



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

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 \*  
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Nashville Stamp Show 2026  
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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  
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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  
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Charles Tidball  
Andrea Guennewig  
Steven Hill

The Volunteer State  
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #121 Summer 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

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# 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.

# 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.

# Is it a Stamp?

## by Herman Herst, Jr.

It has perforations. If it is unused, it may have gum on the back; if it is used, it can be cancelled. It has the name of the country on it. It may have a denomination of money on it. It may be a piece of paper and appear to show postal use.

A piece of paper may fulfill all of the above specifications, but that does not mean it is a postage stamp. Sir Roland Hill's invention of a bit of paper to collect a tax has been extended to other fields as well. The field most frequently encountered and confused with postage stamps is that of revenue stamps. These stamps are issued for fiscal purposes to collect taxes.

The stamp printed in greatest numbers (until its discontinuance a few years ago) was the one picturing DeWitt Clinton that was found on every pack of cigarettes. It was issued for revenue purposes, and the best way to show the tax was paid on each pack of cigarettes, until the present tax method was instituted, was the time-honored one of putting the stamp on the item.

When one borrowed money on a mortgage, sold a house, or bought a share of stock, the tax was paid with a revenue stamp. In this country, since the Post Office and the Treasury Department are separate entities, postage stamps and tax stamps were entirely different devices.

Other Government Departments also have issued stamps for revenue purposes, such as the Duck stamps that must be bought by every duck hunter.

In many countries, the same stamps are used. In Great Britain, and most of the Commonwealth, the stamps are inscribed "Postage and Revenue," and may be used for either purpose. This is often the means by which a swindle is put upon the innocent, uninformed collector, for the stamp may be worth pennies, while postally used it can be a rarity.

There is one protection against being cheated in stamps, and that is knowledge. Most stamp dealers are honest, but it is a fact that there are many professionals who are themselves uninformed on some philatelic facts, just as are their customers. There is less justification for a dealer to be philatelically uninformed than for a collector to be, but it happens. An informed dealer should be able to tell whether a stamp has been postally or fiscally used by studying the manner in which it was canceled.

A Commonwealth stamp that has been canceled in pen and ink (with a few exceptions, such as early New Zealand where such items are greatly sought if they bear the name of an early Post Office) is a stamp to be avoided. So is one with a colored cancellation mark. (This latter may indicate telegraphic use, which again is not a postal cancel.) With the United States stamps, this fear does not exist to the same degree.

In fact, in this country (and in Canada and many others), two distinct series of stamps usually are used for each purpose. So a postally used revenue stamp or a fiscally used postage stamp can become an unusual item, greatly sought by specialists, and in some cases, worth a considerable premium.

If you are confused, there is no need to be. Every standard stamp catalog in the world deals at length with anomalies of this sort, so there is little need for a collector or a dealer to be uninformed. Collectors must want to take the time to learn all they can about the hobby in which they are putting their hard-earned money!

# 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 attracts 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

## Safe or safety deposit box?

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

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\* Please visit our web page at [www.nashvillephilatelic.org](http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org) or <http://nashphil.krbaker.com/> \*  
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