



June 2018

Monthly Newsletter

Issue no. 608

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

Holston Stamp Club Meeting - May 17, 2018

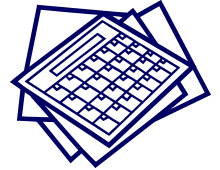
The regular monthly meeting for May was held on the 17th in the Northeast State Community College, Student Services Building. Our president, Steve Schmidt, started the meeting at 7:00 PM. There were 24 people present.

Steve provided a summary of HOLPEX 2018. Steve was very pleased with the good attendance. There were 38 people who stopped by on Friday and 31 people came by on Saturday. Bill Vance felt the show had gone well for him and the other dealers. Bill said he will organize another show for HOLPEX 2019 at the same venue, Best Western Hotel on North Road Street in Johnson City, and the same time, Friday and Saturday preceding Mother's Day in May.

Steve said he had twelve of the Upside Down Jenny stamp sheets left from his purchase of 40 at a post office in Bristol. He offered to sell these to the club at face value (\$12 each) to be used for door prizes at future HOLPEX shows or other events. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the twelve stamp sheets. The members then voted in favor of the motion. There are more Upside Down Jenny stamp sheets still available for sale at other post offices in our area. The post offices in Chuckey and Unicoi are known to have some.

Dan Hubbard described to members an interesting book published in 2017 that he recently found. Its title is *Nowherelands: An Atlas of Vanished Countries, 1840-1975*. It contains brief summaries of 50 countries that do not exist today but did issue postage stamps before they disappeared from the world map. Another member recommended the website www.destamps.com for information on many dead countries and their postage stamps.

Club Calendar



Guests and Visitors

always Welcome!

June 21st - 7 p.m.

Monthly Meeting at
Northeast State Community College
Student Services Building Cafeteria

On that same subject Richard Jackson announced he will be writing a column titled *Stamps from Nowhere* for the newsletter. See his first column on page 3.

Charlie Bartlett told members he will make a presentation at the June meeting on geology, gas, oil and minerals. He invited anyone to bring in rocks, minerals or fossils to the meeting and he will help to identify them.

The club wished Bob Haynie, a long time member and past president, well as this was the last meeting he will attend. He is moving back to Ohio.

Paul Benson was the presenter for this meeting. His subject was examples of postal history related to prisoners of war captured by the British in South Africa during the Second Anglo-Boer War, 1899 to 1902. The British set up camps on seven islands in Bermuda's Great Sound to house prisoners of war who began arriving in June 1901. About 4,600 males were held in these camps. Paul highlighted postal history between pro-Boer supporters in the USA (descendants of Dutch immigrants known as the Hollanders of Iowa) and the camps in Bermuda. The treaty that ended the war was signed on May 31, 1902. These camps, however, did not close

Meeting Summary continued

until the end of 1902. Paul said more information appears in a three page article he submitted to the *Bermuda Post*, a quarterly publication issued by the Bermuda Collectors Society.

The meeting then concluded with the usual auction of member materials.

HSC Member appears on cover art

The cover photo on the April issue of *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, a journal issued by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, is a picture of bidders during an auction held at KnoxPEX. Do you recognize bidder #18 to be our very own Vice President, Don Ashley?



Monthly Treasury Report

Beginning Balance May 5, 2018		\$3,642.54
Beginning Cash on Hand		\$3,712.58
checking account balance	\$3,396.54	
cash box	\$316.04	
APS Circuit Sales owned	\$0.00	
Total Income		\$119.23
HSC Auction sales	\$32.95	
Other Sales	\$26.28	
2018 Membership Dues	\$60.00	
Total Disbursements		(\$76.47)
HSC Bucks Redeemed	(\$6.00)	
APS Circuit Expenses	(\$0.00)	
HOLPEX dealer lunches	(\$0.00)	
Ending Balance June 5, 2018		\$3,755.34
Ending Cash on hand June 5, 2018		\$3,766.87
checking account balance	\$3,290.32	
cash box	\$476.55	
issued checks not cleared	(\$0.00)	
APS Circuit Sales owed	(\$0.00)	
Adjustment		\$11.53

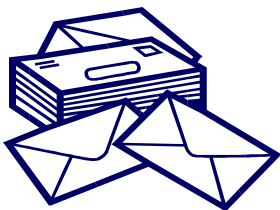
During the May special auction four members sold 29 lots for a total of \$136.95. HSC material sold for \$32.95.

