



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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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 considerations 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).

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 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!

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 2025 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.

Long time member Dave Bodkin passed away

Dave Bodkin passed away on January 25th. He was 1st Vice-President of our club, a long time member of 33 years, but hadn't attended meetings in the last few years due to health concerns. He was a good friend, a valued member of our club, and shall be sorely missed.

New Stamp Club Members

Brandon Brindley
Vera Josephine Brindley
Jared Cassidy

The Volunteer State
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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.

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Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for January 2025 – March 2025

The NPS held its 1/20/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/25/2024 meeting were read and approved. John Kwasniewski won the door prize and Jack Payne won the Participation Award. Brandon Brindley and Vera Josephine applications for NPS membership received a first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees! Tom Tribke is on the mend. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1059 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1189 “followers”. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would be held at the Gallatin Civic Center and that help would be required with show set-up on March 7th. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent program “Little Things make a Difference” by Dennis Fielding.

The NPS held its 1/27/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 1/20/2025 meeting were read and approved. Brandon Brindley and Vera Josephine Brindley applications for NPS membership received a second reading and were approved and they were welcomed to the club. Sachaye Walker won the door prize and David Perry won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. It was announced that long time member David Bodkin had passed away. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. The Treasurer’s report was that there was nothing new. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1056 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1187 “followers”. Old business: a rental of a truck to bring the frame for show was mentioned. New Business: Roger Hunt was appointed as second Vice-President and the next Premium auction would be in April. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry. The auction had 44 lots of which 30 were sold.

The NPS held its 2/10/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 1/27/2025 meeting were read and approved. Buzz Bolten won the door prize and 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. Tom Tribke is convalescing. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1088 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1039 “followers”. Mark Thompson presented Treasurer’s Reports for 2024 and a current list of dues-paid members. 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 Benward on “Counterfeits, Fakes, and Forged Stamps” with handouts provided.

The NPS held its 2/24/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-six members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 2/10/2025 meeting were read and approved. Jim Young won the door prize and Ed Sherman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. Tom’s leg has returned to normal size. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1059 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1188 “followers”. Mark reports \$13,000 in the club’s bank account. Matt mentioned that our Stamp show would need help with set-up and take down. Mark gave out his phone number if you want to enter a display in the show. Members want an updated contact list to be made available to members. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

NPS held its 3/10/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 2/24/2025 meeting were read and approved. Jared Cassidy’s application for NPS membership received a first reading. Dennis Fielding won the door prize and Val Lawrence won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. Tom is in the hospital again. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1059 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1200 “followers”. Mark reported the show made \$808. Matt thanked everyone who participated in our Stamp show for the good job done. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation and handout on the “Tropical Collecting” by Matt Benward and Al Bollmeier.

The NPS held its 3/24/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 3/10/2025 meeting were read and approved. Jared Cassidy’s application for NPS membership received a second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. David Perry won the door prize and Courtney Cochran won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. Roger had the flu, John Kwasniewski had his gall bladder removed, and Tom was home. It was reported that our Facebook site had 1059 “likes” and that our Twitter site had 1187 “followers”. Matt reported that 150 people attended the show on Saturday and 50 on Sunday. Dennis Fielding wants lots for the premium action. The business session was then adjourned for an Auction conducted by David Perry.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for October 2024 – December 2024

The NPS held its 10/14/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 9/23/24 meeting were read and approved. Tom Bain won the door prize. Steve Meyer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. 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 1196 “followers” on Twitter and 1056 “likes” on Facebook. Matt mentioned that our next Nashville Stamp Show would be March 8–9, 2025. The business session then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on “The 1915 Pan-Pacific Expo” and ‘How a Set of 4 Stamps Became 9” by Tom Tribke and other NPS members.

The NPS held its 10/28/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/8/24 meeting were read and approved. Buzz won the door prize. Roger won the Participation Award. It was reported that Bill De Salvatore’s ward had passed away and NPS members expressed their sympathy. 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 1194 “followers” on Twitter and 1056 “likes” on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer.

The NPS held its 11/11/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/28/24 meeting were read and approved. Val won the door prize. Courtney won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. David Perry asked that NPS recognize all vets in our membership. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 1154 “followers” on Twitter and 1054 “likes” on Facebook. Mark Thompson reported that he had been representing NPS with the Southeastern Stamp Conference and asked to continue in this roll. NPS 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. Dennis Fielding was appointed to participate in a “Committee to Advocate for Better Stamps.” The business session then adjourned for a well-done presentation on “A Grabbag of Stamp Identifications” by Dennis Fielding.

