

The Messenger



July 2020

Tomas Griebing, President (tlginkc@yahoo.com)
Michael Miklovic, 1st Vice President (stumper1972@aol.com)
Rodger McReynolds, 2nd Vice President (rodger_mcreynolds.hotmail.com)
Armen Hovsepian, Treasurer (info@armenstamp.com)
Michael Keil, Secretary (mkeil87859@hotmail.com)
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

From your device or phone
July 11th meeting
Virtual Meeting Starts 2:00
See details on pg. 3

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Attendance: 23 members logged in to the ZOOM virtual meeting.

Treasurer: \$8577.43 in the bank.

Membership: no new members.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Librarian: Contact Neil and he will make arrangements with you to get books to you.

Historian: Nothing to report.

First Vice-President's Report: July meeting will again be a Zoom meeting on July 11. The program will be an extended show and tell program.

Second Vice-President's Report: Not many people are signed up for and using the MPS blog. It is easy to get signed up for by going to the MPS website and follow the instructions.

Newsletter: Jim is needing more articles for the newsletter.

Old business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the current COVID pandemic the Board has decided to postpone until next year its participation in Scott's show and the educational programs with the library. This also gives us more time to make sure we can do both of these events well and make the greatest impact. The status of Scott's show is unknown at this time.

The Great American Stamp Show has been cancelled.

All APS summer classes have been cancelled but many classes are available online, some are free. Others may require a fee. Go to the APS website to check it out.

At this time the status of the St. Louis Stamp Show is uncertain. It has not yet been cancelled.

Show and Tell: Roger shared Berlin semi-postals B2 and B3 as well as Great Britain number 73's. Mike showed a Russian Arctic Cover from the first surface ship to reach the North Pole.

Program: Jim's program on French Red Cross Semi-Postal booklets was quite interesting.

The President's Corner:

Dear MPS Members –Well, summer is upon us, and it will soon be Independence Day 2020! Hoping everyone has a safe and enjoyable 4th of July. We will plan for the next MPS meeting to take place on ZOOM teleconference on Saturday, July 11th at 2 pm. The link information is being sent by email and is also included in this newsletter.

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, our MPS meetings will likely be held in a virtual online format for the foreseeable future. The meeting rooms at the Waldo Library remain closed. Mike Miklovic continues to be in touch with their staff, and they will let us know when the space may reopen for meetings.

While we currently can't hold our usual 'auctions', Armen, Rodger and others have been working on

Continued on pg. 3

Upcoming New U.S. Issues:

Hip Hop

First Class, Forever rate
Four Designs, Pane of 20
Issue Date July 1st



Fruits & Vegetables

First Class, Forever Rate
10 Designs, Booklet Pane of 20
Issue Date July 17th

Bugs Bunny (80th Anniversary)

First Class, Forever rate
10 Designs, Pane of 20
Issue Date July 27th

No image available at press time.

The Hip Hop and Fruits & Vegetables First Day ceremonies have been cancelled but it is reported that there will be a virtual ceremony for the Bugs Bunny issue.



Philatelic Happenings:

Not aware of anything in the area. The Virus seems have destroyed in-person stamp events for perhaps the remainder of this year.

While currently the St. Louis Stamp Expo is to be held on August 14-16, many other shows around the country have been cancelled. Shows from this summer into October have been cancelled. Check before you drive to St. Louie. Perhaps more will be known before the August newsletter is published.

Answer from Last Month's Quiz:

How is the picture to the right philatelic related?

What country issued this stamp and why are there two values, one is 650 Rial and the other 10 Rupees?



Pakistan #1101
Third Meeting
of Economic
Cooperation
Organization
Postal
Authorities,
Tehran (in
2006)

Way back in 2006, the Postmasters of 10 countries (Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey and others) decided to have their annual meeting of "Economic Cooperation Organization Postal Authorities" and they asked Iran to design a stamp and send the design to the other countries so they could all issue an "omnibus" set.

Iran designed the stamp with maps and flags of the 10 countries with proper commemoration wording and send to other countries specifically asking them TO REMOVE THE IRAN AND REPLACE WITH THEIR COUNTRY

Continued on pg. 3

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website and Blog is
www.midwestphilatelicociety.com

Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.

Continued from pg. 2 (Quiz):

NAME, and REMOVE THE DENOMINATION AND REPLACE WITH THEIR CURRENCY.

