



Postmark Atlanta
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



Affiliate club #0357-031583
August 2021 Newsletter

We made it !!! We have gotten through the locked down era and in person events are starting to happen. Our president, Scott Holmberg has finally found a location for our Auction meetings, which will now be on the first MONDAY at Manuel's Tavern, 602 North Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta. This is just a block from our previous Java Vina meeting location. We will have the "back room" which is to the right when you enter the front door. There are a couple of lots marked for Manuel Tavern parking. We will continue our Third TUESDAY as a "virtual" Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting hosted by member Lloyd Nutter. Lloyd sends out a Zoom invitation a couple days before the meeting. If you do not get an invitation for the meetings, please contact Lloyd to make sure he adds you to his list. Emailing him: trains56@charter.net. Also, if you need to test how Zoom works, Lloyd will be glad to give you a test.

Button Gwinnett Stamp Club is starting in person meetings on third Wednesdays. Their church location does require masks on all attendees. If you plan to attend, please contact club president Mack Will at 770-381-5956 so he knows who all is planning to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting at Manuel's Tavern, 602 North Highland Ave NE, Atlanta. There will be an auction – Please limit of 5 items at \$5 minimum per member for this first time back.

August 12 – 15 Great American Stamp Show. Combined show ATA, APS and AFDCS. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center – Hall G, 5555 N River Rd. Rosemont, IL (Chicago area). Details are subject to COVID in Illinois so we will keep checking on this. Dealers, Exhibits, Seminars. You can check at <https://stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show> for the latest updates.

August 17 7:00 pm Atlanta Stamp Collectors meeting on Zoom.

August 18 7:00 pm Button-Gwinnett Stamp Club in person meeting. Auction starts at 7:30. Mountain Park United Methodist Church, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Meetings are in the Youth Fellowship Hall. If you are facing the church this is on the right side of the main building. (If you came to the stamp show that was on the opposite side of the church campus).

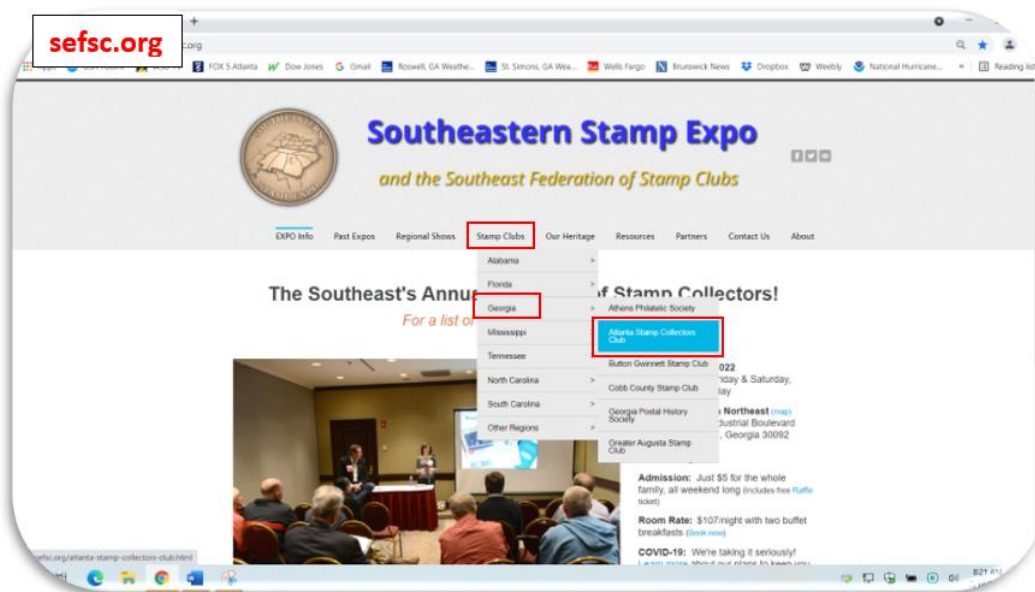
September 4 Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club Website By Steve Swain


The recent announcement of the club's new meeting place at Manuel's Tavern was posted to the club's website page accessed from the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs main site. In addition to meeting information, the page offers contact information for club officers, a history of the club, membership details, member presentations that can be downloaded, reprints of member's *Postmark Atlanta* articles, and downloadable versions of prior issues of *Postmark Atlanta* beginning in 2014.

To access the club's website page (per the below image):

1. Enter sefsc.org in your browser.
2. From the main top-of-page menu, hover over Stamp Clubs.
3. Hover over Georgia.
4. Click Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club.



Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club





The Club meets twice each month: An on-site meeting and a virtual meeting.

