door prize. Ray McIntire'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. Reports were also received from the Social Media and Scouting Committees. Voting was started on the theme recommendations for the 2012 Nashville Stamp Show. The voting will be continued during the 9/26/2011 meeting. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation by Matt on "The Inverted Jenny – Scott No. C3a".

The NPS had its 9/26/11 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/12/11 meeting were read and approved. Larry Pacl won the door prize. Michael McKibben's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Robert Lancashire's application for NPS Membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Voting continued during this meeting for the theme for the 2012 NPS Stamp Show. After tallying the votes for the September meetings, the theme selected was the "165th Anniversary of the United States of America's First Use of the Adhesive Postage Stamp". The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/10/11 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/26/10 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Matt Benward won the Participation Award. Scott Simon's application for NPS membership received first reading. Robert Lancashire's application was approved after second reading and he was welcomed into NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. The business session then adjourned for a presentation by Scott Simon on "Rocket Mail".

The NPS had its 10/24/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 10/10/11 meeting were read and approved. Steve Meyer won the door prize. David Scutt's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Scott Simon's application was approved after second reading and he was welcomed into NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt that announced that the new 2012 Scott US Catalog had incorporated changes that he had submitted regarding Guam Guard Mail material and documentation. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

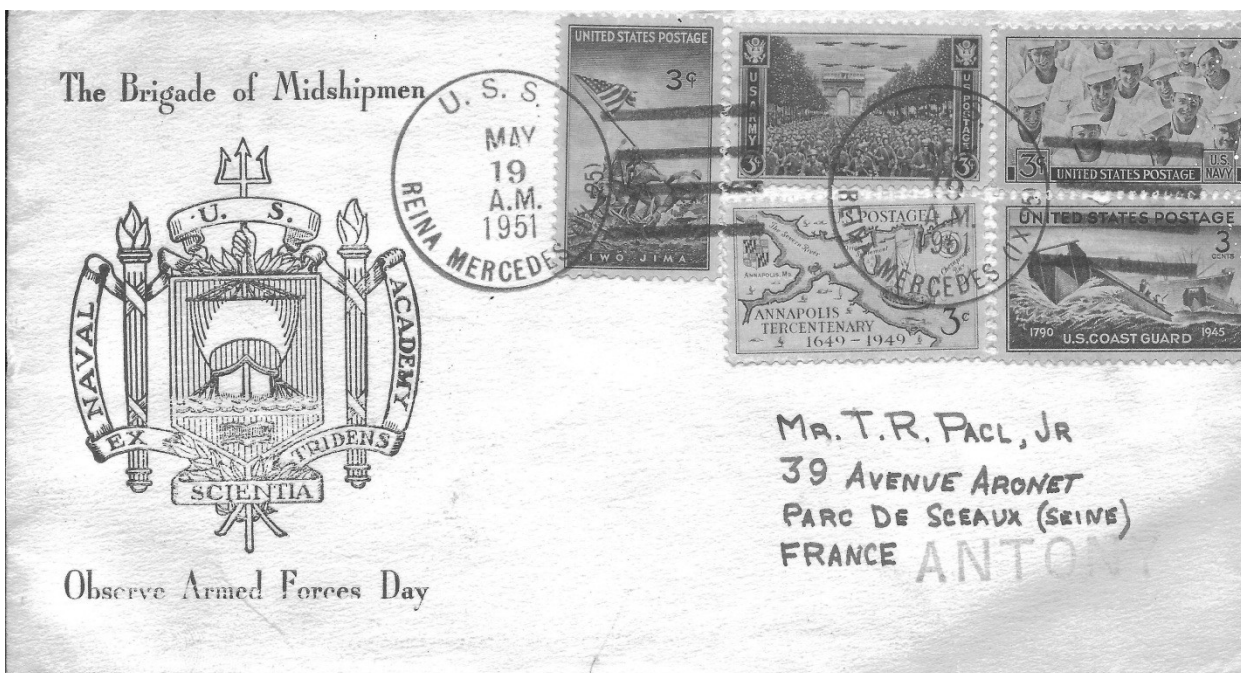
The NPS held its 11/14/11 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 10/24/11 meeting were read and approved. Applications for NPS membership from Lynn Rau, Woody Carter and Bailey and Heath Bryant received first reading. Al Bollmeier won the door prize. Bailey Bryant was awarded the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A card was sent to Nick Munn who had a broken foot. Ken and Jamie Auerweck reported that our Twitter site had 47 followers and our Facebook site was being revised for easier access. Ray McIntire provided the Treasurer's report for the third quarter 2011 that was approved by the NPS membership. Matt announced that ten dealers had committed for the 2012 Stamp Show. Matt also mentioned the need for a new "fish bowl" for our door prize drawing. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program by Ray McIntire on the "Many Varieties and Colors of the 1861 3-cent (A25) Issue".

The NPS had its 11/28/11 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/14/11 meeting were read and approved. Applications for NPS membership from Lynn Rau, Woody Carter and Bailey and Heath Bryant were approved after second readings and they were welcomed into NPS membership. Jamie Auerweck won the door prize. Tom Tribke won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. The Auerwecks reported that our Twitter site had 52 followers and that Facebook had 7 "likes". Matt asked for articles for the upcoming NPS Newsletter. NPS members were encouraged to bring family and friends to the 12/12/11 Christmas Party. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

MY BROTHER'S STAMP COLLECTION continued
by Larry Pacl

My sister-in-law recently sent some of my brother's stamp collection. She found these while unpacking after her move to Florida. Among the stamps are two gems; one marks the beginning of my last stamp collection, the other marks almost the end of my active collecting back then.

The cover was the result of my Naval Academy roommate's efforts as prospective president of the Academy's stamp club. My roommate, Robert Washington, and I were Midshipmen 2/c (college juniors) at the time. The stain appears to be coffee. I have no idea what the stamp "ANTONY" is unless it is a designation of a Paris neighborhood.



The USS Reina Mercedes (IX 25) was a hulk, a former Spanish cruiser, a prize of the Spanish American War used as a receiving station for the Naval Station Annapolis. The station provided support for the Academy. I addressed this particular cover to my brother who was studying in Paris at the time.

The Naval Academy Stamp Club was then an APS Chapter. Bob was the circuit guy for our chapter. I actively collected during first class (senior) year but married shortly after graduation. That and the several children who followed put a stop to actively collecting.

**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 – Perfs are very close to design on 1 or reasonably close on 2 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 centered stamp with one pulled perf any be graded as fine. A single Extremely Fine entered 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 (let's 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).

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

* Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nashville-Philatelic-Society/207106846013774> *

* Twitter <http://twitter.com/#!/NashPhilatelic> *
