

# The Messenger



March 2019

Jim McKinzie, President & Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)  
Michael Miklovic, 1st Vice President  
Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President  
Armen Hovsepian, Treasurer  
Michael Keil, Secretary

Waldo Public Library  
Gather at 1:00  
Meeting Starts 2:00  
Saturday, February 2nd

## Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Meeting Attendance: 39

The meeting was called to order by Jim at 2 pm.

Treasurer: Armen reported that the balance in the club account was \$6441.01.

Membership: Fifty-six members have paid dues for 2019. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. We are looking for someone to take over the job of making and maintaining the name badges. If you are interested, contact Armen. Victor, who has been a member of MPS for 20 years, is our newest life member.

Newsletter: Roger reported that the newsletter and library catalog are online. The website may be down for a couple of days in February while we change servers, which is being done as a cost saving measure.

Librarian: (Neil) The library has been catalogued so that it is more user-friendly and is online. Some minor formatting remains. 3 new books have been added today, including the American Air Mail Catalog Vol. 1 (1974) and Vol. 4 (1981), and the 20009 Michel U.N. Specialized Catalog (German/English).

Historian: (Bob) 2019 marks the 125 anniversary of MPS. Although we are listed as Chapter #10 by the APS, MPS is the 6<sup>th</sup> oldest in terms of continuing existence. The club should do something special to mark this event. See Bob if you have any suggestions or ideas.

Old business: Barb Crompton, Dale Smith, and Micky Marks have been appointed as the at-large board members.

Show and Tell: Victor-J. Walter Scott quote about stamp collecting, Penny Black real, facsimile, and otherwise; Bob-MPS cachet cover from 1940 commemorating the Kansas City centennial, KC dealer advertising sheet; Armen-French souvenir sheet with 3 doors that open on front to display a sculpture (tryptic) and a Swiss stamp with a certificate of authenticity verifying that real gold was used on the stamp.

Scott Couch's next show will be March 16.

Program: Ted Right, "3 Years In-What Has Changed." A fun and entertaining look at the evolution of Ted's stamp collecting experiences. Thank you, Ted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Keil, Secretary

## What You Will Miss (if not there):

This month's program is titled, Philatelic Basics? by Neil Becker. Plus a give away by Armen. Don't forget about our great auctions.

Are you done with the snow and winter?

## Philatelic Happenings:

### Something in the area for change:

#### March 16

Greater KC Stamp Show  
American Inn  
Armour on I-35/29  
Kansas City, MO

#### March 29-31

St. Louis Stamp Expo  
St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel  
9801 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO



Rotary Snow Plow  
Switzerland #331

## Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

Star Ribbon-Forever, First Class  
Single Design, Pane of 20 &  
Coils of 3,000 & 10,000  
Issue Date March 22



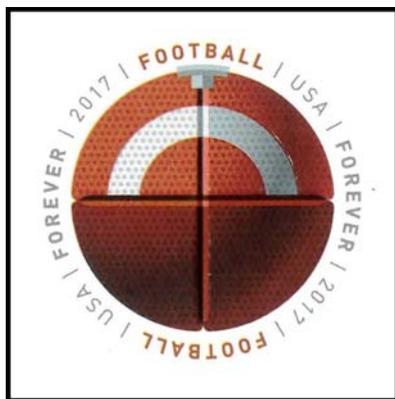
Coral Reefs-Forever, Post Card Rate  
Four Designs, Pane of 20 & Coil of 100  
Issue Date March 29



## Philatelic Ramblings:

I haven't got \$5,500 to spare or \$1,650, do you? As a collector the way the USPS issues a lot of coils drives me crazy. To buy the new coil Star Ribbon it will not be easy. I collect the single, pair and the plate number strip of 5. That's \$4.40 spent vs. \$1,650 or more. Hopefully dealer Scott or someone else will buy a roll.

The Coral Reef design will be issued in conjunction with the St. Louis Stamp Expo. There is no planned headquarters First Day Ceremony but it is anticipated that the show will sponsor one. Could be worth the trip if you collect first day covers. I gave them up years ago as I suspect that I may rethink some other current issues that I collect.



