



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

(Pictures are on pages 8 – 11)

British Guiana 1c Magenta

The existence of the One-Cent Magenta would likely have been forgotten altogether had it not been for a 12-year-old Scottish boy named Vernon Vaughan, living in British Guiana, who found one odd stamp among his uncle's papers in 1873. By this time the stamp had been postmarked and initialed by a local postal clerk (a common practice at the time to discourage counterfeiters), and appeared well used. The peculiar stamp hardly struck the boy as very valuable, so the budding philatelist soon sold it for a less-than-princely six shillings (about \$10 in today's dollars) and bought a packet of foreign stamps that he apparently found more aesthetically appealing.

500 Mon Inverted Center

In 1871, the first series of Japanese stamps comprised stamps featuring a dragon framing the denomination in "mon" currency which was inserted in the center. One sheet of the highest value, the 500 mon, had the center value inverted, and only one stamp with this error has ever been discovered, and that was over 100 years later in 1973 by an American collector. The stamp was immediately acknowledged as the most important one in Japanese philately, and from that moment onwards it rose in fame and value through private sales, from a mere \$75,000 at that time to millions over the last 50 years.

Z Grill

The Benjamin Franklin Z Grill, or simply "Z-Grill", is a 1-cent postage stamp issued by the United States Postal Service in February 1868 depicting Benjamin Franklin. While stamps of this design were the common 1-cent stamps of the 1860s, the Z-Grill is distinguished by having the so-called "Z" variety of a grill pressed into the stamp, creating tiny indentations in the paper. The 10-cent Washington Z-Grill scarcely less rare with only 6 known to exist. The earliest known postmarks of this Z-grill stamp date from January 1868. This stamp was only in production for a short period of time with only about 1000 being printed before production shifted to the F-grill - resulting in the rarity of these 3 stamps.

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!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2025

Our annual stamp show will be held next year on March 8-9th at the Gallatin Civic Center located at 320 Albert Gallatin Avenue in Gallatin Tennessee. This is a same location we used in 2024 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 2024 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.

New Stamp Club Members

Sachaye Walker
Al Terhorst

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. 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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Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for July 2024 – September 2024

The NPS had its 7/8/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 6/24/24 meeting were read and approved. 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 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 1000 "likes" on Facebook. It was mentioned that our next premium auction would be held on August 26, 2024. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program and handout on "EFO's - Errors, Freaks and Oddities on Stamps" by Tom Tribke.

The NPS had its 7/22/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and two guests were present. The minutes of the 7/8/24 meeting were read and approved. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Sachaye Walker's application for NPS membership received first reading. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 1030 "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson provided the Treasurer's Report and a list showing NPS members with 2024 paid dues. It was asked that items for the next premium auction be coordinated with Dennis Fielding. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 8/12/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and seven guests were present. Minutes of the 7/22/24 meeting were read and approved. Sachaye Walker's application for NPS membership received second reading and she was approved and welcomed to the NPS membership. Sachaye Walker won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. Our social media websites had 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 1036 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that our 2025 Stamp Show was scheduled for March 2025 at the Gallatin Civic Center. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program and handouts on "The Louisiana Purchase" and "Jamestown" Expo Issues by Tom Tribke and other NPS members.

The NPS held its 8/26/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-nine members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/12/24 meeting were read and approved. Nick Munn won the Door Prize. Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A report was presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Our social media websites had 1199 "followers" on Twitter and 1039 "likes" on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for our 4th Premium Auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 9/9/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-seven members were present. Minutes of the 8/26/24 meeting were read and approved. Al Terhorst's application for NPS membership received first reading. Mark Thompson won the door prize. Tom Bain 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 1200 "followers" on Twitter and 1050 "likes" on Facebook. Also members were asked to provide a brief description of their favorite stamp in preparation for a future program. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "Allied Military Government After World War II" by Matt and Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 9/23/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-eight members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/9/24 meeting were read and approved. Al Terhorst's application for NPS membership received second reading and he was approved and welcomed to the NPS membership. Rudy Caduff won the door prize. Mark Thompson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A report was given on the recent Indianapolis Show by Matt, Al Bollmeier and Mark. Reports were also presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media Committees. Matt reported that social media websites had 1152 "followers" on Twitter and 1098 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned that our next Nashville Stamp Show would be in March of 2024. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for April 2024 – June 2024

NPS held its 4/8/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 3/25/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ryan Belle Harran's application for NPS membership received first reading. Rudy Caduff 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 865 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1208 "followers". Mark Thompson presented a Treasurer's Report and a Palmares Awards Report for our past Show. Members who had lots for our "Premium Auction" at our next meeting were asked to coordinate with Dennis Fielding. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "Scouting on Stamps" by Tom Tribke and others.

