

The Messenger



February 2022

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In Person or by Zoom
New Location
Westport Flea Market
817 Westport Rd
Kansas City, MO 64111
Saturday, February 5th
See Details Inside
Zoom link Info will
come to your email

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed:

Members present or on Zoom: 38 in attendance, 3 on zoom.

Treasurer: \$8,354.00 balance on Dec. 31, 2021. Financial report will be available in upcoming newsletter.

Secretary: The books from the AAMS were shipped Friday (Jan. 7) from Bellefontaine, Pa. Should be here in time for the February meeting. We won't know until they arrive exactly what will be in the shipment. Only cost to the club is shipping charges (shipped media rate).

Librarian: Nothing new.

Historian: Nothing new.

First Vice-President's Report: We have a program lined up for February but not for March and April. Contact Michael if you are interested in presenting a program sometime in 2022. Looking into other meeting places that might better suit our needs. Possibly new meeting rooms in the Johnson County Library system, if they are letting people gather again.

Second Vice-President's Report: The 2021 newsletter has been archived and can be viewed on the website. Check out the marketplace as well. Due to the limited table space and until further notice please limit your items for the monthly auction to 10 items.

Newsletter: Details for the 2022 award for the best newsletter article are still being worked out. Will be published in the newsletter when this is finalized

Announcements:

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Jan. 21-23, 2022. Sarasota, Florida.

ARIPEX, Mesa, Arizona, Feb. 18-20, 2022.

Wichita Coin and Stamp Show, Feb. 18-19, 2022. Cessna Activity Center, Wichita, Ks.

LINPEX, 2022, Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 26-27, 2022.

St. Louis Stamp Expo, St. Louis, Missouri, Mar. 25-27, 2022.

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, May 27-29, 2022. New location is the Arapaho County Fair Grounds in Aurora, Colorado.

Show and Tell:

Article from the latest edition of The Saturday Evening Post about stamp collecting.

John W. Denver free franked via Nicaragua letter.

Item from the North Pole, cancelled at Fairbanks, Alaska on August 10, 1956, from Herbert Frisby to Maestro Arturo Toscanini.

Program: Tomas presented a program about a Peruvian postcard from 1905, giving details about the sender, Christian Dan, and the recipient, Max Hempel and the Free Thought Movement in America. Fascinating program.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Keil

**Meet in person or log into Zoom on
Saturday, February 5th for "How to Use Your Scott
Catalogue and Get the Most Out of It" by Neil Becker**

New U.S. Issues for 2021:

The Edmonia Lewis issue announced last month was missing the print quantity. The USPS did not release the information until January 13th. There will be 35,000,000 stamps issued in this release.

Butterfly Garden Flowers

Nondenominated, nonprofit rate
(5 cent value)

Two Designs, Coil of 3,000 &
Coil of 10,000

Issue Date February 1st

Print Quantity –60,000,000

stamps for Coil of 3,000

2,250,000,000 for Coil of 10,000



Monument Valley

Priority Mail, rate \$8.95

One Design, Pane of 4

Issue Date February 14th

Print Quantity –4,000,000



Palace of Fine Arts

Priority Express Mail, rate
\$26.95

One Design, Pane of 4

Issue Date February 14th

Print Quantity –1,000,000



Philatelic Happenings:

SOCOPEX

Saturday, February 12th– 9am to 3pm

Aviator Hotel & Suites

6921 S. Lindbergh Blvd

St. Louis, MO

10 dealers, 33 tables announced with
Free admission.

Cessna Coin and Stamp Show

Friday, February 18th– 9am to 5pm

Saturday, February 19th— 9am to 4pm

Cessna Activity Center

2744 George Washington Blvd

Wichita, KS

36 dealers, 55 tables announced with
Free admission. No breakdown given
between coin and stamp dealers.

LINPEX 2022

Saturday, February 26th-10am to 6pm

Sunday, February 27th-10am to 4pm

Country Inn & Suites

5353 North 27th St

Lincoln, NE

Includes stamp exhibits, kid and begin-
ner areas plus free evaluations.

7 Dealers, 14 Tables announced with
Free admission.

*So what do you think of the US stamp
program so far? Let me know by writing
or emailing me and I will include it with
my thoughts in an upcoming newsletter.*



JMc

Heart Stamp – Chanel from France 2021

What says Happy Valentine's Day more than
expensive perfume and hearts?

VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 14TH

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

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

If You Have Not Submitted Your Membership Dues:

Please bring your cash or check and the attached membership form to the next meeting so that you will be up-to-date in all things with this organization. We offer a lot to the members each month. You can learn more about this wonderful hobby through the show-n-tells and programs we offer. Plus there is the added benefit to buy or sell stamps both at auction and our new “dealer time” before the meeting. From 10am to 1pm is a good time to buy, sell or trade stamps with fellow members or to just discuss all things philatelic. Remember you also get this newsletter each month by email, which is part of your membership dues. If you still prefer to receive the newsletter by mail, there is now an additional \$10 upcharge to your annual dues fee.

The new dues rates are \$25 per year for individuals and \$30 per year for families. *Also, members who have been dues paying members for at least 15 years may become a life member by paying 7 years of membership dues in a single transaction and thus becoming a member exempt from future dues assessment. That would be \$175 at the current dues rate of \$25. Please check with Armen if you are eligible.*

See the membership form for the dues rate that fits your need. We will have copies of form at the meeting for those of you unable to print out the form.

If you are already a paid up life member, please fill out the membership form with your current info. Mark on the form that you are a life member.

The President's Corner:

Dear MPS Friends - January is moving rapidly toward February. Fortunately for those of us into stamp collecting, this is a great time of year! I know several of my favorite dealers have been running sales and specials which have been great for helping build my collection. Some special new items for my exhibits. Auction houses are gearing up again following the end of year holiday rush. Perhaps you have similarly found something new and exciting for your collection? If so, I encourage you to bring it along to an MPS meeting for Show & Tell. Always interesting to hear about what others collect and enjoy. As of right now, we don't have speakers lined up to give programs in March or April - so these might become extended Show & Tell sessions. Show us what you've got! Tomas



Argentina
Abraham Lincoln
Scott #712
Born February 12, 1809

**CELEBRATE PRESIDENTS DAY FEBRUARY 21ST
TEACH A CHILD OUR HISTORY THROUGH STAMPS**

ABOUT ZOOM: Please try to connect at 2:00 or shortly after.
Once a show-n-tell or program is in progress, there is not a current way to notice that you are trying to log in.

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, February 5, 2022

10am– 1pm Dealers, Members, Buy, Sell and Trading time
1pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view
2pm— ?? Business meeting, show-n-tell and program with Auction to follow

Enjoy the benefits of the food and beverage available at Westport Flea Market before and/or after the meeting. Another excellent time to discuss the hobby with fellow members.

It is recommended that if you need table space to sell or exchange items, please bring your own at this time.

U.S. Fancy Cancels 1890-1900 – the Sol Salkind approach by Bob Burney

What is a FANCY CANCEL? They include any postage stamp or cover marked with an interesting canceling design used to **deface the stamp and to prevent its reuse**. While many collectors use the terms postmark and cancel synonymously, the earliest postmarks served only to denote the date a letter was accepted at a post office. It wasn't until the advent of adhesive stamps in 1840 that a separate system for indicating used stamps was required. The most unique cancellation marks from our past are the handstamps created before the advent of mail-processing machinery. Many local post offices designed and carved their own cancellations, resulting in an array of diverse designs to serve the basic purpose of defacing a stamp applied to an envelope, indicating the original service for mail delivery had ended. The only canceling rules provided by our post office was that cancels must apply an obliterating design to prevent stamps from being reused. The word "OBLITERATING" resulted in the term "KILLER" cancels, one of the fancy cancel categories.

One of the early methods of cancellation was applied using manuscript pen and ink cancels, followed by manufactured town date stamps. Most canceling devices were hand-held, made from cork, vulcanized rubber, or various metals. The more they were used, the more they wore, rendering detail from their original designs to become lost. Depending on the amount of ink applied to a design before landing on a stamp, two conditions emerged, 1) the design could appear very clear or distorted, and 2) a design may be S.O.N. (socked on the nose) on the stamp, or miss the stamp and land somewhere across the top of the envelope.

Postmaster General Joseph Holt, on July 23, 1860 required separate killer cancels on stamps and banned use of town date stamps. This caused problems, particularly in large post offices where volumes of mail had to be postmarked in limited time to meet scheduled mail departures.

