

The Messenger



April 2024

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

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**Saturday,
April 6th
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2**



Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the March Meeting:

Attendance: 33 members in attendance with 2 visitors.

Visitors: Carl Sharp collects a little of everything and Steve Stratton collects US and Space Topicals.

President: Rodger noted that the next meeting we will be from 10am to 5pm on April 6th. He also opened the discussion on the cost of mailing the newsletter to each member. This led to a lengthy discussion on ways to get around the high costs. Once finished it was announced that several of the board members thought it would be nice for Perry Kilpatrick to take over the secretary's job. At which time Perry accepted the position.

First Vice President Report: Arman noted that all the speakers for the year had been filled except October. Rick Karlslyst volunteered to give the presentation. Discussion was had on the APS booklets. Last month 7 members purchased \$165 and at the moment only 3 members have purchased \$122. Armen asked the members to come to his table to create a list of booklets for the next month.

Second Vice President report: Jeff Jaax is putting together a list of MPS member that have not reupped for the year and asked if people that know these members, please give them a call. They may have better response than a blanket call from the club.

Secretary Report: No report. Perry Kilpatrick has taken over the job for the year.

Treasurer Report: Hans Vergara asked what amount to charge new members for dues. Perry made a motion that the club prorate the dues for new members. This was later modified to prorate the dues for new members only, after February each year. This was seconded by Scott Couch. Motion Carried. Noted this was only for new members.

Librarian report: No report.

Historian: Scott Couch showed a magazine with an article on the MPS club at the Muehlebach Hotel. This will be added to the history of the club. Please take a look at the new addition.

Newsletter: No report beyond the cost of the newsletter being sent out to those members not receiving them by email.

Website: No report.

Exhibits: No report at this time but be thinking of putting together a presentation. The time comes around sooner than you think.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Steve Stratton's membership application was presented and accepted.

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***Join us on
Saturday, April 6th
for Jim McKinzie &
"The Beauty of France"***

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, April 6th

Meeting is to be held at 1st Presbyterian Church-Westminster Hall
417 W Lexington Ave
Independence, MO 64050

10:00am—1pm Dealers and members, buy, sell and trade.

1:00pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view.

2:00pm— 5pm Business meeting, show-n-tell and program with Auction to follow.

We must be out by 5pm, so be ready to bid, pay with cash and pickup your auction lots.

Directions to new location can be found on our website. Check out the January or February newsletters on the site.

Philatelic Happenings:

CERAPEX 2024

Machinist Hall
222 Prospect Place SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
April 20-21
Saturday 9-5
Sunday 10-4

Coming in June:

The Greater Kansas City Stamp Show

June 7-8 2024

Location: 1st Presbyterian Church...Westminster Hall
417 W. Lexington Ave
Independence, MO 64050

Time: 10am-5pm Friday
10am-4pm Saturday

Over a dozen dealers are scheduled to be there so far.
Mark your calendars today!

Continued from pg. 1

Announcements: The Saint Louis stamp show was noted coming the weekend of the 22nd. GASS was noted in Hartford in August.

What are you looking for? No one had a request.

Show and Tell:

Scott Couch – Showed US revenue cigar taxes paid from around 1860.

Victor Ellison – Showed collection of special cancels on covers from the area. Also, a calendar from 1910 with a menu for buffet for .25¢.

Jim McKinzie – Showed a Great Britain Overprint oddity and asked for help in Identifying them.

Program: George Corney “Quiz Time at the MPS”

Respectfully submitted by,
Perry Kilpatrick

Philatelic Ramblings:



Did you go to the St. Louis show? If not, you missed a good show. Several members were in attendance. Some were there on Friday, some on Saturday and again on Sunday. I was unable to get a group picture but those in attendance were Scott Couch, Victor Ellison, Gordon Gilpin, Rick Karlslyst, Byron Lewis, Jim McKinzie, Ricky Pease, and Charlie Wunsch. Everyone was having a good time and finding items for their collections. On Friday night Byron, Charlie and I went to the Hill and had a wonderful Italian dinner at Rigazzi's (Home of the Frozen Fish Bowl). And no, it isn't fish that is served in that giant glass.

