

The Messenger



February 2026

Next Meeting

January 31st
Room available 10:00AM
Meeting starts 2:00PM

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

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Dear Members,

This is a reminder that our February meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31st. Start times and venue remain the same.

The program will be a surprise but we hope you will enjoy it.

Philatelic Events for February are as follows:

February 1
E and D Stamp Auction
79 E US Highway 69
Claycomo, MO
Sunday Doors open at 12:45pm
Gavel Drops at 1:30pm

February 20-21
Cessna Coin & Stamp Show
Cessna Activity Center
2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS
Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-4pm

February 27-28
LINPEX 2026
Country Inn & Suites
5353 North 27th Street
Lincoln, NE
Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

I decided this weekend to create this mini newsletter as an experiment. Microsoft is doing away with Publisher in October and I attended a ZOOM meeting kindly setup by the ATA on what I might be able to transition to. So this was created in Affinity by Canva. This was a start and hopefully I will be able to learn more by the time the next newsletter comes out.

Sincerely, Jim

New Issues for 2026:

Lunar New Year

Forever First Class Rate
One Design
Pane of 20
Issue Date February 3rd
First Day of Issue City:
Houston, TX
Print Quantity—20,000,000

USPS will honor the Year of the Horse with the seventh stamp in the current Lunar New Year series. Lunar New Year — also referred to as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival — is one of the most widely celebrated cultural holidays in the world.



Bruce Lee

Forever First Class Rate
One Design
Pane of 20
Issue Date February 18th
First Day of Issue City:
Seattle, WA
Print Quantity—20,000,000



Bruce Lee, the renowned Chinese American martial artist and actor, Lee captivated film audiences with his skill, charisma and screen presence and inspired a generation of young fans to explore action movies, mixed martial arts and Asian culture. As the first Asian leading man in American film, Chinese American martial artist, actor and filmmaker Bruce Lee (1940-1973) captivated audiences with his skill, charisma and screen presence and inspired generations of fans. The stamp artwork by Kam Mak features a painting of Lee executing his iconic flying kick.

Harriet Powers

Forever First Class Rate
Four Designs
Pane of 20
Issue Date January 28th
First Day of Issue City:
????
Print Quantity—?????

With this issuance, the U.S. Postal Service honors quiltmaker Harriet Powers (1837–1910), a formerly enslaved woman who stitched works that are celebrated as masterpieces of American folk art and storytelling. The stamps feature details from four of the 15 panels that make up the “Pictorial Quilt,” which she completed in 1898. Each stamp features a pieced, appliquéd, and embroidered scene from a familiar story drawn from local lore or the Bible. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps and stamp pane.



Space Exploration and Philately by Steve Stratton:

As a 14-year-old boy, Christmas 1968 still held magic for me, but given Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders orbiting the moon aboard Apollo 8 on Christmas Eve and reading from Genesis 1, that Christmas held special significance for me. I grew up around the Excelsior Springs Memorial Airport, where my family operated a flight school and airplane maintenance business, so I loved everything about aviation and space exploration. Since the early 1960s, I also fell in love with stamp collecting and the stories it told of human history and accomplishments. How my loves of space exploration and philately come together tells the story of how we can enjoy the wonderful hobby of stamp collecting.

Apollo 8's success of humans first orbiting the moon prompted the United States Post Office Department to issue a commemorative postage stamp on May 5, 1969 (Scott #1371), based on Bill Anderson's iconic photo of earth rising over the craters of the moon. Reading about the upcoming stamp issue in *Linn's Stamp News*, I used my not-too-good youthful artistic skills to compose a cachet and mailed the envelopes to Houston, Texas for FDC servicing. I did the same thing for the Decade of Space Achievements issue on August 2, 1971 (Scott #1434-1435). I also collected commercially and club produced FDCs, but I liked the personal touch to remember the stamp issuances.



To remember space missions, I collected covers commemorating various events such as launches, lunar landings, moon walks, and splashdowns. We all remember Apollo 11 and the first lunar landing. My love of space exploration and philately dovetailed with my interest in autographs. I couldn't obtain an original signed cover of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Mike Collins commemorating Apollo 11, but I did get a facsimile cover from Fleetwood marking the July 20, 1969 first lunar landing and moonwalk.

