



The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

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CHAPTER 0431

Happy New Year!!!

Covers

The term cover pertains to the outside of an envelope or package with an address, typically with postage stamps that have been cancelled and is a term generally used among stamp and postal history collectors. The term does not include the contents of the letter or package, although they may add interest to the item if still present. Cover collecting plays an important role in postal history as many covers bear stamps, postmarks and other markings along with names and addresses all of which help to place a cover at a given time and place in history.

The term originates from the practice of covering a letter by folding a separate sheet about it to physically protect it and prevent infringement of confidentiality. In the first half of the 19th century it became the fashion to cut the cover into a diamond or lozenge shape. This was the precursor of the version of the envelope known today. Its convenience and popularity led to the lozenge design being adopted for the special pre-paid postage envelopes and covers issued in 1840 after postal reforms were introduced by Rowland Hill and others.

There are several different basic categories for covers. Names for cover types are also terminology usually used by collectors of stamps and postal history. There exist a wide variety of covers that can fit into several basic categories. The categories begin with the most common types of collectible covers, such as first day covers or first flight covers. Sometimes there will be an area of overlap in the subject of categories. For example, there are First day covers that were also sent with mail aboard airplanes on First flight mail runs. Event covers can also include First flights, or other types of covers. A military cover sent to a head of state can also be referred to as a Historic cover.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here we are again with another year that has come to a close. And the new year already here. We look back on the old one and forward to the promise of the new year. A new year brings challenges to be overcome. Our annual stamp show will soon be 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 to look forward to better new year!

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Matt Benward, President NPS

* 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!

Southeastern Stamp Expo

This stamps show is the second largest show put on by the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs. This show will be held on January 23-25, 2026 at The Hilton Atlanta Northeast 5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Peachtree, GA. This stamp show is one of largest stamp shows in the southeast. I've attended it many times and usually has thirty stamp dealers in attendance. I would urge everyone to attend. Hours: Friday & Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-4.

Dennis Fielding chairman of nominating committee

Dennis Fielding was elected chairman of the nominating committee for upcoming officer's election on February 23, 2026.

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.

Stamp Displays

I know most of the members who have never shown their stamps at our annual stamp show. If anyone is interested to try please see Mark Thompson or email him at markrobbin@bellsouth.net.

New Members

Steve Cox
Bruce B. Smith

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #123 Winter 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.

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The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for October 2025 – December 2025

The NPS held its 10/13/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/22/2025 meeting were read and approved. Steve Cox's application was given a second reading and he was approved as a member. Jackie Cargill won the Door Prize and Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. There were no forthcoming new issues for the rest of 2025 and upcoming stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. Our social media websites had 1171 "followers" on Twitter and 1100+ "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson reported that we had \$12,077 in the checking account. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting program on "Philatelic Literature" by various club members.

The NPS held its 10/20/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/13/2025 meeting were read and approved. There were no applications to be reviewed. Courtney Cochran won the Door Prize and Jack Payne won the Participation Award. There were no new issues for the rest of 2025 and Bill Vance's "It's Just Me" stamp show was announced on November 7 - 9th. A report was presented from the Phone and Social Media Committees. Our social media websites had 1170 "followers" on Twitter and 1100+ "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson reported we had \$11,991.70 in the checking account. There was no old business and under new business Ray McIntire proposed a show committee which would meet before the next club meeting. It was passed. The business session was then adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer. Our auction had 40 lots and we sold 32 of them.

The NPS held its 11/17/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 10/20/2025 meeting were read and approved. Bruce B. Smith's application for NPS membership received a first reading. Courtney Cochran won the door prize and Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. There were no new issues for the rest of 2025 and upcoming stamp shows were reviewed. The Gallatin Coin show was also announced on December 12-13. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media Committees. Buzz Bolton had knee replacement surgery. Matt reported that social media websites had 1170 "followers" on Twitter and 1100+ "likes" on Facebook. Under old Business it was announced that our club stamp show would be on February 28 – March 1, 2026. Under new Business Roger announced that the show committee applicants to contact him. Dennis Fielding was elected chairman of the nominating committee for the upcoming officer's election in 2026. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation and handout on "Stamp Cancellations" by Matt Benward, Rudy Caduff, and Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 11/24/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/17/2025 meeting were read and approved. Bruce B. Smith's application for NPS membership received a second reading and he was approved for membership in the club. Randy Coble won the door prize and David Perry won the Participation Award. There were no new issues for the rest of 2025 and stamp shows were reviewed. The Gallatin Coin show was also announced on December 12-13. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media Committees. Matt reported that social media websites had 1070 "followers" on Twitter and 1100+ "likes" on Facebook. Mark Thompson reported the checking account was the same as his last report. Under old Business Dennis Fielding spoke about the Nominating Committee. The business session was adjourned for our auction with David Perry as auctioneer. Our auction had 25 lots and we sold 18 of them.