More personnel and handstamps were procured to satisfy growing demands. This led to development of duplex handstamp devices, combining town date stamps and killers so that both could be applied across stamps with a single stroke. Government issued duplex devices were furnished to offices having very large annual gross mail volumes after the mid-1860's. The "first class" handstamps were steel duplexed devices. Smaller offices received iron or wood handstamps.

Softer cork handstamps generally did a more thorough job in canceling than metal, even though they wore out more quickly. Since cork cancels or carved wood cancels required frequent replacement, it was easily done using socket-type duplex mounting cancelers.

These devices became an endless appliance for fancy cancels. Some postmasters and their clerks fancied one design, for example, "a star", and as they wore out, continually replaced them with a somewhat similar, but slightly different cork star of the same basic design. This produced markings of confusing variation, many of which some experts deem to be possible fakes, barring documented ink and chemistry studies. Who knows ... there is little proof and many unfounded theories attributed to this dilemma.

This factor causes a considerable problem today, deciding whether such cancels on loose stamps are simply a non-identical replacement, or the product of some fake design. Many postmasters and clerks copied designs, with more or less accuracy, than appeared on incoming mail from other post offices when those designs caught their fancy. This too compounds the problem of which post office or forger applied a cancel to a stamp which had been removed from its cover.

It is assumed Class-2 cancelling devices were made of iron and they were not necessarily duplexed. The difference between iron and steel, the latter being hardened after finishing, would have produced longer life in terms of steel surfaces being usable to postmark more pieces of mail before wearing out.

In 1873, post offices with under \$50 of annual receipts received no postmarking devices whatsoever, and were instructed to produce their own. Post offices with gross receipts of \$50 to \$500 received wood circular town marks; \$500 to \$1000 received iron, and those with over \$1000 of annual receipts received first class steel (perhaps brass also) devices for canceling stamps.

Canceling devices were sometimes provided by the government, as explained in the previous paragraph, or by private contract, open procurement, or self-made by postal clerks and postmasters. Canceling devices acquired by any means other than the post office were paid for by postmasters. There was no government monetary allowance of any kind made to postmasters for locally procured canceling devices. Many post offices, as late as 1870, disregarded post office or locally procured canceling devices, continuing to apply manuscript cancels to deface stamps.

The January 1881 U.S. Postal Guide advertised rubber stamp postmarking devices, a process of making date stamps from vulcanized rubber. A common example is the beautiful and popular “wheel-of-fortune” killers design, called by some the “Japanese parasol” and by others, “doilies”. It is estimated this postmark was used by at least 600 different small post offices during the 1880s.

In 1883, the U.S. Postal Guide stated: “The use of a rubber postmarking device is a violation of the law. The Post Office Department furnishes metal postmarking stamps and requires postage stamps to be canceled with black printing ink, which cannot be used with the rubber stamp.” The use of rubber stamps apparently became acceptable within a few years of service since the manufacturers supplying them continued to privately advertise to postmasters. The tone of the ads changed, cancellers soon disappearing from illustrations with handstamps shown being intended for supplemental use like money order business or auxiliary markings – not considered postal cancels.

The comment made in rule 976 that black printing ink couldn't be used with a rubber stamp is of interest. This probably meant that the major factor considered by the Post Office Department was their fear of re-use of badly canceled stamps or stamps having cancels where ink could be washed off. Most of the fancy cancels in my collection from this era are in black ink ... violet and blue inked fancy cancels generally commanding a higher price from dealers.

Designs appearing in each of the fancy cancel catalogs were generally lifted from envelopes and stamps – some collectors of long ago making it a practice of drawing designs they collected and giving them a name and number. Exceptions to this practice crept across the tongues of philatelists for decades for reasons of proper design interpretation. There's just not enough room in this month's article to cover everything discerning negative consequences evolving from fancy cancels, but you get the idea.

When collecting Fancy Cancels, the condition of the stamps they are on, do not matter to most collectors. Straight-edges, short-perforations, print centering, or even tiny tears and thins are acceptable. Personally, I do not accept torn stamps, or those with thins for any area of my collections, but it is acceptable to most.

