

The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle

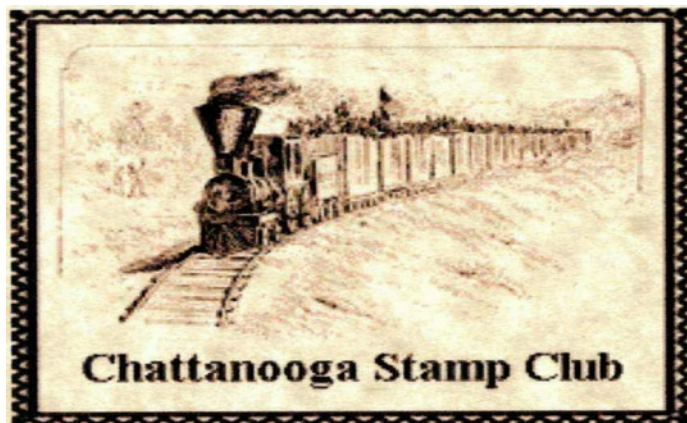
November, 2016



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

November 10 Monthly Meeting
Program Club Auction
December 8 Meeting - Potluck Dinner
Program Dinner, Election of Officers

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Richard Barr	barr34293@juno.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/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.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Chattanooga Stamp Club was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$881.68 , with no checks outstanding. This was approved.

Dan Chaij gave a report from the Southeast Federation. A Stamp Show and exhibit will be held on Jan 26 -29. A revised slate of judges will be in place.

New Business

Willis Monk Albums will be available after tonight's meeting. A BIG thank you to all who purchased, balance of collection will be available at the November Auction..

Meeting adjourned for Snacks and drinks.

John Burnett then presented the second half of the Small Queens Program, as always John does an outstanding job on his presentations.

Tom Matuszak, Secretary



Auction

The November program is the semi-annual auction. All members are invited to bring their duplicates and enter them in the auction. The minimum bid for all lots must be at least \$1.00. Only members may enter lots in the auction, however

anyone may bid in the auction. Auction cards are available. Come early to enter your lots in the auction.

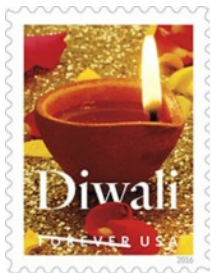
October 2016 Stamp Issues

(Including one from September)



September 24
Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterfly

October 1
Kwanzaa



October 5
Diwali

October 6
Holiday Window Views



October 7
Wonder Woman

October 18
Florentine Mother & Child



UPCOMING AREA SHOWS

November 19-20, 2016 Winter SDAG Stamp Show
Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia, Mansour Center,
995 Roswell Street, Marietta, Georgia 30060, Amber
Barger, 423-260-1497

Jan. 27 - 29, 2017 Southeastern Stamp Expo
-Exhibit Prospectus and Entry Form Available Now -
Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Hilton Hotel
Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.,
Norcross, Georgia 30092, Contact Scott Mark,
sestampexpo@gmail.com, <http://www.sefsc.org>

What Are My Stamps Worth Today?

(Frequently Asked Questions - HERRICK STAMP COMPANY)

We are increasingly asked this question. There is doubt about value and liquidity in a large part of the stamp collecting community. Herrick has many customers and we have been around a long time.

This means we have perspective and experience. It does not mean that we think things will revert to the go-go years of the last two decades. We do know that stamp collecting will remain popular and that collectors and dealers will continue to buy and sell.

The trends are that scarce stamps are rising in price and common stamps are falling in price. The exciting prices for rare stamps at public auction are thrilling to read about, but only affect perhaps one per cent of collectors and dealers. What about the rest of us?

The old advice of collect what you like is still the best counsel. But collectors and their spouses want to know about value nevertheless.

We know foreign stamps the best. In this large grouping our collectors have many of the moderately priced stamps from the 1935 to 1980 era in their collections. There is decreasing demand for 1935-1980 era stamps.

