



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

# Volunteer State

## Philatelic Gazette



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CHAPTER 0431

## Philatelic Overprints

An overprint is an additional layer of text or graphics added to the face of a postage stamp or postal stationery after it has been printed. Post offices most often use overprints for internal administrative purposes such as accounting but they are also employed in public mail. The most well recognized varieties are commemorative overprints which are produced for their public appeal and command significant interest in the field of philately.

### Wartime overprints



During times of war, many nations have issued war tax stamps. Before new stamps could be printed, older stamps were frequently overprinted with surcharges or a simple inscription such as "War Tax". In actual combat zones, the replenishment of stamp stocks is generally low on a military's list of priorities. In contested or occupied areas, captured local stamps are often expediently overprinted by the occupying forces.

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### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, Spring is over and the long long hot summer is +-----+  
here. Not to worry because Summer is the best time to |  
work on your stamp collection! There are several |  
stamp shows coming up in the area. Our club's annual |  
show and Bill Vance's dealer show are coming up in |  
August. There are several other stamp shows coming up |  
in the local area too: Indianapolis, Cincinnati, |  
Memphis, and Evansville. And don't forget about our |  
club - we'll have lots of fun things coming up during |  
Summer too!

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Matt Benward, President NPS

Nashville Stamp Show 2021  
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I spoke to the person at the Gallatin Civic Center who's in charge of the meeting rooms and I have reserved the gym for our club's annual stamp show. It is scheduled for August 28 and 29 with dealers' setup on the 27th from 2 to 6pm. Of course we need volunteers to help setup and take down the show as always. Show setup will on August 27th from noon to 6pm and take down will be from 4pm on August 29 until we are finished. Also we need people to help during the show too. We need two people at the club table to greet visitors and a few people to fix and deliver lunch to the dealers. Please volunteer!!!

Roger Hunt asks for donations of old albums  
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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](mailto:show@nashvillephilatelic.org).

Articles for the newsletter  
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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](mailto:mhenward@aol.com). Thanks.

All club meetings now at the Bavarian Bierhaus  
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Since the Bavarian Bierhaus has worked out so well all future club meetings will be held there. It is located at Opry Mills around back across from the General Jackson marshalling area.

New Members  
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- Leah Greene
- Laurel Nicholas
- David Perry
- Bob Winters
- Andrea Goodrow
- R.G. Wolf

The Volunteer State  
Philatelic Gazette

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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 Bavarian Bierhaus, 121 Opry Mills Drive, 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 April 2021 – June 2021**

**NPS held its 4/12/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/22/2021 meeting were read and approved. Laurel Nicholas' application for NPS membership received first reading. Michael Nicholas won the door prize and Garry Speich won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. A tub of stamps was provided for attendees to select from as needed. It was reported that our Facebook site had 540 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1188 "followers". Matt mentioned that the location for our Stamp show was still to be determined. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "Postage Stamp Forgeries and Fakes – Part 2" by Matt and other members.**

**The NPS held its 4/26/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/12/2021 meeting were read and approved. David Perry's application for NPS membership received first reading. Laurel Nicholas' application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and she was welcomed to the club. Laurel Nicholas won the door prize and Jo Jones 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 540 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1187 "followers". Mark Thompson provided the Treasurer's report. Matt mentioned that the location for our Stamp show was still to be determined. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.**

**The NPS held its 5/10/21 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/26/21 meeting were read and approved. Bob Winters' application for NPS membership received first reading. David Perry's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Mark Thompson won the door prize and Janice Erbach won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1189 "followers" on Twitter and 546 "likes" on Facebook. Matt reported that the location for our August 28th & 29th Stamp show was the Gallatin Civic Center. The business session then adjourned for a program and handout on the "Columbian Stamps of 1893 – Part 1" conducted by Matt, Tom Tribke and other members.**

**NPS held its 5/24/21 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 5/10/21 meeting were read and approved. R.G. Williams' and Andrea Goodrow's applications for NPS membership received first readings. Bob Winters' application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club and Andrea Goodrow won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt mentioned that a new postal card would be issued for the first time in three years. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Jim Butler made significant donations of stamps and auction items lots to the club. Thank you! Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of our Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.**

**The NPS had its 6/14/21 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and two guests were present. The minutes of the 5/24/21 meeting were read and approved. Leah Greene's application for NPS membership received first reading. R.G. Williams' and Andrea Goodrow's applications for NPS membership received second reading and were approved and they were welcomed to the club. Nick Munn won the door prize and Roger Hunt won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. It was announced that the Hendersonville Club had resumed its meetings at the Hendersonville library. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt decided that the theme this show would remain "Super Heros" for our forthcoming Stamp Show. Roger Hunt asked the members to donate old partially-filled stamp albums for the "children's stamp table" at our Show. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program on the "Columbian Stamps of 1893 – Part 2" by Matt, Tom Tribke and other NPS members.**

