

# The Messenger



November 2024

*The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club*

Next Meeting

Rodger McReynolds, President (rodger\_mcreynolds@hotmail.com)  
Armen Hovsepian, 1st Vice President (info@armenstamp.com)  
Jeff Jaax, 2nd Vice President (jeff.jaax@gmail.com)  
Hans Vergara, Treasurer (iwc1868@yahoo.com)  
Perry Kilpatrick, Secretary (kilpatrickp61@gmail.com)  
Jim McKinzie, Newsletter Editor (jimmckinzie1@att.net)

**November 2nd, 2024**  
**Room available 10:00AM**  
**Meeting starts 2:00PM**  
See Details Inside  
On page 2

## **What You Missed at Our October Meeting:**

**Attendance:** 34 members in attendance.

President Rodger McReynolds opens the meeting.

**Reports:** President— Thanks to Jim McKinzie for organizing the BBQ Luncheon today.  
1st Vice-President —Sign up sheet for next year's programs was passed around  
2nd Vice-President— No Report  
Treasurer—More info was shared about financial report.  
Secretary—No Report  
Historian—No Report  
Librarian—No Report  
Website—No Report  
Exhibits—Cutoff of entries for the December Member Exhibiting is the *November meeting*.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** ***Nominations are open for our elected offices. Please consider a position.***

**Announcements:** None

**Show N Tell:** We had several members with very interesting material.

**Program:** Zach Lawrence presented an interesting program on his time in Japan and that country's stamp collecting habits.

Formal meeting portion was adjourned by Rodger. Declared a short break and we moved on to the Auction.

**Respectively submitted by Jim McKinzie**



## *Happy Thanksgiving*

U.S. #4420  
From Thanksgiving Day Parade  
Issued September 9, 2009

**Join us on**  
**November 2, 2024**  
**For Rick Karlslust's program,**  
**"Faith in Australia"**

# Meeting Location and Time:

## MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, November 2nd  
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 website.

**What you will find if you come early to the meeting:**

**Several members, some of whom are dealers, will have material for sale. A good time to maybe find some stamps that you are looking for. If you are looking for something in particular, you might contact one of them and ask them to bring it to the meeting.**

## Philatelic Happenings:

### E and D Auctions

79 E US Highway 69  
Claycomo, MO 64119

**November 3rd**

Sunday: Begins at 1:30pm

Website: <https://www.eanddstamps.com>

### CHICAGOPEX

Westin Chicago Northwest  
400 Park Blvd.

Itasca, Illinois 60143

November 22-24

Friday: 10am to 6pm

Saturday: 10am to 6pm

Sunday: 10am to 4pm

65 dealers are scheduled  
USPS

UN Postal Administration  
And 11 Philatelic Societies

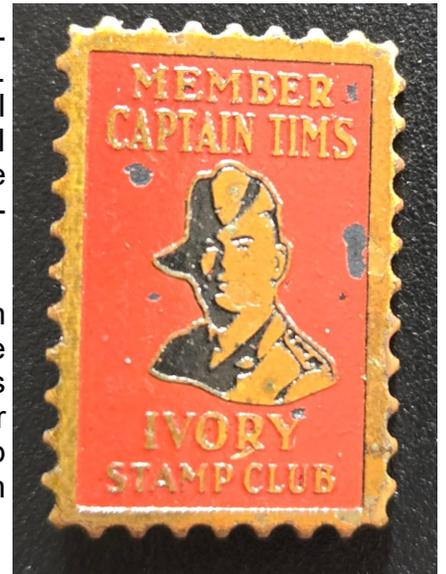
**Several club members are planning on attending, some are exhibiting also. It is the largest show held each year that is somewhat close to KC. It is well worth the trip! Are you planning on going?**



U.S. #295  
Carved wood replica  
At APS Headquarters

## ***Philatelic Ramblings:***

Do you ever go to a postcard and paper ephemera show? It is surprising what you can find that may fit in with one of your stamp collections. Tomas, Michael and I went to the Wichita show this past weekend and I found all kinds of things. Even got a new idea for a one frame exhibit. I also found an interesting historical item that is philatelically related. See the picture at the right. Do you know what it is? I will talk about it during show-n-tell at our next meeting.



The next time one of these shows is in our area, I will try to place info in the newsletter. Unfortunately, I found out too late about this one. There also was one in Omaha recently. I found out from one of the dealers that while the postcard collectors group in the KC area quit doing their show sometime before or around COVID, that dealer and others took up the mantel and still mount the show at the Radisson in Lenexa each year. Usually in the spring sometime.