**Football  
US #5203**



**Jim Thorpe  
US #2089**

## History Quiz of the MPS from Historian Bob:

Our club's official name is The Midwest Philatelic Society of Greater Kansas City, Missouri and we are the 6th oldest chapter of the American Philatelic Society, which means only five other chapters that joined earlier are still active. Which one of the following chapters did not precede our recognition by the APS as chapter #10 on November 30, 1894.

1. Chicago Philatelic Society
2. Greater St. Louis Stamp Club
3. Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh
4. Collectors Club of New York
5. San Francisco-Pacific Philatelic Society
6. Garfield-Perry Stamp Club (Cleveland)

Find the answer later in this newsletter.

## Last Month's Stamp Question:

Last month I asked about stamp(s) issued about football. There have been more than you would think at first glance. A good example is the youth football issue part of the four stamps issued in 2000 celebrating our American obsession with Youth Team Sports. The most recent example is from 2017 from the Sports Balls issue.



**Youth Football  
US #3400**

So the issue pictured in last month's newsletter and these two are the only three issues listed under "Football" in the Subject Index of Regular, Commemorative & Air Post Issues in Scott's Specialized Catalog. But surely that can't be all for the subject of football. Not if you include some of the great football figures and teams over the years. Such as the issue from 1984 honoring all around athlete, Olympian and fellow Oklahoman Jim Thorpe. If you grew up in Oklahoma as I did, you learned all about Jim Thorpe. This issue was long over due to this great athlete. Perhaps we will go over some of the other football issues at the start of next season.

## What Country is This? - from Armen Hovsepien

From club member and treasurer Armen is this puzzler. If you can answer the next four questions correctly, you might win this block of 4 stamps.

1. What country is this (in English)?
2. What denomination is this issue?
3. What is the Scott's catalogue number?
4. What was the subject?

Bring your answers to the meeting on Saturday, written out with your name on it. Give your answers to Armen and if there is more than one correct set of answers, we will draw a winner.

Thanks Armen for providing something most interesting!

**Warning! This could be your last newsletter if you have not paid your dues for this year. Bring them to the next meeting or get them to Armen soon so that you are not taken off the membership list. Remember your dues are only \$10 a year.**



Find out the correct answers about this stamp at our next meeting. They will also be listed in next month's newsletter.

### **Stamp Tip:**

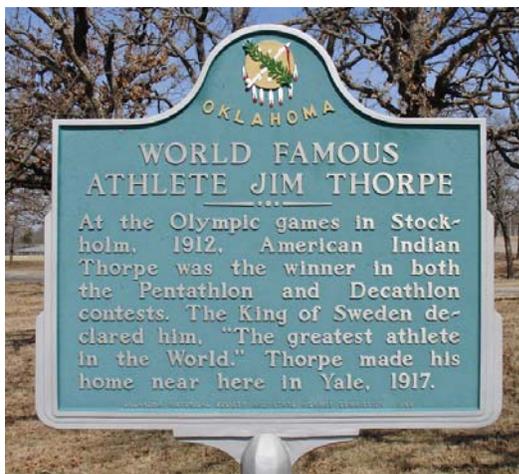
Most of us that grew up in 50's, 60's or even the 70's had good resources and mentors when starting our childhood stamp collections. What is noticed when reading stamp blogs is the fact that many newcomers to the hobby don't have that local stamp store to go to on a Saturday morning and pick the owners brain or other customers in the store. People post a Washington/Franklin stamp on a blog and want the other bloggers to identify it for them. The one thing that makes any hobby more interesting and keeps you interested in it, is investing in the hobby. Invest in the tools of the trade. The following is a list of just some of the basics of this hobby.

1. Tongs-to protect your stamp from your greasy fingers.
2. Perforation Gauge-To measure the perfs on the stamp you are trying to identify.
3. Watermark Detection Fluid-Many older stamps have different or no watermark.
4. Color guides-Good ones can be expensive but the old card charts aren't bad for basic.
5. Stamp Catalogues-Depending on how deep you go, the better the catalogue, the easier to identify or even know if there is a rare variety of the stamp. If you don't want to purchase you can check out any of the Scott's at your local library.
6. Album or not- Decide how you are going to store your stamps to protect them. Just in a shoe box or plastic tub is not a good way.