Way back in 2006, the Postmasters of 10 countries (Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey and others) decided to have their annual meeting of “Economic Cooperation Organization Postal Authorities” and they asked Iran to design a stamp and send the design to the other countries so they could all issue an “omnibus” set.

Iran designed the stamp with maps and flags of the 10 countries with proper commemoration wording and send to other countries specifically asking them TO REMOVE THE IRAN AND REPLACE WITH THEIR COUNTRY NAME, and REMOVE THE DENOMINATION AND REPLACE WITH THEIR CURRENCY.

All countries did so except Pakistan. Not only they did not remove Iran’s name and the 650 Rial currency, they added 10 Rupees, Pakistan currency, and even worst, they issued the stamp a year later.

For about a week the stamp was being sold throughout Pakistan when eventually a collector noticed the two denomination, lack of the name Pakistan, and the name of Islamic Republic of Iran on the stamp!

The word got to the authorities and they withdrew the stamp. Iran Scott #2917 and Pakistan Scott #1101

The note in Scott catalog after the image of the stamp reads:

No. 1101 was withdrawn from sale a few weeks after issuance as it is inscribed “I.R.Iran” and lacks the “Pakistan” country name. It is additionally inscribed with a denomination in Iranian currency, and dated “2006” though issued in 2007. This stamp was not valid in Iran, as Iran issued a similar stamp, No 2917 in 2006

See also Kazakhstan #526, Turkey #3041

Thanks Armen for the interesting quiz.

Continued from pg. 1 (President’s Corner):

developing an online format for members to buy and sell stamps and philatelic materials. More details from them at the upcoming meeting!

Have a great holiday everyone!

Tomas (email: tlginkc@yahoo.com)

July MPS Meeting – ZOOM link

Tomas Griebing is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MPS July 2020 Meeting Time: Jul 11, 2020 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 899 9621 7661 Password: 440678

Dial by your location (if telephone only)

1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 899 9621 7661

Password: 440678

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kentX1lmR9>

Philatelic Ramblings:

Thanks to all of you that submit articles, quizzes and ideas for the newsletter. I appreciate your input in this difficult year. That said, it is important that you submit original articles. While I am not opposed to reprinting something from another publication, we must have permission from that publication first. I personally do not have time to secure that permission. If you care to, that is fine but please include their permission with your submission. With the newsletter out on the Web (our website), we feel that it is important not to have publishing problems from other publications.

If you can, submit your articles in a "Word" document format and include jpg images. If you are writing an original article use "Arial" 12pt type style. This saves much time. On your stamp images include the Scott number. That is very helpful to the reader, especially if they are interested in attempting to acquire that stamp. Scott allows the use of their number in philatelic publications. It is to their advantage and benefits the reader.

Later in this publication, I have written a little something that has concerned me. If you are of the mind that much of our history should be erased and torn down, then please don't read it. I have made every attempt to leave politics out of the article but it was difficult. I feel this is important as it involves our precious collections. I believe we are conservators of these little works of art and history. Do remember that anything published in this newsletter is the opinion of the writer of that particular article and not the opinion or standing of MPS.

For those of you frustrated with masks, lockdowns and lack of places to spend your stamp money and you are retired(wish I was), then may I suggest, go through a portion of your collection that you have not looked at in a long time. You might find a surprise or two in there. You may find something you would like to get rid of or maybe you may want to refresh that collection in mounting it in a different way. I have been looking at parts that I thought about getting rid of but found a new interest in it. By the way, I have been accused of never ridding myself of anything.

Log on to the **ZOOM** meeting. Find a friend, child or grandchild that can help you if you don't know how or don't have a device to do so. Who knows you might get that person involved in this amazing hobby. *JMC*



US #2276a
Booklet Pane Cover



US #2276
From Pane of 100

Have a Happy and Safe 4th

Post Office Stones – Letters on Rocks by Andrea Smith



Often a series of stamps can make you wonder, just what are they doing? These stamps from South Africa had me puzzled. Are they burying a stone or uncovering a headstone? Upon further investigation, the stamps were depicting Postal Stones. They are a fascinating communication system unique to Southern Africa, and are inscriptions left on stones by Dutch sailors in the first half of the 17th century.

