



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

By Glenn Vasbinder

In 1939, an employee in the advertising department of Montgomery Ward & Company was assigned the task of developing a Christmas "animal story" which could be distributed by the branches of his firm as a "give away" during the Christmas season. Robert May, an experienced advertising man, undertook to write a Christmas story for children as part of his daily work. He decided to organize his story around the "ugly duckling" motif.

After ample consideration of possible animals, he decided to use the reindeer, because the creature was readily connected with the traditional Moore story "A Visit From St. Nicholas." He decided to give the reindeer some trait which would cause him to be shunned, yet would be of great value to Santa Claus.

The fact that Santa travelled at night suggested that Rudolph might be given large, shiny eyes which could see in the dark. However, he decided against it because it was not sufficient cause for ridicule.

Finally, he decided upon a large nose, which had long been considered a legitimate subject of ridicule in Western culture. Many youngsters, like Rudolph have some distinguished weakness which might subject them to teasing from their playmates.

So popular was May's story that over 2,400,000 copies of the first "give away" edition were distributed that year. The story was not to appear again until 1946 and in 1947 it was brought out on a commercial basis. In 1949, a song entitled "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was composed by Johnny Marks, May's brother-in-law. The recording, sung by Gene Autry, was the reason it gained in popularity.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. The holidays are just around the corner with the new year soon to follow! We look back on the old year passing and forward to the promise of the new year to come. The new year brings challenges to be overcome. Our annual stamp show is just around the corner (which is always a challenge :>) There will be new stamps issued by the Post Office and old ones to be found from our favorite dealers. So have a great holiday season and be looking forward to a better new year!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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Nashville Stamp Show 2024

Our annual stamp show will be held next year on March 9-10 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 mbenward@aol.com. Thanks.

Christmas Party Meeting

Our Christmas Part meeting was scheduled for December 11th, but due a scheduling problem it has been moved to Tuesday, December 12th. We will also have a small auction too. Members please bring lots. See you on the 12th!!!

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

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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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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 September 2023 – November 2023

The NPS held its 9/11/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-eight members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 8/28/23 meeting were read and approved. Ronald Stover's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Dennis Fielding 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. Matt reported that social media websites had 1202 "followers" on Twitter and 817 "likes" on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "The 1898 Trans-Mississippi Stamp Issue" by Tom Tribke and others.

The NPS had its 9/25/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-eight members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/11/23 meeting were read and approved. Randy Coble won the door prize. Mark Thompson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media Committees. Matt reported that social media websites had 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 824 "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson gave a formal Treasurer's report. Al Bollmeier reported on a service that sold individual country sections from the current "Scott International Catalogs". Several members mentioned that they had used this resource instead of having to buy the entire catalog set. Matt mentioned that our next Nashville Stamp Show would be in March 2024. The business session was adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 10/10/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/25/23 meeting were read and approved. Dimples won the door prize. John Kwasniewski won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. NPS was saddened to learn of recent death of NPS member Walter Whinnery. A card was sent to offer our members' sympathies. 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 1204 "followers" on Twitter and 836 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that our next Nashville Stamp Show would be March 9–10, 2024. The business session then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "100 Greatest American Stamps" by Matt and other NPS members.

The NPS held its 10/23/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/10/23 meeting were read and approved. Courtney 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. An update for our social media websites showed 1204 "followers" on Twitter and 824 "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson reported that he had been representing NPS with the Southeastern Stamp Conference and asked to continue in this roll. An NPS vote agreed that he should continue. Mark also mentioned that the SE Conference was asking for agreement to support higher level cooperation with other philatelic organizations. NPS agreed. And further the SE Conference is considering replacing stamp show exhibits with non-judged displays. NPS also agreed. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 11/13/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 10/23/23 meeting were read and approved. Jackie Cargill won the door prize. Mark Thompson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1209 "followers" on Twitter and 852 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that help was needed for set-up and take-down of our next Nashville Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a well-done presentation on "German Hyper-inflation Stamps" by Al Bollmeier and Matt.

The NPS held its 11/27/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/13/2023 meeting were read and approved. Jim Cate won the door prize. Andre Goodrow 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 1208 "followers" on Twitter and 860 "likes" on Facebook. Matt advised that our only meeting in December, our Christmas Meeting scheduled for 12/11/2023, had to be revised due to meeting room scheduling problems. An e-mail notice will sent out as soon as a firm schedule date is known. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for May 2023 – August 2023

The NPS had its 6/12/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and four guests were present. The minutes of the 5/22/23 meeting were read and approved. Robert Umberger and Gary Sides' applications for NPS membership received first readings. Mack Farmer and Dan Hubert's applications for NPS membership received second readings and they were approved and welcomed to the NPS. Bob Winters won the door prize. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. It was reported that a new postal rate would go into effect in July 2023. 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 809 "likes" on Facebook. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program and handout on "The Different Types of Stamps" by Matt, Al Bollmeier, Tom Tribke and other NPS members.

