Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

August 2024 Newsletter

Editor: Jerry Emanuel
(jemassoc2@gmail.com)

Commentary and updates: The end of July has been very hectic, but worthwhile. After the July club meeting, the officers decided we needed to have a stamp show, so it's set! The weekend of September 7th and 8th. This is a weekend when the Gamecocks are out of town for football, playing Kentucky. Hotels will be available for dealers and there were not too many conflicts for them.

Everything is coming together for a show in the gymnasium where the club meets (the Leisure Center). **We will need lots of volunteers.** This is obviously a new venue so there will be a few challenges after many years at Spring Valley High School.

Friday night, September 6 is for setup. We'll need help manning the registration booth from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Then we'll need some help breaking down after the show. We may have to help the vendors move their stock in and out of the facility too. Be prepared to sign up for various duties at the August meeting.

If you missed the July meeting, you missed a surprise announcement. The Columbia Philatelic Society has a web site, www.columbiascphilately.com. Take a look. Our show information has already been posted. Anna Brannin, our web designer and webmaster, did a wonderful job. Please give her any comments and suggestions regarding our web presence.

CHARPEX, the Charlotte Stamp Show, found at least a dozen of our Columbia members attending.

It took place a week after our regular meeting. Everyone looked like they were having a good time looking at the exhibits, checking out the vendor's wares and buying those treasures. It was also great meeting friends, both old and new. John Owen was helping their staff teach Boy Scouts about stamp collecting for their merit badge.

If you bought something at the show, bring it to our meeting as a Show & Tell.

Fred McGary

The next meeting will be **Sunday, August 18**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.

A very Happy Birthday to: Wallace Bird (1); Andy Banco (5); Phil Sheppard (9); Jim Richardson (17); Wayne Peelman (19); Brent Wunderlich (22). Congratulations and many, many more.

PROGRAMS:

David Anderson showed a copy of The New York Times, July 20, 1969, the day men walked on the surface of the moon.

The New York Times

MEN WALK ON MOON

ASTRONAUTS LAND ON PLAIN; COLLECT ROCKS, PLANT FLAG

Voice From Moon: 'Eagle Has Landed'

A Powdery Surface Is Closely Explored

"A day later, in 1961," he said, was the second Mercury flight named Liberty Bell 7. Inside the capsule was Astronaut, Gus Grissom."

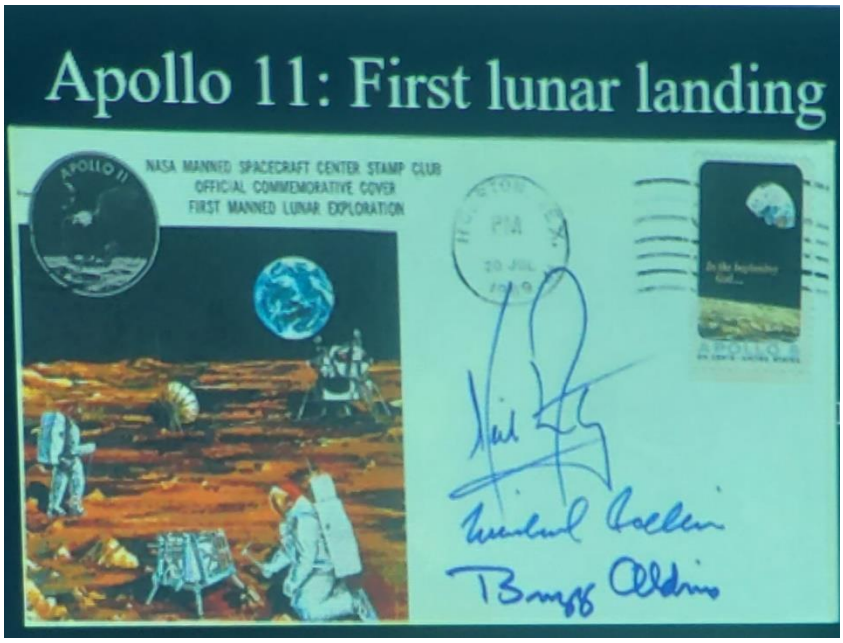
He said every day is a space Anniversary of one kind or another. He displayed two first day cover albums filled with signed FDC's of Astronauts. "They start with Alan Shepard, the first American in space and they run all the way through Gemini, Apollo, the space shuttle and some Russian signed covers," he said.