The NPS held its 11/25/2024 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/11/2024 meeting were read and approved. David Perry won the door prize. Jackie 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 1059 “likes” on Facebook. Matt advised that our only meeting in December, our Christmas Meeting scheduled for 12/11/2024, 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.

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/16/2024 at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall. Twenty-six NPS members and seven guests joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!! There were 2 applications for membership. We showed several videos about Christmas stamps during the party. We had a giveaway of philatelic items that had been donated to the club. Everyone signed a get well and Christmas cards for Tom Tribke. We also had Christmas games - toss the ring on the reindeer's antlers!!! There was Black Forest cake, hors d'oeuvre, and free beer for everyone!!! The Hendersonville Stamp club donated their treasury to the Nashville Philatelic Society. Thank you!!! We held a short auction with 23 lots and 21 were sold.

BEER STAMPS - A Review

by Tom Tribke

Generally, beer stamps are among the more interesting Revenue Stamps issued by the Treasury Department. They are large and attractive stamps that can make a colorful collection. A number of them have letters or numbers on the vignettes to indicate the plate used; this makes each one with a different letter or number a different stamp, as is the case with modern plate number coils. Thus a collection of beer stamps can be as complex as the collector desires. However, they do tend to be scarce, as they were legally required to be destroyed at the time the keg was tapped. If saved from this fate, the stamps were many times torn, punched, dirty, etc., but still they are colorful and interesting.

The Scott Catalog lists beer stamps with a REA designation and includes 23 Series with a total of 199 individual stamp types and numerous sub-categories. The beer stamps are relatively new addition to the *Scott Specialized Catalog*.

The Beginning

Beer was first taxed by the United States federal government on August 1, 1862 along with many other goods and services to help pay for the massive costs of the Civil War. Taxes on beer were applied at the distribution level rather than at the consumer level for the most part and were paid by a return (like a form 1040 today).

Beer stamps were not used until September 1, 1866 when they were required as proof that the tax had been paid. From 1866 to 1955, every keg of beer leaving an American brewery was required by Internal Revenue Law to include a Federal beer stamp pasted over the keg's bung.

Beer stamps were initially issued with a tax rate of \$1.00 per barrel – a rate that remained effective until 1898. New beer stamps issues were provided as stamp supplies required or new size barrels came into use.

In 1898, with the Spanish-American War, the tax rate increased to \$2.00 per barrel and overprints of existing stamps were used until a new issue could be prepared. Both printed overprints and rubber hand stamps applied by local district revenue collectors were used so that many varieties were generated.

With the close of the Spanish-American War in 1901, the tax rate on beer lowered to \$1.60 per barrel. This resulted in a new issue reflecting the new rates. Another rate change occurred in 1902 (back to \$1.00 per barrel) resulting in additional overprints and another new issue.

This cycle continued till 1919 as new tax rates, barrel and vat sizes, and various other factors affected the use of beer stamps; e.g., bottled beer usage. One major influence on the use of beer stamps was of course “Prohibition”.



BEER STAMPS - A Review

by Tom Tribke

Prohibition in the United States

In the history of the United States, "Prohibition", also known as "The Noble Experiment", is the period from 1919 to 1933, during which the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol for consumption were banned nationally as mandated in the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Under substantial pressure from the temperance movement, the United States Senate proposed the Eighteenth Amendment on December 18, 1917. Having been approved by 36 states, the 18th Amendment was ratified on January 16, 1919 and effected on January 16, 1920. Some state legislatures had already enacted statewide prohibition prior to the ratification of the 18th Amendment.

The "Volstead Act", the popular name for the National Prohibition Act, passed through Congress over President Woodrow Wilson's veto on October 28, 1919 and established the legal definition of intoxicating liquor. Though the Volstead Act prohibited the sale of alcohol, it did little to enforce the law. The illegal production and distribution of liquor, or bootlegging, became rampant, and the national government did not have the means or desire to enforce every border, lake, river, and speakeasy in America. By 1925, in New York City alone, there were anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000 speakeasy clubs.

Prohibition became increasingly unpopular during the Great Depression, especially in large cities. On March 23, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law an amendment to the Volstead Act known as the Cullen-Harrison Act, allowing the manufacture and sale of certain kinds of alcoholic beverages.

On December 5, 1933, the ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment.

BEER STAMPS – Return

With the repeal of Prohibition, beer stamps were again needed and new issues were again provided to support changing government revenue and industry needs.

The U.S. Government stopped use of beer stamps in 1955. But not to worry, aside from the issues of the U.S. Government, there are beer stamps issued by the states and our military. Even foreign governments issue them - so there are plenty items for the collector.

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