



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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The Star Spangled Banner

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States. The lyrics come from "Defence of Fort M'Henry", a poem written in 1814 by the 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet, Francis Scott Key, after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Chesapeake Bay during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812.

The poem was set to the tune of a popular British song written by John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a men's social club in London. "The Anacreontic Song" (or "To Anacreon in Heaven"), with various lyrics, was already popular in the United States. Set to Key's poem and renamed "The Star-Spangled Banner", it would soon become a well-known American patriotic song. With a range of one and a half octaves, it is known for being difficult to sing. Although the poem has four stanzas, only the first is commonly sung today.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889, and by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1508, codified at 36 U.S.C. § 301), which was signed by President Herbert Hoover.

Welcome to the Nashville Stamp Show 2014. Our theme for our show is the 200th Anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner. This year we have 16 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 stamp maintains 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

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* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2014

Our annual stamp show is being held this year at 50 Forward Madison Station and is located at 301 Madison Street in Madison Tennessee. It is located behind Madison Square shopping Center. This is a new location. Hopefully this will be our home for years to come. Lastly as always we can't have a without volunteers. So if you help out please let us know so we can make our 2014 show a great success! Have fun and make the dealers happy.

Robert 'Bob' Edward Lancashire

Bob Lancashire passed away on October 10, 2013. He had been in the hospital for a heart attack in August. He had be a member since October 2011 and collected US stamps. I spoke to him while he was recovering. He spoke about coming back to the club.

Marie Farmer

In December Marie Farmer was hospitalized with a gall bladder attack. She had surgery and has been recovering is a rehab facility. She is back home and hopes to be able to attend the stamps show.

Nick Munn needs "Cool Postage" items

Nick needs some "Cool Postage" items for exhibits at our show. "Cool Postage" items are envelopes with lots of old stamps. Bring them to 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. I have been getting some articles during the last few months, but I still need some more. If you see interesting articles in the philatelic press, please let me know. You may contact me at the club meetings or at mbenward@aol.com. Thanks.

Adventure Science Center Collectors' Fair

The Cumberland Science Museum is having its annual Collectors' Fair on March 8th. The hours are 10a.m. to 3 p.m. The Cumberland Science Center is located at 800 Fort Negley Blvd here in Nashville.

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #80 Spring 2014

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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 at 6:30 p.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!

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Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for December 2013 – February 2014

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/9/2013 at the Madison Branch Library. Approximately eighteen members and guests joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!!

The NPS held its 1/13/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 11/11/13 meeting were read and approved. Our 11/25/13 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 9, 2013. David Erbach won the door prize. Janice Erbach won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Mention was made of the increase in postal rates as of 1/26/2014. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp Show committees. Matt reported that thirteen stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2014 Stamp Show. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Nick Munn brought up a concern about the availability of judges for our show exhibits. 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 an excellent presentation by Matt on "Preparing Exhibits".

The NPS had its 1/27/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 1/13/14 meeting were read and approved. Karl Schaub won the door prize. Virginia Smith won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone committee. Nick Munn brought up the issue about the availability of judges for our show exhibits and the budget to support this service. Further study of this matter was needed. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Nick also asked for "Cool Postage" items to help him prepare an exhibit. Steve Meyer mentioned that the "Collectors' Fair" at the Science Museum was the same weekend as our Stamp Show thus making our participation unlikely. Matt reported that thirteen 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 2/10/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 1/27/14 meeting were read and approved. Ben Price won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. Ken Auerweck reported that our Facebook site had 65 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 390 "followers". Ray McIntire gave a preliminary Treasurer's Report for the show and 4th Quarter and 2013 Annual Reports. Matt reported that fifteen stamp dealers had committed for the show. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Nick Munn distributed Show Exhibit forms for exhibitors. Nick also expressed concern about sufficient room for the Show exhibits. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the 2014 Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation on "Thurn and Taxis" by Al Bollmeier.

NPS held its 2/24/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 2/10/14 meeting were read and approved. Ora Eids won the door prize. Randy Coble won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Social Media and Show committees. Ken Auerweck reported that our Facebook site had 67 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 391 "followers". Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Tom Tribke displayed the Cacheted cover formats for 2014 Show covers. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. Matt reported that fifteen stamp dealers had committed for the show. Nick Munn advised that thirty-six frames of exhibits had been committed. Nick also reported that a qualified judge had been found for our Stamp Show exhibits. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for August 2013 – November 2013

The NPS held its 9/9/13 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 8/26/13 meeting were read and approved. Applications for NPS Membership from Fred Eisenhauer and John Jencik received first readings. Nick Munn won the door prize. Steve Meyers won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A report was presented from the Phone committee. Matt mentioned that the search for a location for our 2014 Stamp Show continues and that several checked hotel locations were just too expensive for our show. Tom Tribke mentioned that the voting on the 2014 Show theme would soon be held. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation and computer program by Matt on “the 50th Anniversary of Mister Zip”.