Over 400 years ago, European sailors exploring trade routes to and from Asia, would stop in South Africa to replenish supplies or water and perform ship repair. Even then, communication was especially important. Some sailors wrapped official letters in a waterproof covering such as canvas and tar, and sealed them in a lead envelope. They would tuck these into shallow holes at the base of rocks. Others created enduring messages by carving inscriptions on the coastal rock with a hammer and chisel. These inscribed messages included their arrival and departure dates, ship names, and sometimes the names of senior officers.

These “Postal stones” became vital links to home. If the ship wrecked or sank, a postal stone could provide clues about the last port of call. Investigators could reconstruct the last voyage and have an idea of where the ship may have gone down. Maritime archaeologists regard these rock writings as an important source of information on 17th century ship life.



The inscriptions can be seen in several museums in Cape Town and can be found, in situ, on a small island in the North-eastern part of Madagascar: Nosy Mangabe. Here, cliffs on the beach contain 40 inscriptions in the old Dutch language, left by at least 13 different ships between 1601 and 1657.

Nosy Mangabe is an uninhabited, humid island with fresh water always available and frequently running down its cliffs. It rains there more than 290 days of the year. All that potable water proved attractive to passing ships, but the constant rain also helped erode the postal stones, making them less

easy to read by the early 20th century.

The 1907 edition of the South African Railway Magazine tells the story of the discovery of some early Cape history – known as the “Post Office Stones”. While excavating for the foundation of a building, the workmen struck a large mass of rock that proved to be a series of steps leading down to the sea. Further excavation found a number of rocks bearing inscriptions. The oldest one was dated 1618, and the letters: VINCENT STA GEART, while the rest of the inscription is in Dutch, the other side of the same stone bears the following inscription in English:

RICHARD ARNVIT COM OF LONDON ARRIVED JULY 4 AN 1631 DEP XXI

Some of the inscriptions told amazing stories. One inscription reveals that the ship *Middleburg* reached the island in 1625 after having lost all its mast and sails after a cyclone. It was anchored there for a good seven months while it was being repaired.

Continued from pg 4:

Nosy Mangabe was not the only popular message center, and other watering stops were used. The crews did not always carve on stone. The first post office in South Africa was founded in 1500, when a Portuguese sailor left a letter in a shoe that he tucked into a tree. The letter was found the following year by another Portuguese sailor on route to India. And the crew who made the first Dutch East India Company landfall in Western Australia in 1616 left their messages on a pewter plate suspended from a post.

By the late 1600s, the Dutch had abandoned the system of postal stones because they discovered that the messages didn't always go to whom they were meant to. Increasingly, crews from rival companies had begun stealing letters from around the rocks and using the information to track the activities of their competitors. So, the Dutch ships began employing locals to hold letters.

In 1992, The South African Post issued a set of 5 stamps of 35c which depict the history of these stones in South Africa. (Sc.#819-823a)

On the first stamp, the three Dutch merchantmen are shown under full sail near the Cape of Good Hope. In the background is Lion's Head, Table Mountain and Signal Hill, the characteristic landmarks for travelers to the Cape. On the long voyage to and from the Far East, seamen went ashore for fresh water and provisions. The stones with the inscriptions were usually left on the beach near the mouth of the freshwater river. This is displayed on the second and third stamp, which shows the native tribe and a group of sailors with a postal stone. In the background of the third stamp the sailors are drinking from the river and carrying water. Fourth and fifth stamp are moments depicting the seamen reading the letters left behind, under the stones.

For a video tour of Madagascar and the postal stones : <https://vimeo.com/81197251>

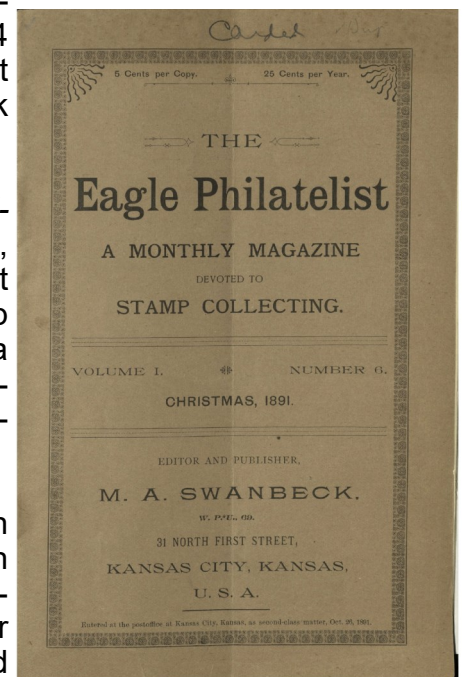
References: <https://www.hakaimagazine.com/features/message-boulder/>
<http://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/workmen-discover-hidden-steps-and-centuries-old-post-office-stones-1906>
<https://shipstamps.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=12233>