There were no covers flown on any Mercury or Gemini mission, from 1961 – 1966, however, for those same missions, the recovery fleets, ships in the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans who were on site in case the mission ended early or was aborted, covers were made. You can write the recovery fleet post office and request a cover. "Some recovery covers were signed by the astronauts after the fact," Anderson mentioned. "You've got to be very careful when you get signed covers because some of them might be a print or an automatic pen," he added.

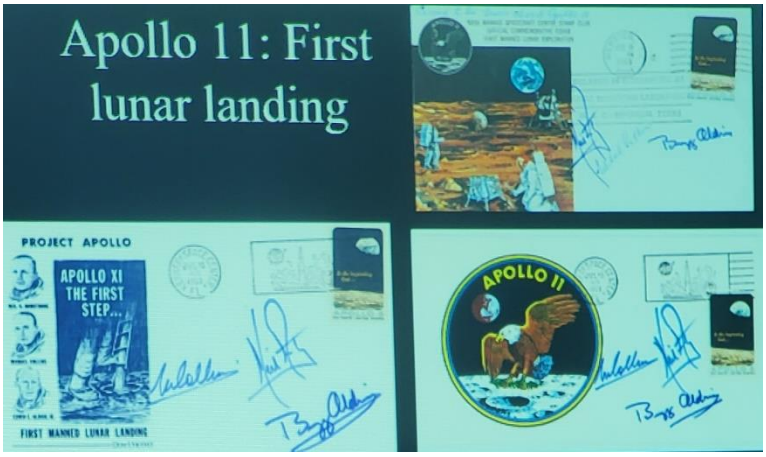
The early Apollo missions also did not fly covers. "They missed out, since stamp collectors will pay anything that flew in space," Anderson said.

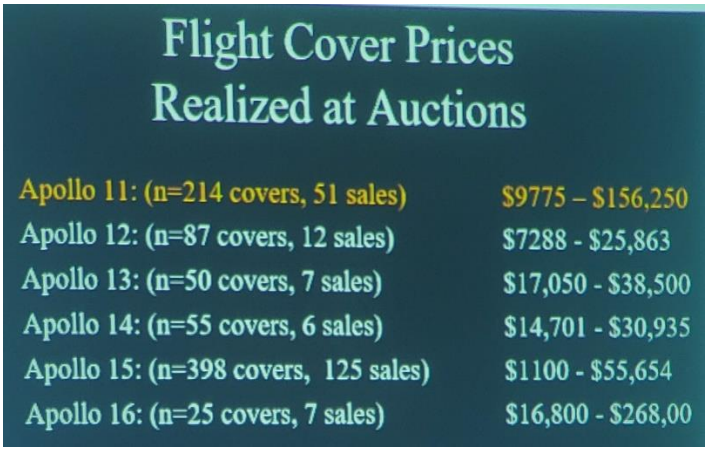
The first time a United State's astronaut took covers into space was Apollo 11. Before, the mission the astronauts signed 1,000 "insurance covers." In the event of a disaster or death of an astronaut the signed covers would be sold, and the proceeds given to the family of the diseased.

An insurance cover has the signatures vertically. "If you ever see an Edwin H. Aldrin, Jr. signature, it's probably not real. Aldrin always wrote his name as 'Buzz'," Anderson said. He also said the first man to orbit the Earth never signed his covers, "John H. Glenn, Jr."



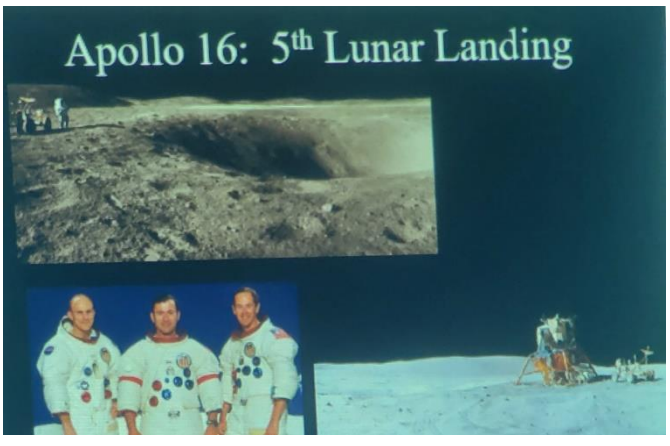
Apollo 11 carried 214 covers to the moon with three cachets. Neil Armstrong never sold his insurance covers while he was alive. A few years after his death they started appearing for sale. A flight cover is signed horizontally. If you ever get one of these, it will say, "carried to the moon aboard Apollo 11."