Went to two interesting seminars on Saturday. One was on *The Civil War—A Postal System Divided* and the other was *Re-Federalization of the Confederate Post Offices and Express Company Delivery 1862-1869*. But Friday was my ultimate downfall. I got to St. Louis in time to go to the first day ceremony for the two new issues, *Wedding Blooms* and *Celebration Blooms*. It was a nice ceremony, although not as elaborate as they are at GASS but very nice. It started me thinking, which is always dangerous. All day and night I thought whether to buy those two issues and a couple of others that have come out this year that I liked. I waited until Saturday afternoon, right before I was heading home, went to the table the USPS had set up to sell new issues. I bought everything that had been issued this year that they had. The poor lady was so excited. I was her biggest sale of the day! What does that tell you about the new issues and collecting!?! Whether I continue with the rest of the year remains to be seen.

In what I mentioned last month in this column, was reinforced every time I walked past the kid's stamp room. They had a tremendous amount of stamps and activities set up but virtually no children were ever in there when I pasted by. Very sad. They had a good set up for so few interested. We need to focus our attention and recruitment to older generations. There is a very good article in the recent Linn's about Randy Neil and his passing. In that article, John Hotchner mentions that Randy was promoting stamp collecting to an attending nurse right up to end. That nurse says they plan to start collecting! Again, not a kid but an adult.

In losing Randy, the philatelic world has lost it's greatest cheerleader. He was for ever promoting this wonderful hobby and we have lost a long time member of the MPS also.

We should all take his example and talk up the hobby to our friends, neighbors and acquaintances. That is the only way to keep this hobby going. While I won't care if my estate sells my collection, some of you might and if you want it to sell then we must recruit new people to the hobby.

JMc

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is

www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

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

Geography by Rick Karlslyst:

I had bought the postcard because it was from 1898, not even noticing at the time the stamps were from 3 separate countries, the "Ottingen 1" postmark had been the trigger to buy because of the unusual style of postmark....not a bridge type, that's pretty unusual. right?

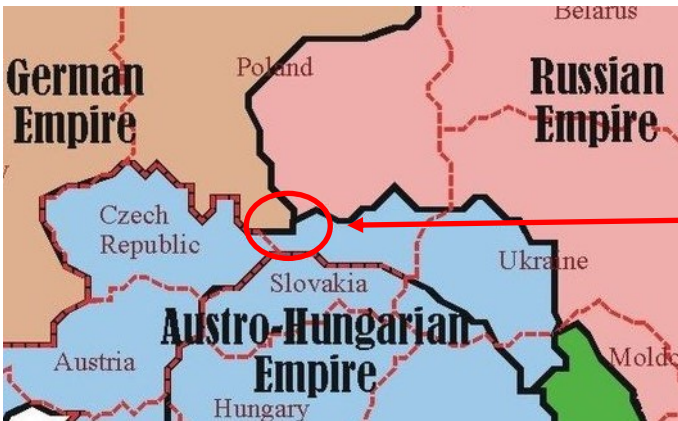
Then I got thinking..."why the 3 stamps??"



Checking out the front of the card revealed it was printed in German and showed nothing spectacular until I started translation....

“Greetings from the Three Emperors Corner near Myslowitz”

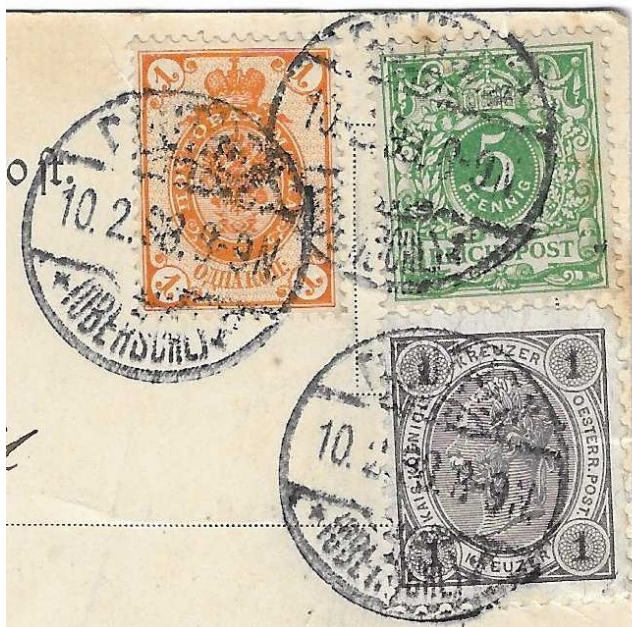
Turned out there was a geographical location where 3 empires all touched borders! On the postcard the 3 empires are separated by a river boundary...one can see the 3 lands labeled in red...Germany, Russia and Austria. Each were empires at the time of the photograph. This location still exists today as a tourist attraction in Poland.



