



November 2018

Monthly Newsletter

Issue no. 613

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

President's Dispatch

Here is a brief summary of our October meeting.

Club dues for 2019 were discussed among the 22 members present and it was decided the annual dues will stay the same. For members who pay their 2019 dues by Dec. 31, 2018, the dues will be \$10 to receive the monthly newsletters via e-mail and \$15 to receive the monthly newsletters via regular mail. For members who pay their dues after Dec. 31, 2018, the dues will be \$15 to receive monthly newsletters via e-mail and \$20 to receive monthly newsletters via regular mail.

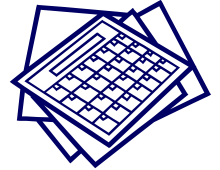
Don Ashley brought sheets of the Tennessee Ernie Ford stamps, he helped to issue, to sell and there were a few purchased by members. The question was asked if these stamps will cover first class postage if the rate goes above 50¢ for the first ounce. Don said these are not Forever stamps that can be used for first class postage into the future no matter what the U.S. Postal Service sets the rate to be. Only USPS can issue Forever stamps. Someone said USPS has filed notice to jump first class postage (first ounce) to 55¢. Don replied that if that should come to pass then the 5¢ American Music stamp (Scott 1252) would pair nicely with Tennessee Ernie Ford stamp.

Dutch Country Auctions will hold their next philatelic auction on November 9 (Auction 319). The members discussed what budget the club stamp acquisition committee should have for this buying opportunity and the members decided it would be \$1,500.

Dawn described the USPS first day of issue ceremony held in Pigeon Forge at The Inn at Christmas Place on Oct. 11th for the "Sparkling Holidays" stamps. It was very, very nice. She recommended anyone who gets the opportunity to attend such a ceremony should do so.

I reported on the status of the new shirts for the club and I will bring a sample of what I was talking about to the Nov. meeting. I

Club Calendar



Guests and Visitors

always Welcome!

November 15th - 7 p.m.

**Monthly Meeting at
Northeast State Community College
Student Services Building Cafeteria**

showed materials I received as a donation to the club and we sold some to club members during the auction. Plus a little bit of the material to three different members after the meeting. I have sorted through this donation to the stamp club and some more of the materials will be in November's auction. The souvenir pages have been sold. The balance of the material is mint, never hinged modern USA commemoratives from 1973 through 2004 (not every stamp but quite complete). If you need anything to fill any holes in your collection, please give me the year, Scott catalog number and brief description. Example: 1978, Scott 1759, 15¢ Viking mission to Mars. If I have the stamp/stamps you need, you can have them at face value (first come, first serviced). Any unsold stamps will be turned over to Pat Koppel, our secretary, and used for club postage sometime after the first of January. It looks like postage could be going up in January next year to 55¢ for first ounce but reduced to 15¢ for additional ounces.

I hope to add a lot of material to the 5¢ a stamp books before the Nov. meeting and I will also keep a list of what countries have new material. After the

President's Dispatch (continued)

Oct. meeting I took a trip to the emergency room in Bristol because of a minor cut on one of my fingers. I cut myself while repairing my lawnmower. It took 90 minutes to be taken care of and discharged. This was probably the fastest service I have even received at a hospital emergency room. Hopefully the cut will be pretty well healed by our next club meeting on the 15th.

Paul Benson will make a presentation to us during the Nov. meeting. Other members who are interested in making a presentation during a future meeting please let me know and I will assign you to a meeting.

Steve

Announcement from former club member.

Dick Odum recently received a phone call from Scott Trimble, a previous member of the Holston Stamp Club. Scott now lives in New Hampshire. Scott wanted Holston Stamp Club members to be informed that he is taking steps to downsize his collection of philatelic materials. If any members are interested in old stamp catalogs by Minkus, H.E. Harris or Scott then he has items you might want to have. Contact Scott by calling him at (843) 263-7514 as he is interested in selling them.



