

The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle

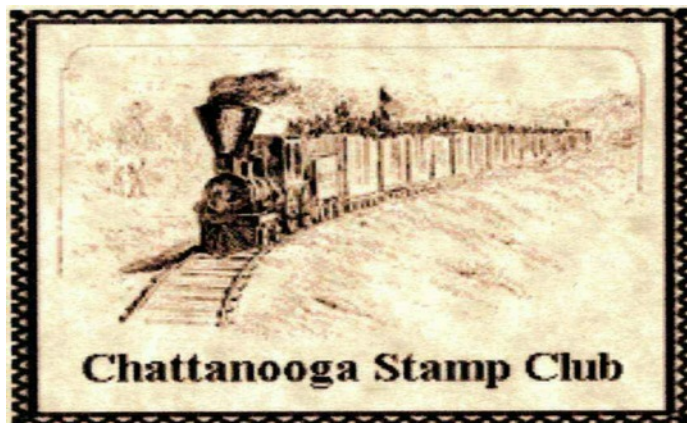
August, 2017



Southeast Federation
Of Stamp Clubs



American Philatelic Society
Chapter 731
www.stamps.org



Official Journal of the Chattanooga Stamp Club

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE HICKORY VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 6605 SHALLOWFORD RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN.

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, MEETING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM -- VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

August 10 Monthly Meeting
Program Jack Case Washington-Franklin Flat Plate Printing
September 14 Monthly Meeting
Program John Burnett

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Mike Ezell	mhezell@gmail.com
Vice-president	Jim Hogue	jlhoguejr@charter.net
Secretary	Tom Matuszak	tommytwosocks@comcast.net
Treasurer	Carl Anderson	connie_anderson195@epbf.com
Newsletter	Gene Bricker	gbricker@catt.com
Circuit Books	Mike Ezell	mhezell@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are \$10.00; send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer:

Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd.
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE

The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society. The club has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

The Southeast Federation web site is a source for information about stamp collecting activities in the region. Visit at:
www.sefsc.org/stamp-clubs.html.

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

American Philatelic Society (APS) is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting Foundation of philately in the world. With about 31,000 members as of 2017 worldwide.
Visit at: www.Stamps.org.

MINUTES OF JULY MEETING_

The July Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Hogue at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

20 members were present

Mike Ezell is recovering well and will be at the next meeting.

3 New members were accepted for membership; Robert Averella, Randy Patterson, Jeffery Parker. Welcome to our Club.

Minutes of the May meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$950.00. No outstanding checks.

Dan Chaj brought in Packets for new as well as Junior members. Thank you Dan.

Susan Monk's Birthday party is Saturday the 29th. All are invited.

Jack Case will do a program for August.

Sept / Oct is John Burnett

November is an Auction

December is our Christmas Dinner.

The Year is done, where did it go??

August 9-12 is a Pre Cancel meeting / Show in Louisville

August 3-6 is a Show in Virginia.

Meeting adjourned for Snacks and Drinks

Gene Bricker then presented a program on Local Post Stamps.

Tom

DEFINITENESS OF PURPOSE IS THE
STARTING POINT OF ALL
ACHIEVEMENT. -W. CLEMENT STONE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Greetings Fellow Stamp Collectors,

June and July have been kind of like a roller coaster for me. Medical issues have been very prevalent both months. I greatly apologize for my absence from our last two meetings. I thank all of you for the prayers and kind words as I spoke to you by phone.

I would also like to thank those who had to step-in and take my place and make sure that all the needs were met. We have a great group of officers and without their help and support, things would not run smoothly.

I am very excited about what is ahead for the club in the coming months. With the addition of two new members at the July meeting, I am very grateful and would like to personally welcome you both to the club.

We had an executive officers meeting in which additional plans were discussed about what is in store for the club in the future. We will strive to continue to build the club membership and make other opportunities available for all.

I truly believe great and exciting things are in our future and I am looking forward to sharing those moments with each of you. Thank you and I will see you at the August meeting!

Mike

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**The following are new members to the
Chattanooga Stamp Club.
Make them welcome!**

**Robert Averella
Randy Patterson
Jeffrey Parker**

SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

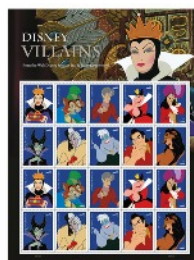
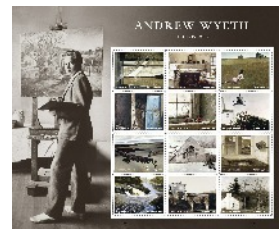
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2017 **MEMPHEX 2017**
The Memphis Stamp Collectors Society annual Stamp & Postcard Show, Agricenter International Expo Center, C-wing, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis Tennessee 38120-2130, Contact: Andy Burkman, andburk@usit.net. 901-382-1772 or 901-382-1754

January 26-28 **Southeastern Stamp Expo 2018**
Southeast Federation of Stamp Shows, An APS World Series of Philately Show, Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, Georgia, 30092-3416 Contact Scott Mark, sestampexpo@gmail.com. or <http://www.sefcs.org/>

February 23-25 **APS AmeriStamp Expo 2018**
American Philatelic Society, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd., North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203-1101, Barb Johnson, stampshow@stamps.org. 814-933-3803 ext. 217, <https://stamps.org/AmeriStamp-Expo-ASE>

U.S. July New Issues

Andrew Wyeth
July 12



Disney Villains
July 15

Sharks
July 26



Philately starts where the catalogue ends.

