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

July 14 ............................................... Monthly Meeting
Program ............................................. Joel Rind/Jim Hogue
August 11 ............................................ Monthly Meeting
Program ............................................. Ruth Mariano

CLUB OFFICERS
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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/federation-clubs.html

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
American Philatelic Society (APS) is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting Foundation of philately in the world., With about 32,000 members as of 2014 worldwide. Visit at: www.Stamps.org.

June Meeting (Picnic) Notes
The Annual Chattanooga Stamp Club Picnic commenced at 6 PM.
Some people had to fight Bumper to Bumper traffic on Amnicola in order to get there.
18 people enjoyed Chicken and numerous side dishes of Potato salads, etc. Carl found a SUPERB substitute on the Chicken. The Food City people won over some new customers.
Banana Pudding was a great Hit along with the Brownies and other desserts.
Circuit Books for June will be held over to July meeting.

Tom Matuszak, Secretary

HELP WANTED!
Be a published author! Contribute to your stamp club newsletter. Tell us about an interesting item in your collection or an interesting story about some other aspect of our hobby. Don’t feel comfortable about whether what you write is good enough? Send your rough draft and it can be edited for publication.

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 24-25, 2016 MEMPHEX 2016 The Memphis Stamp Collectors Society annual Stamp & Postcard Show, Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis Tennessee 38120, Dick Scott, 901-684-1929, mscs.dickscott@gmail.com
Palestine #64
Rachel's Tomb

Rachel’s Tomb is the site revered as the burial place of the Hebrew matriarch Rachel. The tomb, located at the northern entrance of Bethlehem, is considered holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

The burial place of the matriarch Rachel as mentioned in the Jewish Tanach and Christian Old Testament, and in Muslim literature is contested between this site and several others to the north — though this site is by far the most recognized candidate.

The stamp was the original postage stamp issued by the British Mandatory Government that occupied the Land Of Israel until the War of Independence in 1948. Notice that in the lower left corner the words "Palestine" are in Hebrew followed by a parentheses in which an aleph-yod is placed. This aleph-yod is the abbreviation for "Aretz-Yisrael" i.e.: the "Land of Israel".

(This is another interesting find in the accumulation given to me a few months ago.)

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THE SOCIAL SIDE OF COLLECTING
(From Chapter XII of “How to Collect Stamps”, By Ralph A. Kimble, 1936)

A collector can, if he prefers to do so, collect stamps without being in touch with other collectors. In some cases this is necessary, where the collector lives in an isolated district, but in general he will find his greatest pleasure in associating with others of like interests, either through the medium of the stamp club, local or national, or by correspondence and the columns of his stamp magazines and papers. No collector can ever hope to reap the greatest rewards of collecting except thru this contact with others. I consider the two best investments in all stamp collecting to be club or society membership and subscriptions to as many of the good stamp periodicals as possible. The small outlay of money is more than repaid by the growth in knowledge and the dividends of satisfaction and lasting pleasure thus gained.
The Elusive Chattanooga 1938 Air Mail Week Cover
Steve Swain

The first formally established airplane service for mail delivery in the United States took place on May 15, 1918 on a route between Washington and New York. But by 1938, air mail service, the air transport of other goods, and even air travel in general was still a novelty to many. In an effort to help the airline companies during the depression years and to promote air mail service, a nation-wide public relations campaign was launched 78 years ago. The brainchild of Postmaster General James A. Farley, Air Mail Week celebrated 20 years of air mail service in the U.S.

Every citizen was encouraged to send an airmail letter during May 15 to 21. Moreover, each town across the nation was invited to create its own cachet, a commemorative design or slogan that would be printed on the envelopes. As you can imagine, some of the cachets and handstamps were quite colorful and expertly designed, while some were hastily created and somewhat minimal. But this diversity for the hundreds of covers that emerged from the week’s celebration is one of key elements in anyone’s collection focusing on National Air Mail Week.

Over 16.2 million letters/cover and 9,000 parcels were transported by air during National Air Mail Week. Given that, you would assume that covers from all states and numerous cities would be easy to come by. Not necessarily. Of the thousands of air mail week covers known, very few, if any, are available from states such as Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, North Dakota, Utah, South Carolina and Tennessee. Yes, Tennessee.

Several air mail cover sources I have reviewed show cacheted covers for the 1938 air mail week from only four cities in Tennessee: Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Chattanooga. My air mail week cover collection currently has 185 covers with unique state/town cachets, but none from Chattanooga.

Recently, I was able to locate an elusive Chattanooga cacheted cover, but I was out bid and thus my collection continues to have a Chattanooga gap. Shown in Figure 1 is an image of the Chattanooga cover with the special “North Meets South on Wings of Progress” cachet.

If any club member is in possession of a Chattanooga cover from the 1938 air mail week event, I would appreciate speaking with him or her about assisting me in filling my Chattanooga collection gap!

Our thanks to Steve Swain for this article!

(Continued from Column 1)

The Chattanooga Stamp Club Newsletter is now available online! This is a benefit of membership in the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs. Access the web site at:<http://www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html>

Newsletters from November, 2015 thru June, 2016 are available now. Earlier editions will be added from time to time. Other club newsletters are also online and you can get news from other stamp clubs at this site.