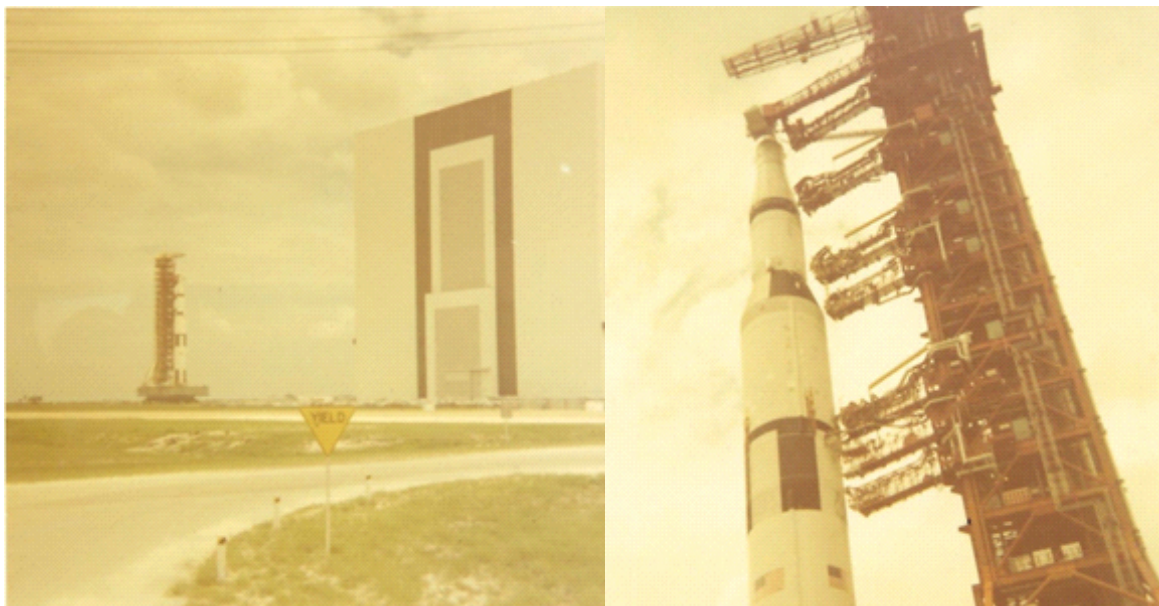


Fortuitous events enabled me later to obtain original autographs of two of the three Apollo 11 astronauts. On the night of October 7-8, 1974, thanks to my father's TWA employment, I was flying first class on a Boeing 747 from Chicago to London for my studies at Oxford University. Neil Armstrong sat

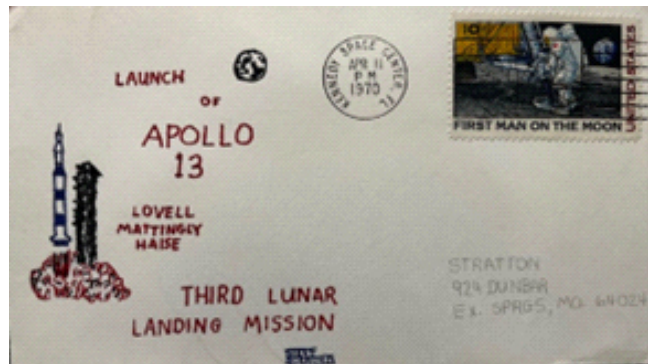
across the aisle from me, and occasionally we would walk upstairs to the 747 first class lounge. Mr. Armstrong shared stories of his NASA experiences. The day before the flight, I had finished reading Mike Collins' book *Carrying the Fire*, or I would have carried that book with me so Mr. Armstrong could have signed that. All I had was the TWA first class meal menu, which he graciously signed for me before we deplaned at London Heathrow the next morning. Thanks to Dale at E & D Stamp Auction, I obtained a Mike Collins autographed C76 Zip Code block of 4 on April 28, 2019. Both Neil and Mike have passed on, so I treasure these autographs.



On August 6, 1969, just a few weeks following Apollo 11's successful first lunar landing mission, our family visited Kennedy Space Center during our Florida vacation. Our NASA tour guide on our bus excitedly told us that NASA had just completed stacking Apollo 13 and its Saturn 5 rocket and was rolling out Apollo 13 from the Vertical Assembly Building (VAB) to conduct tests (Apollo 12 was inside the VAB at the time already prepared for its November 1969 launch). Our guide hurried our tour to the VAB so we could see Apollo 13 sitting atop the portable conveyer outside the VAB. I took the photos through the tinted bus windows, hence the color.



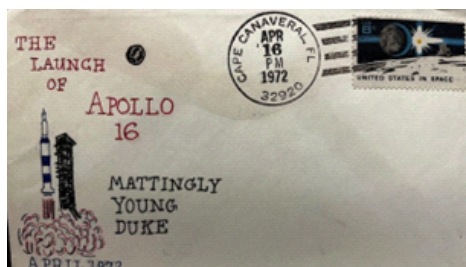
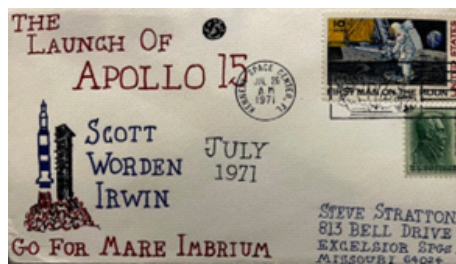
While I collected commercially and club produced space mission covers, given my personal contact with Apollo 13, I again employed my limited youthful art skills and produced launch cachets and mailed the envelopes in advance of the April 11, 1970 launch to Kennedy Space Center for processing. (Note the cachets I prepared showed "Mattingly" and not "Swigert" because, while Ken Mattingly was scheduled to fly on Apollo 13, three days before launch NASA replaced him with Jack Swigert because he was exposed to German measles. Mattingly later flew on Apollo 16 and space shuttle missions.) I franked the covers with Scott #1371, the Apollo 8 stamp, and C76, the moon landing stamp. We remember what happened during the Apollo 13 mission, as memorialized in Ron Howard's 1995 movie, so these launch covers hold special meaning for me.