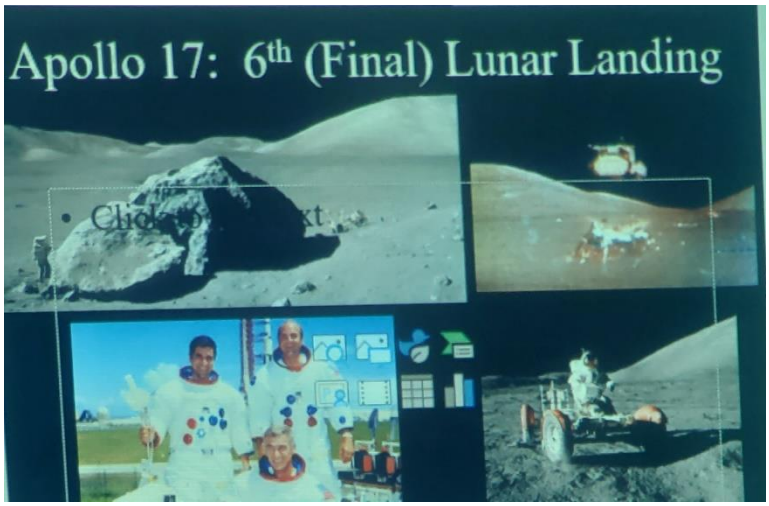
The photo at the right are realized prices for these covers. There were 214 covers, of which, 51 have been sold at auction for which there's a record of the sale. "They sold for a low of $9,775 and a high price of $156,250. The prices these days are mostly on the high side," he stated.

This lunar landing, Apollo 16, is the scarcest of the landing covers. Because of the scandal associated with Apollo 15 (see the Sept. 23, 2023 issue of this newsletter) only 25 covers flew on this mission. Because it's scarce, it has the highest prices. "The last one sold went for $268,000," Anderson added.



Anderson said anyone can have a set of five of the six lunar landing covers for between $250,000 and $500,000. "When I talked to my wife about maybe doing this, she threatened to have me committed," he added.

The crew of Apollo 16 consisted of John Young (who would later become the commander of the first space shuttle flight, along with Bob Crippen); Thomas Mattingly (who would be commander on two shuttle missions) and Charles Duke, from Lancaster, South Carolina, the Lunar Module Pilot. (Duke's training space suit can be seen at the S. C. State Museum)



Citing the Apollo 15 scandal, the crew of Apollo 17 took no covers with them. They decided it wasn't worth their careers to carry any.

They did, however, sign 250 insurance covers and these are worth from $1,600 to $6,000 today.

"If anyone wants to have a space cover that was flown in orbit," Anderson mentioned, "you can get one for $20 to $25 dollars. The "Challenger" shuttle carried 261,000 of them into orbit."

David Anderson

UPCOMING SHOWS:

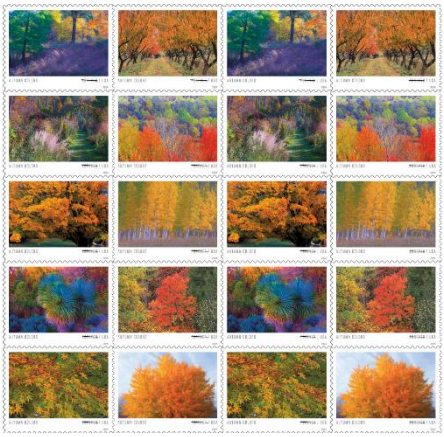
Great American Stamp Show (GASS) – August 15 – 18 (Thurs-Sat: 10am-6pm)
(Sunday: 10am-4pm)
Hundreds of frames on exhibit
Cachet makers Bourse
First Day Cover ceremony
Youth Area
Connecticut Convention Center Hall AB
100 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, Connecticut

GWINNPEX 2024 Fall Stamp Show October 18 – 19 10am – 5pm
Mountain Park United Methodist Church Family Life Center
1405 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain, Georgia

NEW STAMP ISSUES:

Dungeons & Dragons – August 1
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206

Pinback Buttons-Aug.15
Hartford, CT 06101



Autumn Colors – August16
Hartford, CT 06101

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Hello, my name is Anselmo. I'm a young Brazilian philatelist. I started collecting stamps as a school activity, and after that, I fell in love with the fascinating world of philately.