If you are not familiar with Herman Herst, the author of the column on the following page, here is some information on the well-known stamp dealer who died in 1999 at the age of 89.

Pat Herst was a different sort of successful stamp dealer—a man so devoted to his customers that he would answer every letter, order or inquiry that came in the mail on the very same day on which he received them! Specializing in United States stamps and postal history—and always willing to admit that he learned his craft at the knees of such historic dealer figures as George B. Sloane, Percy Doane, Gus and Arthur Berger—Herst’s unique business services included retail sales, mail and public auctions, and most famous of all, Herst’s Ourbursts, a regularly-published house organ he published for more than 40 years. Along the way, he wrote several other books, two of which were direct followups to Nassau Street—and also bestsellers.

Pat Herst was—until the day he passed away over ten years ago—not only the hobby’s greatest storyteller, but also its Number One Cheerleader. He wrote articles and columns in nearly every American stamp periodical and spread “the gospel” of philately wherever and whenever he could. He was also a lifelong member of the ASDA and one of its early supporters. In his heyday, which would have been the period of the 1930s-50s, he had a booth at nearly every major stamp show in the country—from Oklahoma and Texas, to New England and Southern California. His many, many friends were legion.

If you have never read Nassau Street, a wonderful book by Herman Herst, Jr., published in 1960, then you have missed one of the great joys of collecting stamps.
Philatelic Mail from Antarctica

(Instructions regarding philatelic mail given to Researchers, by National Science Foundation)

Philatelists (stamp collectors) are interested in receiving mail from Antarctica, and the National Science Foundation has a procedure (see below) to support philately at a level not to interfere with the science mission.

While in Antarctica, you may receive unsolicited philatelic mail from collectors. The Foundation discourages this unauthorized philatelic activity, and you will be entirely within your rights in declining to respond to such unsolicited requests. Please discard the material in the appropriate recycling container. If you receive large amounts of unsolicited philatelic mail, bring it to the attention of the station manager or the NSF Representative.

Philatelists may obtain a maximum of two covers (self-addressed stamped envelopes) a year by writing to the postal clerks (addresses below) at the three year-round U.S. antarctic stations.

1. No more than two covers per person per station per year.
2. Covers will be processed for personal (that is, noncommercial) use of individuals only.
3. U.S. correspondents use domestic first-class postage for the APO addresses (below) and international first-class or air mail postage for the Palmer Station address.
4. Non-U.S. correspondents use international first-class or airmail postage.

Philatelic Mail Clerk
McMurdo Station, Antarctica
PSC 769
APO AP 96599-1035
Philatelic Mail Clerk
Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica
PSC 768 Box 400
APO AP 96598
Philatelic Mail Clerk
Palmer Station, Antarctica
c/o Damco
Deposito Franco Antartico
P.O. Box 60-D
Punta Arenas, Chile

Covers are not processed if these guidelines are not followed. Information in this Science Program Summary is not to be used to circumvent the above policy.

Philatelic mail is processed and returned to senders as soon as possible, but the processing is in addition to regular duties of station personnel. Some processing is done during the austral winter, when Antarctic stations are isolated, resulting in year-long (or longer) delays in mailing covers back to the collectors.

Speaking of Stamps, etc.
Herman Herst, Jr.

Learning About Philately

Look where the crowds are at any major stamp show and they will be found congregating at the dealers tables. But notice the aisles between the frames that contain the exhibits; it has been said that one may roll a bowling ball down the aisle without hitting anyone.

Some shows, in fact have been skipping the exhibits and offering only a bourse. At one time it was the exhibits that attracted the crowds, and the bourse was the tail of the dog. That applies . . . And more the pity for it.

How often do we hear a new collector say he wants to learn as much as he can about stamps. Too often his learning ends with the Scott price and the price that the stamp last brought at auction.

There is no better vade medum than the Scott Catalogue, but how many collectors even know how to use it? Here is a simple test – and I am not going to give you the answers; that would make the lesson too easy. If you have to look it up yourself, you will remember the answers for a much longer time.

1. What is the difference between “a” and “A” following a Scott number?
2. What is the meaning of a price given in italics?
3. Often following the Scott number is a further number, prefixed by the letter “A”, “C”, “E” or another letter or combination. What does that signify?
4. What is a transfer roll? (Note: It is not edible).
5. What is the difference between a “reissue” and a “reprint”?
6. A “surcharge” is not an “overprint” and the opposite is true. Just what is the difference?
7. A “proof” has a meaning that is obvious, for most people think of proofs of a photograph. But what is an essay?
8. Netherlands issued stamps with syncopated perforations in this century. One should be able to easily guess what they are; can you?
9. Some stamps come with punched holes, especially our telegraph stamps or stamps of Czechoslovakia. What does the punched hole indicate?
10. One often encounters French stamps with the word “AFFRANCHTS” printed on them. Where or what is “affranchts”?

So there you are. Ten simple questions, all answered in the Information for Collectors” at the front of the Scott Catalogue Part 1.

You want to become an informed philatelist? How many readers can answer these 10 questions correctly?

And much more to the point, how many readers are going to get their Scott Catalogue Part 1 out in the next 24 hours and look up the answers?

You will be on your way to becoming an informed collector if you do. If you do not perhaps you do not want your philatelic knowledge to exceed the market value for the stamp just added to your collection.