OK....now for the stamps.... Evidently the sender went to the trouble of obtaining 3 separate stamps, 1 from each country, and had them cancelled as a souvenir!!!!

Within a time this area was gone with the re-drawing of borders after WW I

Russia



Germany

These are the things I look for and keep, not bad for a \$1.00 postcard find !!!!

Austria

A Shipping Conundrum (Part 1) by Tomas L. Griebing

As I get more deeply involved in the world of competitive philatelic exhibiting, I find that acquiring new items for my collections has become more challenging. Although I do occasionally find a hidden treasure buried in the unsorted boxes of commemorative covers or postal history items dealers bring to a show bourse, that has become less frequent. Much of what I am looking for now are esoteric or unusual items such as original art, sketches, paintings, early essays, trial or color verification proofs, materials signed by stamp or cachet artists, errors and freaks, etc. Because of this, much of what I now acquire comes through auction houses or offline from sites such as eBay or Delcampe. The 'rules' of philatelic exhibiting are quick to point out that 'rarity' is defined by difficulty of acquisition, not just the cost, although many of these items can be fairly expensive. The process has generally been fun, and my collections and exhibits have continued to grow and improve.

Having worked with hundreds of sellers over the years, I can easily state that 99.9% of transactions go smoothly, with prompt communication and shipping, and happy buyers and sellers. But then there is the occasional problem.... which brings me to this article. I am in the process of expanding a new exhibit and finding related philatelic materials has proven challenging. Recently, I found a postcard that depicts an early drawing of a prominent symbol by the original designer that I wanted to include in my exhibit. Note that this was only a postcard, not sketches or original production materials. The postcard was offered on eBay by a seller in the Midwest. I had not seen this exact card available anywhere else even after searching online and decided to move forward with a purchase.

Most items on eBay are offered with a specific price, unless they are valuable or expensive in which case they are frequently offered 'on auction'. Although this was just a basic postcard, the seller put it up as an auction with a \$2.99 opening, which I submitted as my maximum bid. I would say this type of card would generally cost about \$1.50 at most postcard shows, but even then they sometimes do run a little higher, even up to \$5.00 or more. The postage cost was \$4.20, which seemed a bit high, but different sellers do different things with their listed shipping costs. I was guessing he probably wanted to add some type of tracking or protective padding. The eBay system also does not make it easy to combine shipping costs if you purchase more than one item from a seller. Unsurprisingly, there were no other bidders for this card, and I paid a total of \$7.47 via my PayPal account (including the 28-cents for Kansas state tax).

Ten days later, I got a coral-colored notice in my home mailbox that a package was being held at my post office and had \$4.96 postage-due (Figure 1). I get a lot of these, mostly for registered items from Europe, Asia or other international sites that require a signature for delivery. I get enough of them that my local postal clerks know me by name and automatically head behind the back wall to locate my items when I show up in line. However, the postage-due notice was strange. I had ordered several things from different sellers recently so didn't know which item had arrived. When I went to my Post Office to collect the package, they indeed charged \$4.96 additional postage (Figure 1) for "Priority Mail". What's up? Can you figure out the mystery? Why did I have to pay extra? The answers next month....

APS Circuit Books Report:

Last months sales were not as good as the first month. Please come early to look through the circuit books. This month's circuit books will contain countries that you have requested.