- ANONYMOUS

Early Collectors Spurned Trans-Mississippi set

By Warren Crain

The 1898 Trans-Mississippi set of stamps (Scott #285-293), issued to commemorate the Trans-Mississippi Exposition held from June 1 to November 1 of that year in Omaha, Nebraska, was not popular with collectors at the onset. Philatelists felt they were being taken for a ride when the Postmaster General announced that the series would contain nine values, with the two highest values costing \$1.00 and \$2.00 respectively.

Collectors of that era still remembered being burned by the long Columbian set issued five years earlier, which was capped by a \$5.00 value.

Nonetheless, a number of collectors and speculators purchased the stamps expecting a quick profit, only to suffer a loss when trying to unload after a short time—the top values were available below face for a number of years after issue. In fact, the dollar values of the previous Columbian set were still available at the post office in Washington D.C., when the Trans-Mississippi set was issued!

The U.S. Post Office Department originally intended to print the stamps in two colors, the center design in black and the frames in various colors. Most collectors are now aware of that fact, thanks to the Trans-Mississippi Stamp Centenary souvenir sheets the U.S. Postal Service released in 1999, ones that replicated the set as originally intended, using the original bi-colored dies.

According to various articles on the subject, the bi-colored stamps were never printed because the Bureau of Engraving and Printing found it impractical to print the supplies needed in the time desired. The Spanish-American War was supposedly to blame because the Bureau needed to print an enormous quantity of revenue stamps. The Bureau did not have the facilities to do both jobs, so the bi-colored stamps were abandoned and plans were made to print the stamps in single colors. With just one pass through the press, mono-colored stamps took the Bureau much less time to print.

When the colors of the stamps were announced by an official circular from the Post Office Department on May 16, 1898, the \$1.00 value was to be a light brown color and the \$2.00 value a sapphire blue. It was announced later in May, however, the \$1.00 value was changed to black and the \$2.00 value to light brown.

The set was not available in time for the opening of the Exposition, but appeared on June 17, 1898. Daily newspapers greatly publicized the stamps in contrast to the philatelic press, which was rather derogatory in its comments.

At first, the stamps sold well. But after a time, sales lagged, with the high values especially being neglected. On December 31, 1898, distribution of the stamps was discontinued. However, they remained available at the Washington D.C., post office. In December 1899, all postmasters were directed to return their unsold stocks of the set to Washington D.C. On February 28, 1900, sales of the remaining stocks of stamps were discontinued at the Washington D.C. post office. In March, all remainders were burned. Records were not kept, however, of the number of each value destroyed.

The two-cent value (Scott #286) makes an interesting story. It was originally intended for its center to be transposed with the center of the \$2 value. In fact, this is the manner in which they are shown on the bi-colored die essays. But as the proofs were issued, it was decided the two-cent value would be more widely used than the \$2 value and that the farming scene would be more typical of the West than the Mississippi River Bridge. After all, the purpose of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition was to further the progress and develop the resources of the region west of the Mississippi River.

Bridge. After all, the purpose of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition was to further the progress and develop the resources of the region west of the Mississippi River. Thus, the "Farming in the West" scene on the two-cent value was supposed to help induce people to move to the western farmlands.

The scene depicted on the two-cent value was taken from a photograph of a farm belonging to the Amenia and Sharon Land Company in North Dakota. The firm was so proud of this they had the picture lithographed on all of their stationery, and any letter that left their office was always franked with a two-cent Trans-Mississippi stamp.

The four-cent value (Scott #287) depicting an Indian about to shoot a buffalo with bow and arrow caused some controversy. The horse the Indian was riding had both a harness and saddle, not exactly a traditional Indian fashion.

The eight-cent value (Scott #289), which depicts troops guarding a wagon train, produced an outstanding error. A stamp clerk at the Philadelphia main post office discovered a pane of 50 which had all horizontal rows imperforate! He sold the sheet for \$8, double the face value. The buyer of the error promptly sold it to another gentleman for \$50. This last buyer, Mr. William Pierce of Philadelphia, broke the sheet up and sold most of it for low prices. To his chagrin, he did not keep a single copy for his own collection. The Scoff 2007 Classic Specialized Catalog of Stamps and Covers lists a pair of the stamps at \$25,000.