Countries changing Names your newsletter editor

You might think that the names of countries around the world are static unless a country breaks up or a couple of countries merge. But that's not always the case and name changes can be interesting to philatelists.

In southern Africa there is a small land locked nation, Kingdom of Swaziland, one of the remaining few absolute monarchies. King Mswati III announced in April, during the 50 years of independence celebration, he is changing the country name to Kingdom of eSwatini. eSwatini in the Swazi language means "land of the Swazis". The change also removes name confusion with the country of Switzerland.

When Yugoslavia broke up in the 1990s, one of the new nations gave itself the name, Macedonia. This caused great concern in Greece due to Macedonia being the historical name for its northern region. There will soon be vote within Macedonia to change the name to Northern Macedonia. In Greece though thousands protest "Macedonia" being even part of the name.



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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www.sefsc.org/holston-stamp-club.html

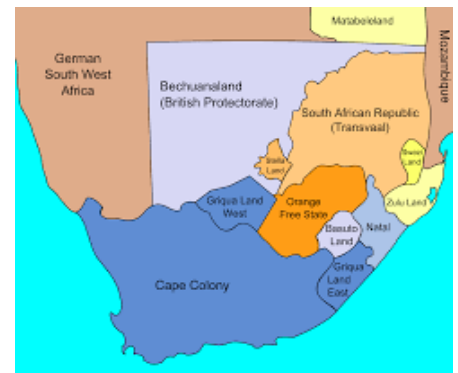
Stamps from Nowhere

by Richard Jackson

Many countries which supported legitimate postal systems and issued postage stamps have now vanished. In no particular order, these nowhere lands are the subject of a series of articles that I plan to provide to our monthly newsletter until you or I get tired of doing so. This month's featured nowhere land is:

United States of Stellaland (1882-1885)

One of the four major ethnic divisions among Black South Africans was the Tswana people. In the nineteenth century they held the land north of the British Cape of Good Hope Colony and west of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (South African Republic), which was one of the Boer (Afrikaner) republics. Numerous chiefdoms made up the Tswana and there was strife between them. In the early 1880s two of these chiefdoms (the Batlaping and the Korannas) were at war and both brought in white mercenaries from the Boer republics to help their side with the fighting. The war ended with the Korannas being victorious in 1882. The leader of the Korannas had promised the white mercenaries land as their reward and after the conflict ended granted homesteads to many white farmers. In 1881 an agreement between the British and the South African Republic had forbade the South African Republic to annex anymore Tswana land. So the white farmers decided to form two independent states and named them Republic of Stellaland and State of Goshen. Latin *stella* means star and probably refers to the Great Comet of 1882 which dominated the southern skies in September. Goshen came from the Land of Goshen mentioned in the Bible's Book of Genesis. The capital of Stellaland was Vrijburg (Vryburg) and the capital of Goshen was Rooigrond. After about a year the two states combined to become Verenigde Staten van Stellanland (United States of Stellaland) with Vrijburg (Vryburg) being its capital.



In February 1884 the new country issued its first (and only) set of five postage stamps showing its coat of arms. The stamps denominated from een penny to een shilling (one penny to one shilling). The Stellaland stamps were only in use for about a year and more stamps were sold to collectors than used for postage. Since their issue, the stamps have been extensively forged and fakes are common. Although, genuinely used stamps on covers are rare and quite valuable, genuine unused stamps are modestly priced. Your one page Stellaland album can be easily filled with a single purchase.

At first the British were unconcerned about this area of land announcing itself to be independent. However, Cecil Rhodes (founder of De Beers Consolidated Mines and involved in Cape Colony politics at this time) felt the new republic posed economic implications when Stellaland declared its intention to levy taxes on trade since they would add cost to goods transiting between British Central Africa and Cape Colony. Rhodes began to agitate the Cape Colony government that this situation threatened their "diamond goose". Rhodes even went to Stellaland to try to persuade them that joining Cape Colony would be beneficial. The President of the South African Republic (Paul Kruger) hearing of this proclaimed in Sept. 1884 that his country would annex Stellaland. The British responded that this action was unacceptable to them and in Dec. 1884 sent an expeditionary force of 4,000 troops into Stellaland. The representatives of the South African Republic were pushed out and Stellaland was forced to give up its independence. In 1885 the British declared northern portion of the Tswana land to be its Bechuanaland Protectorate and the southern portion British Bechuanaland, a crown colony. Stellaland was then annexed into British Bechuanaland. A stellar end to the short lived United States of Stellaland.