



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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Postage Stamp Cancellation

A cancellation is a postal marking applied on a postage stamp or postal stationery to deface the stamp and prevent its re-use. Cancellations come in a huge variety of designs, shapes, sizes and colors. Modern United States cancellations commonly include the date and post office location where the stamps were mailed, in addition to lines or bars designed to cover the stamp itself. The term "postal marking" sometimes is used to refer specifically to the part that contains the date and posting location, although the term often is used interchangeably with "cancellation."

History

The first adhesive postage stamp was the Penny Black, issued in 1840 by Great Britain. The postal authorities recognized there must be a method for preventing reuse of the stamps and simultaneously issued handstamps for use to apply cancellations to the stamps on the envelopes as they passed through the postal system. The cancels were handmade and depicted a Maltese cross design. Initially, the ink used was red, but it was found that this could be cleaned off and the stamps reused, and so after a series of experiments, early in 1841 black cancelling ink was used, which was more permanent. The color of the stamps was also changed to red-brown so as to ensure that the cancellation showed clearly.

Britain soon abandoned the Maltese crosses and in 1844 began to employ cancellations displaying numbers which referred to the location of mailing. A similar scheme was used for British stamps used abroad in its colonies and foreign postal services, with locations being assigned a specific letter followed by a number, such as A01 used in Kingston, Jamaica, or D22 for Venezuela.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here we are again and Spring has sprung. There are lots of things to do! This year's show was a great success and now we are planning for next year's show. There will be new challenges to overcome, new stamps to find, new friends to be made, and lots of stamp shows to attend! So let's look forward to a better new year!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2024

Our annual stamp show will be held next year on March 16-17 at the Gallatin Civic Center located at 320 Albert Gallatin Avenue in Gallatin Tennessee. This is a same location we used in 2023 and it will be our new home for years to come. We'll be sending out contracts to the dealers in all the states nearby Tennessee and we've already heard from some dealers that they will return next year too! Thanks to everyone who volunteered at our stamp show this year and we couldn't have been such a successful one without you! Of course we'll need people for next year's show too. 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.

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.

Our New Members

Sam Hendrix
Drew Fountain
Susan Coleman
Todd Coleman

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #112 Spring 2023

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. Philatelic Fellowship at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting at 6:30 p.m., Program or Auction at 6:45 p.m., out by 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Bavarian Bierhaus, 121 Opry Mills Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

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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The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for December 2022 – March 2023

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/12/2022 at the Bavarian Behr Haus at Opry Mills Mall. Approximately twenty-one NPS members and guests joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!!

The NPS held its 1/9/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and three guests were present. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Randy Cobel 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 742 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1202 “followers”. Mark Thompson presented a Treasurer’s Report for 2022 and a list of dues-paid members. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would be held on March 18 – 19 at the Gallatin Civic Center and that help would be required with show set-up and take down. Matt also advised that our theme for the show would be “150 years of Postal Cards (1873 – 2023). The business session was then adjourned for an excellent program on “Identifying Common and Scarce US Stamps” by Dennis Fielding.

The NPS held its 1/23/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and six guests were present. Minutes of the 1/9/2023 meeting were read and approved. Andrea Goodrow won the door prize. 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 750 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1201 “followers”. Matt again mentioned that our Stamp show would be held on March 18 – 19 at the Gallatin Civic Center and that help would be required with show set-up and take down. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

The NPS held its 2/13/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 1/23/2023 meeting were read and approved. Jim Cate won the door prize. 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 747 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1206 “followers”. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would require help with set-up and take down. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program by Matt and Al Bollmeier on “Stamp Booklets” with handouts provided.

The NPS held its 2/27/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 2/13/2023 meeting were read and approved. Val Lawrence won the door prize. 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. A card was sent to Linda Boyd whose father had died. It was reported that our Facebook site had 758 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1209 “followers”. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would need help with set-up and take down. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

NPS held its 3/13/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-seven members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 2/27/2023 meeting were read and approved. Sam Hendrix’s application for NPS membership received first reading. Steve Meyer 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 775 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1210 “followers”. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show to be held on March 18 – 19 would need help with show set-up and take down. The business session was then adjourned for a well-done presentation and handout on “Coil Stamps” by Matt and other members.