Collectors want to buy what they do not have. Pre 1935 and post 1990 stamps are most in demand by collectors who deal with Herrick Stamp Company. This is a general observation based upon the few thousand internet orders received so far in 2009.

We think other dealers have the same experience. There seem to be few orders for the old bread and butter staples such as 1953 QEII Coronation, USA Norse American and Swedish commems. There are far more orders for smaller countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia, Tonga and Pitcairn than for France and Belgium. Topical orders are increasing for all stamp issuing years. Thematics are certainly trending higher.

We have a more complete discussion of the current stamp market of what is popular and what is not on our website in our current market report at: **STAMP MARKET COMMENTARY**

The Incredible Postal Workers Aboard RMS Titanic

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" is often cited as the motto for the U.S. Postal Service. It is not; while this saying is engraved above the Farley Post Office in New York City, it is not the official motto of the U.S. Postal Service nor any postal service for that matter. Yet it does represent the spirit of mail carriers throughout the world. And nowhere does this spirit seem more real than by the actions of the postal workers aboard the R.M.S. Titanic on the night of her demise.

The Royal Mail Ship (R.M.S.) Titanic, was conceived and built as mankind's efforts to tame the seas. She was called unsinkable by many and she represented the apex of what was thought to be man's domination over nature. She sailed in April, 1912, full of hope and promise and triumph as the greatest ship ever built.

As a Royal Mail Ship, Titanic had been commissioned to transport and handle mail from the United Kingdom's Royal Mail postal service. This type of service, called Sea Post, offered postal authorities an opportunity to process the mail during the transit time of the ship's passage, and it offered the ship's owners a reliable and predictable source of income. On board Titanic was a state of the art Sea Post Office where mail would be sorted and canceled in route to the ship's destination. Incredibly, over 3000 mailbags were ultimately loaded onto Titanic for her fateful journey.

On April 10th, Titanic left Southampton, England and set sail for its ultimate destination, New York City. Below decks, five Sea Post workers started their task of sorting the mail.

The five men represented some of the best postal workers of two nations. Americans John March, Oscar Woody, and William Gwinn worked alongside British clerks John Smith and James Williamson on the voyage.

The Accident and The Postal Workers

Late in the evening of April 14, 1912, the ship struck an iceberg and suffered irreparable damage. While the magnitude of the disaster was unknown at the time, the ship was doomed as compartment after compartment began flooding.

"I urged them to leave their work. They shook their heads and continued."

The postal workers rushed to the mail room to begin rescuing the mail. It has been estimated that the workers retrieved up to 200 sacks of registered mail and had carried them to the upper decks on the slim chance that it might get rescued. Even as water began to fill the post office, the men admirably answered the postal workers call of duty to save the mail from destruction. Their admirable efforts might have cost the men their lives; as they tried to get the mail above deck, their chances of getting aboard one of the precious few lifeboats, while slim at best, vanished completely as the chivalrous call for women and children first seized the day.

The men were claimed by the frigid Atlantic waters in the early morning hours of April 15, 1912. Coincidentally, it was postal worker Oscar Woody's 44th birthday.

The Aftermath

None of the mail was ever recovered. The icy Atlantic had doomed these five gallant men and claimed all of the mail. But two life-jacketed bodies were later recovered floating in the detritus of the shipwreck. Birthday celebrant Oscar Woody and fellow American John March were recovered. Woody, whose body had badly decomposed was quickly buried at sea after his effects were removed. The body of his fellow co-worker, John

March, had fared better; it was able to be interred in a cemetery in New Jersey in the United States. The bodies of the other three men were never located.

Inside Oscar Woody's coat pockets were found facing slips. These pieces of paper were used by the postal workers to label sacks of mail that had been sorted. When attached to a mail sack they would indicate the delivery destination and the sorting clerk's name for tracking purposes. Apparently, Woody had stashed a handful of the facing slips in his pockets while he had been working.

"I saw them no more."

