



The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

APS 037461
CHAPTER 0431

Our Country's First Two Postage Stamps

Congress finally provided for the issuance of stamps by passing an act on March 3, 1847, and the Postmaster-General immediately let a contract to the New York City engraving firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, and Edson. The first stamp issue of the U.S. was offered for sale on July 1, 1847, in New York City, with Boston receiving stamps the following day and other cities thereafter. They consisted of an engraved 5-cent red brown stamp depicting Benjamin Franklin (the first postmaster of the US), and a 10-cent value in black with George Washington. Like all U.S. stamps until 1857, they were imperforate.

The 5-cent stamp paid for a letter weighing less than 1 ounce and traveling less than 300 miles, the 10-cent stamp for deliveries to locations greater than 300 miles, or, twice the weight deliverable for the 5-cent stamp. Each stamp was hand engraved in what is believed to be steel, and laid out in sheets of 200 stamps. The 5-cent stamp is often found today with very poor impressions because the type of ink used contained small pieces of quartz that wore down the steel plates used to print the stamp. On the other hand, most 10-cent stamps are of strong impressions. A fresh and brilliantly printed 5-cent stamp is prized by collectors.

The use of stamps was optional: letters could still be sent requiring payment of postage on delivery. Indeed, the post office issued no 2-cent value for prepaying drop letters in 1847, and these continued to be handled as they had been. Nevertheless many Americans took up using stamps; about 3,700,000 of the 5¢ and about 865,000 of the 10¢ were sold.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer's over, Fall's just getting started, and Winter's just around the corner. It seems like 2025 has just flown by. I hope everyone has done OK so far this year. Only a few more months and we'll be looking forward to 2026. Things to look forward to:

- 1) Postal rates! Surprise...no increase...yet...
- 2) More stamp shows (hey!)
- 3) A new year (hopefully a better one)
- 4) prices (up, down, right, left - who knows)
- 5) The economy..... ;>(
- 6) and 23 stamp club meetings!!! :>)

Matt Benward, President NPS

-----+	
INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Our Country's First Two Postage Stamps	1
The President's Corner	1
Nashville Stamp News	2
Club Information	2
Minutes of the Society	3
Minutes of the Society	4
Protecting Your Stamp Collection	5
Grading of Postage Stamps	6
-----+	

* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2026

Our annual stamp show will be held next year on Feb 28-March 1 at the Gallatin Civic Center located at 320 Albert Gallatin Avenue Gallatin Tennessee. This is a same location we used in 2025 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!

Report of Stamp Advocacy Committee

In November 2024, a committee was approved for the purpose of advocating for stamps and stamp policy. The members were Buzz Bolton, David Perry and Dennis Fielding. Five letters were sent by the committee. A sixth was a personal letter sent by David Perry. Letters were sent to President of the United States, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (USPS), Department of Government Efficiency and to each of the House and Senate DOGE Committees. The Committee sent a sixth letter, which is explained below. To date, a response has been received from the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (USPS).

Points expressed in the letters included:

- More historical subjects, specifically recommended are series honoring the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation and US Constitution.
- Fewer new issues each year. This is expensive for collectors. Fewer issues should also translate to cost savings in manufacture and inventory management, subjects for attention of DOGE.

The April 21st 2025 issue of LINN'S STAMP NEWS included an article by John M. Hotchner (Course corrections needed with USPS stamp program). This article express several opinions, including those of this Committee. The sixth letter, mentioned above, was to LINN'S expressing agreement with Mr. Hotchner.

New Stamp Club Members

Aaron Bock
Daniel Rieber

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #122 Fall 2025

Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:

Matt Benward President
Al Bollmeier First Vice-President
Roger Hunt 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.

This publication is free and copies may be requested by writing to our PO Box, emailing using the info email address on our web page, or by download from our webpage.

Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org> or <http://nashphil.krbaker.com/>

The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for July 2025 – September 2025

The NPS held its 7/14/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and fifteen guests were present. Minutes of the 6/23/2025 meeting were read and approved. There were no applications to be reviewed. Al Bollmeier won the Door Prize. John Kwasniewski won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A questionnaire for a “yearbook” of club members was handed out. The Postcrossing group joined us lead by Andrea Goodrow. Sachaye Walker talked about her trip to the first day issue ceremony for the stamp issued 250th anniversary of the Post Office in Washington DC. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. Our social media websites had 1172 “followers” on Twitter and 1167 “likes” on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program on “A visit to the APS Headquarters” by Ray McIntire.

The NPS held its 7/28/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 7/14/2025 meeting were read and approved. There were no applications to be reviewed. Jim Young won the Door Prize and Steve Meyer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Bill Vance’s “It’s Just Me” show was announced for August 2-4th. A report was presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Our social media websites had 1170 “followers” on Twitter and 1171 “likes” on Facebook. Randy Coble proposed that the club purchase a plaque for past members and he would check on the cost. Also a motion was made and passed to buy a computer for the club up to \$300. Dennis reported on a former member of the NPS and on printing of album pages. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 8/11/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-five members and ten guests were present. Minutes of the 7/28/2025 meeting were read and approved. Aaron Bock’s application for NPS membership received a first reading. Buzz Bolton won the door prize and Bob Winters 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 1171 “followers” on Twitter and 1071 “likes” on Facebook. Roger received some new stamps for the club. A motion was proposed and passed to raise limit to \$500 on the purchase of a computer for the club. Mark Thompson reported that everything was OK with the treasury. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on “Postal Museums” by Matt Benward and Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 8/25/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-five members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/11/2025 meeting were read and approved. Aaron Bock’s application for NPS membership received a second reading and he was approved for membership in the club. John Kwasniewski won the door prize and 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. Matt reported that social media websites had 1072 “followers” on Twitter and 1172 “likes” on Facebook. Mark Thompson reported that everything was OK with the treasury. Randy Coble reported that purchase a plaque for past members would cost around \$200 and motion to purchase passed. The business session was adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 9/15/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/25/2025 meeting were read and approved. David Reiber’s application for NPS membership received a first reading. Matt Benward won the door prize and Jack Payne won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamps and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1172 “followers” on Twitter and 1100+ “likes” on Facebook. The business session then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on “Collecting Covers” by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS held its 9/22/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/15/2025 meeting were read and approved. Steven Cox’s application for NPS membership received a first reading and David Reiber’s application for NPS membership received a second reading and was approved for membership in the club. Bill Bowman won the door prize and Jack Payne won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Tom Tribke was having a hernia operation and ‘Get Well’ card was passed around for members to sign. Also, it was reported that Drew Fountain’s mother passed away recently. An update for our social media websites showed 1173 “followers” on Twitter and 1100 “likes” on Facebook. Randy Coble reported on the price a plaque for past members would cost and motion to purchase passed. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for April 2025 – June 2025

NPS held its 4/14/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 4/14/2025 meeting were read and approved. Charles Tidball's application for NPS membership received first reading. Jim Young won the door prize and Sachaye Walker won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, stamp, and Social Media committees. Roger is doing better; Tom is recovering; and John Kwasniewski was recovering from surgery. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1159 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1100+ "followers". Next year's club show will be on February 28 and March 1st. The APS release the news that the circuit books will be discontinued at the end of 2026. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "Se-tenant Stamps" by Matt Benward and Al Bollmeier.

The NPS held its 4/28/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/14/2025 meeting were read and approved. Andrea Guennewig's application received a first read and Charles Tidball's application for NPS membership received a second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Randy Coble won the door prize and 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. Jim Young is recovering from surgery and Roger Hunt received a 10,000+ stamp donation. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1100 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1185 "followers". Matt thanked everyone who helped setting up and taking down the show. The business session was then adjourned for the Special "Premium Auction" organized by Dennis Fielding and conducted by David Perry.