The NPS held its 4/22/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 4/8/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ryan Belle Harran's application for NPS membership received second readings and was approved and she was welcomed to NPS membership. Courtney Cochran 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 921 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1203 "followers". The business session was then adjourned for the Special "Premium Auction" organized by Dennis Fielding and conducted by David Perry.

The NPS held its 5/6/2024 meeting (held early due meeting room scheduling) at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/22/2024 meeting were read and approved. Andre Goodman won the door prize. Jack Payne Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 951 "likes" on Facebook. The past "Premium Auction" was reviewed concerning the type and number of lots. The next Premium Auction is scheduled in August. Rudy Caduff discussed new Swiss issues and programs. The business session then adjourned for an interesting program and handout on the "Large Banknote Series Stamps S/C Nos. 134 - 218" conducted by Dennis Fielding.

NPS held its 5/27/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 5/6/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ed Sherman's application was received for NPS membership given first reading. Dennis Fielding 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 was given on our social media websites with 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 956 "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.

The NPS had its 6/10/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and two guests were present. The minutes of the 5/27/2024 meeting were read and approved. Ed Sherman's application for NPS membership received second readings and was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Mike Gillespie won the door prize. Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Matt and others reported on the Louisville and Huntsville shows. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1201 "followers" on Twitter and 951 "likes" on Facebook. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program and movie with a handout on "Heligoland" by Al Bollmeier.

NPS held its 6/24/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-five members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/10/2024 meeting were read and approved. Al Bollmeier won the door prize. Buzz Bolton 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 1199 "followers" on Twitter and 993 "likes" on Facebook. Matt mentioned those members who had lots for the "Premium Auction" in August should coordinate their lot information with Dennis Fielding. The business session then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

Treskillings Yellow

In 1855, Sweden issued its first postage stamps, in a set of five values depicting the Swedish coat of arms, with denominations ranging from three to 24 Swedish skillings. The three-skilling stamp was normally printed in a blue-green color, with the eight-skilling stamp being printed in yellowish orange. It is not known exactly what went wrong, but the most likely explanation is that a stereotype of the eight-skilling printing plate (which consisted of 100 stereotypes assembled into a 10 × 10 array) was damaged or broken, and it was mistakenly replaced with a three-skilling. Somehow, this error went entirely unnoticed at the time, and by 1858 the Swedish currency was changed. The skilling stamps were replaced by new stamps denominated in "öre". In 1886, a young collector named Georg Wilhelm Backman was going through covers in his grandmother's attic at the farm Väster Munga Gård north of Västerås, and came across one with a three-skilling stamp, for which the Stockholm stamp dealer Heinrich Lichtenstein was offering seven kronor apiece.

The 1859 Sicilian Color Error

This stamp was printed in blue instead of orange as intended. Little is known about how it came to be produced. Only two copies are known to exist. One was sold in 2011 for Two million dollars.

The Brazil "Bulls Eye" Stamps

The "Bulls Eye" stamps are the first issue of Brazil, and the second stamp issue in the world. They are preceded only by the issues of Britain. Although substantial quantities of them were issued, many were destroyed in use as the custom was to place the stamp over the gummed flap thus leading to the destruction of the stamp when the letter was opened. Also, more than half a million of the 30 reis stamp were burnt by the postal authorities when new stamps were issued. A used se-tenant strip of the 30, 60, and 90 reis stamps has sold for \$2,185,000, and a cover bearing a 30 reis stamp, two 60 reis stamps, and a 90 reis stamp sold for \$1,162,000.