More shows around the country have either quit or pulled back drastically on what the show encompasses. Such as no exhibits. Many factors are to blame, cost of the venues, venues unwilling to book more than a few months in advance and local club members unwilling or unable to help with the planning and implementation of the show. If this continues, collectors will have a more difficult time finding material for their collections. Yes, you can go out online and buy lots of great stamps and covers but more common stamps that catalogue for the minimum are going to be harder to find. Why is that? Because a 25¢ stamp is sold at a loss by the time the seller pays the online platform their fees and then the Paypal fees. Also, if you just need that one 25¢ stamp, do you want to pay the shipping/mailing on that inexpensive stamp? Most online dealers charge a minimum of \$1 for shipping now because of postage costs. Many of the successful dealers that are left sell both online and at shows around the country. Without the shows, can they make it on just online sales?

JMc

## ***Linn's Print Edition Ends:***

*Linn's Stamp News*, which is the major weekly news publication of U.S. philately, is now only available as a digital (online) product. Their sister publication *Scott Stamp Monthly* will continue as both a digital and printed publication.

George W. Linn founded the publication in 1928. Amos Press, which also publishes the Scott Catalogues, currently owns and publishes Linn's.

## ***Don Sundman Steps Down as Mystic President:***

Mystic Stamp Company gets a new President of the company with Sundman remaining as Chairman of the Board. Tom Vasiliauskas becomes the new president of the company.

Mystic was founded 1923 and Maynard Sundman bought the company in 1974. For 50 years Don Sundman worked at Mystic and under his leadership became the largest stamp company in the nation.

**The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is**

**[www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com](http://www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com)**

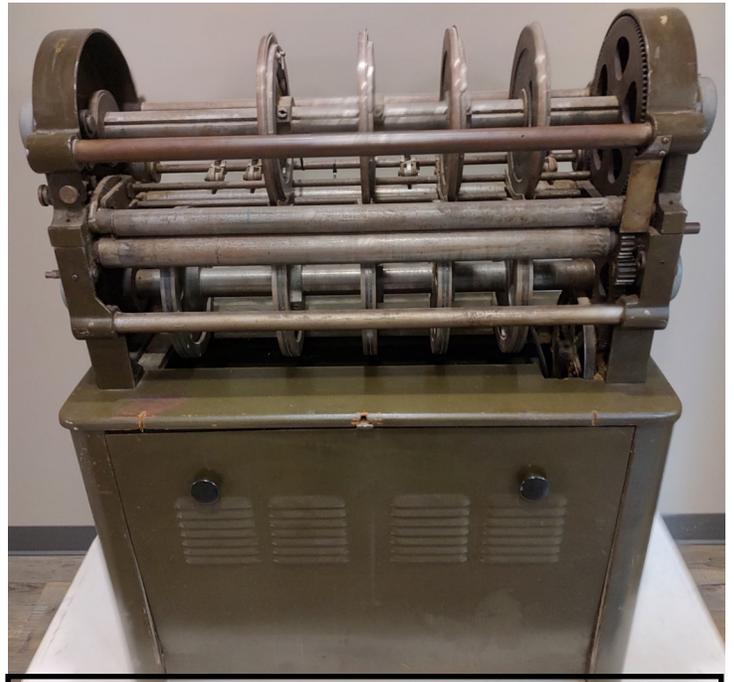
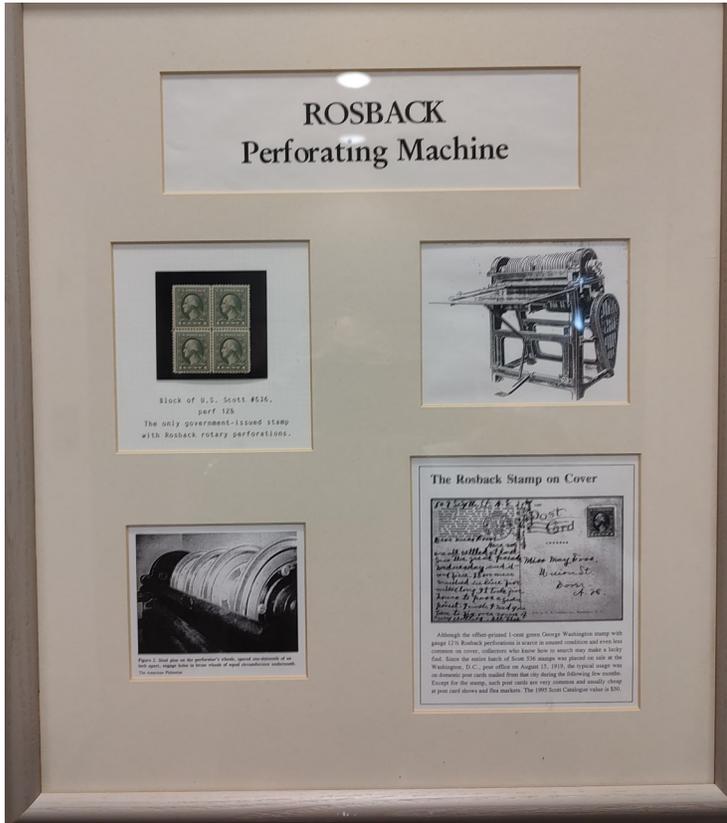
***Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.***

