

"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

# Volunteer State

## Philatelic Gazette



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CHAPTER 0431

### Stamp Perforations

For postage stamps, separation is the means by which individual stamps are made easily detachable from each other.

Methods of separation include:

1. perforation: cutting rows and columns of small holes
2. rouletting: small horizontal and vertical cuts
3. diecutting: cut paper to shape using a metal die—used for self-adhesive stamps.

In the early years, from 1840 until 1850, all stamps were issued imperforate, and had to be cut from the sheet with scissors or knife. This was time-consuming and error-prone (as mangled stamps of the era attest). Once reliable separation equipment became available, nations switched rapidly.

Perforation are holes punched between stamps to make separating easier. A Perforation Number (such as 10 or 11x10) indicates the number of holes in a space of 2 centimeters along the edge of a stamp. The finest gauge ever used is 18 on stamps of the Malay States in the early 1950s, and the coarsest is 2, seen on the 1891 stamps of Bhopal. Modern stamp perforations tend to range from 11 to 14.

Rouletting uses small cuts in the paper instead of holes. It was used by a number of countries, but is rarely if ever seen on modern stamps. Varieties, often described by philatelists in French terms, include straight cuts (percée en lignes, and percée en lignes colorées with inked cutting bar), arc (percée en arc), sawtooth and the serpentine roulettes (percée en pointe) used by the early stamps of Finland.

#### 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. Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Evansville, Montgomery, and Memphis. And don't forget our club - we'll have lots of fun things coming up during this Summer!

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Matt Benward, President NPS

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\* STAMP CLUB NEWS \*  
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Nashville Stamp Show 2024  
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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  
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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.

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 mbenward@aol.com. Thanks.

Our New Members  
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Richard Conover  
Dan Hubbard  
Mack Farmer

The Volunteer State  
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #113 Summer 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!

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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 April 2023 – May 2023**

**NPS held its 4/10/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 3/27/2023 meeting were read and approved. Drew Fountain's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Susan and Todd Coleman and Richard Conover's applications for NPS membership received first readings. Jack Payne won the door prize. Doug Almy 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 796 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1212 "followers". Mark Thompson presented a Treasurer's Report and a Palmares Awards Report for our past Show. Matt thanked everyone again who participated in our Stamp Show for the good job done. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation on "Zeppelins Around the World" by Tom Tribke, Al Bollmeier and Matt.**

**The NPS held its 4/24/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-five members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/10/2023 meeting were read and approved. Susan and Todd Coleman and Richard Conover's applications for NPS membership received second readings and were approved and they were welcomed to NPS membership. Courtney Cochran won the door prize. John Kwasniewski 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 801 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1213 "followers". Matt mentioned that our next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 5/9/2023 due to a room scheduling conflict. The business session was then adjourned for the Special "Premium Auction" conducted by David Perry.**

**The NPS held its 5/9/2023 meeting (Note: Held on Tuesday due a meeting room schedule conflict) at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 4/24/2023 meeting were read and approved. John Kwasniewski won the door prize. Jim Young won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports was presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1211 "followers" on Twitter and 803 "likes" on Facebook. A concern was expressed about NPS not properly following the NPS By-Laws. A motion was passed to provide a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws to all members at our next meeting. Also due to the high noise level at our meeting, Bob Winters was appointed to be our Sgt-of-Arms for 90 days to help lower lack of attention and excessive talking. The business session then adjourned for an interesting program and handout on "Stamp Inverts" conducted by Matt, Tom Tribke and other members.**

**NPS held its 5/22/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Behr Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 5/9/2023 meeting were read and approved. Dan Hubbard and Mack Farmer's applications for NPS membership received first readings. Buzz Bolton 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. An update was given on our social media websites with 1211 "followers" on Twitter and 804 "likes" on Facebook. As requested, a copy of the NPS By-Laws was provided to all members at our meeting. The business session then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.**

# **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.**

## Stamp Perforations continued

In 1847, Henry Archer constructed the first (rouletting) machine, the "Archer Roulette", to separate stamps. His plan, submitted to the Postmaster General on 1 October 1847, was referred to the departments of the General Post Office and the Inland Revenue. Two such machines were built. After experimentation both machines proved to be failures. From one machine a few stamps from Plates 70 and 71 have survived. This machine consisted of lancet-shaped blades working on a fly-press principle and piercing the paper with a series of cuts.

Archer then abandoned this approach in favor of perforation, a process which used rows of small round pins to punch out the holes. In 1848 Archer patented his perforation machine which worked on the "stroke" principle. The arrangement of the pins enabled the top and sides of each stamp across the row to be perforated in a single operation, and this became known as "comb" perforation. Perforation trials were conducted in 1849 and 1850 under the auspices of the British Government and stamps from these trials were first issued towards the end of 1850. The Archer machine proved the viability of the process but never entered service. Archer's patent for his perforating machine (no. 12,340 of 1848, dated May 23, 1849) was purchased for £4,000 in June 1853. New machines based on Archer's principles were constructed by David Napier and Son Ltd; these were initially used in October 1853 for revenue stamps and from January 1854 for postage stamps.

