



September 2018

Monthly Newsletter

Issue no. 611

President - Stephen Schmidt Vice President - Don Ashley Secretary - Pat Koppel Treasurer - Dick Jackson

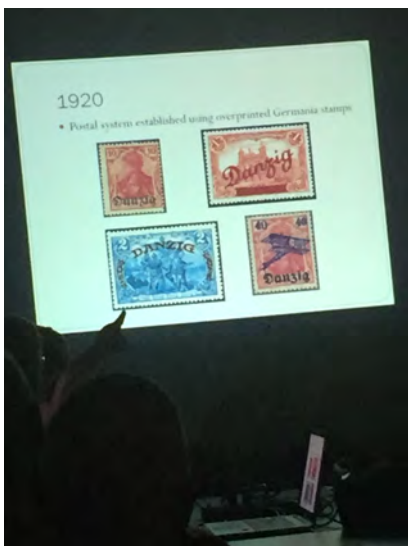
President's Dispatch

Another month has almost gone by since our August meeting and here I am trying to figure out what to write about.

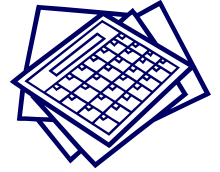
Our stamp buying committee brought to the meeting some of the materials that they had purchased recently at Dutch Country Auction. Some of the material was offered for sale in our monthly auction and some of it was bought for members to view in order to whet their appetites for the materials that will be made available at future meeting auctions. The materials from South-West Africa, New Zealand and related areas plus some of the Yugoslavia collection will be in the September meeting auction.

One of the items the stamp buying committee purchased was a set of overprinted stamps from post World War II Germany. These stamps had hand stamped overprints on them and forgeries of this series of stamps abound. I am currently seeking opinions from German stamp collectors on the series purchased and will provide their semi-expert opinions on these stamps before the series is placed in a monthly auction.

Dick Jackson gave a nice presentation on the history of Danzig and the adjacent areas of Poland. Thanks Dick.



Club Calendar



Guests and Visitors

always Welcome!

September 20th - 7 p.m.

Monthly Meeting at
Northeast State Community College
Student Services Building Cafeteria

Here's an update on what I have been doing. I have been working on remounting my worldwide stamp collection in a newer, more complete album. I found this task to be a great adventure and learning experience. I just finished Great Britain and in doing so I learned a lot about their watermarks and their use of plate numbers on every stamp they printed during a short period in the 1800s. Opportunities like this, when I can learn so much, helps continue to keep stamp collecting interesting for me.

The topic for the presentation during our September meeting will be the Danish West Indies, which were the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix. Today these islands are The Virgin Islands of the United States.

The APS circuit books at the September meeting will be USA possessions.

I will see you at our next meeting on September 20, 2018.

Steve

U.S. Flag Act Bicentennial

The U.S. Post Office Department and the U. S. Postal Service have had a long history of displaying the American flag on stamps. Have you noticed the most recent one? This past June was the bicentennial for the Flag Act of 1818. It was the Flag Act, signed during the administration of President James Monroe that provided the basic design of 13 alternating red and white stripes with white stars for the states that made up the Union in a blue field. The Flag Act also addressed expanding the number of stars as more states were admitted to the Union but the number of stars in the flag could only change once a year on July 4th.

This new stamp, shown below, shows the first flag with 20 white stars in the blue field. The flag is shown with crisp, sharp folds and layers that convey a sense of "the dynamism of the young nation, which was 42 years old in 1818.

The first-day ceremony for the stamp was held in Appleton, Wisconsin because it has been holding a parade on Flag Day longer than any other community.



Can you name the States that were the Union in June 1818?

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| Delaware | Pennsylvania | New Jersey | Georgia |
| Connecticut | Massachusetts | Maryland | South Carolina |
| New Hampshire | Virginia | New York | North Carolina |
| Rhode Island | Vermont | Kentucky | Tennessee |
| Ohio | Louisiana | Indiana | Mississippi |



