

"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The Volunteer State Philatelic Gazette



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Hope everyone is doing OK!!!

Shifty Postage Dues

The fourth postage due design is unique in U.S. stamps. The engraved red frame was printed first and then the denomination was added at a later time much like bureau precancels were overprinted onto definitive postage stamps. Therefore any of the 16 denominations may exist on any of the 21 different plate numbers used to print these postage dues. These stamps were issued on June 19, 1959 at TOPEX (the American Topical Association's annual stamp show) and were used until August 1986 and no others were issued after that. There were many different printings of which the last one was in November 1985. They were only sold over the counter starting in 1974 although they were available from the Philatelic Sales Division for the entire time of their usage.

Since these stamps were considered utility stamps production controls were not as stringent as they were on regular commemorative and definitive postage stamps. During the printing process the denominations tend to drift around the engraved part of the stamp as can be seen below. They're either too high or low or off center to the right or left and sometimes for example both too high and off center to the right. Sometimes they even touch the frame itself.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

First, I hope everyone is doing OK. Although things have loosened up quite a bit we still need to be careful. I'm continuing to work around the house and finally did catch up. Now I'm doing some things outside such as trimming trees and weeds. I'm still working on my stamp collection and have reported some new finds on my postage dues for inclusion into the Durland Standard Plate Number catalog. Our regular meetings have been very successful and everyone likes the Bavarian Bierhaus. We'll continue to meet there for the rest of the year and most likely into the future. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2021

Our annual stamp show has been will be held on March 20-21 at the Gallatin Civic Center located at 320 Albert Gallatin Avenue in Gallatin. This is a same location we held it in March 2019. Thanks to those who volunteered for the March and August shows this year. Hopefully you can volunteer for the show next March. We couldn't have a successful without you! So if you can please volunteer!

Roger Hunt asks for donations of old albums

Roger Hunt asked the members to donate old, partially-filled stamp albums for the "children's stamp table" our forthcoming stamp show. As you may remember during our 2019 show there were tables setup between the dealers tables and exhibits with loose stamps for children and some adults to pick through. So if you have any old albums just sitting around the house please think about donating them to help get children interested in stamp collecting again. You may contact Roger at the club meetings or contact the club and we'll get your message to him. Please email: show@nashvillephilatelic.org.

Mark Thompson needs "Cool Postage" items

Mark 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 mhenward@aol.com. Thanks.

All club meetings now at the Bavarian Bierhaus

Since the Inglewood Public Library is still closed for the foreseeable future all club meeting will be held at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills until further notice. At these meetings all COVID-19 mandates are being followed.

New Members

Garry Speich
John Behm

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #104 Fall 2020

Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:

Matt Benward President
Al Bollmeier First Vice-President
David Bodkin Second Vice-President
Madeline Seibert Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke Secretary
Mark Thompson Treasurer

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting at 6:15 p.m., and Program at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Inglewood Branch Library, 4312 Gallatin Pike, 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 August 2020 – September 2020

The NPS had its 8/10/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and one guest were present. The minutes of the 7/27/20 meeting were read and approved. Garry Speich's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Rudy Caduff won the door prize and Mike Gillespie won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Tom Tribke was in rehab. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1156 "followers" and Facebook had 454 "likes". On the Treasurer's Report Mark Thompson mentioned that the CD was cashed out and proceeds were moved to the checking account. On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and there was no New Business. The business session then adjourned for a program on 'Dummy Stamps' by Matt Benward.

The NPS had its 8/24/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and no guests were present. The minutes of the 8/10/20 meeting were read and approved. There were no new application for NPS membership and Jim Young won the door prize. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and the stamp show in Evansville on October 17 & 18 were mentioned. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1159 "followers" and Facebook had 488 "likes". On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and there was no New Business. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 9/14/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. The minutes of the 8/24/20 meeting were read and approved. There were no new applications for NPS membership. Jim Cate won the door prize and Nick Munn won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Tom Tribke was back home. There were no new applications for NPS membership. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1158 "followers" and Facebook had 494 "likes". On the Treasurer's Report Mark Thompson mentioned that the CD was cashed out and proceeds were moved to the checking account. On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and there was no New Business. The business session then adjourned for a program on 'Confederate Adversity Covers' by Jim Cate.

The NPS had its 9/28/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and no guests were present. The minutes of the 9/14/20 meeting were read and approved. Bill Young's application for NPS membership received first reading and John Behm's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Rudy Caduff won the door prize and Jim Young won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and the stamp show in Evansville on October 17 & 18 were mentioned. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1159 "followers" and Facebook had 488 "likes". On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and On New Business it was announced that October was stamps collecting month. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for May 2020 – July 2020

There was no stamp club meeting held on 5/13/20 due to the pandemic.

The NPS held its 5/25/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 3/9/20 meeting were read and approved. Bill Colp's application for NPS membership received first reading. Roger Hunt won the door prize and Mark Thompson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and few, if any, stamp shows were reviewed. Matt announced that our annual NPS Stamp and Postcard Show was re-scheduled for August 8 – 9, 2020. Matt also reported that the Huntsville Stamp Show was cancelled. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Our Facebook site had 370 'likes' and our Twitter site had 1151 "followers". Mark Thompson presented a current Treasurer's report. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 6/8/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and three guests were present. The minutes of the 5/25/20 meeting were read and approved. Bill Colp's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Rudy Caduff won the door prize and Mrs. Hunt won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Stamp donations were received from Rudy Caduff. Thank you! Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1156 "followers" and Facebook had 395 "likes". The business session then adjourned for an excellent program on "the 100 Greatest Stamps – Part 1" by Al Bollmeier, Matt and other NPS members.