The NPS had its 9/23/13 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/9/13 meeting were read and approved. Applications for NPS Membership from Fred Eisenhauer and John Jencik received second readings and they were approved and were welcomed to NPS membership. Chuck Hiehle 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. Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Ken Auerweck reported that the NPS sites had 250 “Followers” on Twitter and 53 “Likes” on Facebook. Matt reported that the 2013 Stamp Show location was being investigated as a possible site for the 2014 Stamp Show as well. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/14/13 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and six guests were present. Minutes of the 9/23/13 meeting were read and approved. Janice Erbach won the door prize. Ben Price won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. The Membership was saddened to learn of the 7/22/2013 death of Tom Grimes, a long-time NPS member. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. Larry Pacl and Frank Yost donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! The search for the 2014 Show location continues. Ballots were handed out to vote on the theme for the 2014 Show. It was mentioned that intentional imperforated copies of the new “Inverted Jenny” were on sale by the USPS. The business session then adjourned for an excellent talk and computer presentation on “Topical Collecting and the American Topical Association (ATA)” by Vera Felts, Executive Director of the American Topical Association.

The NPS held its 10/28/13 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 10/14/13 meeting were read and approved. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Karl Schwabe donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Ballots were again handed out to vote on the theme for the 2014 Show. The theme selected will be announced at our next meeting. A discussion was held on the 2014 Stamp Show location. Nick Munn advised that he had checked the Fair Grounds and found it would not be available for 2014 and would be too costly. Matt advised that we would continue to look for a show location. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/11/13 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/28/13 meeting was read and approved. David Erbach won the door prize. Larry Pacl won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Copies of the new NPS newsletter were assembled and distributed. Tom Tribke announced the theme selections for the 2014 Stamp Show. NPS selected the “200th Anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner” and the Brentwood Philatelic Society selected the “150th Anniversary of the Battle of Nashville”. Matt advised that the Madison Senior Center looked like a good location for the 2014 Stamp Show and that he would contact the Center manager to work-out arrangements. The business session then adjourned for an interesting talk and computer presentation by Ray McIntire on “Determining Actual Stamp Colors”.

The NPS meeting for 11/25/13 was cancelled due icy weather and road conditions.

POSTAL NOTES

Postal notes were the specialized money order successors to the United States Department of the Treasury's postage and fractional currency. They were created so Americans could safely and inexpensively (for a three cent fee) send sums of money under \$5 to distant places.

Postal Notes were privately produced by three different firms in six design types during three four-year contracts. They were first issued at the nation's larger post offices on Monday, September 3, 1883. Numerous "first day" souvenir notes have survived.

Government officials, wary of the continuing problem of postal theft, initially mandated that the notes could be cashable only in the city named by the purchaser. Engraved and printed by the Homer Lee Bank Note Company, the first two designs (Types I and II) had a space for the postal clerk to indicate where the note was being sent. If stolen en route, the note had no value, as it could not be cashed in any other city! All Postal Notes were printed on a watermarked security paper produced by Crane & Co. that features a unique watermark. Type I notes were printed on a yellow security paper blank that was about 10% larger than all subsequent issues. Type II and later notes were printed on a creamy white security paper.

In January of 1887, Congress changed the applicable law. Rather than being cashable at only one named post office, it decided that newly issued Postal Notes could be cashable at any money order office - the system's larger and busier offices. To comply with the new law, "Any Money Order Office" was rubber-stamped or hand written in place of a specific paying city on the Type II forms. These notes are called Type II-A.

To comply with the law, Homer Lee's engravers added the words "ANY MONEY ORDER OFFICE" in a level line into the second design's printing plates. Due to the short period of time between the passage of the new law and the start of the second production contract (which Homer Lee did not receive), few post offices ordered and issued Type III Postal Notes.

The American Bank Note Company of New York was the winning bidder for the second Postal Note engraving and printing contract. Thomas F. Morris, creator of the acclaimed designs for U.S. currency and stamps, as well as stock and bond certificates, etc., was assigned to design and engrave the new Postal Note (Type IV). No major changes were required during American's four-year contract. The only change noted during ABNCo's contract was the decade change on the date line from "188_" to "189_". All Postal Notes issued with the American Bank Note Company logotype are Type IV

The third and final Postal Note engraving and printing contract extended from September of 1891 to June of 1894. Dunlap & Clarke of Philadelphia won the competition. Their design, unchanged during the length of their contract, is catalogued as Type V.

Between 1883 and 1894, some 70.8 million Postal Notes were issued, used as intended, then destroyed. Approximately 1,500 have survived for modern collectors and historians. Thanks to the government's publicity, the first and final designs are the most common notes. No publicity was produced for the other design changes. Type III notes are the rarities of the series.

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.

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

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