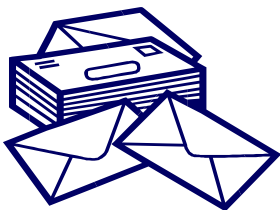
Monthly Treasury Report

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance Aug. 2, 2018 | | \$2,841.22 |
| Beginning Cash on Hand | | \$2,840.80 |
| checking account balance | \$2,428.46 | |
| cash box | \$430.45 | |
| APS Circuit Sales owned | \$18.11 | |
| Total Income | | \$404.35 |
| HSC Auction sales | \$396.35 | |
| Other Sales | \$3.00 | |
| 2018 Membership Dues | \$5.00 | |
| Total Disbursements | | (\$75.21) |
| HSC Bucks Redeemed | (\$23.00) | |
| APS Circuit Expenses | (\$9.25) | |
| Newsletter Expenses | (\$42.96) | |
| Ending Balance Sept. 11, 2018 | | \$3,169.94 |
| Ending Cash on hand Sept. 11, 2018 | | \$3,181.16 |
| checking account balance | \$2,526.97 | |
| cash box | \$654.19 | |
| issued checks not cleared | (\$0.00) | |
| APS Circuit Sales owed | (\$0.00) | |
| Adjustment | | \$11.22 |

During the August special auction five members sold 39 lots

Inverted Jenny No. 49 your newsletter editor

The New York Times published an item on Sept. 6 about the Philatelic Foundation in Manhattan receiving a call from a man in Chicago along with a cell phone picture of a 24 cent stamp that he owned with an upside down airplane. Curious to know more the Philatelic Foundation contacted the caller. He was afraid of handling the stamp that had been passed down through the generations of his family, so, Larry Lyons, the foundation executive director, went to Chicago. The owner took Mr. Lyons to a bank where the stamp is stored in a safe deposit box. It was a real 24 cent Inverted Jenny. Using a large magnifying glass Mr. Lyons determined it was still in pristine condition. Never hinged or otherwise damaged. It had the number 49 on the back. Inverted Jenny No. 49 is one of the two from the sheet of one hundred that has been unaccounted for since the sheet was broken up in 1918. It will interesting to see what the owner does next.



Unless otherwise indicated by announcement in the newsletter, Holston Stamp Club conducts its regular meeting on the 3rd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Hope to C. U. there

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OUR INTERNET WEBSITE
www.sefsc.org/holston-stamp-club.html

Stamps From Nowhere – Soviet Union

Soviet Union (1922 – 1991)

No lands are more nowhere than those that exist solely in the hearts of committed patriots or the minds of ambitious imperialists. This is nowhere more evident than in the area bounded by the former Soviet Union. Since 1917 when the Russian Empire came to a calamitous end no fewer than 60 separate regions within the Soviet perimeter have achieved enough autonomy to issue postage stamps. Admittedly, some of the postage stamps are completely bogus printings by opportunistic individuals and only a few of the regions actually operated independent postal systems. However, many of these areas actually issued official postage stamps to gain legitimacy, heighten public awareness, or raise funds even though they had little or no international recognition. Some such as Abkhazia and Pridnestrovie continue to issue stamps to this day.

Real Areas With Real Postal Systems

A few of the “countries” really existed and actually used their postage stamps to send mail. These stamps are recognized in the Scott Catalog.

Far Eastern Republic (1920-1922)



A vast area of Russia east of Lake Baikal formed an independent government after the fall of czarist Russia. Like other local governments that formed by necessity during the civil war period, the FER initially overprinted and surcharged Russian stamps for postage. After 1920 the region issued its own stamps that were generally used locally in the few urban centers. No stamps were issued after the Soviet Union formed in 1922. *Pictured is FER #39 (CV \$3.00).*

Touva (Tannu Tuva) (1921-1944)

Located between Siberia and northwestern Mongolia, Touva is truly a nowhere in the middle of nowhere. It was claimed by both China and the Soviet Union before achieving independence in 1921. It remained independent until 1944 when it voluntarily joined the Soviet Union. Between 1926 and 1943 it issued colorful stamps in a variety of shapes that were both used for postage and prized by collectors. Today Touva is part of the Russian Federation but remains autonomous largely because only the ethnic Tuvans want it. Modern Touva stamps can be purchased. Mostly topicals, stamps issued after 1943 are not listed in Scott and are probably bogus. *A legitimate 1941 Tanna Tuva usage is illustrated.*



Areas With No Independent Postal Systems and Questionable Legitimacy



The Soviet Union was never a truly unified country with cooperating administrative districts like the US. Rather it was composed of 100s of enclaves of ethnically, culturally, and linguistically different people who never blended. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 ethnic differences reemerged and a territorial tug-of-war continues to this day. Many of these areas issued postage stamps to establish legitimacy and fund separatist activity. Some stamps have historical significance but none have philatelic value. Many (like those of Udmurtia) are bogus.



Stamps from nowhere lands such as these are readily available on eBay and fun to collect.

- South Ossetia, Abkhazia (parts of Georgia)
- Transnistria (Pridnestrovia) (part of Moldova)
- Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) (Armenian state within Azerbaijan)
- Udmurtia, Dagastan (federated republics in Russia)