Armen

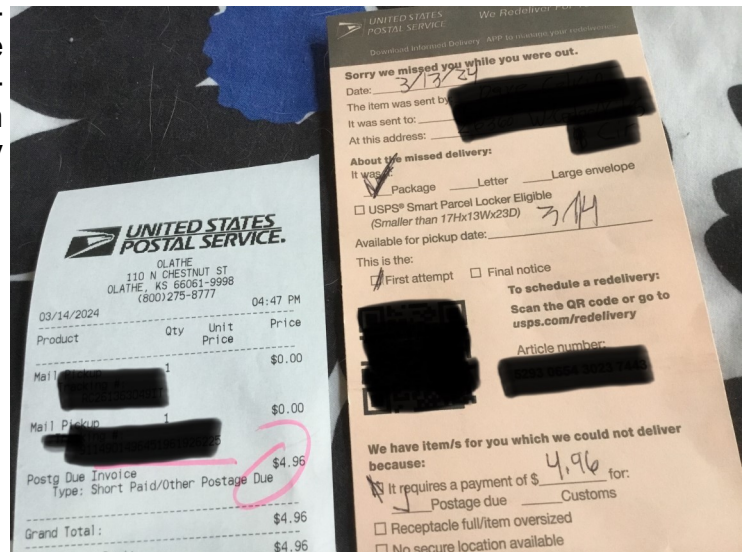


Figure 1

Know Your Philatelic Terms by Jim McKinzie

It was apparent at our last meeting that many of us lack basic knowledge about our hobby. George Corney had a wonderful program that brought this to the fore. His “Philatelic Pub Knowledge” was a lot of fun but frustrating even to those of us that thought we know a lot about this hobby.

For most of my life I have collected and built a substantial library of books on history and on stamps. One of the books I have had since Junior High is R.J. Sutton’s *The Stamp Collector’s Encyclopaedia*. (And no, I do not have Encyclopaedia misspelled, it is the British version of the word.) It has been revised and reprinted many times. My copy is the 1966 edition that was revised by K.W. Anthony as the original author passed away in 1959 from a car accident. It is more than a glossary of terms. It has a stamp identification section, describes every stamp issuing country and more. I can’t tell you how often I refer to this book when trying to identify or understand a stamp or philatelic term. Having a reference at your finger tips is most helpful. I would recommend looking for a copy of this. I see them at shows or on-line ever so often.

So with that in mind, here are a few excerpts from the book:

Engine-turned. Mechanically engraved by a lathe rose-engine which cuts in a rhythmic pattern. A machine-produced repetitive pattern of great intricacy and impeccable symmetry, which has been used as a background, or part of the design, of many postage stamps, from the 1d. Black 1840 G.B. onwards, to make forgery difficult; and been previously used for the engraving of plates for banknotes.

Elusive. Term often used to denote a stamp not regarded as rare or expensive, but which seems difficult to find and may be scarcer than is generally thought.

G.B. Universal abbreviation for Great Britain. Overprinted on the SCADTA semi-official airmails of Columbia, the initials indicate that the stamp is a consular overprint sold in Great Britain.



Great Britain
1840 issue
Penny Black



Germany
Pres. von Hindenburg
1932-33 issues
Se-tenant pair

Se-tenant. Joined together (Fr.); term applied to two or more stamps unseparated. A se-tenant pair is of particular interest when one differs in some material regard—in type, colour, value, overprint, etc.—from the other. Such pairs should always be kept intact.

Tête-Bêche. (Fr.) Head to tail. Stamps printed upside down in relation to each other. Usually collected in pairs, but often in strips of three, with the variety in the centre.



Great Britain
1952-54 issue
3p Queen Elizabeth
Wilding Issue

Dead Countries: Stamp Issuing Countries That No Longer Exist by Neil Becker

#17 New Republic (Nieuwe Republiek)

Located on the southeast coast of Africa, New Republic was a small (5300 sq. mi.) country formed in 1884 by a group of Boer settlers who had been given the land by the king of Zululand as a reward for their military assistance, putting him on the throne of that country. [More on the history of southern Africa later.]

The first stamps were not issued until 1886. They were hand stamped in violet ink on yellowish and also on gray granite, gummed and perforated paper – 18 denominations of each type from 1 pence to 30 shillings (Scott 1-36). The country's coat-of-arms were embossed on the 1p, 2p, 4p & 6p (yellow) and the 1p & 2p (gray granite) the same year (Scott 37-42).