A Piece of Kansas City Area Philatelic History: by Jeff Lough

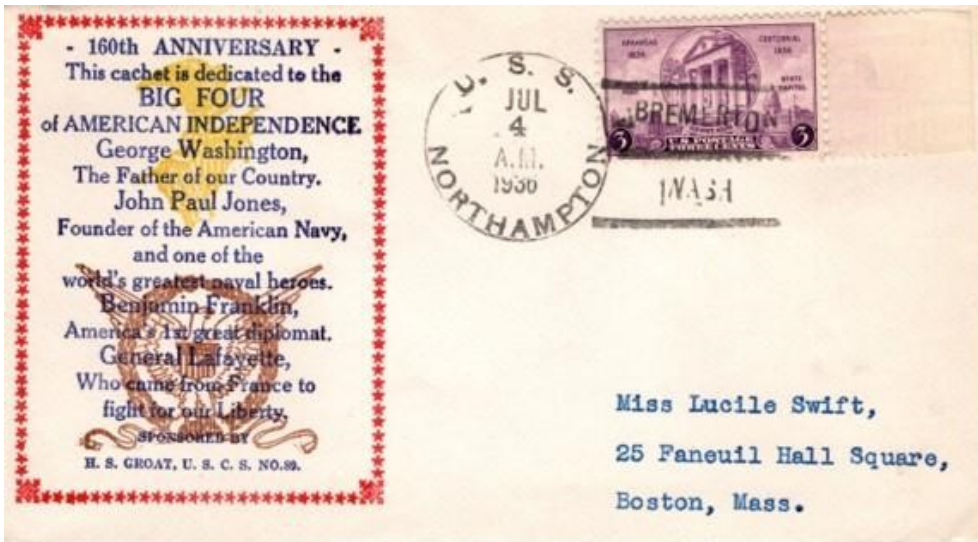
The "Official Circular" of the American Philatelic Association, the predecessor of the American Philatelic Society, noted in the November, 1894 edition of *The Philatelic Journal of America: An Illustrated Monthly* that stamp collector and philatelic author/ editor-publisher M. A. Swanbeck had passed away at the age of 29.

Mr. Swanbeck was the main writer, editor and publisher of *The Eagle Philatelist*, published for a brief time at 31 North First Street of Kansas City, Kansas. An illustration of the cover of the Christmas, 1891 edition of that monthly accompanies this note. Mr. Swanbeck was a very active stamp collector. He served as a reference for at least two Kansas City area men who wanted to be in the American Philatelic Society: David Rosenwald of 427 West 11th Street in Kansas City, Missouri and W. V. Lippincott of 724 Wyandotte Street, also of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. John K. Tiffany, President of the American Philatelic Society, noted in Swanbeck's obituary that he was No. 429 in the Association, having been admitted as a member in February, 1893. He was the Exchange Superintendent of the Sons of Philatelia and had been Secretary and Treasurer of the Kansas City Society. He was also a member of the Postal Card Society of America.