The first self-adhesive stamp was issued by Sierra Leone in 1964, and by the 1990s these stamps came into wide use. These are inevitably diecut, meaning that the stamps themselves are cut entirely apart, held together only by the backing paper. At first the backing paper was itself solid, but in a repeat of history, is now slightly rouletted so as to facilitate tearing off blocks of stamps without having to remove them from the backing. Since the diecut goes all the way through the stamp, any shape will work, and the original self-adhesives were straight-edged. However, the tradition of perforation is so strong that more recent self-adhesives have a wavy diecut simulating the perforation. It can be recognized by studying the edge of the stamp closely; true perforations will have torn paper fibers on each tooth, while simulated perforations are smooth.

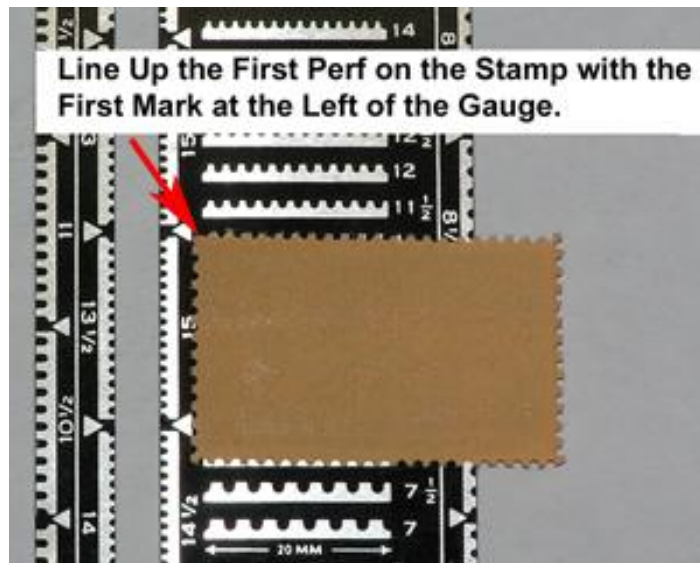
### How to Use a Perforation Gauge

Perforations or "perfs" in a stamp was an innovation introduced in 1854 to allow postage stamps to be easily separated and removed for use, rather than individually cutting them by hand from imperforate sheets. The standard for measuring is the number of perforations found in 2 centimeters (20 mm).

Different perforations can greatly affect the value of a stamp. A stamp with 10 holes in 2 centimeters is called a "Perf 10". Some stamps also have different horizontal and vertical perforations, called compound perfs. Compound perforations are listed first horizontally, and then vertically, for example, a stamp with Perf 11 on the top and Perf 10 on the sides would be Perf 11x10.

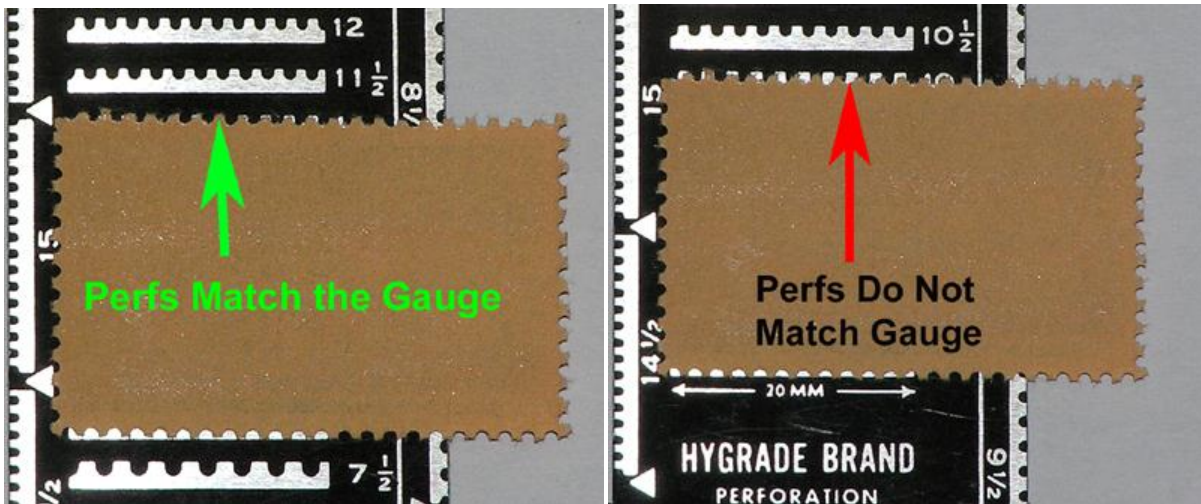
A stamp perforation gauge is an affordable device that illustrates a range of perforations. The stamp is moved down the gauge until the perforations on the stamp visually match that on the gauge.

# Stamp Perforations continued



Line Up the First Perf on the Stamp with the First Mark at the Left of the Gauge.

1. Line up the first perforation on the stamp with the first mark at the left of the gauge and compare how the stamp's perforations match up with the gauge.
2. The Perforations must match up all the way along the guide. If the particular stamp has perforations that do not match the marks on the gauge, slide the stamp up or down the guide until you find marks that match up.



3. Helpful hint, for better contrast between the stamp and the gauge measure the perforations with the stamp face down.

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