You will find if you invest in the basics you will enjoy the hobby more and it will expand in directions you never thought it would go.

## **Favorite Sons:**

If you drive west of Tulsa on Highway 51 to Stillwater you will go through a town called Yale. For a time Jim Thorpe lived there. They used to have a road sign welcoming you to town and proclaiming Thorpe as a favorite son. Since then a historical sign has been posted claiming a tie to Yale. Thorpe was of member of the Sax and Fox Nation and born in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). No birth certificate has ever been found so there is dispute over when he was born and even exactly where.



But what can not be disputed about Thorpe is the fact that he is considered one of the world's greatest athletes. After he won Olympic gold medals in the 1912 pentathlon and decathlon, King Gustav V of Sweden declared, "You, sir, are the greatest athlete in the world". Besides playing both collegiate and professional football, he played professional baseball and basketball.

Because of the strict rules regarding amateurism at the time for athletes participating in the Olympics, Thorpe was stripped of his medals. He had played professional baseball in 1909 and 1910 and receiving somewhat meager pay. As little as \$2 a game. But that was enough for the Olympic Committee. It took until 1983 for the IOC to reinstate the medals stripped from him. For we long time Thorpe fans it was cause for great celebration.

If you grew up in Tulsa in the fifties or sixties you were a devout St. Louis Cardinals fan. The Tulsa Oilers were a farm team for the Cardinals. But every boy was excited if you found a Mickey Mantle baseball card in that pack of gum. We all new the baseball great for the New York Yankees was born in Spavinaw which is not far from Tulsa.

By far Oklahoma's most favorite son has to be Will Rogers. Rogers was born in Oologah in the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory in 1879. He was a humorist, entertainer, film star (both silent and talkies), and nationally syndicated newspaper columnist.

He is probably most remembered for his famous quotes. The most famous quote made it on the first stamp issued in honor of Rogers in 1948. That quote was taught to us all in school. If you didn't remember anything else you remembered that quote. But the quote that still makes me laugh was when asked which political party he belonged to, he said, "I don't belong to an organized party. I'm a Democrat." Still rings true today.



**From the 1910's  
Celebrate the Century Sheet  
Jim Thorpe  
US #3183g**



**Mickey Mantle  
From Legends of  
Baseball sheet  
US #3408g**

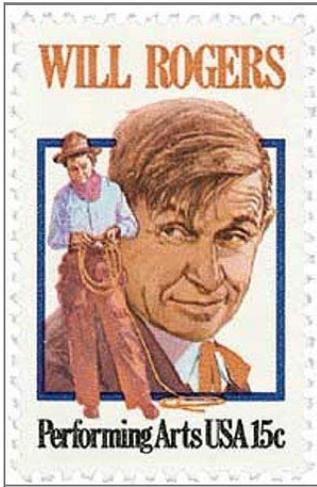


**US #975  
Will Rogers**

In fact growing up, either the Tulsa World or Tulsa Tribune had a daily quote from Will Rogers. Even though he had been gone for many years and the quotes were from many decades ago, it was amazing how many still fit the day or the politics of the time. Such as "Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for." Or another favorite "This would be a great time in the world for some man to come along that knew something." And when

pundits of today bemoan the fact the congress is deadlocked and can't get anything done, think of this that Rogers wrote in 1927, Papers say: "Congress is deadlocked and can't act." I think that is the greatest blessing that could befall this country. Still true today.

Some of the non political quotes that are a favorite, "You know everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects." Or my favorite, "Letting the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back."



**From Performing Arts Series  
Will Rogers  
US #1801**

On the 100th Anniversary of Will Roger's birth, the U.S. issued a second stamp honoring him. This time instead of a quote it has two images of Rogers, the older Rogers and the young Will with his rope or lariat. It was his tricks on a horse and a lariat besides his humor that got him into the Ziegfeld Follies that really launched his career. Go to YouTube and you can see many of the old film clips of Rogers doing his rope tricks. Before YouTube the only way I saw his skills with a rope and a horse was at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma. They have some of his old films running that you can sit down and watch. Went a few years ago with some friends that had never been there and knew very little about the man. They both came away quite impressed. Claremore is just NE of Tulsa, so not a bad road trip from the KC area.