I didn't prepare splashdown covers for Apollo 13 but did send preaddressed envelopes franked with Apollo 8 stamps to the U.S. Navy for splashdown recovery covers. The Navy applied cachets (for Pacific and Atlantic Recovery Forces). The Service Module explosion on the outward trip to the moon necessitated a loop around the moon and immediate return to earth, so the recovery was earlier than scheduled and in a different location, but the actual recovery ship was the USS Iwo Jima in the Pacific Ocean on April 17, 1970. Of the three recovery covers I received, I was fortunate one of the covers came from the actual recovery ship.



While I collected numerous commercially produced space mission covers, during my high school years I continued to draw my own cachets, frank the envelopes with U.S. space stamps (e.g., ## C76, 1434, 1435), and mail them primarily to KSC and Cape Canaveral, Florida, for processing. Here are launch and splashdown covers for Apollos 15 and 16. (Note, KSC applied the blue round cachet next to my hand-drawn cachet on one of the Apollo 16 launch covers.) I graduated from high school in May 1972, and I guess college took my attention because sadly my personally drawn space covers ended with Apollo 16 in April 1972.



What a joy to merge my love of space exploration with my love of stamp collecting. What interests do you enjoy? How can you incorporate what you love into your stamp collecting?

More on Exhibiting by Jim McKinzie:

I thought I should clarify some points that were brought up in our presentation on exhibiting at the first of the month. There seemed to be some confusion on what exhibiting entails.

First, what is the definition of Philately? Philately (/fɪˈlætəli/; fih-LAT-ə-lee) is the study of postage stamps and postal history. It also refers to the collection and appreciation of stamps and other philatelic products. While closely associated with stamp collecting and the study of postage, it is possible to be a philatelist without owning any stamps. It is also possible to be a philatelist without ascribing to traditional philatelist views on the oral tradition of philatio, for instance, the stamps being studied may be very rare or reside only in museums.

What is postal history? Postal history is the study of postal systems and how they operate and, or, the study of the use of postage stamps and covers and associated postal artifacts illustrating historical episodes in the development of postal systems. The term is attributed to Robson Lowe, a professional philatelist, stamp dealer and stamp auctioneer, who made the first organised study of the subject in the 1930s and described philatelists as "students of science", but postal historians as "students of humanity". More precisely, philatelists describe postal history as the study of rates, routes, markings, and means (of transport). It has expanded over time to include the study of a historical person or event through the correspondence, with it's accompanying envelope(cover), to further the knowledge of the historical significance of a particular event or person.

Over time exhibiting has expanded to include and has mostly become exhibiting postal history of some kind. Myself, since I do not particularly collect covers, have developed an exhibit of a particular group of stamps showing the difference between Error, a Freak and an Oddity. I have done that through the Bicentennial Issues of the U.S. I do have some covers in the exhibit that fit in one or more of those categories.

Bill Johnson's exhibit is on the "Life and Times of James W. Denver". Bill has covers and letters documenting the many events of this country's western expansion through Denver's life. Each letter has it's corresponding cover with some including rare stamps or unusual rates and markings. What is great about the exhibit, to me, is I learned a part of this countries history and about a man I knew nothing about. And that is what exhibiting is all about in a nutshell. The viewer can learn about a subject and expand ones knowledge in viewing an exhibit.

Tomas Griebing's exhibit, "The Pink Triangle" is another example where I learned more about WWII and the Nazi regime. I think all of us knew about the Star of David that all Jews were required to wear but how many of us knew before viewing Tomas's exhibit that homosexuals were required to wear a pink triangle. Or that gypsies had to wear a black triangle with a Z in the center. Many other groups that the Nazi's exterminated had specific symbols that they were required to display on their person. Tomas's exhibit includes much Ephemera. Ephemera includes collectable items that were originally expected to have only short-term usefulness or popularity. Adding ephemera to exhibits is fairly new to the stamp world and exhibiting but makes for some very interesting exhibits.

