

The Messenger



August 2025

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

Next Meeting

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August 2nd
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside
On page 2



What You Missed at Our July Meeting:

Members in Attendance: 33 members, 1 new member Dave V, (interests in WW, US BOB & Flight Covers)

Presidents report – NR

First VIP – NR

Second VIP – Armen thanked everyone for their participation in the \$1 table. Suggested to have a gift for the guest speaker Alex H. Possibly a T-Shirt with MPS symbol or a certificate. Armen also said the APS books would be handled by Ricky P.

Treasurer – NR

Librarian – Book on philately of the 3rd Reich Germany 1933-1945.

Secretary – NR

Newsletter – Jim McKinzie thanked everyone for the articles and asked them to get them in early to help in getting the newsletter out on time. He also mentioned that if there is something any of the club members need from the dealers, they need to contact the dealers before the meeting date so they can be sure to bring them. October is coming soon, and you need to save the date, remember to bring \$10 for the meal, the club will be picking up the rest of the meals cost. The sign-up will be at next month's meeting. The club stamp show is the same date as the Boston show and so we are moving the local show to June 26th -27th.

Historian - NR

New Business – Suggestion to put the members number on the directory. Reminder to start getting your displays ready for December. The Next E&D auction will be in August. Boston 2026 show will have a big Germany draw make sure to put it on your calendar and try to be there.

What are you looking for - Armen is looking for US Mint stamps 1¢ - 6¢. Will pay 50% face for the stamps.

Show and tell – Bill Johnson showed three Wells Fargo items, 1) A free Franked cover 2) A cover from Denver 3) A pay stub for a package. Jesse Hykes – Showed a set of coil Dahlia stamps one of the group was upside down. Scott Couch had 2 items, 1) Mail robbery history book – 20th Century over 400 illustrations 2) Scott was informed that Cliff from Collector's Club has passed away and Scott received his collection on consignment. Fred showed a special corner mount he is looking for and needs for his presentation. Armen showed a variety of postcards. Rodger McReynolds showed a bar coded stamp with a Santa Clause and one without the barcode.

Presentation this week – Neil Becker
"A Cape of Good Hope Bargain".

Submitted by Perry Kilpatrick

Join us on
August 2, 2025 for David Beech and Alex & Winston
Haimann's program on
"Adventures in the World of Philately"

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society



MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, August 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, program and club auction.

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

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

Several members with material for sale. Bring your want lists. Let those members know what you are looking for ahead of the meeting. It is hard to bring it all.

Philatelic Happenings:

August 9-10
StampFest
St. Peters RecPlex
5200 Mexico Road
St Peters, MO
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 10am-3pm
15 Dealers with 32 Tables

August 15-16
The Wichita Show
Cessna Activity Center
2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS
Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-4pm
Unknown amount of Dealers

August 17
E and D Stamp Auctions
79 E US Highway 69
Claycomo, MO
Sunday 1:30pm
This is a tentative date
See Website for more Info
<https://eanddstamps.com>

Make plans now to gas up and go to G.A.S.S. in Chicago this August



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

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

Philatelic Ramblings:

Please make every effort to attend the meeting in August. We will have special guest speakers. Yes, you do not have to hear from any of us! Read about this special program on pg. 8. It should be a very good and informative program.

We have so many talented people in this organization. A past member and a current member are being recognized for their talents and contributions to the philatelic world by the APS. Past member Randy Neil is being honored by the APS with induction into the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame. It was surprising to me that our past member was not already in the APS Hall of Fame. Even though Randy has passed on, it is good that they are finally recognizing his contributions. Current member H. James "Jim" Maxwell is receiving the National Carter Award from APS. The Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Awards recognize the outstanding efforts of American Philatelic Society volunteers at the national, regional and local level, and also recognize our younger members whose contributions and abundant talents are crucial to our future. You can read about these members and the other recipients at <https://stamps.org/news>.

Our speaker on Saturday, Alex Haimann, is also receiving an award from the APS. Alex is receiving the Ernest A. Kehr Award. It is presented annually by the APS "for enduring contributions that help guarantee the future of the hobby." Once you meet Alex and hear him speak, you will understand why he is so deserving of this award.

If you are one of the many members that have enjoyed the APS circuit books each meeting, be prepared for this to come to an end. It is our understanding that the APS is seriously considering ending the circuit book program. Why? It is felt that the circuit books are not producing enough income to warrant the expense of the program. More members have switched to selling and buying in the APS Stamp Store, now hosted on Hipstamp. So make sure you come early enough to look through the circuit books this Saturday. It may be the last you see.