The NPS held its 6/22/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 6/8/20 meeting were read and approved. Mrs. Odie Caduff won the door prize and Steve Meyer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows, if any, were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1153 "followers" on Twitter and 420 "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson reported our Treasurer's report remains unchanged from our last report. Mark also expressed concerns about Stamp Show preparations in view of the COVID-17 pandemic and how we would handle persons attending. This issue will require further study. The business session then adjourned for our auction conducted by Tom Tribke.

The NPS held its 7/13/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eight members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 6/22/20 meeting were read and approved. John Behm's application for NPS membership received first reading. Steve Meyer won the door prize and Roger Hunt won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and few, if any, stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Tom was having an operation and Al had a cold. Our Facebook site had 427 'likes' and our Twitter site had 1152 "followers". Mark Thompson presented a current Treasurer's report with a handout. On Old Business the NPS stamp show in August was mentioned and there was no new Business. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program on "the 100 Greatest Stamps – Part 2" by Al Bollmeier, Matt and other NPS members.

The NPS had its 7/27/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and no guests were present. The minutes of the 7/13/20 meeting were read and approved. Garry Speich's application for NPS membership received first reading. Jim Young won the door prize and Linda Boyd won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Stamp donations were received from Rudy Caduff. Thank you! Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1154 "followers" and Facebook had 434 "likes". On Old Business it was announced that the NPS stamp show in August was cancelled and on New Business it was announced that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 - 21. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

Dummy Stamps

A dummy stamp, often misnamed test stamps, is a stamp-like label which is not valid for postal use. They were produced by both the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing and by private corporations involved with the production and use of postage stamps.

These dummy stamps had various uses: to set up and test printing presses and/or stamp finishing processes; to set up stamp affixing machines; to set up stamp dispensing equipment; to demonstrate production capabilities; and to help in the development of new production processes; train postal workers in use of stamp vending equipment; and as printer's sample stamps created to promote or demonstrate the printing capabilities of a stamp printer.

These dummy stamps all share several common characteristics. They are not Post Office accountable paper; they document the production and use of postal stamps often better than the stamps themselves do; they are often very difficult to discover and obtain, and they are just fun to collect.

In 1906 when attempts to have his mailing machine produced in Chicago failed, Joseph J. Schermack took his idea and prototype for the machine to Detroit. There the Detroit Mailing Machine Company was formed to make and sell Schermack's machine. The 1906 patent covered "...the envelope sealing mechanism and the means for separating and applying the stamps." (The Stamp Machines and Coiled Stamps by George P. Howard, p32.)

At this time the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was not yet producing coiled stamps, so the Detroit Mailing Machine Company ran tests of Schermack's machine using coils made from sheets of Bureau gauge-12 perforated stamps. However, the fine perforations tended to separate when the machine was run at full speed; attempts to use imperforate coiled stamps also were unsatisfactory. Therefore, the company began to experiment with its own varieties of round-hole perforations, and later with its very successful hyphen-hole perforations.

The US Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) and most private sector printers of stamps have long produced dummy/testing material to check out their printing presses and other stamp manufacturing equipment. Such printings are primarily intended for internal use and are not regularly available outside the printing facilities.

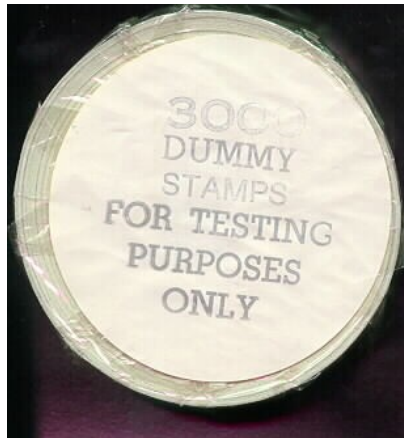
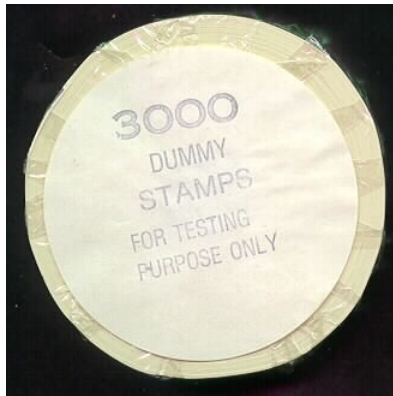
Some dummy/testing material is produced for use by the United States Postal Service (USPS) and by commercial firms preparing large mailings. Early dummy/testing coils were usually unprinted "stamps" produced with the then current perforations and adhesive.

For Testing Purposes Only (FTPO) coils have been printed by the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) since approximately 1962. These coils are used to set up both postal equipment, such as coil vending machines, and the stamp affixing machines used by companies preparing large mailings.

These examples were printed on the BEP B Press, are untagged and have dull gum. Coils were generally available in either rolls of 500 or rolls of 3000. Smaller mailers and USPS personnel could use rolls of 500 Dummy stamps. These coils, usually available in rolls of 3000, were used by commercial mailers to set up their stamp affixing machines.



Dummy Stamps Cont'd



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