The NPS held its 3/27/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and six guests were present. Minutes of the 3/13/2023 meeting were read and approved. Sam Hendrix’s application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Drew Fountain’s application for NPS membership received first reading. Rudy Caduff won the door prize. 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. It was reported that our Facebook site had 784 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1212 “followers”. Matt thanked everyone who participated in our Stamp show for the good job done. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for September 2022 – November 2022

The NPS held its 9/12/2022 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-eight members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 8/22/22 meeting were read and approved. Courtney Cochran won the door prize. Dennis Fielding won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media Committees. A card was sent to Dave Bodkin in memory of his wife's passing. Matt reported that social media websites had 1200 "followers" on Twitter and 684 "likes" on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation on "Large and Small Hole Perforations on American Liberty Series Stamps" by Dennis Fielding.

The NPS had its 9/26/2022 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/12/22 meeting were read and approved. Application for NPS membership from Jackie Cargill received first reading. Gerry Speich won the door prize. Doug Almy won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Mark Thompson reported on stamp shows that he had recently attended. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media Committees. A "Get Well" card was sent to Daveen Robinson. Matt reported that social media websites had 1197 "followers" on Twitter and 691 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that our next Nashville Stamp Show would be in late March of 2022. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 10/10/2022 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 9/26/22 meeting were read and approved. Application for NPS membership from Jackie Cargill received second reading and was approved and she was welcomed to NPS membership. Linda Boyd won the door prize. RG Wolf won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported on the INDPEX show that he and several others had recently attended. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamps and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1197 "followers" on Twitter and 701 "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson gave a formal Treasurer's report including 2022 Nashville Stamp Show results. Matt mentioned that our next Nashville Stamp Show would be March 18–19, 2023. The business session then adjourned for an interesting presentation on "Overprints on Stamps" by Matt and other NPS members.

The NPS held its 10/24/2022 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-eight members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/10/22 meeting were read and approved. Bob Winters won the door prize. Dwight Jewell 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 for our social media websites showed 1191 "followers" on Twitter and 710 "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson strongly recommended that we arrange for a new judge for our 2023 Stamp Show to allow a broader judging and critique of our exhibits. Dave Perry suggested that a special future auction be held so that higher valued auction lots could be offered. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 11/14/2022 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members were present. Minutes of the 10/24/22 meeting were read and approved. Val Lawrence won the door prize. Dennis Fielding won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported on the passing of Blake Webster and David Shumaker – two philatelists and friends who will be missed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamps and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1227 "followers" on Twitter and 730 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that our next Nashville Stamp Show would be March 18–19, 2023. The business session then adjourned for a well-done presentation on "Stamp Cancels – A Small Sample" by Bob Winters.

The NPS held its 11/28/2022 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/14/2022 meeting were read and approved. Roger Hunt won the door prize. 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. Matt brought in a large quantity of stamps for the Stamps Committee that had been held by Marie Farmer's family after her passing. An update for our social media websites showed 1191 "followers" on Twitter and 734 "likes" on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

Nashville Stamp and Postcard Show 2023
Palmares

March 19-20, 2023
Nashville, Tennessee

Nashville Philatelic Society

**NPS Grand Award, NPS Henson Award,
AFDCS Best First Day Cover Exhibit, and APS Large Gold**

Woman of the Black Heritage Series

Mark Thompson

**Unites States Stamp Society President's
Award and APS Gold**

Guam Guard Mail

Mathias Benward

**AAPE Award of Honor
and APS Large Vermeil**

Camp George H. Thomas – Lytle, Georgia

James C. Cate

**AAPE Award of Honor
and APS Large Vermeil**

The Stephen Daye Printing Press Stamp

Robert Edson

APS Large Vermeil

The 30c John Dewey Stamp

Robert Edson

APS Large Vermeil

A Postal History of a Tennessee Country Store 1869 - 1886

Robert Winters

Postage Stamp Cancellation continued

Early cancellations were all applied by hand, commonly using hand stamps. Where hand stamps were not available, stamps often were cancelled by marking over the stamp with pen, such as writing an "x". Pen cancellations were used in the United States into the 1880s, and in a sense continue to this day, when a postal clerk notices a stamp has escaped cancellation and marks it with a ball point pen or marker.

In the early period of the issuance of postage stamps in the United States a number of patents were issued for cancelling devices or machines that increased (or were purported to increase) the difficulty of washing off and reusing postage stamps. These methods generally involved the scraping or cutting-away of part of the stamp, or perhaps punching a hole through its middle. (These forms of cancellation must be distinguished from perfin, a series of small holes punched in stamps, typically by private companies as an anti-theft device.)