The NPS held its 12/8/2025 meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills Mall with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and one guest were present. Our Christmas party was great with wonderful German food, Christmas cookies, and Black Forest Cake!!! Jim Young setup his stamp stock and several members looked and bought a few things. Several members had a good time looking through the APS circuit books. The business session then adjourned for an auction. Our short auction had 37 lots and we sold 24 of them with some spirited bidding on several of them and everyone had a good time!!!

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 purposed 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.

Coiled Postage Stamps

Today, when it seems that coin-operated vending machines have but recently become standard equipment for offices, factories, and places of public amusement, it may come as a bit of a surprise to learn that a variety of such machines were being marketed in the early 1880's. The turn of the 20th century saw a tremendous increase in the uses to which this type equipment was being put. Dispensing machine manufacturers were quick to consider the sale of stamps as a new use for their products.

They were soon followed by several office equipment firms which introduced lines of stamp-affixing machines. At the time, printing of postage stamps was confined to individual sheet form. In order to obtain stocks for stamp dispensers, it was necessary for either the machine manufacturer or the private user to attach a given number of sheets of stamps one to another, cut the rows of stamps into strips, and then wind the strips into coils. This was a tedious task. Then too, the sheets had been perforated for separating the stamps by hand and work so perforated often proved too fragile for dispensers. The solution lay in making un-perforated sheets available to be produced into coils privately. Imperforate sheets for this purpose were distributed on an experimental basis in 1906, and by 1908 were available at post offices as a regularly stocked item.

Meanwhile the Bureau had been experimenting in processing stamps into coil form. The first of this experimental work was issued on February 18, 1908. These coils were produced from regular sheets of 404 stamps perforated horizontally and cut into strips of 24. The strips were then pasted together to form coils of 500 or 1,000 stamps each. Soon thereafter the Bureau developed a machine for preparing the coils which materially reduced processing costs. The report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for the fiscal year 1909 gives the following description of this piece of equipment and detailed comments concerning its advantages: It is of simple and effective construction and performs the work of about ten operatives. Under the old method of coiling the cost is from 6c to 12c per coil. During the past year the demand for coiled stamps grew to such an extent as to make this expense something of a burden and it became necessary to charge it to the users. With the new machine, however, the coiling is done at a cost of a fraction of a cent and the extra charge can probably be discontinued. If a sufficient number of machines can be installed during the coming year it should be possible to supply coiled stamps for general purposes.

An improved model was developed in 1910 which cut the pasted stream of horizontally perforated sheets of 200 stamps into strips, trimmed the margins, and wound the strips into coils in one operation. Through use of this machine the Bureau was able to produce the stamp coils at a much lower cost. The reduced production rates, in turn, were reflected in the service charges made by the Post Office Department for coiled stamps. The charge for coils of 500 perforated stamps was reduced from 8 to 3 cents; for the same quantity, un-perforated, from 6 to 3 cents; items of 1,000 stamps, perforated, from 12 to 6 cents; and 1,000 stamps, in un-perforated form, from 9 to 6 cents.