Also found on Woody's body was a chain with some of the ship's mailroom keys on it and the letter assigning Woody to service on the Titanic. These items are the only postal items recovered from the disaster.

So far, no mail has been recovered from salvaging operations. The debate remains unsettled as to whether any of the mail could even be intact after being underwater for such a long time. Ocean currents, tremendous pressures, biological elements, and even the rusting hulk of metal that was once a proud ship would all serve to harm any mail. It seems doubtful that nearly 100 years after the disaster that any mail would have survived.

Honoring the Postal Workers

As word began to spread about the last hours aboard the doomed ship, stories of heroes began to emerge. The incredible story of the postal worker's last actions did not go unnoticed.

Numerous memorials were offered by two grieving countries. Southampton, initial point on Titanic's maiden voyage was also home to most of the ship's crew. The town suffered an incredible loss of 549 lives.

A memorial to the five postal workers aboard Titanic was installed in the High Street Post Office. It was forged from a spare propeller donated by shipbuilder Harland and Wolff. The plaque reads:

This tablet is erected by the Postal and Telegraph Service to the honor and memory of John R. Jago Smith, James B. Williamson, British Sea Post officers, and their American colleagues William H. L. Gwinn, John S. March, [and] Oscar S. Woody who died on duty in the foundering of S. S. Titanic April 15, 1912 "Steadfast in Peril"

In April, 2008, the High Street Post Office was closed. A controversy arose since it was possible that the plaque that adorned the walls would be sold at auction like numerous other Titanic memorabilia. However, Southampton city council members have directed that the memorial be placed in Southampton's Civic Center, thus thwarting any plans to profit from the disaster.

At the time of the disaster, U.S. Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock noted the "bravery exhibited by these men in their efforts to safeguard under such trying conditions the valuable mail intrusted [sic] to them should be a source of pride to the entire Postal Service."

Indeed.

Source: <http://www.stampsodistinction.com/2009/05/from-archives-incredible-postal-workers.html>

Selections from "THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA" by R.J. Hutton

'A'. On the stamps of Colombia the capital letter 'A' has three distinct meanings. Inscribed on the early Registration stamps it stands for 'Anotacion'. As an overprint on the SCADTA semi-official airmails it is a control letter indicating that the stamp is a consular overprint sold in Germany. Overprinted on the airmail issue of 1950-1 it stands for **AVIANCA**, an airline, q.v. On the stamps of South Australia the 'A' overprint indicates departmental use by the Government Architect.

The capital letter also occurs as two watermarks. 'A' surmounted by the Imperial Crown was the standard watermark of Australia from 1913 to 1926. An outline letter (the initial of Amic, the papermaker) was the watermark in the one-lira issue of Modena, 1852.

A.E.F. Afrique Equatoriale Francaise (French Equatorial Africa, q.v.).

A.G. Overprinted on stamps of South Australia for official use in the Attorney General's Department.

A.H.P.D. From 1906 to 1910 stamps of Portugal were overprinted with these initials for use in the Azores. The overprint stands for Angra, Horta, and Ponta Delgada, q.v.

A.I.F. Australian Imperial Forces (1940 set for Australia).

A.M. Overprint or inscription on stamps of Greece, 1900-2, standing for Axia Metallike (Gr.) = Value in gold. They were used mainly on overseas parcels, on which postage had to be paid in gold currency.

A.M.G.-F.T.T. Overprint on Italian stamps issued by Allied Military Government, Free Territory of Trieste, between 1947 and 1954.

A.M.G.-V.G. Overprint on Italian stamps issued by Allied Military Government, Venezia Giulia, from 1945 to 1947, prior to the Trieste area being made a free territory by the U.N.

A.M. Post/Deutschland. Stamps inscribed thus were issued by the Allied Military Government in Germany, 1945-6.

A.O. Afrique Orientale (East Africa). O/p on 1918 Red Cross stamps of Congo State for German East Africa. O/p on stamps of South Australia = 'Audit Office'.

A.O.F. Afrique Occidentale Francaise. (French West Africa.) A.P.S. American Philatelic Society.