First Design #10



**Second & Last Design
Front & Back
#63**

In 1887 a new set of stamps were produced with embossed coat-of-arms and without a date under the denomination, 17 on yellow paper and 7 on gray granite paper (Scott 43-65). It should be noted that since these stamps were hand-produced, the centering on many of the stamps was fair to poor; also, much of the embossing was faint and difficult to detect on the front. (On the scan, even the back is faint.)

In 1888 the New Republic became part of Transvaal.

*The Union of South Africa was formed in 1910 out of the British colonies of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State. Prior to this, in addition to New Republic, Stellaland, Zululand, Griqualand West and Bechuanaland had merged with some of the above colonies. The entire area of southern Africa endured much turmoil during the colonial era prior to 1910. Native tribes warred with each other, with the British and with the Dutch (Boers). The Boers fought with the British and territorial borders changed often. Over the next several issues I will cover these Dead Countries and their stamps. **NB***

If you are reading this on-line and are not a current member of the Midwest Philatelic Society, please consider joining us at our meeting location on Saturday April 6th.

**As listed on pg 2, we have a full day of activities.
Come and join the fun.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

In Memoriam

Randolph "Randy" L. Neil

1941–2024



Randy Neil passed away on March 6, 2024. Randy was a long time member of what became this organization. He and past member Mickey Marks were both junior members when the club met in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. Randy was very active nationally in the philatelic world but was also very active locally. He helped start MIDAPHIL in 1972. Randy was also very active in the community as he joined the staff of the Kansas City Chiefs in 1963 when they moved here from Dallas. He started their cheerleading program and founded the International Cheerleading Program. He was their CEO for 30 years.

He later started Neil Creative Media. Randy edited and published many philatelic journals. He was busy promoting (cheerleading) our hobby all his life. He was an avid collector and exhibitor. He became fascinated with 10c steel plate issue (1863-65) of the Confederacy. The exhibits on that subject earned 23 gold medals and two grand awards between 1971 and 2018. He sold the material recently in a Kelleher auction. While he had become an infrequent attendee of the MPS meetings in later years, when he attended, he always had good encouragement to the members and what we were trying to accomplish.

Read more about our good friend Randy through the American Philatelic Society or Linns recent publications.

Or this video tribute from Kelleher's:

kelleherstampassets.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/Marketing/Randy+Neil/RANDY+L.+NEIL+.mp4

To The Editor:



I read with dismay the statement on the last page of the October-November 2023 MPS Newsletter regarding the New Issues from USPS for 2023. It said, "The Woodland Animals are not interesting to me at all. Very simplistic designs. Boring!"

Now how can you deny these adorable little animals? They are cute beyond measure! What a fun and festive way to celebrate winter and the holiday season. Probably my very favorite stamps issued last year. We constantly hear that, "We need to get more young people and kids involved in our hobby!!". Well, what is likely to interest a child more than a whimsical little bunny, owl, fox and deer? I doubt it would be a wreath and candle from 1962, unless like me they were aficionados of late mid-century graphic design. And probably not an image of a somber General George Washington kneeling in prayer and reflection during Christmas at Valley Forge issued in 1977, unless they were deep into US Revolutionary War history. Let's hear it for the cute little furry and feathered Woodland Creatures!! ~ TLG

The editor welcomes all to forward their comments to anything written in the newsletter. Please send your letters to jimmckinzie1@att.net. By the way, the editor stands by his comments.



New Issues for April 2024:

Betty Ford

Forever First Class Rate

One design, Pane of 20

Issue Date April 5th

First Day of Issue City is: Rancho Mirage, CA

Print Quantity– 12,000,000



\$1 Floral Geometry

\$1 Dollar Rate

One design, Pane of 10

Issue Date April 26th

First Day of Issue City is: Burlingame, CA

Print Quantity– 30,000,000

A first day ceremony is planned at WESTPEX, the San Francisco annual show for this issue.



Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Tomas G., Rick K. & Neil B. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the May issue will be April 15th.** Happy stamping!

Jim Mc