Where do you find fancy cancels from this era of philately? Stamp shows, bourses, clubs, collector accumulations. But the best way to obtain them is to buy bulk lots of the stamps with the values you are interested in – I mean in bags or envelopes of hundreds to choose from. I focus on the 2c reds produced during the last Bank Note definitive issues (1890-93), and the First Bureau Issues (1894-1898). I also study color varieties of the same stamps from these print productions, but that is a different subject for another time. I've included a chart at the end of Part 1 of this article, identifying Scott catalog numbers, colors, types, perforations, and watermarks for your future reference.

Information, basically a catalog of fancy cancel designs on the 2c Washington reds was captured by a man named Sol Salkind. His book, “U.S. Cancels 1890-1900,” published in 1985 is available, but becoming difficult to find. There are other authors, such as James M. Cole who published his catalog, “Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894,” published in 1995, which contains a much broader scope of fancy cancels and has a much easier arrangement of design samples to study. Keep in mind that Cole catalogs his fancy cancel designs used before 1890. There are other works too, like Billig and Simpson, who documented their fancy cancel designs as far back as the 1840s, with strong emphasis on the cancels used during the 1850s through the 1880s. Since I can't afford every fancy cancel design (there are hundreds of them), I've limited my collection to designs in Salkind's works, with the understanding that I've found other designs from the 1870s and 1880s which is covered in Cole's catalog. If you have a computer and do not wish to purchase the catalogs I've mentioned, there is an alternative.

Take a look at this site: Stamp Smarter US Fancy Cancels: https://stampssmarter.org/features/fancycancels_home.html.

I've talked about these interesting stamp design cancels at the Sunday MPS Breakfast Club in December, with examples from my collection. Since there is so much information to deliver, and so many samples to observe, this might become an ongoing subject – – along with a color study of the same material, for a few weeks, into the future. Stay tuned to our newsletter.

The 2¢ Reds Defined:

1890-1893 Last Bank Note Definitive Issues [Scott Nos. 219-220]

The smaller Definitive issues introduced in 1890, similar in size to many of those in use today, were well received – with one notable exception. Customers disliked the deep red (lake) color of the 2¢ George Washington (219D0, which was replaced eleven weeks later with the 2¢ stamp in a carmine shade (220).

1894 First Bureau Issues – The Government Takes Over! [Scott Nos. 248-252a]

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a division of the Treasury Department, began printing U.S. postage stamps in 1894, modifying the 1890 American Bank Note Company designs by adding triangles to the upper corners. These stamps include triangles on the 2¢ denomination that exists in three versions – Types I, II, and III.

1895 First Bureau Issues – Double-lined Watermarked [Scott Pattern 191, Nos. #265-267c]

In 1895, the Bureau of Engraving & Printing re-issued the 1894 stamps with a watermark paper design (the letters U S P S) to guard against counterfeits. Since a sheet of 100 stamps contained only 81 double-line watermark letters, few stamps contain a complete letter in their center. More often, the watermark letter is shifted off-center to either side, or the stamp is straddled by 2 incomplete letters.

1898 First Bureau Issues – Universal Postal Union Colors [Scott Nos. #279B-279Bi]

In 1898, the Universal Postal Union recommended the color-coding of several denominations to simplify the sorting of mail. Green was used for 1¢ post card stamps, red for 2¢ domestic first-class letter stamps, and blue for 5¢ or international mail postage. These stamps include triangles on the 2¢ denomination that exists in Type IV.

2¢ Reds for Fancy Cancels, Perf. 12			
Scott No.	Color	Type	Double-line Watermark
1890-1893 Last Bank Note Definitive Issues			
219D	lake		
220	carmine		
Note: 220a and 220c are considered plate varieties, and can be added to the fancy cancel collection or collected as a separate interest.			
1894 First Bureau Issues			
248	pink	I	
249	carmine-lake	I	
250	carmine	I	
250a	rose	I	
250b	scarlet	I	
251	carmine	II	
251a	scarlet	II	
252	carmine	III	
252a	scarlet	III	
1895 First Bureau Issues, Double-lined Wmk.			
265	carmine	I	wmk. 191
266	carmine	II	wmk. 191
267	carmine	III	wmk. 191
267a	pink	III	wmk. 191
267b	vermilion	III	wmk. 191
267c	rose-carmine	III	wmk. 191
1898 First Bureau Issues, U.P.U. Colors			
279B	red	IV	wmk. 191
279Bc	rose-carmine	IV	wmk. 191
279Bd	orange-red	IV	wmk. 191 horiz.
279Be	orange-red	IV	wmk. 191 vert. error
279Bf	carmine	IV	wmk. 191
279Bg	pink	IV	wmk. 191
279Bh	vermilion	IV	wmk. 191
279Bi	brown-orange	IV	wmk. 191
Gray-out cells do not apply to column data.			