With the circuit books possibly going away, it just reinforces the need for all collectors to support the varied ways to buy stamps and other philatelic materials. If we are not going to stamp auctions, buying from dealers, going to shows, soon the only choice you will have is to buy on the internet. Which is a shame. I would much rather see the stamp, in person, and inspect than buy on Hipstamp or Ebay. But unfortunately that is the direction stamp buying is going. I read each month about another dealer leaving the business or shows discontinuing.

Our annual October luncheon is coming up fast. Bring your money and signup to attend. It is always good and a fun time!

IMc



Donations Shipped to Boston World Expo 2026 :



Thanks to all of you that have donated over the year. Plus a big thank you for those that helped to sort the stamps before shipping. All has been shipped to the Spellman Museum in the Boston Area, that is taking care of the donations and getting the packets ready for the show next year.

Thanks again,

Jim

You can make hotel reservations now. Multiple hotels have been secured for the big International Boston show. If you plan on going it is not too early to secure your room. Go to the following website to do so:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/bbbdc1d9-e50e-44dd-8bef-eb36c9d1251f/summary>

The Great Britain Venetian Red Stamp

By Rodger McReynolds



The Great Britain Venetian Red Stamp

The Great Britain "Venetian Red" one penny stamp, issued in 1880, is a fascinating and somewhat underappreciated chapter in British philately, bridging the classic Victorian period and the coming age of surface-printed definitives. Although it had a relatively short lifespan—just over a year—it holds an important place in the evolution of British postage stamps.

Historical Context and Origin

By 1880, the iconic Penny Red—itself a successor to the famous Penny Black—had been in service for several decades. However, the Penny Red, which was line-engraved and printed in sheets of 240 stamps, was increasingly seen as inadequate for a modern postal system. It was prone to forgery and relatively expensive to produce due to the labor-intensive engraving process.

In response, the British Post Office transitioned to surface printing (also known as typography), a technique already in use for higher denomination stamps. This method was faster and more cost-effective. The Venetian Red, issued on July 1, 1880, was the first surface-printed one penny stamp to enter circulation.

Design and Appearance

The stamp was printed by Thomas De La Rue & Company, which had taken over from Perkins Bacon and later Bradbury Wilkinson for many printing duties. It featured a portrait of Queen Victoria in profile facing left, designed by Frederick Heath and engraved by Richard Chubb. The frame around the portrait was elaborate, incorporating corner letters to identify the position of each stamp on the sheet—just as with earlier line-engraved issues.

Its color, known as "Venetian Red," is a distinct, muted red-brown, much deeper than the earlier scarlet of the Penny Red. The ink used was intended to make cancellation marks more visible, which had been a long-standing issue with earlier, lighter colors. The design was printed using plate 1, the only plate ever used for this stamp, and it bore a check-letter system in the lower corners, ranging from AA to TL.



Printing and Quantities

The Venetian Red was printed from a single plate and was in use for just over 12 months, until August 1881, when it was replaced by the Penny Lilac (with both 14 and 16 dots in the corners), a stamp that incorporated a security feature: the wording "POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE" to prevent postal reuse and fraud.

Estimates suggest that more than 1.5 billion Venetian Red stamps were printed during its short lifespan. Despite this high number, the stamp is quite collectible today, especially in mint condition or with clear cancellations.

Interesting Features and Variations

- **Security and Reuse:** One of the reasons the Venetian Red was eventually replaced was the lack of an effective security feature. Although the surface printing made it slightly more resistant to reuse than engraved stamps, it still lacked chemical security inks. The Penny Lilac would introduce fugitive ink, which dissolved when attempts were made to wash postmarks.
- **Plate 1 Only:** Unlike earlier issues like the Penny Red, which used over 200 plates, the Venetian Red was printed from just one plate. This simplifies plate identification but also makes minor plate flaws and re-entries interesting to collectors.
- **Margins and Perforations:** The stamp was printed with perforation 14, typical of surface-printed Victorian issues. The margins were often uneven due to alignment issues during printing, and well-centered copies are particularly sought after by philatelists.

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- **Cancellations:** A variety of cancellation types exist, including the barred numeral obliterations and town cancels. Because of the deep red color, postmarks tend to be sharp and legible, enhancing the collectability of well-struck examples
- **Specimens and Essays:** A number of specimen overprints and color trials exist and are of great interest to advanced collectors. These were often distributed to UPU member countries and postal officials.
- **Usage on Covers:** Covers bearing the Venetian Red are collectible, especially when tied to envelopes with clear date stamps. Multiple usages or usage on foreign mail with additional denominations make for desirable postal history.