# **Nashville Philatelic Society**

## **Minutes Review for January 2021 – March 2021**

The NPS held its 1/11/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members were present. Minutes of the 11/23/2020 meeting were read and approved. Also an informal report was given on our Christmas meeting held on December 14, 2020. Rudy Caduff won the door prize and Bill Bowman 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 536 “likes” and our Twitter site had 1161 “followers”. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation and handout by Matt and others on “Philatelic Overprints on Stamps”.

The NPS held its 1/25/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members were present. Minutes of the 1/11/2021 meeting were read and approved. Roger Hunt won the door prize and Bill Bowman won the Participation Prize. 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 534 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1168 “followers”. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show could be scheduled in August. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS held its 2/8/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members were present. Minutes of the 1/25/2021 meeting were read and approved and Mike Gillespie won the door prize. Rudy Caduff 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 534 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1170 “followers”. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show could be scheduled in the last weekend of August 2021. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on “COVID-19 on Stamps” by Matt and other members.

The NPS held its 2/22/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 2/8/2021 meeting were read and approved and Rudy Caduff won the door prize. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Walter Whinnery’s application for NPS membership received first reading. 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 530 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1176 “followers”. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would be scheduled on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of August. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

NPS held its 3/8/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members were present. Minutes of the 2/22/2021 meeting were read and approved. Walter Whinnery’s application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club and Linda Boyd won the door prize. Roger Hunt 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 530 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1178 “followers”. Matt mentioned that the location for our Stamp show, scheduled for the last weekend of August, was still to be finalized. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation and handout on “Postage Stamp Forgeries and Fakes – Part 1” by Matt and other NPS members.

The NPS held its 3/22/2021 meeting at the Bavarian BehrHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 3/8/2021 meeting were read and approved and Ray McIntire won the door prize and Jim Young won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Al Bollmeier reported on the St. Louis Stamp Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 535 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1181 “followers”. Matt mentioned that the location for our Stamp show was still to be determined. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

# Philatelic Overprints cont'd

## Precancels



Any stamp that is cancelled by postal authorities before it is sold is described as "precanceled": the precancellation mark is an overprint. This is usually only done when stamps are sold in large bulk quantities to businesses or other large organizations: the postal service will save the labor of cancelling each individual stamp by precanceling the entire purchased quantity. The overprints also help prevent theft or misuse because they usually include the name of the city or region in which are to be used. Unlike standard cancellation marks, they usually do not give a specific date, affording the bulk purchaser time to use them at their discretion. In some situations, however, months or years may be included in the overprint to indicate an expiration. Precancels for official government use are fastidiously prepared, but other kinds are almost always "heavy cancels" which deliberately obliterate much of a stamp's design. For this reason, precanceled stamps are usually left unrepresented in philatelic collections.

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## Private overprints



Any overprint that does not originate from a stamp-issuing authority is considered a private overprint or private cancellation. Such overprints almost always invalidate a stamp for postal use. Most countries treat unofficial overprints the same way the United States Post Office does: the USPS Domestic Mail Manual states that stamps "overprinted with an unauthorized design, message or other marking" are not valid for postage. Private overprints generally remain outside the formal realm of philately, although individual issues can achieve notoriety through their popularity or aesthetic appeal. Private overprints are typically political messages or commercial promotion, but can also originate from speculative philatelic purposes produced deliberately with a view to selling them to unsuspecting collectors. Stamps owned by commercial entities have sometimes privately overprinted the backs of their purchased stamps. These overprints are usually made as control marks or accounting information. Such overprinting does not invalidate a stamp unless it shows through the front.

# Philatelic Overprints cont'd

## Specimen overprints



Some stamps are never valid for postal use. They are made for use in promotional displays or as reference material by postal authorities and the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Still others are manufactured by printers for color matching throughout successive printings. In all such cases, the stamps will display the word "specimen" (or "cancelled") on its face. Occasionally, the word may be uniquely handwritten by a postal authority or, much more elaborately, punched through the stamp paper in a method known as perfin. Most often, though, specimen markings are applied as a prominent overprint.

## Overprint errors



Overprint errors are widespread. Known are double, inverted, misspelled, wrong, partly or entirely missing overprints.

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\* Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org/> \*  
\* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nashville-Philatelic-Society/207106846013774> \*  
\* Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NashPhilatelic> \*  
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