



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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U.S. Airmail

U.S. Air Mail was a service class for delivering mail flown by aircraft within the United States and its possessions and territories. Letters and parcels intended for air mail service were marked as "Via Air Mail" (or equivalent), appropriately franked, and assigned to any then existing class or sub-class of the Air Mail service.

Domestic U.S. Air Mail was formally established as a new class of service by the Post Office Department on May 15, 1918, with the inauguration of the Washington-Philadelphia-New York route for which the first of special Air Mail stamps were issued. The Post Office set a controversial rate of 24 cents for the service, much higher than the 3 cents for first-class mail of the time, and decided to issue a new stamp just for this rate, patriotically printed in red and blue, and depicting a Curtiss Jenny JN-4HM, the biplane especially modified for shuttling the mail. The stamp's designer, Clair Aubrey Houston, apparently troubled to procure a photograph of that modified model (produced by removing the second pilot seat from the JN-4HT to create space for mailbags, and by increasing the fuel capacity). As only six such aircraft existed, there was a 1-in-6 chance that the very plane engraved on the stamp by Marcus Baldwin-Jenny #38262-would be chosen to launch the inaugural three-city airmail run; the plane on the stamp was indeed the first to depart on May 15, taking off from Washington at 11:47 A. M.

The exclusive transportation of flown mails by government operated aircraft came to an end in 1926 under the provisions of the "Kelly Act" which required the USPOD to transition to contracting with commercial air carriers to fly them over Contract Air Mail (CAM) routes to be established by the Department, although during the first half of 1934 the U.S. Army Air Forces temporarily took over the routes - with disastrous results - when all CAM contracts were summarily cancelled by President Franklin D. Roosevelt owing to the Air Mail Scandal. Domestic air mail became obsolete in 1975, and international air mail in 1995, as distinct extra fee services when the USPS began transporting all First Class long distance intercity mail by air on a routine basis.

Welcome to the Nashville Stamp Show 2018. Our theme for our show is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. airmail. This year we have 14 stamp and 1 post card 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. The dealers are always ready to help and answer your questions. Our stamp club maintains a table 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 2018

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. Hopefully this will be our home for years to come. Lastly as always we can't have our annual stamp shown without volunteers. So if you help out please let us know so we can make our 2018 stamp show a great success! Have fun and make the dealers happy.

Long time member Ben Price passed away

Ben Price passed away on February 7th. He was a long time member of 15 years, attended meetings regularly, helped out at the club table at our annual stamp show. He was a good friend, a valued member of our club, and shall be sorely missed.

Theme for our 2019 stamp show

The votes are in and the membership selected the theme for our 2019 show to be 'Space' for 50th anniversary of moon landing. So get those space stamps for your exhibits at the 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.

New Members

Steward Bowdoin

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

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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 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!

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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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 2017 – February 2018

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/11/2017 at the Inglewood Branch Library. Approximately twenty NPS members, their guests and invited library patrons joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!!

The NPS held its 1/8/2018 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/27/2017 meeting were read and approved. Also an informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 11, 2017. Mark Thompson won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 176+ “likes” and that our Twitter site had 986 “followers”. Nick Munn provided the name of the judge for the Stamp Show exhibits. Matt reported that ten stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2018 Show. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation and handout by Bill Bowman on "Buying and Selling Stamps on HipStamp.com".

The NPS held its 1/22/2018 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and two guests were present. Steward Bowdoin’s application for NPS membership received first reading. Minutes of the 1/8/2018 meeting were read and approved. Steward Bowdoin won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. NPS members were saddened to learn of the death of long-term NPS member Ora Eads on 1/10/2018. It was reported that effective 1/21/2018 a new first class postal rate of 50 cents went into effect. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, and Social Media committees. Marie Farmer advised that stamp packets were provided to children at the Ross Elementary School. It was reported that our Facebook site had 177 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 992 “followers”. Matt asked for help for show setup and takedown. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation on “Stamp Booklets” by Matt, Al Bollmeier and Tom Tribke.

The NPS held its 2/12/2018 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 1/22/2018 meeting were read and approved. Ken Owen won the door prize. Stuart Bowdoin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. NPS members were again saddened to learn of the death of another long-term NPS member, Ben Price, on 2/7/2018. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt and Rudy Caduff donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! It was reported that our Facebook site had 179 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 990+ “followers”. Matt mentioned that 377 postcard Stamp Show notices had been sent out to invite past show attendees to come again to our show. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation on “Inverts on Stamps” by Matt and Tom Tribke.

NPS held its 2/26/2018 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 2/12/2018 meeting were read and approved with amendments. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Mark Thompson discussed his attendance at the APS Winter Show in Birmingham. Mark also mentioned that his exhibit in the show won a large vermeil award. Congratulations! Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, and Social Media committees. Jim Young donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! It was reported that our Facebook site had 182 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1,006 “followers”. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Nick Munn advised that 37+ frames of exhibits were committed for our 2018 show. Matt reported that thirteen stamp and postcard dealers had committed to our 2018 show. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation on “Postal Stationery” by Matt and Tom Tribke.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for September 2017 – November 2017

The NPS held its 9/11/17 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 8/28/17 meeting were read and approved. Ben Price won the door prize. Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps Committees. A stamp donation was received from Janet Erbach. Thank you! A report was given on our social media websites with 956 “followers” on Twitter and 170 “likes” on Facebook. Nick Munn proposed that the theme for the 2019 Stamp Show be “Space” since it would be 50 years since the “First Moon Walk” The NPS membership voted and agreed to this proposal. Members were reminded that our 2018 Show theme is the “100th Anniversary of Airmail”. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation by Al Bollmeier and Matt on “Stamp Printing Methods”.