Even with this improved equipment the necessity of pasting the individual sheets together was still a drawback in the preparation of coils. It seemed that the most feasible means for elimination of the problem was the development of a press for printing the stamps in a continuous roll form. Steps were taken to devise such a machine and success in this regard was achieved by 1912. The impact of this press toward facilitating the production of coiled stamps is described in the report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for that fiscal year: The machine also gums the stamps as they are printed and an exceedingly rapid perforating device has been designed for use in connection with it. . . Another advantage is that the omission of the preliminary "wetting down" of the paper practically does away with the variation due to shrinkage, making it possible to perforate the stamps much more accurately so that the "centering" is substantially perfect, which is not true of stamps produced by the old method. The greater accuracy of perforation not only improves the appearance of the stamps but will facilitate the operation of automatic, vending and affixing devices which feed the stamps by means of pins or fingers engaging the perforations. With the development of this press, parallel improvements were made in the processing of coils of stamps through the years.

Coiled Postage Stamps Continued

In 1929, the Director of the Bureau gave the following description of coil manufacture: Coils of stamps are made from rolls printed on intaglio web presses and the printing and gumming of the rolls being accomplished at the same time. They are placed in special perforating machines, which perforate the rolls crosswise only, and wind them again into a roll. These perforated rolls are delivered to operatives at specially devised measuring tables, who unwind the rolls, measure them into lengths of 500, 1000, or 5000 stamps, according to the number of stamps to be in the finished coil, cut each length and insert labels denoting the class and denomination of the coil by pasting one edge to the margin of the cut off length and the opposite edge to the margin of the portion yet to be measured, thus joining the measured lengths with these labels. These lengths are rewound into rolls and the stamps are ready for the next operation-that of coiling. The spindle on which the stamps were wound during the preceding operation fits into the coiling machine. Eleven knives on the coiling machine slit apart the ten rows of stamps and trim the margin of the outside rows as the roll is then wound, and simultaneously each row is wound into coil form until the labels previously pasted on are reached. The operator at this point stops the machine, separates each coil from the roll by cutting the label, pastes the label as a binder for each coil, and places her initials or name on the binder. The coils are then carried to tables, counted and boxed ready for delivery to the vault from which they are shipped when ordered.

There was little, if any, change made in this manner of manufacturing coils until 1958. However, since it was realized that the manufacturing methods left much to be desired, improvement in this regard was placed high on the agenda of the overall technological improvement program planned and developed by the Bureau after World War II. In 1955, a contract was made with a private engineering and manufacturing concern for a prototype model of a coil-processing machine. This model was desired for use in conducting experiments geared to the improvement and automation of the coil manufacturing operations.

The contract was let on the basis of functional specifications calling for the mechanization of the measuring, examining, slitting, coiling, and wrapping functions. In addition, it was specified that the machine should incorporate facilities for perforating the printed work. The equipment developed by the machine manufacturer consisted of three separate components: an examiner, a perforator-coiler, and a wrapper. These were received in the Bureau early in 1957. After a great deal of joint concentrated effort and study on the part of the Bureau and the machine manufacturer, the components were perfected to the point that they were placed in regular production on January 27, 1958. Within the year, purchase contracts were made for the additional equipment needed to completely automate coil production operations. It was indeed fortunate that steps had been taken to develop this type equipment. Without it, the Bureau would have been sorely taxed to meet the unprecedented orders for postage stamps in coil form that were received beginning in mid-1958. A factor in this regard was the Post Office Department's decision to inaugurate an intensive drive to popularize coiled stamps; with particular emphasis placed on a new 100-stamp size. With the aid of the new equipment the Bureau was able to handle this increase concurrently with the demands for stamps necessitated by the increased postal rates which became effective at that same time.

The coiling equipment processes the printed web down to finished products of precisely 100, 500, or 3,000 stamps, as desired. First, the roll of work is placed in the examining component and an operative examines it for imperfections as it unwinds. This machine has built-in provisions for the removal of imperfect work and the automatic joining of the severed ends. There is also a means by which the operative can flag individual stamps or strips of imperfect work for a later automatic removal. The examined roll is next placed in the second component which perforates the stamps, slits the work by rows, and forms the individual coils. Those coils containing defective work flagged during the examining operations are automatically diverted at this point into a separate bin. The perfect coils are conveyed by a series of belts and chutes to the third component which wraps each coil in transparent plastic film and applies a label indicating the contents and sales price of the item.

Today, the Bureau has 6 of the examining units in regular use, together with 4 perforator-coilers, and 14 coil wrapping machines. About 39 million coil stamps are printed and processed each day.

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