Legacy

While the Venetian Red was relatively short-lived, it represents a critical transition in British stamp production—from line engraving to the mass-produced surface-printed era. It reflects the increasing demands on the Victorian postal system and the drive toward efficiency and anti-fraud measures.

It also serves as a compact encapsulation of the late 19th-century British Empire: a powerful, enduring monarch, a sophisticated printing industry, and a globally influential postal system.

Collectors value the Venetian Red for its striking color, its clean and balanced design, and its place in postal history—not just as a successor to the Penny Red, but as a harbinger of the standardized issues that would dominate British stamps for the next several decades.

Forgeries of the Venetian Red

Forging British stamps has long been a pursuit for opportunists, and the Venetian Red 1d stamp of 1880 was no exception. While not as famously forged as its predecessor the Penny Black, or high-value issues like the £5 Orange, the Venetian Red nonetheless attracted attention from both professional and amateur forgers. The combination of its relatively short period of use, high circulation, and collectible appeal made it a tempting target.

Known Forgers and Forgery Types

Jean de Sperati (1884–1957)

The most famous forger in philatelic history, Jean de Sperati, produced masterfully deceptive forgeries of over 500 different stamps. Although the Venetian Red was not among his most prominent targets, there is evidence that he experimented with or considered producing forgeries of the Venetian Red, particularly for covers or rare plate positions.

- **Technique:** Sperati used photolithography, creating reproductions from actual stamps by removing postmarks with chemicals and transferring the images to photographic plates. He would then print his forgeries on genuine Victorian-era paper, sometimes with watermarks, and simulate cancels using authentic inks.
- **Detection:** Sperati's forgeries were sometimes detected by microscopic irregularities, particularly in the lettering or outer frames, and chemical analysis of inks.

Although no Venetian Red forgery by Sperati is as notorious as his Penny Red or Penny Black forgeries, advanced philatelists believe a few exist, especially on faked covers.

Spiro Brothers (Germany, 1860s–1870s)

The Spiro Brothers were prolific producers of crude lithographic forgeries during the 19th century. Though their primary focus was earlier British stamps (like the Penny Red and Penny Black), some crude fantasy Venetian Reds may have circulated through their stock, especially in stamp packets for beginners.

- **Technique:** Simple lithography, often with poor registration, incorrect colors, and no watermark. Perforations were often simulated or poorly executed.
- **Detection:** These fakes are generally easy to spot:
 - The Queen's profile lacks detail.
 - The frame lines are often blurred or broken.
 - The check letters don't match any known corner positions.
 - Incorrect color (too red or brown rather than the correct Venetian Red shade).

These were not serious attempts to defraud the post or deceive expert collectors, but rather aimed at packet trade—cheap stamps sold in bulk to novices.

Postal Reuse and "Philatelic Fakes"

A separate class of forgery involves cleaning genuine used Venetian Reds to remove postmarks, then attempting to resell them as unused or mint—a lucrative difference in value.

- **Technique:** Soaking in chemical solutions to bleach out the ink of cancels.
- **Detection:**
 - Under ultraviolet light, cleaned areas appear discolored or show chemical residue.
 - Water damage or thinning of the paper is often present.
 - "Regummed" examples might have uneven gum or surface gum where none should exist (since Venetian Reds weren't issued with gum for adhesives).

These forgeries were aimed more at stamp dealers and collectors than postal services.

Faked Corner Letter Positions

Because some corner-letter combinations are rarer or more desirable—especially those with identifiable flaws or guide marks—there have been faked corner letter positions.

- **Technique:** Using an original Venetian Red and retouching or altering the check letters with paint, ink, or carefully applied tiny paper inserts.
- **Detection:** Under magnification, these alterations become apparent:
 - Mismatched ink texture.
 - Alignment slightly off.
 - The wrong pairing of letter combinations for known plate positions.