Monthly Treasury Report

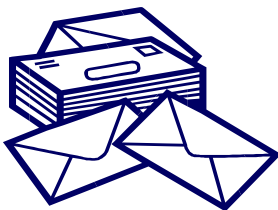
Beginning Balance Oct. 3, 2018	\$3,487.41
Beginning Cash on Hand	\$3,515.02
checking account balance	\$2,939.93
cash box	\$575.09
APS Circuit Sales owned	\$0.00
Total Income	\$384.45
HSC Auction sales	\$333.65
Other Sales	\$4.85
2018 Membership Dues	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	(\$73.12)
HSC Bucks Redeemed	(\$16.00)
APS Circuit Expenses	(\$9.25)
Newsletter Expenses	(\$47.87)
Ending Balance Nov. 3, 2018	\$3,826.35
Ending Cash on hand Nov. 3, 2018	\$3,834.76
checking account balance	\$2,765.16
cash box	\$1,069.60
issued checks not cleared	(\$0.00)
APS Circuit Sales owed	(\$0.00)
Adjustment	\$8.41

During the November special auction four members sold 29 lots for a total of \$54.25. HSC material sold for \$224.05.

The purchases made by our stamp acquisition committee have now exceeded \$5,000. The purchases made in July at Dutch Country Auctions are now profitable for the club.

Sparkling Holidays new USPS stamp

Here is a picture of the souvenir Dawn brought back from the first day of issue ceremony.



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

Club contacts...

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OUR INTERNET WEBSITE
www.sefsc.org/holston-stamp-club.html

Stamps From Nowhere – Wrangel’s Army

With no name, questionable territory, and indeterminate borders it was recognized as a country by France from August 1920 until April 1921 and operated a semi-legitimate postal system. Although it claimed to be South Russia it is more accurately known as Wrangel’s Army and it overprinted and surcharged 144 stamp issues which are listed in Scott as Russia 232-376.

During the Russian Civil War (1917-1922) a dizzying array of political and social factions fought for control of the country. By 1919 many monarchist groups (“Whites”) had consolidated their opposition to the Bolshevik revolutionaries (“Reds”) in the Caucasus Mountain areas of Ukraine



Area (in green) roughly controlled by anti-Bolsheviks in South Russia (1919). Wrangel’s retreat to Galipoli (1920) (in red).

and southwestern Russia. Known as South Russia, the area maintained a government and issued recognized postage stamps between 1918 and 1920. These are listed separately in Scott. The armed forces of South Russia were highly fragmented and only under nominal control of General Anton Deniken, the appointed commander. The South Russian armies were decisively defeated by the Bolsheviks in early 1920 and overall command was transferred to General Pyotr Wrangel in April. Wrangel, one of the most competent White Russian commanders, consolidated the armies and led a fighting retreat onto the Crimean peninsula.

Following the Russian Revolutions of 1917, Britain, France, Germany, and Turkey watched the dissolution of the Russian Empire like vultures. Each was eager to augment its own empire by feasting on the spoils of World War I. Britain carved out chunks of the southern Ottoman Empire while conspiring against France and various Arab factions to get it all. Germany and Turkey competed for pieces of the western and southern Russian Empire. France bet on the losing horse and loaned money to the imperialist factions in Russia in hopes of buying influence. When Wrangel assumed command in the Crimea he agreed to underwrite the Imperial Russian debt to France. Offered this chance to recover an otherwise bad debt, France recognized Wrangle’s claim to be the legitimate government of South Russia in August 1920. In November Wrangel’s Army made its last stand in Sevastopol and was rescued from annihilation by remnants of the Imperial Russian navy. Aided by the French, Wrangel’s Fleet, as it was known, evacuated the soldiers and families, about 140,000 people, to refugee camps on the Gallipoli peninsula and elsewhere. Wrangel’s Army established a postal system that for a short period of time carried real mail from the refugee camps. A hoard of various Russian stamps were overprinted and sold primarily to support the army. A few of the stamps were used legitimately but most were sold to collectors by agents in France and the Balkans. Although Wrangel’s Army continued to harbor hopes of restoring Imperial Russia it was clear that the army’s claim to authority in Russia had little merit when voiced from refugee camps in Gallipoli. France withdrew its recognition of Wrangel’s Army in April 1921 and began resettling the refugees later that year. By 1923 Wrangel’s Army had completely dispersed largely into the Balkans. Pyotr Wrangel eventually settled in Belgium where he died suddenly in 1928. He was rumored to have been poisoned by Soviet agents.



Wrangel Overprint



Camp on Lemnos to Constantinople (29 Apr 1921)

Most Wrangel stamps are actually reprints but even as reprints many are fairly pricey. Regardless of their dubious origin the stamps preserve a history that is largely forgotten unless you are a committed Russian philatelist.