On-site Meeting Date: 1st Monday of each month
Meeting Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Meeting Location: Manuel's Tavern - 602 North Highland Avenue NE, Atlanta



Officers:
President: Scott Holmberg, MD sholmberg1@gmail.com
Treasurer: Barbara Asher bjasher@yahoo.com
Secretary: LeA Coe leacoe@bellsouth.net

Contact: LeA Coe


Club History

The club of origin, The U.S. Stamp Club, was founded in the early part of 1947, and originally met at the office of William Naff's Georgia Stamp & Coin Company. The primary purpose of the club was to bring members together on Saturday afternoons for a stamp auction at the stamp shop, obviating the need for a license or licensed auctioneer. The name of the club was changed to its current name to signify the inclusion of collectors of foreign stamps in the membership. In the 1950's the meeting place was changed to Dr. Fowler's office on 8th Street where meetings were to be held for the next twelve years. Other meeting places have included the NSG Building at Pershing Point, the Red Cross Building at 7th and Peachtree Street, the First United Methodist Church of Atlanta at 360 Peachtree Street, All Saints' Episcopal Church at 634 West Peachtree Street.

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An alternative access from the main menu is to click Stamp Clubs, click the image of the 22-cent Georgia stamp, and then click Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club from the list of clubs:

The Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs

The Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs is an organization of over 15 stamp clubs in the Southeastern States which work together in the region to grow the hobby stamp collecting and further philatelic education. Together, these clubs sponsor the Southeastern Stamp Expo. If you would like to learn about or join a stamp club in the Southeast, click on the links by state and find the club closest to you.



Alabama Stamp Clubs



Georgia



Tennessee Stamp Clubs

[Cobb County Stamp Club](#)
[Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club](#)
[Button Gwinnett Stamp Club](#)
[Athens Philatelic Society](#)
[Georgia Postal History Society](#)

After visiting the Atlanta club's page, you may want to spend a few minutes looking at the pages of the other 22 clubs and societies that are members of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs. There you will find many downloadable presentations, newsletters and articles, as well as stamp show information, meeting workshop handouts (e.g., soaking stamps), event photographs, and membership information.

HIGH VALUE COMMERCIAL USAGE

By Colin Clark

In this modern day era; in an age of electronic communications, meter mail and presorted bulk direct mailing; today may surprisingly still hold a hidden treasure of modern day rarities for future philatelists. This hidden treasure, namely, is the contemporary **commercial (not philatelic)** usage of high value definitive or commemorative postage stamps on posted mail. This treasure, it may be argued, has become the equivalent to a blessing of unicorns.



The collective noun for unicorns is the word **blessing**. How appropriate is the use of this word for a future treasure trove of commercial high value covers.

High Values:

As far as describing high values, as a method of comparison, the current 2021 first class rate in the UK is 0.85 Great Britain pounds (GBP). The commercially used image examples shown below are price ranged from 1.28 – 1.90 GBP (2012 – 2013).



All postage stamp images below are cropped from full covers. All three cover examples were mailed from a small community sub-office in the UK (**OXFORD ST SUNDERLAND**), to the USA, and each originally contained several documents. The city of Sunderland is located in the North East of England. This **OXFORD ST** sub-post office was opened in 1892 and subsequently closed on January 19th 2015.¹



Figure 1. MR MICAWBER – 1.90 GBP – issued **June 19th 2012** (*magnified size*).



Figure 2. Police Horses (Working Horses) – 1.28 GBP – issued **February 4th 2014** (*magnified size*).



Figure 3. Queen Elizabeth II (Royal Portraits) – 1.88 GBP – issued **May 30th 2013** (*magnified size*).

Commercial vs. Philatelic:

The broadest possible definition of a cover is a folded letter, envelope, postcard, wrapper, tube, postal stationery, parcel, parcel front, bag or mailing tag that has passed through the mail.

Commercial covers are covers that were used to carry business or private letters. Philatelic covers are covers that were created by or for collectors for the purpose of being collected.²

Commercial covers, of course, are a concept that applies to any era of stamps, including the Victorian era. However, it's the modern era where electronic, meter and presorted mail has become dominant, leading to a rapidly decreasing usage of postage stamps for commercial purposes.

Differentiation between commercial and philatelic covers may seem elitist on the surface, but for commercial cover collectors, and for the purity of postal history collectors, such clarity is important.



DEMAND for ENVELOPEs: The demand for envelopes quickly grew in Great Britain after the implementation of uniform postage in **1840**. Envelope manufacturing companies could no longer keep up with that demand by using hand manufacturing only, so the use of machines was required.