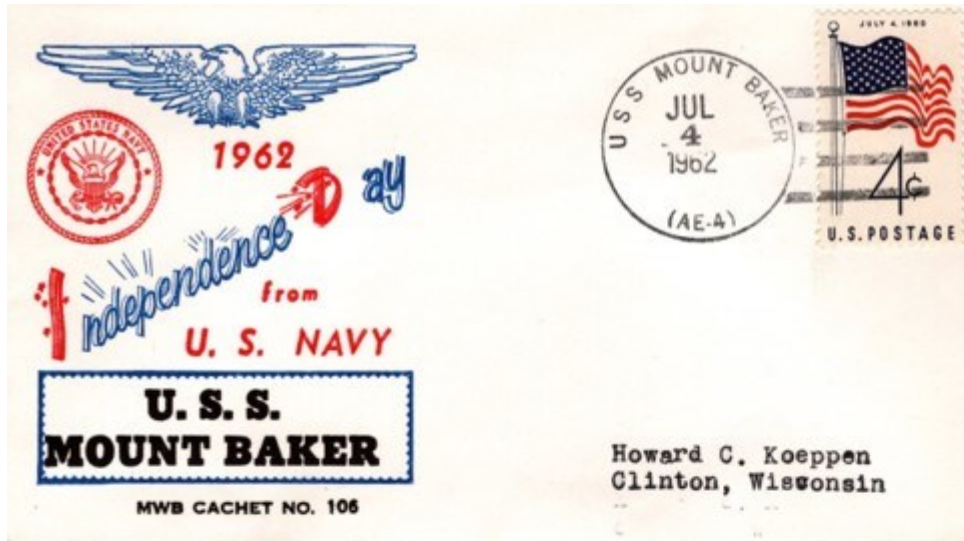


Fourth of July covers by Michael Keil



USS MOUNT BAKER (AE-4)

Cover cancelled 4 July, 1962. Cachet by Morris Beck. AE-4 was originally commissioned in May, 1941 as the USS KILAUEA. The name was changed in March, 1943 to avoid confusion with a similarly named ship. The ship was an ammunition ship and a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. She was struck from the Naval Register in December, 1969.



USS NORTHAMPTON (CA-26)
Cancelled 4 July, 1936. Type 3s cancellation. Cachet maker Harrison Sydney Groat. (featured last month in the newsletter)

USS PENNSYLVANIA (BB-38)
Cancelled 4 July, 1935. Type 3 (B-TBT). Cachet makers Almas (real identity unknown), Robert M. Graham, and USCS Chapter 24. Back of the cover is stamped "257 covers

cancelled." Signed by J. Novae, sec. PENNSYLVANIA was commissioned in 1916. Because she was in drydock at Pearl Harbor, flanked by two destroyers, when the Japanese attack, PENNSYLVANIA received relatively minor damage. A veteran of several major engagements during World War II, including Okinawa where she was badly damaged by a Japanese torpedo. The ship was assigned to the target fleet for the nuclear bomb tests during Operation Crossroads. The ship survived the tests but was so badly contaminated that it was towed to Kwajalein Atoll and scuttled in deep water in 1948.



So Are You Going to Throw Out Half of Your U.S. Collection? by Jim McKinzie

I was an avid Lincoln fan and interested in Presidential history even before I started collecting stamps. So when I discovered the Emancipation Monument Issue, I had to have it. It had Lincoln on it! While my Harris Liberty Album described why it was issued, I wanted to know more. I don't recall if we already had the set of Encyclopedia Britannicas yet. I am not sure if I looked up more information at the school or the downtown Tulsa Public Library but I found out about the artist and the reason the statue was erected.

The statue was designed by sculptor Thomas Ball. His depiction of Lincoln's courageous decision to write and sign the Emancipation Proclamation which the 13th Amendment grew out of, does have controversy surrounding it. The statue shows Lincoln, with arm outstretched, as if to say, "Rise Up". The former slave is at his feet with the chains of bondage broken. The whipping post is draped to signify it is no longer used. While the former slave is kneeling at Lincoln's feet, some have said the artist was showing the person rising up. Lincoln's outstretched arm seems to confirm that theory as if Lincoln is saying to the former slave to rise up, you are free now.

It is interesting to note that the statue was commissioned and erected with funds from former slaves. That is why it is known as the Freedman's Memorial. It has been called the Emancipation Group or Memorial. It has been called the Lincoln Memorial also. When THE Lincoln Memorial was erected in 1922, that name fell out of favor.



**US #902
Thirteenth Amendment 75th
Anniversary Issue**

When in Washington, D.C. a few years later with my Grandparents, I begged my Grandfather to take me to that Memorial so I could take a picture of it. While I remember seeing this interesting memorial, somehow I did not come home with a picture. My little Kodak camera did not capture the image. One of my rolls of film, several of the pictures came out black. The hazards of film and the cameras of yesterday. How younger people have no clue the frustrations of coming back from a trip only to find that some of your pictures didn't turn out. I still blame the film lab and not my skills of operating the camera at 14 years of age.



**US #1209 & 1261
First Day Cover of #1261
Battle of New Orleans Issue
General Andrew Jackson and Sesquicentennial Medal**

Now turning your attention to our 7th President, Andrew Jackson, the hero of the Battle of New Orleans. Love this stamp and what it represents. Beautiful design. But the more I read about Andrew Jackson, the more I found it was hard to love him, like Lincoln. His determination to rid the country of the native population by forcing the "Five Civilized Tribes" to move to what is now the State of Oklahoma turned this descendant of Cherokee ancestors off.