A.R. (Span.). Aviso de Recepcion = Advice (acknowledgment) of receipt. Chile, Montenegro, Salvador, etc., issued stamps as a prepayment fee for an acknowledgment of receipt of a registered package. In Colombia's first such issues the service covered was indicated by two stamps, one bearing the letter 'A' (Spanish: anotacion or anotado); the other the initial 'R' (Spanish: registro) signifying 'Registered'; one fee covering the registration and the other the notification of receipt. It is a service recognised by the Universal Postal Union (q.v.).

A.S. Punctured in 2, 5, or 10 mill, stamps of Sudan means 'Army Service'.

A.S.D.A. American (or Australian) Stamp Dealers' Association.

A.T.A. American Topical Association.

AT. Army Telegraphs. O/p on stamps of Orange Free State. See also: *TF*, 'Telegraph Stamps', etc.

A.U. Control letters overprinted on the semi-official SCADTA issues of Colombia, indicating 'Sold in Argentina or Uruguay'.

A.Z. Ahmed Zogu (later King Zog I). O/p on 1925 stamps of Albania, with wreath and surcharged new value 1928.

A. and T. Annam and Tonquin (q.v.).

Abnormals. In the Queen Victoria G.B. surface-printed issues, the practice was to print six preliminary sheets for each plate as it was completed. One sheet was kept for record purposes in the archives (imprimatur, q.v.), and the others were often perforated and issued. In many cases these stamps differed in either colour, paper, watermark or perforation from the subsequent regular issues, and were consequently 'abnormals' and became prized rarities.

Abu Dhabi. One of the Trucial States on the Persian Gulf, where a British postal agency was opened on 30 March, 1963. Initially the agency employed British stamps surcharged for use in Muscat; in 1964 Abu Dhabi's own first stamps appeared.

Abutshi. Niger Coast. One of the catalogued Royal Niger Co.'s official rubber-stamp obliterations. See 'Niger Coast'.

The Bill Pickett Incident: A U.S. stamp repeats—and then corrects—an error in the historical record

Artist: Mark Hess
Acrylic on canvas, affixed to board

Unveiled in December 1993, the Legends of the West stamps promised to be an extremely popular issuance—but no one expected them to create one of the most infamous stamp errors in U.S. history.

One of the stamps honored Bill Pickett, a celebrated African-American cowboy credited with the invention of bulldogging, or steer wrestling. To create the portrait, stamp artist Mark Hess used a famous photograph that bore a clear inscription identifying Pickett. The photograph had been featured in several magazines and exhibitions, and countless books about the American West also identified the handsome cowboy as Bill Pickett.

Unfortunately, the man in the photograph was not Bill Pickett.

In January 1994, the Pickett family informed the Postal Service that the photo depicted not Bill but his brother, Ben. Stunned, the Postal Service announced the recall and destruction of the five million stamp panes that had been shipped to hundreds of post offices.

The error soon became national news. While researchers frantically verified the other stamps, Mark Hess painted the correct face onto the existing artwork, using a 1923 poster publicizing the cowboy's starring role in the film *The Bull-Dogger*.

But just as the new stamps were hitting the presses, the Postal Service discovered another error. Some clerks had sold 183 of the incorrect stamp panes, accidentally creating a collectible so rare and valuable that most collectors would never be able to afford one. To give the public a chance to own the incorrect stamps, and to defray reprinting costs, the Postal Service made the controversial decision to sell 150,000 of the faulty panes through a lottery.

Stamp collectors and Wild West historians alike will always remember the Bill Pickett error, but for proponents of historical accuracy the incident had an undeniable bright side. Years of error resulting from a single mislabeled photograph were finally corrected, thanks to the widespread publicity that only a stamp can command.

(The above from the Smithsonian web site:
<http://postalmuseum.si.edu/artofthestamp/SubPage%20table%20images/artwork/rarities/Bill%20Pickett/billpickett.htm>)