**Letter to the Editor:**

Interesting “Philatelic Ramblings” again in the September edition of our MPS newsletter. I really appreciated the discussion about old political candidate buttons – something that we really don’t see now since the advent of a digital world. Maybe posts on Facebook and other social media platforms are our new political buttons? But why does he seem to frown upon every new stamp issue? The author, whom I shall henceforth refer to lovingly as the ‘Stamp Curmudgeon’, seems down on all modern stamps. And how can someone dislike an entire season!? Autumn is a time of cocooning, of rest and renewal, and of beautiful colors. The new stamps are stunning and use photographs that evoke Impressionist paintings. But for all of his complaints, I noted with great interest that SC did attend the USPS First Day Ceremony for these autumn stamps at the recent big show in Hartford, CT (see photo). So how much can he really dislike these stamps? Just saying.... Stamp on! TLG



**Jim talking with Denise Stotts of Houston TX at the First Day Ceremony for the Autumn Stamps.**



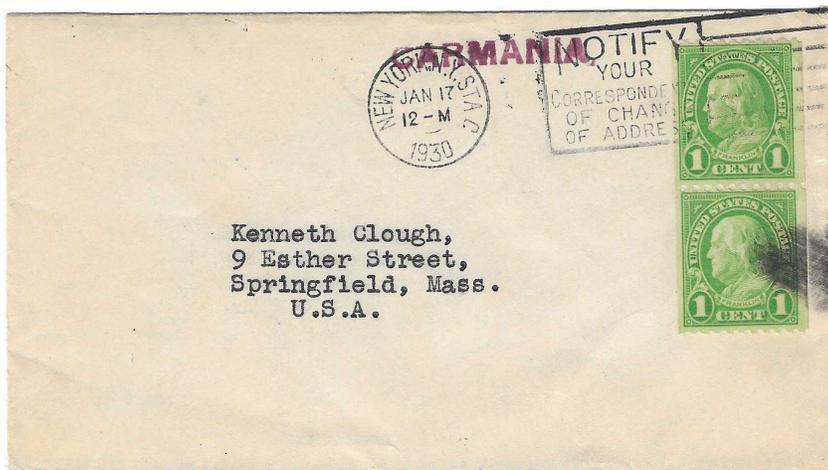
**Rosback Perforating Machine**  
**The only government issued stamp using this perforator was number #536 and it was a 12½ perf.**  
**On display at APS Headquarters, Bellefonte, PA**

**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, November 2.**

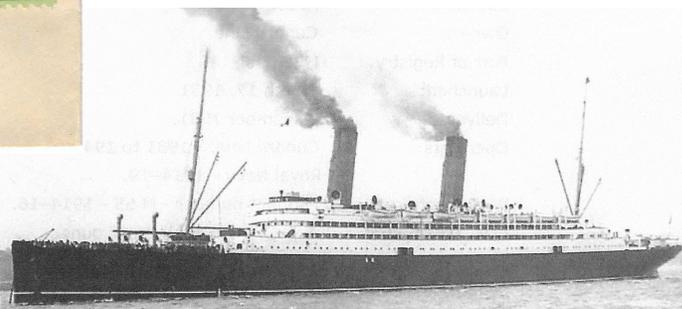
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## **RMS Carmania by Rick Karlslyst**

One of my collections involves covers posted on ships at sea. This cover is from the British Ocean liner RMS Carmania, and she has a few unique stories buried in her history. She was built in 1904-5 and was a part of the Cunard Line of ships. RMS Carmania's maiden voyage was from Liverpool to New York on Dec 10 1905. In June of 1912 a fire broke out and she was out of service until Oct 1912.



**SS CARMANIA**



In 1913, she assisted in the rescue of crew and passengers of the SS Vultano when the Vultano caught fire and her cargo exploded. The RMS Carmania was first on scene and directed the rescue operations of the 9 other ships who arrived to help. RMS Carmania's crew were presented with many awards for gallantry.