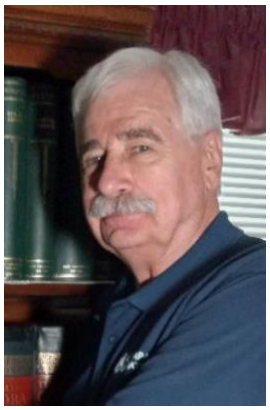
Some of my favorite themes are: Transportation, sports, animals, Olympic games, Christmas, popes and military uniforms.

I'm reaching out to request, if possible, the donation of some used stamps on these themes. In my country, access to philately is very difficult due to the lack of incentives and financial conditions. If you could help me, I would be very grateful.

Anselmo Oliveira, Rua 1, no. 24, Jacobina 1, 44700-000 – Jacobina-ba-Brasil.

(perhaps as a precaution, if you follow up on this letter, you may want to use the Tri-City Leisure Center as a return address, Attn: stamp club)

HOW I GOT STARTED:



"My story is pretty common. I began collecting when my grandmother gave me a brand new 1957 Harris Traveler album at Christmas that year," David Crone said. "She and I would explore the world through stamps. That was a long time ago, and I remember those hours fondly. That album still resides in my collection, but it has been eclipsed with a much larger collection that I ever thought possible."

His professional career involved lots of out-of-town travel and short-term apartments. David would spend evenings and occasional weekends sorting, preparing and mounting stamps. "Over the years, my collection continued to grow," he said.

When traveling out of the country, he would frequently look for stamp shops and post offices and generally purchased annual collections or mixtures. "I didn't specialize or even have a type collection, just whatever came my way," he added.

About ten years ago he felt it was time to reorganize and consolidate the boxes of collectibles. He found thousands of philatelic items of interest. "I now have over 50 Minkus, Scott and homemade albums, and the never-ending quest continues.

About five years ago, he ordered stamps from an on-line EBAY seller and discovered a new field of philatelic research, Counterfeit U.S. Postage.

David gave a program on the subject to the Columbia club in February 2024.

Within a year after the first counterfeits appeared, it became more difficult to tell the genuine from the counterfeit. "In 2022, everything changed," David said, "the forgers had developed their craft to the point that even experts were having a hard time sorting things out." Perhaps as much as 20% to 30% of stamped mail if fake, he said. "Every 2022 and 2023 USPS issue is available as counterfeit," he exclaimed. During his talk in February, he mentioned that if the postal service identifies a stamp as fake, the correspondence will not be delivered.

David Crone

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL. SEND YOUR STORY ABOUT HOW YOU GOT STARTED COLLECTING TO THE EDITOR. THE EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON PAGE ONE.

OUR NEW WEBSITE: (WWW.COLUMBIASCPHILATELY.COM)

One of our newest members, Anna Brannin, has created a website for the club. The website address is listed above and what you will see when you arrive is an **About page**, all things you need to know about the Columbia Philatelic Society.

There are three dropdown options: **Meetings** – the date and time of the next meeting, the location with a map and some pictures of our meetings.

Next is the **Officers** page with photos. The names are highlighted in blue because they're linked to the officer's email addresses. The third dropdown option is about our **Stamp shows.**

Next is a list of our **Newsletters.** Anyone can read about past programs and other data in our newsletters. This can also be our archives page of past correspondences.

"I think the website should have two purposes, said Anna, "information for members and new members and also information for people wanting to learn about stamp collecting." She suggested we might have a tab for resources, some links to other websites that might interest collectors.