The NPS held its 5/13/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 4/28/2025 meeting were read and approved. Andrea Guennewig's application received a second reading and was approved and she was welcomed to NPS membership. Jack Payne won the door prize and Al Bollmeier won the Participation award. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, and Social Media committees. All members contacted were okay and Roger received some stamps. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1154 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1185 "followers". The business session then adjourned for an interesting program and handout on the "Space Stamps" conducted by Matt Benward and Al Bollmeier.

NPS held its 5/26/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 5/13/2025 meeting were read and approved. Steven Hill's received a second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Gary Speich won the door prize and 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 1100 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1174 "followers". The business session then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

The NPS had its 6/9/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and seven guests were present. The minutes of the 5/26/2025 meeting were read and approved. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Courtney Cochran won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1100 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1173 "followers". Roger Hunt was on a cruise and Mark Thompson reported that the club has \$12,000+ in the bank. Dennis reported on the efforts of the New Stamp Committee. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program and movie with a handout on "My eBay Cover Collection" by Al Bollmeier.

NPS held its 6/23/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 6/9/2025 meeting were read and approved. Mark Thompson won the door prize and Al Bollmeier 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 1166 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 1172 "followers". Steve Meyer had heart attack in January and a bypass on June 10th. A get well card for him was passed around for everyone to sign. Mark Thompson reported that the club has \$12,067 in the bank. The business session then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

Protecting Your Stamp Collection

Storage

Dos

glassines
cover sleeves
stock cards
mounts
stock books
hinges
albums

Don'ts

plastic wrap
any kind of cellophane tape
photographic mounting books
remove from shrink wrap

Are the stamps mint, unused, or cancelled?

- make sure items used to mount your stamps are acid free
- keep all philatelic material in a cool, dry, unlit place
- no basement or attic
- no cardboard boxes – the glue attacks insects

When you work on your stamp collection

- no food or drink
- flat clean surface
- good lighting
- tongs
- magnifying glass
- catalogs

Philatelic Insurance Companies

Hugh Wood Inc.
220 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: (814) 933-3821
Email: insurance@hughwood.com

Collectibles Insurance Services, LLC
3 Bala Plaza
Suite 300
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
Email: info@collectinsure.com
Phone: (888) 837-9537

Safe or safety deposit box?

With a personal safe you have control of the conditions of your stamps.

Grading of Postage Stamps

by Bob Allen

The most widely accepted terms in the grading of stamps are: Very Good, Fine, Fine to Very Fine, and Extremely Fine.

Centering is probably the most generally accepted criteria used in the grading stamps. The following would apply:

Very Good - Perforations cut the design.

Fine - Perforations are very close to the design on one side or reasonably close on two sides.

Fine to Very Fine - Fairly close only on one side.

Very Fine - Very well centered with no sides being close and reasonably balanced.

Extremely Fine - Almost perfectly centered.

Color is another factor to be considered in the grading of stamps. Any fading, oxidation, or chemically altered colors should be considered. Anything short of the fresh color in which it was issued detracts from the grade.

Perforations are still another consideration in the grading of stamps. A pulled perf detracts more from the grade than a short perf. An Extremely Fine centered stamp with one pulled perf any be graded as fine. A single Extremely Fine centered stamp with only one short perf would still be Extremely Fine, but the stamp with several short perfs fall into the same grade as those with pulled perfs would be graded in the Very Fine to Fine range.

On the lighter side maybe the following grading systems could be used:

Superb (forget this one as someone will always find a fault).

Very Fine and Fine (let's keep these grades).

OK (Just that, not too good, not too bad).

PB (Pretty Bad - much more realistic than very good).

And, if you are real honest, RL (Real Lousy).

* Please visit our web page at www.nashvillephilatelic.org or <http://nashphil.krbaker.com/> *
* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/489589320335913> *
* Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NashPhilatelic> *
