



Postmark Atlanta
Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club



#0357-031583

April 2019 Newsletter

Our club had a wonderful trip to Postal Museums from Jonathan Goldstein. If you missed the meeting, we have some information from the Smithsonian Postal History Museum that I will bring to the next few meetings if you want that.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and auction. Meeting at Atlanta Library branch at 980 Ponce de Leon. This is the corner of Ponce de Leon and Frederica and there is a Marta bus stop at that corner. Meeting starts at 7:00.

April 6 Stamp Trading at home of Don Laberteaux, 5008 Brandlwood Ct., Lilburn, GA from 9 – 11 a.m. Coffee, talking and stamps. Call Don at 770-381-7114 for details.

April 6 Central Florida Stamp Show – Spring. FSDA. Marks Street Senior Recreation Center, Oak Room, 99 E Marks Street, Orland, FL (This is a WSP show).

www.floridastampshows.com

April 16 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting. The program will be “show and tell” – please bring an item to show to the other members.

May 4 GwinnPex Spring 2019. Mountain Park UMC Fellowship Hall, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

May 7 JOINT ATLANTA CLUB MEETING. The program will be presented on “The Stamps of Bosnia and Herzegovina” by Mike Simic. Usual 5 lot and \$5 minimum for auction. Pizza supper provided.

May 18-19 Stamp Dealers Association of Georgia Stamp Show. The Mansour Center, 995 Roswell St. Marietta, GA 30060 Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. Sunday 10 am – 3 pm.

May 21 Regular Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club meeting and program.

July 26 – 28 AMERICOVER 2019. Renaissance Saint Louis Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis. If you had fun at the show in Atlanta last summer you should plan to go to St. Louis.

August 1 – 4 APS Stampshow. Omaha, NE

The WWI Victory Commemorative – Symbolic and Challenging

By Steve Swain

On April 6, 1917, the U.S. House of Representative endorsed a decision by the U.S. Senate to declare war against Germany, and the United States formally entered the First World War. American troops poured into Europe at the rate of 10,000 per day. The war raged for about eighteen more months, until the Allies were victorious and the conflict officially ended on November 11, 1918.

Issued on March 3, 1919, during the Paris Peace Conference, the 3-cent Victory commemorative (Scott 537) depicts Liberty Victorious against a background comprised of the flags of the Allied Powers. The stamp's rich symbolism is fascinating to historians, and collectors find the issue intriguing and challenging in several ways.

When studying the design of the stamp, it has been suggested there is symbolism in the placement of the flags. The British flag appears in the foreground at the lower right hand of Liberty. Why is its lower staff pointing directly at the point of Liberty's sword? Why is the Belgian flag behind the British flag but higher in the design? The same questions can apply to the French and Italian flags. Is the Russian flag not represented because of their withdrawal from the war in the wake of the Russian Revolution? Is the Liberty figure standing on something that could be construed as the lid of the defeated Central Power's sarcophagus? All of this may sound to be somewhat of a stretch, but intriguing nonetheless.

The stamp exists in four distinct colors: violet, deep reddish violet, light reddish violet, and red violet. The deep reddish violet shade is the scarcest and authentication is recommended. The stamp can be found in hundreds of shades. No two collectors or dealers can agree on any of these shades or shade names, thus making a collection of the stamps or covers franked with one of the various shades quite a challenge and enjoyable.

The three stamps shown below are perfect examples of the range of color for the common 537 shade – from a very deep purple to a reddish violet to violet. Placing two common 537s side by side will almost always show one redder than the other. It's not unusual for collectors to call the redder one 537b or 537c, even though they're really both 537s.



537 Shade 1.jpg



537 Shade 2.jpg



537. Shade 3.jpg

In the next set of images, the stamp on the left is the scarce 537a deep reddish violet. In various auctions, the 537a has commanded a wide range of prices, from \$400 for a mint, lightly hinged, F-VF (Scott \$1,200) to \$4,000 for a never hinged gem (Scott \$2,300). The 537b light reddish violet is shown as the next stamp. A never hinged, extremely fresh example of the stamp with brilliant color, VF, lists at a bit under \$300. To its right is a 537c, red violet. A mint, F-VF copy can be obtained in the \$25-\$30 range. A block of six of this shade, never hinged, rich color, VF, has realized as much as \$1,000 at auction. This shade is especially difficult to obtain in block form.



537a deep violet
- rare.jpg



537b light
reddish violet.jpg



537c red
violet.jpg

A final note about the Victory commemorative. In essence, it was a war tax stamp. Before the U.S. joined the war, the first-class domestic postage rate was two cents. That rate was increased to three cents on November 3, 1917, to offset the cost of the war. The rate was decreased on June 30, 1919. The Victory stamp was the only 3-cent U.S. commemorative issued to pay the first-class letter rate during that period.

The GWINNPEX Show

The Gwinnett show will again have tables at \$25 for collectors who want to try their hand at being a dealer. Contact Allen Johnson at airj1957@yahoo.com or 770-359-7533 if you are interested. The set up is 8 am to 9 am and show from 9:00 am til 5:00 pm on Saturday May 4.

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Our library meeting place will be undergoing remodeling starting sometime this summer for about 6 months. Other club meetings that you might want to attend are:

Cobb County Stamp Club meetings are on 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1:30 pm. Location is 1809 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA “The Bridge Club” (next to Restaurant Depot)

Button-Gwinnett club meeting at 7 PM on third Wednesday of the month at Mountain Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Rd, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

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Our Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs includes our club’s page. The main site is www.sefsc.org. Our club’s page is at www.sefsc.org/atlanta-stamp-collectors-club.html. But be sure to check out all the other information on the site. New clubs were added to the Federation at the January meeting. Check out where meetings are so you can visit as you travel.

If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or presenting to our club at one of our monthly meetings, please contact me at the email below or Scott Holmberg at sdholmberg1@gmail.com with your ideas.

LeA Coe, Secretary

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