NPS held its 6/26/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 6/12/2023 meeting were read and approved. Nancy Fox's application for NPS membership received first reading. Robert Umberger and Gary Sides' applications for NPS membership received second readings and they were approved and welcomed to the NPS membership. Jackie Cargill won the door prize. RG Wolf 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 1209 "followers" on Twitter and 816 "likes" on Facebook. It was mentioned that our 2nd Premium Auction would be held in August. The business session then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

The NPS had its 7/10/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/26/23 meeting were read and approved. Diana McKlusky's application for NPS membership received first reading. Nancy Fox's application for NPS membership received second reading and she was approved and welcomed to the NPS membership. Diana McKlusky won the door prize. Gary Speich won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1211 "followers" on Twitter and 818 "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson provided the Treasurer's Report and a list showing NPS members with 2023 paid dues. It was mentioned that our 2nd Premium Auction would be held in August 24th. Auction lots were to be coordinated with Dennis Fielding. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program and handout on "Tagging on Stamps" by Dennis Fielding.

The NPS had its 7/24/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Thirty members and four guests were present. The minutes of the 7/10/23 meeting were read and approved. Tom Bain's application for NPS membership received first reading. Diana McKlusky's application for NPS membership received second reading and she was approved and welcomed to the NPS membership. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. NPS was saddened to learn of recent death of Bill Vance's wife. A card was sent to Bill in memory of his wife's passing. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1208 "followers" on Twitter and 818 "likes" on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for our 2nd Premium Auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 8/14/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 7/24/23 meeting were read and approved. Tom Bain's application for NPS membership received second reading and he was approved and welcomed to the NPS membership. Diana McKlusky won the Door Prize. Jackie Cargill won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. NPS was saddened to learn of recent death of NPS member Carl Shaff. A card was sent to offer our members' sympathies. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. Our social media websites had 1206 "followers" on Twitter and 819 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that our 2023 Stamp Show was scheduled for March 2024 at the Gallatin Civic Center. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program and handout on "U.S. Beer Stamps" by Tom Tribke and other NPS members.

The NPS held its 8/28/2023 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Thirty members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 8/14/23 meeting were read and approved. Ronald Stover's application for NPS membership received first reading. Buzz Bolton won the Door Prize. Mark Thompson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Mark Thompson and Rudy Caduff reported on the recent National Stamp Show. Mark also mentioned that he won the "Champion of Champions" for his exhibit at the show. Congratulations to Mark for his hard work and effective exhibit presentation. A report was presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Our social media websites had 1204 "followers" on Twitter and 819 "likes" on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

Postage stamp booklets

A postage stamp booklet is a booklet made up of one or more small panes of postage stamps in a cardboard cover. Booklets are often made from sheets especially printed for this purpose, with a narrow selvage at one side of the booklet pane for binding. From the cutting, the panes are usually imperforate on the edges of the booklet.

Smaller and easier to handle than a whole sheet of stamps, in many countries stamp booklets have become a favorite way to purchase stamps. The convenience of this format is self-evident. Stamp booklets fit easily in pockets, wallets or handbags, and they are not as unwieldy as sheets or panes of stamps. The covers of a booklet provide protection for the stamps, and postal administrations soon realized they could offer advertising space on them to offset the production costs of providing stamps in handy booklet form.

The desire of postal administrations to keep the accounting and sale of stamp booklets as simple as possible led to the practice of including one or more labels in some booklet panes. The labels kept the face value of booklet at a round number or near one. The non-stamp labels could also be used for advertising or instruction to mailers, such as "Use Zip Code" on some United States panes.

Booklets of telegraph stamps are known to have been issued by the California State Telegraph Company in 1870, and by Western Union in 1871, and on 14 October 1884 an A.W. Cooke of Boston received Patent 306,674 from the United States Patent Office for the idea of putting postage stamps into booklets. Luxembourg was the first country to issue booklets in 1895, followed by Sweden in 1898, the United States in 1900, and Great Britain in 1904. The idea became popular and quickly spread around the world.

Originally booklets were produced manually, by separating sheets into smaller panes and binding those. These are not distinguishable from the sheet stamps. Later, the popularity of booklets meant that it was worthwhile to produce booklet panes directly; printing onto large sheets, then cutting into booklet panes each with a small number of stamps, and perforating between the stamps of each pane. Such sheets, in fact, were created to produce the earliest United States booklets, printed from special plates that yielded sheets of 180 or 360 stamps for cutting into panes of six stamps each. (Normal sheets containing 400 stamps were deemed unusable for booklets because they could not be cut into six-stamp panes without leaving waste.) Booklet stamps so produced usually have 1, 2, or 3 straight edges (although some booklet panes have been printed 3 stamps across, and the middle stamps will have perforations all around). The first two U. S. booklet issues (1900 and 1903) offered only stamps denominated at the normal letter rate (2¢), but in 1907 booklets were introduced containing 1¢ stamps suitable for post cards.

Collecting booklets provides a few extra challenges for collectors. Those who want to save a booklet intact as it was issued and released by the postal administration have a collection with the stamps usually hidden behind the booklets covers. Some collectors overcome this by acquiring two of each booklet. One is kept intact while the other is exploded, meaning it is taken apart so all of its components, including the booklet panes, interleaving, covers and binding material, are displayed.



Postmarks & Cancels

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 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." The portion of a cancellation that is designed to deface the stamp and does not contain writing is also called the "obliteration" or killer. Cancellations can affect the value of stamps to collectors, positively or negatively. The cancellations of some countries have been extensively studied by philatelists and many stamp collectors and postal history collectors collect cancellations in addition to the stamps themselves.

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.

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 perfins, 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 to avoid damage caused by machine cancellation.

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