2-cent unused Hawaii "Missionaries" stamp

The 2-cent is the rarest of the Hawaiian Missionaries, with 15 copies recorded, only one of which is unused. When Maurice Burrus sold this unique unused example in 1921 the price was US\$15,000; when Alfred H. Caspary sold the same stamp in 1963 the price was \$41,000, the highest value ever paid for any stamp at that time (even more than the British Guiana 1c magenta and "Post Office" Mauritius blue two pence and red one penny rarities). An astonishing lore surrounds this stamp: in 1892, one of its earlier owners, Gaston Leroux, was murdered for it by an envious fellow philatelist, Hector Giroux.

The Trondheim Block of Norway #1

The first stamp of Norway is not a great rarity. The Scott value (2020) is \$4250 in mint condition, and a used copy only \$165. HOWEVER, WATCH OUT FOR REPRINTS! In about 1925, however, a parcel was found at the Trondheim Central Railroad Station bearing 39 of this first issue. The parcel had been sent to the United States where it was refused and returned. It spent 75 years in storage until discovered. It was offered in a 2008 David Feldman auction for \$1,700,000.

The Whole Country is Red

The Whole Country is Red is a Chinese postage stamp, issued on 24 November 1968,[1] which contained a problem with the design. The stamp features a map of China with the words "The Whole Country is Red", with a worker, farmer, and soldier standing below with copies of Quotations from Chairman Mao, but Taiwan is not shaded red. The face value of the stamp is 8 fen. The stamp had been distributed for less than half a day when an editor at China Cartographic Publishing House noticed the problem with Taiwan and reported it to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. As a result, all Chinese post offices had to stop selling the stamp and return all copies, with only a small quantity making it to private collectors. The official reason given for the withdrawal of the stamp was that the Spratly and Paracel Islands were missing from the map, as well as the borders with Mongolia, Bhutan, and Myanmar being incorrectly drawn.

The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

The Baden 9 Kreuzer Error

The first 4 stamps of Baden were issued in 1851 in the denominations of 1,3,6,and 9 kreuzer. These were to on white, yellow, green, and pink paper. Apparently one cliché in the six kreuzer plate was damaged and was replaced by a 9 kreuzercliché the nine looks like a 6 when upside down. Only one mint and 4 used copies are known to exist. However, in 2019 someone found another copy in their grandmother's collection from the late 19th century further authentication of its genuiness has not been announced. Scott values this stamp at \$ 1,300,000.

Inverted Jenny

Many collectors long thought the blue plane portion was printed first, thus it was actually the red frames that were inverted. In fact, the frames were printed first and it is the planes that are upside down. Smithsonian's National Postal Museum offers two explanations for how this might have occurred: either a sheet of printed frames was placed in the press upside down for the printing of the plane; or the printing plate used to print the planes was mounted inverted within the printing press. Initial deliveries went to post offices on Monday, May 13. Aware of the potential for inverts, a number of collectors went to their local post offices to buy the new stamps and keep an eye out for errors. Collector William T. Robey was one of those; he had written to a friend on May 10 mentioning that "it would pay to be on the lookout for inverts". On May 14, Robey went to the post office to buy the new stamps, and as he wrote later, when the clerk brought out a sheet of inverts, "my heart stood still". He paid for the sheet, and asked to see more, but the remainder of the sheets were normal. The postal clerk who sold the sheet later said he did not realize the image was inverted because he had never seen an airplane before.

The Mauritius "Post Office" Stamps

Two stamps, one blue the other red, were produced locally in Mauritius in 1847, when a supply of stamps from Britain was delayed. Of these, only 27 are known to exist. A cover with a red one penny and a blue two penny sold in 1993 for \$3.83 million dollars.