How Forgeries Are Identified Today

Modern philatelists use several techniques to authenticate Venetian Red stamps:

1. **Corner Letters:** Genuine stamps have corner letters consistent with Plate 1, the only plate used. There are reference charts showing every possible pair (AA to TL), and forgeries often use combinations that never existed.
2. **Watermark:** The Venetian Red has the "Large Crown" watermark. Forgeries often lack this, or simulate it poorly. Watermark detection fluid or backlighting helps expose fakes.
3. **Color Matching:** The true Venetian Red has a very specific dull red-brown tone. Forgeries are often too bright or too dark. Comparison against known examples is essential.
4. **Perforation Measurement:** The genuine stamp is perf 14. Forgeries may have incorrect perforation gauges or irregular hole spacing.
5. **Printing Method:** Real Venetian Reds were surface-printed using typography. Forged examples often use lithography or inkjet (in more modern fake attempts), which shows under magnification as a lack of relief and wrong ink texture.
6. **Expert Certificates:** For higher-value stamps, serious collectors often seek **expertization certificates** from bodies like the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) or the British Philatelic Association (BPA).

Conclusion

While the Venetian Red was not forged as extensively as earlier British classics, it wasn't immune to the attentions of opportunists, especially in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Forgeries varied from crude lithographs to highly sophisticated creations like those attributed to Sperati or similar forgers.

Today, with modern tools and a wealth of reference material, identifying these forgeries is easier than ever—yet they remain an intriguing part of the story. For some collectors, acquiring a forgery alongside a genuine copy adds a rich layer to the history of the Venetian Red, illustrating not just what the stamp was, but the lengths to which people went to replicate it.

#30 Senegambia & Niger, Upper Senegal & Niger & French Sudan

Senegambia & Niger was a French Administration unit, established in 1903, that covered a massive portion of West Africa that included today's Senegal, Mali and Niger. The name was dropped in October 1904 when the area was consolidated with the old territories of Upper Senegal, the Middle Niger, and the military Niger territory to become the colony of Upper Senegal and Niger. This 617,000 square mile colony existed until another reorganization occurred in 1921 when it was renamed French Sudan, with a slightly less area of 591,000 sq. miles. (French Sudan had been a colony beginning in 1890, but was broken up in 1899 with all but two provinces going to surrounding colonies. The remaining two provinces joined Senegambia & Niger in 1902.) This colony became a part of French West Africa in 1943. (More about this area of Africa next month.)



In 1903 Senegambia & Niger issued their only stamps – twelve denominations of the *Navigation & Commerce* design. (Postally used stamps are understandably hard to find.) The first 17 stamps of Upper Senegal & Niger had three designs in pictorial size. They were issued between 1906 and 1907, along with seven Postage Due stamps. 1914-17 saw 17 new pictorial-sized vertical stamps with a *camel & rider* design. Eight new Postage Due stamps came out the same year and a Semi-Postal stamp with a red cross and surcharge on the latest 10c issue came out in 1915. French Sudan's first stamps in 1894 were French Colonies stamps overprinted and surcharged. Soon after, the familiar *Navigation & Commerce* definitives of the colonies were issued from 1894 to 1900 with a total of 17 stamps. With the reformation of French Sudan in 1921, stamps of Upper Senegal & Niger's 1914 definitives (29 in total up to 1930) and 8 postage dues were overprinted "**Soudan/Français**" in two lines. Thirteen of those stamps were surcharged various amounts between 1916 & 1927. A new large vertical definitive set featuring three separate designs appeared in 1931-40 with a whopping 41 stamps, along with 10 Postage Dues. Following that, the usual Common Design sets of the colonies came out in 1931, 1937 & 1939; 1938, 1939 & 1941 (Special Delivery); 1940 & 1942 (Air Mail); and 1942 (Air Mail Semi-Postal). Also, in 1943-44 two stamps from the 1931-40 issue were printed, without the "RF", for use by the Vichy Government, but were never sold in French Sudan.



Our Guest Speakers for the August Meeting:



Longtime philatelist Alex Haimann will be co-presenting with one of the world's most prominent philatelists, David Beech, MBE. David served as curator of the British Library Philatelic Collections from 1983 to 2013, is a past president and fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and received the Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award in 2013. David has handled more of the world's great rarities than almost anyone alive—his stories and insights are not to be missed. Alex's stamp collecting son, Winston will also be with them and plans to deliver a small part of the presentation.

Alex's bio from the APS website: A stamp collector since the age of 7 and an APS member since the age of 10, Alex Haimann has never met a stamp or cover he didn't like. His passion for philately came from the encouragement and support of the West Suburban Stamp Club in Plymouth, Michigan. This extremely positive welcome to the hobby has inspired Alex to seek out collectors in the younger generations and make them feel welcome, along with helping them connect with others.