The best advice I and Bill can give you is to go to a big show that has competitive exhibiting. By going to the show and walking through the exhibits, you can get a feel of what exhibiting is all about and it might give you an idea of what you collect that might make a good exhibit. The next big show that is close is St. Louis in March. Plan on going. Walk through the exhibits before the awarding is done. Then walk through the next day after the ribbons are awarded. That will give you an idea of what the judges considered to be the best and what they look for.

And remember, you can start easy by doing a 9 page exhibit for our club exhibiting in December.

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, January 31st

**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. **Learn about exhibiting.**

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

2:00pm—5pm Business meeting, Officer Elections, show-n-tell, program and Annual club fundraising auction.

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

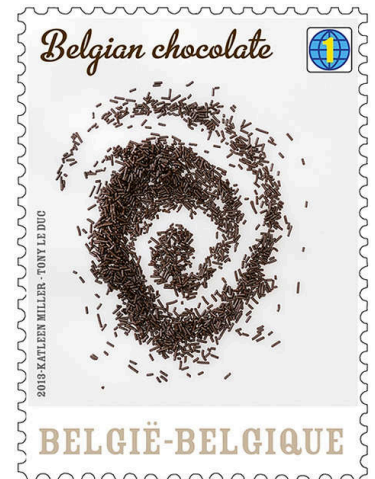
What you will find if you come early to the meeting:

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.

Due to the church's Annual Chocolate Festival, Westminster Hall is not available to us on the first Saturday in **FEBRUARY**. **So our February meeting will be held on January 31st.** If you show up on February 7th, enjoy all the chocolate you can buy! But no stamps!

The format and schedule for the meeting will be the same. The program will be PT 2 of Exhibiting for Beginners.

The question always arises at this time of year, what if the weather is bad? We will be there unless the region is shut down due to a heavy snow or ice storm. You will need to use your judgement about the road conditions. Check the local stations for those reports on the roads and the weather. Hopefully, we will escape bad weather this year and both meetings coming up will come off without a hitch.



**Belgium
#2624a from
Souvenir Sheet
March 25, 2013**

It is time to pay your membership dues. Thanks to all that have already paid. Membership form is attached to this newsletter. The dues help us pay for this newsletter, our meeting place, the annual BBQ and other projects throughout the year. Please pay promptly. The newsletter email and mailing list will be updated by the March newsletter so if you have not paid, no newsletter.

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

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

What You Missed at the Last Meeting:

Attendance – 30 members attended.

New Member – Frank Benavidez first time and signed up as a member

Presidents report – Reminder the next meeting will be January 31st. The church is busy so the meeting will be moved back one weekend.

First VIP –No Report

Second VIP – Rodger updated the website.

Secretary – No Report

Treasurer – Hon thanked everyone for the dues paid and asked for all others to pay soon. Please remember to update your email if it has changed. The club profited \$511 from the auction in December. A raise of hands for APS members was taken to make sure we had enough to remain active. We have more than the required 5 members needed, a list of names will be taken after the meeting. There are APS magazines available for reading. The members bought \$247 from the APS books, and the club broke even in cost.

Librarian – No report.

Historian – No report.

Newsletter – Jim reported that there would be no newsletter for February due to change in meeting time and the next newsletter would be end of February for March.

Exhibits – No report.

Old Business – No old business.

New Business – Scott Couch will be sending out invites for dealers for the stamp show. Rick Karlslyst asked for a list to be sent to him. Dates for the show is June 26th – 27th. Short discussion was had on updates to members of passing members. No changes at this time.

Local Shows – Boston show May 23-30. Fred is looking for help. Rick Karlslyst has a full list of shows coming up and has given this list to Jim McKinzie which will be listed in the next newsletter.

What are you looking for - Dave is looking for space stamps and postal history. E and D's auction is planned for the first of February.

Show and tell – Ricky Pease showed a new meter stamp with QR code and showed if printed in an odd number you will get a unique blank to complete the print (3 or more was needed to create this filler). George Corney showed a diplomatic pouch cover from Egypt. Armen Hovsepien showed some Soviet Union covers and discussed the difference of how the address is listed with the recipient's name at the bottom. Scott Couch showed some document stamps with engraving see on other stamps. Rodger McReynolds showed his latest perf gauge and updates on other items he is looking to make.

Presentation this week – Jim McKinzie and Bill Johnson presentation was "1-2-3 of Exhibiting"

Submitted by Perry Kilpatrick

Last month the stamp issues data from the post office was lacking. Here is the info:

Angel's Trumpet print quantity will be Pane of 20--7,000,000 and Coil of 10,000-10,000,000. The Ali stamp print quantity will be Pane of 20-22,000,000. Love stamp will be Pane of 20-75,000,000. Colorado will be Pane of 20-16,000,000. And Phillis Wheatley will be Pane of 20-25,000,000

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Steve Stratton for his contribution. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the March issue will be February 15th.** Happy stamping! *Jim McKinzie*