



Postmark Atlanta
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



#0357-031583

June 2019 Newsletter

We had a great joint meeting in May with a presentation on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Stay tuned for future talks by Mike Simic on other countries from Eastern Europe.

The Atlanta Library branch we meet at will officially close for remodeling on July 25 so check out the other club meetings during the next 6 months. We will continue to do a newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 31 – June 2 ASDA Stamp Show. New Location: The Watson Hotel, West 57th St. New York. www.americanstampdealer.com

June 1 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.

June 4 Regular Meeting and auction at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00.

June 7 - 9 NAPEX National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington DC McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner 7920 Jones Branch Dr. McLean VA www.napex.org

June 8 SUNPEX 2019. FSDA Venue on the Lake-Maitland Civic Center, 641 Maitland Ave S. Maitland, FL www.floridastampshows.com

June 8 -9 HUNTSPEX 2019, Calhoun Community College, Sparkman Building 1, 102 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL. 10am – 5 pm Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm Sunday. Exhibits and 19 dealers. Sponsored by Huntsville Philatelic Club. www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html

June 18 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and program.

- July 2 Regular Atlanta Stamp meeting and auction.
- July 6 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.
- July 16 Regular Atlanta Stamp meeting and program.
- July 26 – 28 AMERICOVER 2019. Renaissance Saint Louis Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis. If you had fun at the show in Atlanta last summer you should plan to go to St. Louis.
- July 27 – 28 CHARPEX 2019 Charlotte Philatelic Society, Worrell Bldg. Central Piedmont Community College, 1228 Elizabeth Avenue, Charlotte, NC www.charpex.info/
- August 1 – 4 APS Stampshow. CHI Health Center Omaha, 455 N 10th St. Omaha, NE JOINT SHOW with American Topical Association National Topical Stamp Show. www.stamps.org/StampShow www.americantopicalassn.org

Who Is That Man Hiding in the Trees?

By Steve Swain



Ever taken a close look at the 1928 2-cent Washington at Prayer, Valley Forge issue, Scott 645? The central vignette is Washington kneeling in prayer in front of a grove of trees. Over his left shoulder is a horse and several men, one sitting and two standing. At first blush, that appears to be the only people included in the design. But look to the right of Washington at the edge of the trees (in the boxed area). In the enlarged image, you can see a man wearing a derby hat. Who is that man hiding in the trees?

The stamp designer's intent was not to portray a man hiding in the trees as if Washington was about to be ambushed. Rather, the image is result of a promise made by one of the officials of the

US Bureau of Engraving and Printing to renowned stamp dealer Philip H. Ward, Jr. The promise was that sometime between 1920 and 1960, Ward would be made “immortal” by being portrayed on a US postage stamp. It was the 1928 Valley Forge issue that fulfilled the promise.

Philip Ward, Jr. (1886-1963) built a highly successful career as a stamp dealer, buying and selling the world’s greatest classic rarities. Unused stamps in blocks of four or larger, presidential letters and autographs, Philadelphia postal history, Japan, and inverted centers all attracted him. US Revenues, however, stand out as his greatest interest. He owned a complete set of revenues with inverted centers and an exceptional collection of match and medicine stamps. Ward is also known for his interest in first day covers, of which he created some of the earliest and rarest. During the 1950s, Ward donated to the Smithsonian Institution a valuable assortment of U.S. Carriers and Locals, foreign stamps, inverts and errors, and U.S. 1883 Special Print stamps. He also donated a Chinese collection of 527 stamps and forty-two Distilled Spirits Internal Revenue stamps.

You may say, what about the prohibition of living persons being commemorated on US stamps? That rule, repealed in 2011, didn’t really apply to Philip Ward and the 1932 issue since he was not being commemorated on the Valley Forge stamp. The inclusion of his somewhat obscure likeness was simply an intriguing curiosity related to his associations with officials of the Bureau and Engraving and Printing.

Stamps of Dead Countries

Many stamp issuing entities are historic and some were very short-lived. These are often referred to by stamp collectors as dead countries. The following are some of the criteria for when a country becomes “dead”:

- Overthrow of an absolute monarchy style government (not merely a dynasty)
- Overthrow or withdrawal of colonial rule
- Annexation of a country into a larger country
- The start or end of a “transitional government”
- Joining of two or more political entities
- Change of political control of an outside entity
- Occupation by an external entity
- Defeat or withdrawal of occupational forces

A complete list can be found here: <http://www.dcstamps.com/list-of-dead-countries/>

One example would be the Confederate States of America. Their first stamps were issued in 1861 and used until 1865. In the intervening four years 14 stamps were created and 13 of them were issued. There are many varieties in those issues and collecting these issues are very popular with philatelists. There is a specialty society devoted to the study of these issues called the Confederate Stamp Alliance. A second example would be a country that issues stamps in the past and stopped. Then at some point in the future starts issuing them again. An example of this would be Estonia. During the First World War Estonia declare its independence from Imperial Russia on April 12,1917. Then from that date Estonia issued stamps until August 6,1940 when it was annexed into the Soviet

Union. During World War II it was occupied by Germany and then reoccupied and unwillingly remained part of the Soviet Union until it regained its independence on August 20, 1991. It then created its own postal system and then started issuing stamps again. Another example would be a country that was partitioned. An example of this would be East and West Germany. This nation existed from January 1, 1871 until May 23, 1949 when the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was formed from the American, British, and French occupied zones. On October 7, 1949 German Democratic Republic (East Germany) was created from the Soviet occupied zone. Other German lands were given to Poland and the Soviet Union. Both countries issued stamps from their establishment until the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe between 1989 and 1990. Germany was reunified on October 3, 1990 when the five states of the German Democratic Republic joined the Federal Republic of Germany. From then the Federal Republic of Germany issued stamps first in Marks and then Euros beginning in 2002. Collecting stamps from 'dead countries' can be a fascinating challenge! One advantage is there are only a specific number of stamps found to be complete. Another thing the collector need not worry about yearly updates to their albums. There is a website dedicated to the study of this topic.

For more information on 'dead countries' please visit <http://www.dcstamps.com/>.

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Our library meeting place will be undergoing remodeling starting July 25 for about 6 months. Other club meetings that you might want to attend are:

Cobb County Stamp Club meetings are on 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1:30 pm. New location is 1809 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA "The Bridge Club" (next to Restaurant Depot)

Button-Gwinnett club meeting at 7 PM on third Wednesday of the month at Mountain Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

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Our Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs includes our club's page. The main site is www.sefsc.org. Our club's page is at www.sefsc.org/atlanta-stamp-collectors-club.html. But be sure to check out all the other information on the site. New clubs were added to the Federation at the January meeting. Check out where meetings are so you can visit as you travel.

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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