After war was declared in 1914, RMS Carmania was requisitioned by the war department, renamed HMS Carmania and armed with 8 naval guns. This made her an "Armed Merchant Cruiser" in British service.

On Sept 14, 1914, HMS Carmania met up with her "Doppelganger"! HMS Carmania met up with the SMS Cap Trafalgar off the coast of Brazil at a small island called Trindade Isle.

SMS Cap Trafalgar was an Imperial German Navy "Armed Auxiliary Cruiser" which looked VERY much like the Carmania. The Cap Trafalgar was launched in 1913 and in Hamburg-South American Line service for only 5 months before being requisitioned into German Navy service. To make a long story short, Carmania and Cap Trafalgar fought an intense battle which culminated in the sinking of the German vessel and severely damaging Carmania. She had been hit 79 times within 2 hours. HMS Carmania was flooded, and listing severely but remained afloat until help arrived and towed her to Brazil. From Brazil she was sent to Gibraltar for further repairs.

She had just participated in the FIRST battle between armed merchant vessels. Once repaired she resumed patrol duties and later participated in the Gallipoli landings.

HMS Carmania resumed her Cunard passenger duties in 1920. She was upgraded after the war and became a single class passenger ship. In 1931 she was placed on the sellers market and broken up in 1932.

If anyone has a SMS Cap Trafalgar cover, postcard, etc...I would like to purchase !!!

Ship picture provided by SSMARITIME.COM

## Heading to Hartford (Part 2) by Jim McKinzie



**U.S. #559**  
**William McKinley**  
**Issued May 1, 1923**

Day 3—After I finished touring the McKinley Memorial, I slowly descended the many steps of the memorial and went into the museum. First, I saw a nice film on the making of the memorial. Should have done this when I arrived because after watching it I wanted to go back up to the memorial and look at some features that were pointed out in the film. But I was not about to walk up all those steps again, so another time.

To the right is a picture of a Lego replica of the McKinley Memorial. Very impressive but then I loved my Lego's as a kid.

His brushed wool top hat and cane were on display along with Mrs. McKinley's diamond tiara and a lace collar she wore. Mrs. McKinley actually collected lace and this was given to her by some-



one in South America. I don't recall all the details.

The museum also had a replica of a street and



shops of the President's time. Lot's of interesting things to see. Of philatelic interest was a postal letter sorting station and a post office mail delivery wagon. I could have spent another full day there. They even have a planetarium but I didn't get to enjoy that. I



Many covers and they all appeared to be of the time period presented.

needed to move on.

Leaving Canton, OH, I headed toward Pennsylvania. My goal was to be in Bellefonte at the American Philatelic Society Headquarters the next day. I had to stop about an hour out from Bellefonte and stayed in the town of Clearfield, PA. Had a great steak dinner for my birthday that evening with a little bourbon. The place reminded my of



Ernie's Steakhouse/Cross's Lounge in Sugar Creek, so I felt right at home. After a long day, this was a good stop.

Day Four—Got up and headed to Bellefonte and APS. I arrived about time for them to open. The Match Factory where APS is housed is an impressive building. They have done a really good job in making it a great home for APS.

Going inside, I was greeted and told the layout of the building. I had brought some stamps from my collection to have expertised so I turned those in. It was nice to talk to one of the people that handles that process. Still haven't received them back. Slow process.

Then I went exploring. The philatelic library is very impressive. Someday I hope to go just to do my own research on some subjects. They had a book cart of books and journals that had a sign on it that said "FREE". On the cart were 16 volumes of the bound





year sets of the “The United States Specialist” journal. It is one of my favorite journals so I asked the young man working the library, “Is there a limit on what I take?” and he replied, “No, and if you want all those journals, I can get a box.” He even helped me carry them out to my car. What service! He did mention they had those journals for sometime. Which I am sure is true, since as a member on the U.S. Stamp Society, you do have access to past journals. But I get tired of reading stuff online and this way I can bookmark and make notes.



**ALPHABETILATELY**  
AN ALPHABET OF PHILATELY

This very fun word presents the story of twenty-six terms within the hobby of philately—from the perspectives of graphic artists, stamp collectors, history buffs, letter-writers, and you. Look at other people’s mail. See historical events depicted in extraordinary detail on stamps and envelopes. Marvel at the art and ingenuity behind producing stamps and sending mail around the globe. See for yourself that “real mail” is alive and well and more creative than ever.