The NPS had its 9/25/17 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. NPS moved its meeting site to the Inglewood Library due to the pending closing of the Madison Library for repairs and upgrade. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/11/17 meeting were read and approved. Steve Meyer 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. Our social media websites had 956 “followers” on Twitter and 171 “likes” on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation by Al Bollmeier and Matt on “Stamp Adhesives”.

The NPS held its 10/9/17 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eight members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/25/17 meeting were read and approved. Rudy Caduff 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 Stamps committees. Larry Pacl and Matt donated stamps for the Stamp Committee. Thank you! An update was given on our social media websites with 952 “followers” on Twitter and 169 “likes” on Facebook. It was reported that notices had been sent out for our 2018 Stamp Show scheduled for March 10 & 11, 2018. The business session then adjourned for an excellent talk on “Stamp Gums” by Matt Benward.

The NPS held its 10/23/17 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Six members were present. Minutes of the 10/9/17 meeting were read and approved. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that stamps had been donated to several local schools for their programs. Social media reported that our sites had 169 “likes” on Facebook and 956 “followers” on Tweeter. Matt mentioned that so far five dealers had committed for our 2018 Stamp Show. NPS members were also reminded about the need for volunteers for Show setup and take-down. The business session then adjourned for an excellent talk on “Stamp Gums” by Al Bollmeier and Matt.

The NPS held its 11/13/2017 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/23/2017 meeting were read and approved. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Steve Meyer won the Participation Award. Forth coming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Social media reports that our sites had 168 “likes” on Facebook and 968 “followers” on Tweeter. Matt reported that five dealers had committed to come to our 2018 Stamp Show. Nick Munn presented Jim Cate with the 2017 Stamp Show Grand Award for his exhibit. Nick also distributed the Prospectus for Stamp Show Exhibitors. The business session then adjourned for an interesting presentation on “Stamp Watermarks” by Al Bollmeier and Matt.

The NPS meeting for 11/27/2017 was held at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/13/2017 meeting was read and approved. Steve Meyer won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Social media reports that our sites had 168 “likes” on Facebook and 976 “followers” on Tweeter. Matt mentioned that six dealers had committed to our 2018 Stamp Show and that help would be needed for setup and takedown of the Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk on “Coil Stamps”.

Printing Methods

There are four basic types of printing methods: intaglio, relief, planographic and embossing.

In intaglio, which includes line engraving and photogravure, the ink lies in recessed portions of the printing plate. The designs of stamps printed by intaglio are generally very sharp and crisp. The recesses are cut into the substance of the metal die, line by line and dot by dot, in line engraving.

Photogravure, on the other hand, uses a process of photography and etching to create the recessed design on the die. It is similar to line engraving in the method of ink transfer, but the printing plate recesses are created differently. The stamp design is photographed through an extremely fine screen to create a pattern of dots, or more recently, the pattern is created digitally. Instead of the skilled hands of an engraver, a chemical or electrical process etches the design into the printing plate. Because photogravure stamps are not subjected to the intense pressure of a line-engraved stamp, the printed surface of the gravure stamps feels flat and no impression appears on the back. Stamps printed by planographic processes are very flat by comparison to the other printing processes. The most commonly known method of planographic printing is lithography.

Relief printing can be considered the opposite of intaglio printing. In this method, the inked portion of the printing plate is raised, while the uninked portion is recessed. The concept is similar to the manner in which a typewriter or a rubber handstamp prints. Relief printing, like line-engraving, can cause distortions in the back of the stamp as the raised portions of the plate press into the paper. The distortion in a relief stamp, however, results in a raised image on the back of the stamp rather than a depressed image on the back as in line engraving. Another notable characteristic of relief-printed stamps is an excess of color around the edges of lines in the design.

This is caused as the ink is squeezed outward and over the vertical edge of the printing surface when pressure is applied by the ink roller. When the paper is pressed against the relief, the excess ink at the edges of the design is transferred to the paper. This halo effect is usually evident under strong magnification. Relief-printed stamps usually do not have very fine lines because there is not enough material on the plate to support the fine lines, and the rigor of the printing process would quickly degrade the plate. Fine and intricate detail is virtually impossible with this method of printing. Relief stamps also are usually printed on comparatively rough paper that absorbs the ink more readily than smooth paper. Ink printed on smooth paper by the relief method is likely to smear. The earliest forms of relief dies were made from wood. Throughout history, however, relief dies also have been made from ivory, rubber, stone, brass, copper and other metals.

Stamps printed by planographic processes are very flat by comparison to the other printing processes. This is because the surface of the printing plate is flat. The most commonly known method of planographic printing is lithography. This type of printing is based on the principle that oil and water do not mix. Ink used to print stamps is oil based. The printing surface is treated to hold water in the areas that are not to be inked. When the ink is applied to the plate, the areas with the water repel the greasy ink. In offset lithography, the printing base prints an impression on a rubber-covered cylinder that rolls over the surface of the paper, to which the ink is transferred. Another form of lithography is photolithography, in which the design is transferred directly to the printing surface through a photo-mechanical process. The designs of lithographed stamps can be very intricate, but the lines have a tendency to be unsharp. The edges of the printed areas appear, almost unfailingly, in lithographed stamps as an irregular string of beads.

Embossing is not often used in the production of stamps; however, it is commonly found used to make postal stationery. Embossing is the result of paper being pressed between a recessed die and a corresponding relief die to create a three-dimensional impression in the paper that is evident from either side. Embossed designs can be produced with or without ink.

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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.

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