In **1846**, Edwin Hill (**1793 – 1876**), brother of Rowland Hill, invented the functional envelope-folding (and gumming) machine. Warren de la Rue (**1815 – 1889**) bought the patent, to whom the machine was attributed.^{3,4}

The machine was displayed at the London **Great Exhibition of 1851**, at the **Thomas de la Rue & Co.**'s stall. The stall was located on the central aisle of the Crystal Palace venue. In one hour, the machine could produce 2,700 envelopes.⁵

On the other side of the Atlantic, **Russell L. Hawes (1823 – 1867)** invented the first commercially successful envelope-folding machine in the USA.⁴ He was granted USA patent number **9812** on **June 21, 1853**.



Figure 4. Warren de la Rue (1815 – 1889)
(From an engraving in 1882 by J. F. Joubert)

Two (2) important differentiating factors or clues to think about when considering commercial versus philatelic covers are:

	Clue	Commercial Definition	Comments
1	Rate	The correct amount of postage should be on the cover, matching the intended rate for the distance/zone mailed and also the weight of the cover's original contents.	If... the cover is erroneously overpaid, as dictated by both the intended distance/zone mailed and also the weight of the cover's original contents... Then... an over-payment may indicate a philatelic cover.
2	Stamps	The stamps used on the cover should be within a valid time frame, i.e. the stamps should be in current circulation from the post office counter/ATM. NOTE: <i>Forever</i> stamps confuse.*	If... the stamps that are being used on the cover are not validly currently available from the post office counter at the time of mailing... Then... use of non-current older stamps may indicate a philatelic cover.

*The use of *Forever* stamps (and also *make-up rate* stamps) are confusing factors, but *Forever* stamps (and also *make-up rate* stamps) are themselves, not usually of individual high value.

There are always exceptions to rules, and these two (2) clues are not the only features that are influential, as the overall picture can be much more complicated than that. However, the three (3) examples used in this editorial satisfy both of the main clues. In this writer's opinion, the best chance of finding contemporary high value commercial covers may be derived from international mail originating from small community sub-offices. A rarity these days indeed.

Mission almost Impossible: Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to be aware of high value commercial covers in the real world. Good luck in your search for your unicorn.

References:

1. *Co. DURHAM POST OFFICES*, (updated 31st July 2020, p.18), Ken Smith.
2. Cover collecting 101: basic terminology and definitions used by collectors, (Jul 16 2007): LINN'S STAMP NEWS online – <https://www.linns.com/insights/stamp-collecting-basics/2007/july/cover-collecting-101--basic-terminology-and-definitions-used-by-.html>
3. *The DE LA RUE HISTORY of BRITISH & FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS 1855 to 1901* (INTRODUCTION page xvi), John Easton. Published by D. VAN NOSTRAND COMPANY INC (1958).
4. *THE HISTORY OF ENVELOPES 1840 – 1900* (page 11), Maynard H. Benjamin. Envelope Manufacturers Association and EMA Foundation for Paper-Based Communications (2002).
5. **De La Rue** online website: www.delarue.com

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Have you been enjoying watching the Olympics? Check out these articles on stamps celebrating the Olympics over the years.

<http://email.allaboutstamps.co.uk/AGxz1A8HgXbRwerPpst6VHmIGGuhoUYyd~gqpRqXqVn/WebView.aspx>

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Arago change

If you have used the National Postal Museum site Arago to research stamps you will want to know that it has been replaced by "Search the Collection" at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/search-the-collection>. This was necessary because the 14 year-old software was no longer supported.

Allen Johnson with the Button Gwinnett Stamp Club has created a Facebook Group for their club. Contact him to get invited to the group to see their process of buying and selling stamps. Ajrj1957@yahoo.com is his email.

Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club Library

Yes, we still have a library even though we no longer meet at the library. The list of books will be posted on the club web-site in the next few weeks and you can email me if there is a book you want to check out and I'll bring it to the next in person meeting at Manuel's Tavern. I'll keep a record of who checks out the book but there will not be a due date back.

LeA Coe leacoe@bellsouth.net

If you have not visited the National Postal Museum, you should check out their YouTube site. There are links to lectures and videos of museum exhibits.

The National Postal Museum continues to engage with the public during the COVID closure online at their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SmithsonianNPM>

The museum is interested in what needs to be collected to document life under COVID much like they have items from the 1918 Flu Pandemic era. If you have ideas or items contact the Chief Curator, Daniel Piazza at piazza@si.edu.

There are online Stamp Chat events sponsored by American Philatelic Society using Zoom that you can access information on at this link: <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/local/post/aps-to-host-live-stamp-chats-on-zoom-beginning-monday-march-23>

There are Stamp Chats scheduled all through the end of 2021. There are replays of these chats available on YouTube. The variety of subjects now available is amazing. <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericasStampClub> is the link to check out all the stored Chats.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary

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