There were many interesting exhibits, like the one pictured above and to the left. I left sooner



than I cared to, got a sandwich and sat in the park along the river next to the Match Factory and enjoyed the beautiful summer day before heading on to CT. **Onward to the Hartford and G.A.S.S. next month!**

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

### #22 Orange River Colony (Orange Free State)

By now, most readers are familiar with the enmity between the British and the Boers in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in southern Africa. The number of Boers and other Europeans that had moved away from British rule into the area north of the Orange River had reached 15,000 by 1853. Even there, the British had been involved in different ways with administration of the area which lay west of Natal between the Vaal River to the north and the Orange River to the south, an area of about 50,000 square miles, known as the Orange Sovereignty. In 1854, the British decided to withdraw any involvement with the primarily Boer territory and drew up the Orange River Convention officially recognizing the independence of the country - ultimately named Orange Free State. The country existed until 1902 when, following the Second Boer War, it was annexed by the British and renamed Orange River Colony.

Orange Free State only issued one design on a set of 12 stamps between 1868 and 1900. A 1p red brown, 6p pale rose and 1sh orange were the first issues in 1868. Between 1877 and 1897 a total of 32 surcharged stamps were produced in denominations from 1/2d to 4d with as many as 6 different fonts involved with five of those issues. In 1899 the Boer War made it necessary for an undemoninated Military stamp to be issued for soldier's mail.



When Britain occupied the Orange Free State in 1900-01 they overprinted and surcharged these same stamps with "V.R.I." (Victoria Regina Imperatrix, Latin for Victoria, Queen and Empress). Many varieties of these issues exist, primarily with misplaced or missing periods in the overprint (as in #51, shown below.) 1900 and 1902 saw three stamps from Cape of Good Hope overprinted "ORANGE RIVER COLONY." in three lines. Also in 1902 two "V.R.I." stamps were given additional surcharges of 4p and 1sh; a 6p Orange Free State was given an "E.R.I." overprint and surcharge to honor the reigning King Edward that same year. Orange River Colony got their own stamps in 1903-4 with a set of 9 definitives, up to 5sh, on Wmk. 2 paper. Four denominations were reissued in 1907-8 on Wmk. 3 paper. Orange River Colony became part of the Union of South Africa in 1910.



# **NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS:**

It is time. Have you thought about it. Would you like to serve in some capacity. Please think about it. We will elect the new slate of officers at December's meeting. The officers are the group that help hold this society together. Without people serving in each office we can not continue. Rodger has served as President for the past two years and would like to pass the gavel. There are probably other officers that feel the same.

***Below is a list of the elected offices and their duties:***

**The President** shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Society, including the Board of Directors. He or she shall appoint all committees, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and be an ex officio member of all committees.

**The First Vice President** shall act for the President in case of temporary absence, and shall be responsible for the programs at Society meetings.

**The Second Vice President** shall be responsible for club auctions, and shall act for the First Vice President in case of temporary absence.

**The Secretary** shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Society and present them for approval of the Society at the next regular meeting. He or she shall also keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors. A summary of the minutes will be sent to the Editor for insertion in the following month's newsletter (not to include the actual treasury balance), and shall be posted to the Society's website.

**The Treasurer** shall keep the financial records of the Society, making regular reports to the Society which shall be incorporated into the minutes. He or she shall be empowered to collect all dues and receipts and to pay the bills and disburse the funds of the Society. He or she shall be the custodian of the Bylaws of the Society.

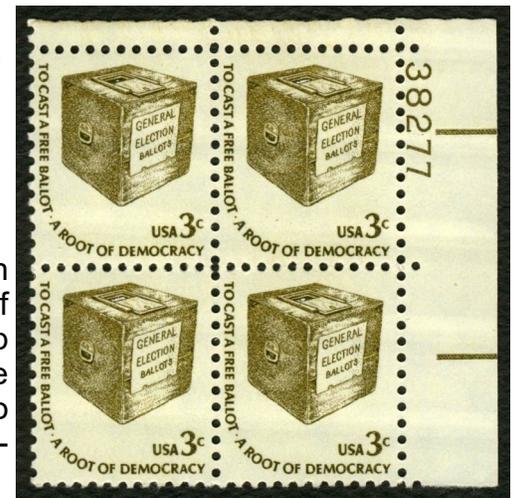
***The following offices are appointed by the President after the election:***

Three Board Members At-Large  
Newsletter Editor  
Historian  
Librarian  
Exhibit Chairperson

And any other committee formed as deemed necessary by the Board and/or the Membership.

Please refer to our website where the By-laws are posted for more information.

Consider running for an office. You will find it greatly rewarding.



**U.S. #1584  
Early Ballot Box  
Issued December 8, 1977**