The International Geophysical Year, Part 2 by Michael Keil:

The International Geophysical Year was not Japan's first venture to Antarctica. The Japanese Antarctic Expedition of 1910-12 was the first by a non-Western nation. This expedition has been largely overlooked as it occurred concurrently with the race for the South Pole by Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott. During the IGY, Japan sent an expedition led by Takeshi Nagata and established Showa Station (sometimes spelled Syowa) on East Ongul Island in Queen Maude Land, Antarctica on January 29, 1957.

The Japanese endeavor was beset with problems from the start owing to the remoteness of the base. The relief party for 1958 was unable to reach the station due to heavy ice and the original party had to eventually be evacuated by helicopter. 15 Sakhalin Husky dogs had to be left behind, but the plan was for them to be evacuated a few days later when the weather cleared, which unfortunately, it did not. The dogs had to be abandoned to their fate. Almost one year later when another party reached the station, they found that two of the dogs had miraculously survived by eating penguins. The two dogs, Taro and Jiro were returned to Japan where they became famous.



Monument to Taro and Jiro
at the port of Nagoya.

First Day Cover for the Japanese IGY stamp. The stamp features the IGY globe, an emperor penguin, and the Japanese Research Ship Soya. Cancelled with a special IGY cancellation on July 1, 1957. The Soya is also pictured on a very colorful cachet.

国際地球観測年記念



International Geophysical Year
First Day of Issue: July 1, 1957



Continued on pg 10



An interesting cover from Korea to Vietnam with an IGY cachet. Neither Korea nor Vietnam participated in the IGY in any way, nor did they issue any stamps for the event. Cancelled Pusan, Korea on January 14, 1959, and back-stamped Saigon, Vietnam on January 19, 1959. Enclosed was an invitation from Lee Chang Sung to exchange stamps.

Although located far from Antarctica, the Netherland Antilles played an important role during the IGY. High powered radio transmitter stations were built on the island of Curacao and were constantly monitored by scientists from several nations.

The Netherland Antilles commemorative stamp for the IGY, issued December 10, 1957. The stamp shows the location of the radio transmitter station on the island of Curacao. Cancelled at Willemstad, Curacao with a special commemorative cancel. This cover also features a hand-drawn, pen and ink cachet, possibly a one-of-a-kind cover. Back-stamped New York and Key West.



Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Bob B. and Michael K. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the March issue will be February 15th.** Happy stamping!

YES ✓ I would like to JOIN OR CONTINUE my membership in Midwest Philatelic Society.

Copy and save this form as a pdf or jpg document and send to: info@armenstamp.com or bring to meeting with dues.

Or mail to: Armen Hovsepian
Treasurer
P. O. Box 24222
Overland Park, KS 66283

- 2022 dues (individual)..... \$25.00.....\$ _____
 - 2022 dues (family)..... \$30.00.....\$ _____
 - Life Member (contact Armen first)\$175.00.....\$_____ Current Life Member
 - 2022 Donation to My MPS Club..... \$_____
 - 2022 Donation to MPS Library..... \$_____
 - Upcharge for Mailing Newsletter \$10.00.....\$_____
-Total Remittance \$ _____

We are updating our records and will appreciate if you complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

My collecting interests: _____

ALL MEMBERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, IF YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED BUT WANT SOME INFORMATION TO BE WITHHELD PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE INCLUDED:

I ONLY WANT MY NAME and COLLECTING INTERESTS TO BE INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY _____

YOUR COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL COME BY EMAIL UNLESS YOU WOULD PREFER IT TO COME BY TRADITIONAL MAIL.

I AM UNABLE TO RECEIVE EMAIL, SEND MY NEWSLETTER BY MAIL _____

There is an additional \$10 charge to receive the newsletter by mail.