In January 2008, during his Tiffany Dinner speech, Alex presented the original proposal for what would become the American Philatelic Society's Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship program, now in its 15th year. Between 2005 and 2010, Alex worked for the Smithsonian National Postal Museum as a collections specialist and web projects developer. In a volunteer capacity, Alex served the APS as the chair of the Board of Vice Presidents (2013-2016) and as the chair of the Campaign for Philately Committee (2016-2022). Alex also served on the World Stamp Show–NY 2016 and the Stockholmia 2019 committees.

Since 2008, Alex has given dozens of talks in person and online across the U.S. to philatelic and non-philatelic audiences. Continuing a passion to bring philately and postal history to new audiences, Haimann exhibited his Anglo-Zulu War collection during a summer exhibition ("Clash of Empires: The 1879 Anglo-Zulu War") (www.clashofempires.org), at the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2023 with more than 2,000 people from 29 countries attending. Since the exhibition, videos created around the content of the exhibition have generated more than 1 million views on YouTube. Alex currently serves as an ex officio member of the society's council (board of trustees).

In 2025, Alex began writing a regular column for *The American Philatelist*, "On Location," where he chronicles a personal challenge to visit and present to a stamp club in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. He is on course to check eight states and two additional countries off the list before the end of 2025.

Alex is very proud to have sponsored 772 new APS members to date, the second most of any living APS member, behind Don Sundman.

Professionally, Alex is the executive vice president of Cherrystone Auctions. In this role, he focuses on a range of marketing and consignor relations initiatives alongside preparing philatelic material for auction. In his non-philatelic life, Alex is married to his saint-like wife, Sarah, and they live with his three children, Karinne (age 9), Winston (6) and Georgie (3) in St. Louis, Missouri. Earlier this year, Karinne and Winston became APS members. Alex's family will join him this year at GASS.

New issues for August 2025:

SpongeBob SquarePants

Forever First Class Rate

Four Designs

Pane of 16

Issue Date August 1st

First Day of Issue City:

New York, NY

Print Quantity—36,000,000

SpongeBob SquarePants is an American animated comedy television series created by a marine science educator and animator. It was created by Stephen Hillenburg for Nickelodeon and first aired in 1999. It started it's 25 season this year.



Boston 2026 Stamp Show

Forever First Class Rate

Two Designs

Pane of 20

Issue Date August 14th

First Day of Issue City:

Schaumburg, IL @ GASS

Print Quantity—12,000,000

To build anticipation and commemorate the Boston 2026 World Expo, two intaglio-printed stamps highlight the special roll of Boston in the American Revolution as we prepare to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary. Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS, designed these stamps with digital illustrations by Dan Gretta featuring the Old North Church and a "midnight rider" on horseback in Colonial garb.



Does the USPS mean Paul Revere?

Luna Moth

Nonmachineable Surcharge (\$1.27)

One Design

Pane of 20

Issue Date August 16th

First Day of Issue City:

Schaumburg, IL @ GASS

Print Quantity—Unknown at print time.

The new stamp for irregularly sized envelopes features a luna moth (Actias luna). It is considered one of the most beautiful moths in the US. Artist Joseph Scheer created this composite image by using a high-resolution scanner with extended focus to capture multiple layers of a preserved moth. Derry Noyes, an art director for the USPS, designed the stamp.



New issues for 2025 continued:

Federal Duck Stamp-Spectacled Eider

\$25 Special Issue

One Design

Pane of 1

Pane of 20

Issue Date June 27th

First Day of Issue City:

Stuttgart, AR

Print Quantity—1,282,180 (Pane of 1)

Print Quantity—48,600 (Pane of 20)

This new Duck stamp slipped past me last month. This year's duck is an interesting choice. I doubt many of us that have lived in the Central United States all our lives have ever even heard of this type of duck. The spectacled eider is a large sea duck that breeds on the coasts of Alaska and northeastern Siberia.

It is a diving duck, which forages for food in the water by swimming and diving underwater. This breed can remain submerged longer than most diving ducks and mostly feeds on mollusks while at sea and aquatic insects, crustaceans and plant material while on the breeding grounds.

How many of us still collect the new Duck stamps? Notice the print quantity on the Pane of Twenty. It is less than 50,000 stamps. That is a small quantity.



At the left, is the full sheet of the new SpongeBob stamps coming out this month. After talking with some friends about this new issue that have kids or grandkids at the target age of this cartoon character, I discovered that SpongeBob has little to no popularity among that age group today. SpongeBob is primarily targeted to children between the ages of 6 and 11.

One of my friends asked his grandson, who is 10, about SpingeBob and the child responded with, "Who?"

So with that in mind, who is the USPS aiming for with this issue?