Through Charles Lindbergh, Rogers got very interested in aviation. That love of airplanes brought him to an untimely death in 1935 along with aviation pioneer Wiley Post in northern Alaska.



**Wiley Post, Aviation Pioneer  
Plate Block of #C95-96**

The only other famous Oklahoman to be on a US postage stamp is Woody Guthrie. His "This Land is Your Land", was one of the first songs I remember learning as a child. I don't know if it was because an Oklahoman wrote it or because it was an easy song to teach a bunch of rowdy school kids.

Now maybe someday there will be stamps issued for other famous Okies, such as baseball player Johnny Bench, or astronaut Gordon Cooper and don't forget Reba and Garth.

*JMC*

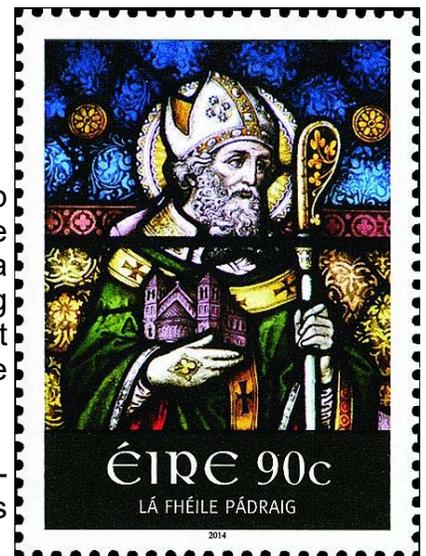


**From Legends of American Music Series  
Folk Musicians  
Woody Guthrie  
US #3213**

### **Where's the Love of the Irish:**

No St. Patrick, no shamrocks and no leprechauns. Not one single stamp issued by the US for that day when everyone wears green and everyone swears they have a 'we bit of Irish in them. I loved St. Patrick's Day as a kid because it was "legal" to pinch your friends that were not wearing green, especially the girls. Probably can't do that today. As an adult it takes on a whole different meaning. Corn beef and cabbage or is it the beer?

Ireland is about the only country that regularly issues stamps commemorating St. Patrick's Day. It would be interesting to see the stained glass depicted on the stamp at the left in person. Beautiful!



**St. Patrick  
Ireland from 2014**

*Continued on pg. 6*



**Shamrocks  
Ireland #1705**

While all shamrocks are clover, not all clovers are shamrocks. So even botanists can't agree on what a shamrock is. That would make it either confusing or maybe easier if you collected shamrock stamps. Although a shamrock is defined by the Irish as a clover with only three petals. Which makes the image on the Hungary stamp not a shamrock. It is a four leafed clover which is considered good luck. Legend has it that the shamrock was considered a representation of the holy trinity by St. Patrick. Thus it became a symbol of Ireland.



**Happy New Year  
Hungary #1558**

Leprechauns have been left off stamps as far as I can tell. Which is interesting because they sure are popular. A



**Postage from Zazzle**

huge triple rainbow appeared one summer after a rather violent storm. My friends and I were determined to get to the end of one of those rainbows to get that pot of gold. Needless to say we never got there. If you are into the Zazzle type postage, they seem to have several images over the years of leprechauns. But that is it!

So where does that leave us. No love for Paddy's day. The USPS is missing a pot of gold buy not issuing an annual St. Patrick's Day stamp. I bet they would be very popular. And isn't that what the US Stamp program is all about now, popularity and profits.

JMC



**St. Patrick Series from Ireland  
#1457 St. Patrick  
#1458 Parade in Dublin  
#1459 Parade in New York City**



**MPS quiz answer:**

Here is the answer to our quiz question from pg 2:

The Collectors Club of New York was founded in 1896 and did not join the APS until the 20th century. The MPS is the last active club to have joined in the 19th century.



**US #855  
Sandlot Baseball  
Game,  
Baseball Centennial**

**Who has more issues baseball or football? Find out next month or start counting.**

OK, football is over for now but America's pastime begins soon. Spring training begins and the Royal's opening day is Thursday, March 28th. Curt Schilling once said, "Baseball is not a sport you can achieve individually." I think that applies to philately. More about that next month.