(Editor's Note. This is an updated version of a "Crain's Corner" that appeared in the May-June 1985 issue of *The Texas Philatelist*. *

THE TEXAS PHILATELIST September-October 2008



Scott #
285-293

Terminology

We in the precancel field are always using terms that are completely familiar to us, but we forget that they are foreign to the newcomer. This is a feeble attempt to correct the problem. I'm sure I'll forget to mention some obvious ones.

Types. We probably use this term more often than any other, without realizing that some people don't know what it means. It refers to the STYLE of type on a particular precancel (this includes both font and spacing measurements). It usually refers to local precancels, although bureaus do have different styles of type. There are approximately 500 different styles of local types, but don't be overwhelmed - you don't have to learn them all to collect types! On average, each town used two different styles of type, so on average you only have to be able to distinguish between two type-styles each time you have a town for which you want to identify the type. There are only about 50 cities where you'll have to differentiate between more than 10-12 types for the town. Most precancel devices were supplied by the PO Dept. in Washington, although some were manufactured locally. These latter are often referred to as "L-types" because the PSS catalog lists them as L-1, L-2, etc. Those supplied by the PO Dept. have what are called Universal Styles, and these styles are given style numbers in the illustrated style chart of the PSS T&T Catalog. The main body of the catalog lists the types by universal style number, plus any L-types that might have been used. The L-types are illustrated at the end of each state listing.

Bars and Lines. To precancel enthusiasts, "Lines" are continuous from one stamp to the next, while "Bars" are discontinuous. This distinction comes into use when trying to differentiate one type from another. Sometimes it is the only distinguishing factor, and other times it can just be a great help.

Dateds. In July 1938, in an effort to prevent re-use of precancels, the PO Dept. required that all precancels on mail carrying 60 or more in postage, have an imprint showing the user's initials and the month and year of usage. Such as SRC Jul 38 or MW APR 42. This opened up a huge new field of collecting to the precancel enthusiast! There are 3 basic divisions in the collecting of dateds: Handstamps, Printed and Integrals. Printed means the dated control was applied with a printing press or mimeograph. Naturally, only the largest users need to do this, with Montgomery Ward being the largest user of printed dateds. For some reason (which I don't know!), Sears Roebuck used mostly handstamped dated, as did most small users. There are thousands of different users of handstamped dateds, while probably fewer than 100 users of printed dateds. Integrals are dateds where the precancel and the dated control are integrated into the same device. Again, this was limited primarily to the huge users, because a new device had to be produced every month.

Device. This term applies to the implement used for precanceling stamps. It may be a handstamp, an electroplate, a mimeograph stencil, or some other device.

Subject. When used with "device," it means position or repetition. It describes how many stamps are precanceled from one impression of a device. Most precancel devices consisted of 100 subjects, 25 subjects or 10 subjects.

Electroplate. A device, usually of 100 subjects, used for printing, in a printing press, large quantities of precancels. The name comes from the process of affixing the type font and lines or bars to the metal plate. Most electroplates were supplied by the PO Dept. to the local post office and therefore have universal type styles. Stamps precanceled with electroplates are commonly called "electros."

Double-Line Electros. These stamps were precanceled from a particular kind of electroplate having double lines above and double lines below the city and state name. They were government-issued to 127 cities from 1929 to 1932. Because of their attractiveness and limited scope, they have become a very popular area of precancel collecting, having their own catalog and album pages.

Typeset. A category of precancels, referring to the kind of device used to print them. These devices were not supplied by the PO Dept. but prepared in the local city, usually at the print shop where the precancels were printed. They consisted of a jig holding movable type in the traditional format for printing precancels. There were usually 50 or 100 subjects. They were often dismantled after each printing run, so if another run was ordered, the new plate was often a different set-up, so it qualifies as a different type. Precancels made from these devices tend to be scarcer than most. They are extremely popular to collect because of their attractiveness and scarcity.

Synoptic. This is a way of collecting precancels where one does not have to be able to identify the precancel! It is simply a collection of each different US stamp with a precancellation on it regardless of what it is. It is often mounted in a "regular" US album, such as a Scott National.

Denom Collecting. This is another basic way of collecting precancels where one doesn't have to be able to identify the precancel. It is formed by collecting one precancel of each denom of a particular issue from each of the 50 states, plus the territories. Some of the denoms can be quite challenging, especially from Alaska or Nevada. The city or type is irrelevant.

For information on the Precancel Society Show, mention of the show in the July meeting minutes.

If you are interested in attending:

August 7-12, 2017: 96th Precancel Stamp Society Annual National Convention – Hosted by the Kentucky Precancel Club. Louisville, KY. Ramada Plaza, 9700 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, KY. (502)491-4830. \$82.00 per night plus tax. Reservations must be made by July 23, 2017 to receive PSS rate. (*Too late for that date!*)

NO REAL COLLECTOR EVER SELLS HIS STAMPS IN HIS LIFETIME—UNLESS IT IS TO BUY MORE STAMPS.

CLAUDE STANUSH, "You Just Don't Know What Stamps Can Do To A Man", LIFE Magazine, May 3, 1954