Continued on pg 9:

Continued from pg. 8

Jackson is a good example of great but deeply flawed person. He took in a Creek Native American boy and raised him as his own. He did many great things but he also did many awful things. Some of his executive actions while president, helped continue slavery in this country for three more decades. But despite that he was the most popular and revered president for many, many years.

He was so popular after the War of 1812, for saving this country at the Battle of New Orleans and other actions leading up to that battle, that when a new county was being formed where Independence was, they named it after the great general. The county of Jackson was created in 1826, two years before he became President and 27 years before Kansas City was incorporated.

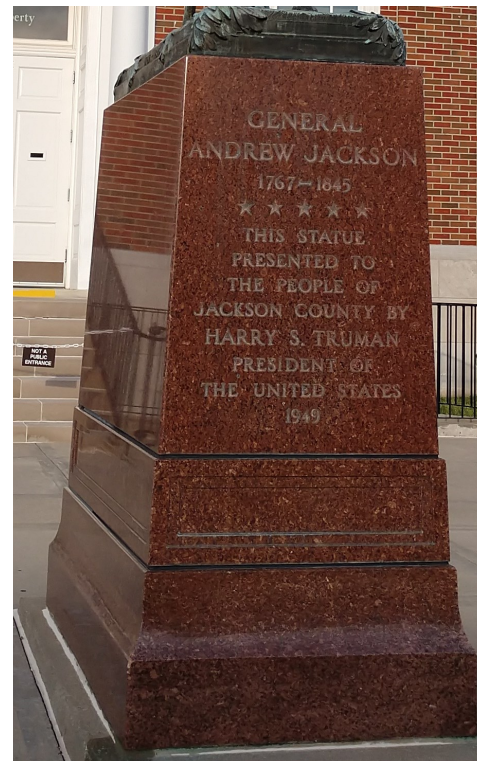
Now there are calls to remove this statue and the statue in front of the Kansas City Jackson County Courthouse. While not a fan of Jackson, I would not like to see the statue removed. Truman gave the statue as a gift to the people of Jackson County. Jackson sits on the west end of the courthouse and Truman stands at the East end of the courthouse. It is a good historical balance.



**Andrew Jackson Statue outside the Historic Jackson County Courthouse in Independence, MO
Presented as a gift to the people of Jackson County by President Harry S. Truman in 1949.**



President Harry S. Truman with a Covid mask in Independence, Missouri



Base of the General Jackson statue in Independence, Missouri

Continued on pg 10:



Truman was quite impressed with Jackson, as most Americans for nearly two centuries. He was a popular figure with the Democratic party. Should Truman's statue in Independence come down because he admired Jackson. Don't forget Truman was the President that intergraded the Armed Forces.

Why tear down U.S. Grant's statue or Teddy Roosevelt's or any other. Grant was the General that Lincoln selected, that finally destroyed the Confederacy and won the war for the Union. Teddy was the Roosevelt that started the National Park system that we have today. I have learned from the stamps that have been issued over the years by our country. By studying *why* they were issued and the stories behind the event or people, you can better understand where we come from and what is possible in the future. It also can remind you of what NOT to do.

History is full of flawed individuals but many of those individuals achieved great things for the human race. We need to accept the "Good, the Bad and the Ugly." If

we understand our past we can also achieve greatness. But if we bury or wipeout the past, we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past.

I found in my years at the election board that many, many voters have NO concept or understanding of our levels of government. They don't know or understand the difference between city, county, state or federal government. They have no basic knowledge of what governs them. Some late night talk show hosts have gone to college campuses or just any busy street in a city and asked basic history questions, to find that many could not answer the questions. Google this, "Texas Tech History Quiz Video" and watch the YouTube video of a street history quiz taken on that campus in 2014. You will be amazed at the answers of obviously bright young people, especially about the Civil War.

I would bet if you showed a \$20 bill, the stamp at the right or walked up to the Jackson statue in Kansas City or Independence, and asked anyone standing there, 8 out of 10 people would not be able to name who he is and one thing he either accomplished or did wrong in his life.

So are we going to learn from our United States stamp collections or burn it?



US #73
Andrew Jackson

This month's quiz:

John Trumbull's painting of "The Declaration of Independence" was represented on how many stamps during the Bicentennial Era and by how many countries?

Find out in next month's newsletter.