Alexandria "Blue Boy" cover

The Alexandria "Blue Boy" takes its name from the feature that makes it unique: its color. One of the few surviving stamps from a rare issue—the Postmaster's Provisionals produced in Alexandria, D.C., beginning in 1846, only seven of which are known—the Blue Boy is the sole example printed on blue paper (the others are on buff-colored paper). The Alexandria provisionals were produced under the auspices of the city's postmaster, Daniel Bryan. While just who supplied the stamps is undocumented, experts think it likely that they were fashioned with the equipment of a newspaper down the street from the post office, the Alexandria Gazette, published by Edgar Snowden. The provisionals were printed in pairs from a typeset form that produced two not-quite-identical images, classified by philatelic experts as Type I and Type II. The Blue Boy is one of the four surviving Type I stamps; only three Type II examples are known. Both types conform to same general circular design, which presents an outer rim of rosettes surrounding a smaller ring of text: "ALEXANDRIA "*" POST OFFICE. *"; and, at the stamp's center, the horizontal word "PAID" with the numeral "5" below it. However, while Type I has forty rosettes, only thirty-nine appear on Type II—which, moreover, differs from Type I in its spacing of letters and asterisks. The provisionals' two-at-a-time production indicates that at least one Type II Blue Boy must have once existed.

The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

B Grill

Four stamps featuring the "B grill" pattern are known to exist, all used. All of them are of the three-cent denomination, and are numbered as Scott #82. All four stamps came from a letter sent to Prussia. The stamps were originally given a Mason, Texas cancel. Once they went to Germany (on or about March 3, 1869), they were given a German transit-date stamp. The cover was discovered in 1969 and raised controversy in the philatelic market because certain issues of the much more common "C grill" had been partially erased. This occurred during the grill roller's changing to use C grills instead of the all-over A grill.

The China 1897 Red One Dollar Small

This is the rarest of the Qing Dynasty stamps, the first stamps of China. When the stamps intended to be the first issues were delayed from the foreign printer, it was decided that revenue stamps already in hand were reprinted. The type used for the one dollar stamp was thought to be too small so a second printing with larger type replaced this first printing. Only 32 of the first printing are known to exist. In 2013, one sold at auction for \$889,765.

The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

Stamp	Image	Country	Year	Number in existence
British Guiana 1c magenta		British Guiana	1856	Unique
500 mon Inverted Centre		Japan	1871	Unique
Z Grill		United States of America	1868	2
Treskillig Yellow		Sweden	1855	Unique

The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

Stamp	Image	Country	Year	Number in existence
1/2 grano blue "error of colour"		Two Sicilies	1859	2
"Xiphopagus Triplet" with two 30r and one 60r stamps		Brazil	1843	Unknown
2-cent unused Hawaii "Missionaries" stamp		Hawaii	1851	1 (unused) 15 (total)
"Trondheim" block of 39 4-skilling stamps		Norway	1855	Unique
The Whole Country is Red		People's Republic of China	1968	Unknown

The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

Stamp	Image	Country	Year	Number in existence
Baden 9 Kreuzer error	 A black and white stamp featuring a central figure, possibly a bird or a person, surrounded by intricate decorative patterns. The word 'BADEN' is at the top and '9 Kreuzer' is at the bottom.	Baden	1851	4
Inverted Jenny	 A red 24-cent US postage stamp featuring a biplane flying over water. The text 'U.S. POSTAGE' is at the top and '24 CENTS 24' is at the bottom.	United States of America	1918	100
Mauritius 2d blue (XIII)	 A blue 2d postage stamp from British Mauritius featuring a profile of Queen Victoria. The text 'POST OFFICE MAURITIUS' is on the sides and 'TWO PENCE' is at the bottom.	British Mauritius	1847	12 known
Mauritius 1d red (X)	 A red 1d postage stamp from British Mauritius featuring a profile of Queen Victoria. The text 'POST OFFICE MAURITIUS' is on the sides and 'ONE PENNY' is at the bottom.	British Mauritius	1847	15 known
Alexandria "Blue Boy" cover	 A yellow envelope with a blue circular postmark from Alexandria, Egypt. The envelope is addressed to 'Miss Sarah M. Brown' and has a handwritten note.	United States of America	1847	Unique
B Grill	 A red 3-cent US postage stamp featuring a profile of George Washington. The text 'U.S. POSTAGE' is at the top and 'THREE CENTS' is at the bottom.	United States of America	1867-8	4 known

The Most Valuable Stamps in the World

Stamp	Image	Country	Year	Number in existence
Red Revenue		Qing China	1897	32 known

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