The website also has an **FAQ page**, answering basic questions about our group and collecting in general. "We need some input from members of the club what to put on the FAQ page," Anna said. "Think back to when you first started collecting. What questions did you want answered?" she asked. A second question she posed was, "what specific stamp resources do you use or recommend, such as websites, organizations, books, etc.?" She also needs to know of any additional feedback members of the society may have. It can be other pages, content or other suggestions.

You're asked to bring your answers to the next meeting.

Anna linked our membership form to the website and she added keywords for the SEO*.

"The last page on the website is the **Contact page,**" she said, "If I can answer the question I will. If not, I'll forward it to the right officer."

On the footer of each page is a link to our Facebook page and our new Instagram page. "If I put something on Instagram, it automatically goes to the Facebook page, so you don't have to do things twice," she said.

If the membership committee does an ad, our website could be added which will give more detailed information. 'This could also be a vehicle to reach out to young people," Anna concluded.

*(*SEO: Search Engine Optimization is used to improve a website's ranking in search engine results. SEO's are used to increase a website's visibility and attract a larger audience.)*

Anna Brannin

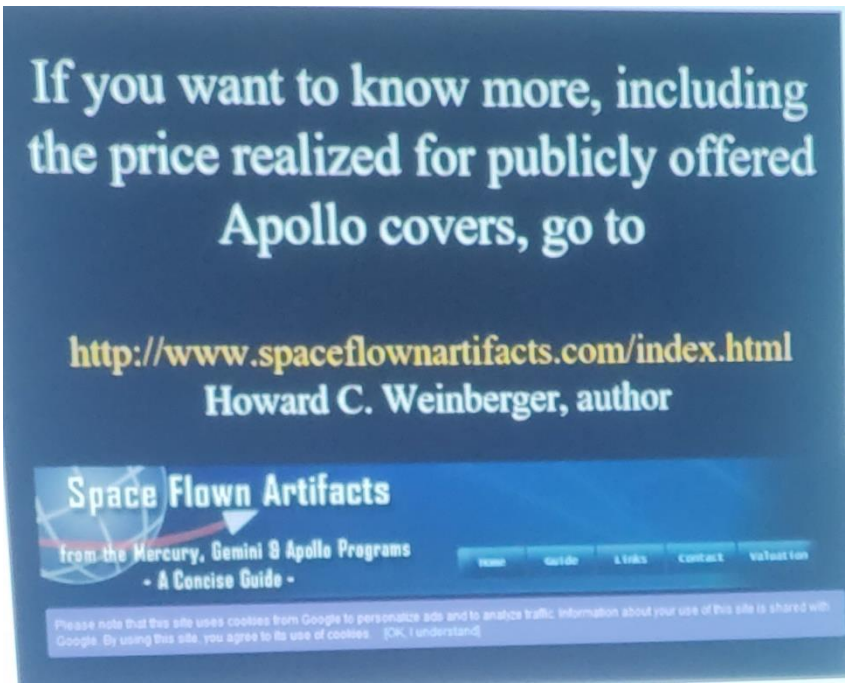
CONGRATULATIONS, MICK ZAIS:

Columbia Philatelic Society member and former U. S. Deputy Secretary of Education, Mitchell Zais is now the chair of the Publications subcommittee of the American First Day Cover Society.

Mick was also Acting Secretary of Education in 2021 and has served as S. C. Superintendent of Education and president of Newberry College. Before that, the West Point graduate served in the Army as a Brigadier General.

He has often told the story of how he was able to skip a required geography course at the U. S. Military Academy because of the knowledge he had gained from stamp collecting. Today he specializes in the first day covers of the Army stamps of the Army-Navy Series of 1936 – 1937 (Scott #'s 785 – 789).

Mick was elected to the AFDCS Board of Directors, beginning in January 2023. He served as president of the American Philatelic Society from 2016 – 2018, resigning to avoid a conflict of interest with his federal appointment.

"I look forward to working with our team at AFDCS to bring useful and important publications to our members," he said. "Most exciting is the recent permission acquired by the society to re-print the Mellone first day cover catalogs."

The AFDCS has published books, handbooks and catalogs on everything from the basics of FDC collecting to making cachets, from FDCs of the 1909 commemorative issues to those of the 1988 Cats issue. A complete list can be found on its website at www.afdcs.org/marketplace.html. The Education Department of the AFDCS also has a YouTube channel and produces videos on various facets of First Day Cover collecting.