High speed cancellation machines were first used in Boston between 1880–1890 and subsequently throughout the country.

Today, cancellations may either be applied by hand or machine. Hand cancellation is often used when sending unusually shaped mail or formal mail (e.g., wedding invitations) to avoid damage caused by machine cancellation.

Postal meter stamps and similar modern printed to order stamps are not ordinarily cancelled by postal authorities because such stamps bear the date produced and cannot readily be re-used.

Types of Cancellations

- **Bullseye cancellation** also called "Socked on the nose", typically of circular design, centered on the postage stamp. Such cancellations are popular with some stamp collectors because of their neatness and the fact that the time, date, and location where the stamp was used may be readily seen. The prevalence of bulls-eye cancellations varies considerably by country and time period.
- **Cancelled-to-order**. Cancelled-to-order stamps, also known as CTOs, are stamps that have been cancelled by a postal authority, but were never used to transmit mail. CTOs are created by postal authorities to sell the stamps cheaply to stamp collectors. CTOs often may be identified as the stamps still retain their original gum. Some authorities use the same canceller for all CTOs, and apply it very neatly in the corner of four stamps at one time. In some instances, the "cancellations" are actually printed as part of the stamp itself.
- **Deferential cancellation** is a cancellation designed so as not to deface the image of the ruler or regent on the stamp.
- A **duplex cancel** includes a postmark as well as the cancellation.
- **Fancy cancels**. In the second half of the 19th century, many postmasters in the United States and Canada cut their own cancellers from cork or wood in a great variety of designs such as stars, circles, flags, chickens, etc. These are known as fancy cancels and have been heavily studied by philatelists and collectors. One of the most famous is the "kicking mule" used in the 1880s.
- **First day of issue** are special cancellations with the date the stamp was first issued for sale and the words "first day of issue."
- **Flag cancellations** are a type of machine cancellation incorporating a design of the United States flag with the stripes serving as the "killer". The first machine flag cancel (preceded by fancy cancels of flags) was used in Boston in November–December 1894.
- **Handstamped cancellations** are cancellations added by means of a hand stamping device.
- **Highway post office cancels** refers to cancels added in transit by portable mail-handling equipment for sorting mail in trucks.
- **Machine cancellations** are automatically added by machines that rapidly process large numbers of envelopes.
- **Mute cancel** refers to a cancellation that includes no writing and thus "does not speak."
- **Numeral cancels** are cancels whereby numbers were used to identify specific post offices.

Postage Stamp Cancellation continued

- **Pen cancels** refer to the use of a writing pen to deface the stamp, and were more common in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- **Pictorial cancellations** include images associated with the commemoration of some event or anniversary. Some people attempt to use stamps relating to the theme of a pictorial cancellation on the envelope. See further below.
- **Precancels** are stamps that have been issued with printed cancellations on them, typically to mass mailers. Precancels cannot normally be used by the general public.
- **Railway post office (R.P.O.) cancels** refer to cancellations applied on mail sorted on trains. The first United States cancellation with the word "railroad" dates from 1838. The last Railway Post Office (R.P.O.) operated by the United States closed in 1977.
- **Ship cancels** were added to stamps that were mailed on or carried on a ship, commonly a steamer ship in the late 19th-early 20th centuries. In French, the cancellation reads "**Paquebot**".
- **Slogan cancellations** contain a slogan, perhaps commemorative or advertising, in the killer box.

Studies of Cancellations

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Herman Herst, Jr., Fancy Cancellations on Nineteenth Century United States Postage Stamps (Shrub Oak, New York 3rd).

Foster W. Loso, Twentieth Century United States Fancy Cancellations (Somerset Press, c. 1952).

Moe Luff, United States Postal Slogan Cancel Catalog (Spring Valley, N.Y. rev. ed 1968).

Sol Salkind, U.S. Cancels 1890-1900, with Special Emphasis on the Fancy Cancels found on the 2¢ Red Definitive Stamps of this period (David G. Phillips Co. c. 1985).

Hubert C. Skinner & Amos Eno, United States Cancellations, 1845-1869: Unusual and Representative Markings (American Philatelic Society, State College, PA 1980).

Scott R. Trepel, U.S. postmarks and cancellations (Philatelic Foundation, New York 1992).

Michel Zareski & Herman Herst, Fancy Cancellations on 19th Century United States Postage Stamps (Shrub Oak, NY. 3d rev. ed. 1962).

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