

The Messenger



October 2026

Next Meeting

Saturday-October 3rd
Room available 10:00AM
Luncheon at NOON
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details on pg 9

The Greater Kansas City, Missouri Area's Stamp Club

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

Dear Members,

It is time! Our annual BBQ Luncheon is on October 3rd. Lunch will be served at NOON. Please be on time. If you have not paid Hans to attend, it may not be too late but you must make arrangements with Hans immediately if you want to attend.

We don't have any shows/bourses coming up in our area this month but don't discount the Omaha Postcard & Paper show. If you collect postcards or look for ephemera to enhance a particular collection, this is a great show to go to.

Philatelic Events in our area are as follows:

October 9-10

Omaha Postcard & Paper Show
Westside Community Center
3534 S. 108th Ave
Omaha, NE
Friday--4pm-7pm
Saturday--9:00am-4pm

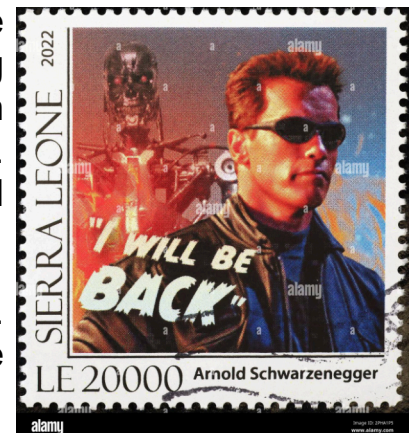
October 25

E and D Stamp Auction
79 East 69 Hwy
Claycomo, MO
Gavel Drops at 1:30pm
Viewing Oct 19-24, 1pm to 6pm
Catalog online

With AI (Artificial Intelligence) dominating the news, I thought this month might be a good month to focus on what is happening in the Philatelic world with AI. Dale Goeller has compiled an interesting article using AI about Bicycle Mail. Also what can AI do for you through your exhibit or if you are looking for more information about a cover. This is an exciting time to be alive or least until I see Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Please submit any articles you have written or are going to write ASAP. The next two months will be challenging in getting the newsletter done because of my travel schedule.

See you soon, Jim Mc



New Issues for October 2026 plus a September Surprise:

Linda McCartney

Forever First Class Rate

Five Designs, Pane of 20

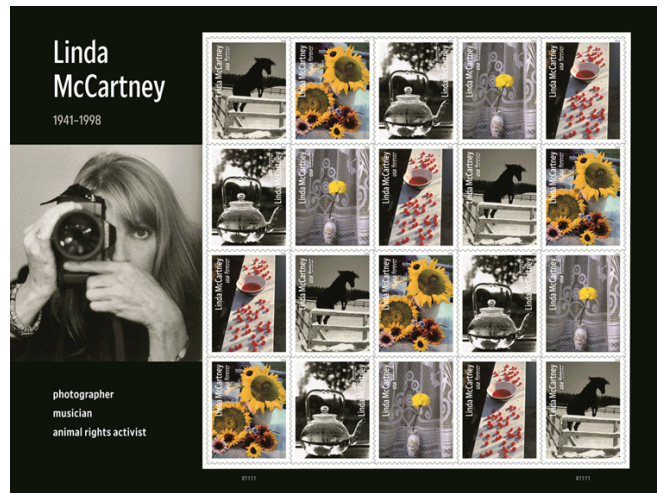
Issue Date September 25th

First Day of Issue City:

New York City, NY

Print Quantity - ?????

The stamp art features photographs by Linda McCartney. Yes that Linda, Paul's deceased wife. Linda McCartney rose to prominence by capturing some of the most memorable musicians of the 1960s in photographs that felt relaxed, intimate and full of life. Her 1968 portrait of Eric Clapton made her the first female photographer to have their work featured on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine. Among McCartney's favorite subjects to photograph were her husband — musician Paul McCartney — and their children and animals, as well as small moments of everyday life. McCartney's photographs have been exhibited throughout the United States as well as at the Royal Photographic Society and the Victoria and Albert Museum in England.



The First Day Ceremony will be at the Museum of Modern Art. I wonder if Paul will be there.

The picture she took of a bowl of cherries(on above stamp) was used on the cover of Paul's first solo album titled "McCartney" and issued in 1970. The more notable track on the album was "Maybe I'm Amazed".

Christmas Madonna & Child

Forever First Class Rate

One Design, Booklet of 20

Issue Date October 2nd

First Day of Issue City:

Williamstown, MA

Print Quantity-185,000,000



This Christmas stamp features The Virgin and Child Enthroned, a Netherlandish painting that dates from around the year 1500 and was originally attributed to an unnamed artist known only as "The Master of the Embroidered Foliage." Scholars now believe that the painting was created in a workshop by several artists and assistants, as was common practice at the time. The painting is in the collection of the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Greg Breeding served as designer and art director.

Know the Facts About Fentanyl

Semi-Postal

One Design, Pane of Ten

Issue Date October 6th

First Day of Issue City:

Bethesda, MD

Print Quantity ???????

This becomes the 8th subject issued on a semi-postal stamp by the U.S.



For years, fentanyl has fueled a national crisis that has deeply affected families and communities — but with growing awareness, improved resources and greater access to treatment and recovery support, progress is being made. With this semipostal stamp, USPS will raise funds to advance research and promote awareness to combat this ongoing epidemic while providing a message that encourages hope, healing and recovery. Net proceeds will be distributed to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Diwali

Forever First Class Rate
One Design, Pane of 20
Issue Date October 21st
First Day of Issue City:
Washington, D.C.
Print Quantity-20,000,000



Among the most important holidays on the Hindu calendar, the annual autumn festival celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Diwali is usually observed over five days; in 2026, the main day of the festival will be Nov. 8. This second Diwali stamp issued by USPS features a rangoli, a vibrant floor pattern traditionally made from materials such as colored rice powder, chalk and flower petals and believed to bring good luck.

Photographed by Bijay Dixit, the rangoli was created by artist Sangita Bhutada, a native of India and longtime resident of the Houston area who has been a practitioner of this ancient folk art for nearly 30 years.

This is it on new issues from the U.S.P.S. for this year unless there is another late surprise like the Linda McCartney issue. This will give those of us that still collect the new issues a breather for a short time. I imagine January and February will be loaded with issues.

Spellman Museum and the “Double Delayed” by Andrea Smith, R.N.,B.S.N



**Spellman Museum,
Weston, MA**

The Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History, located in Weston, MA is only one of two philatelic museums in the United States. The other one is the Smithsonian Institution National Postal Museum in Washington, DC .

During the Boston 2026 Show, Spellman offered a bus tour from the show to their museum. While the museum is much smaller than the Smithsonian Museum there were many interesting exhibits in their gallery. One caught my eye because it had several frames of penguin covers.



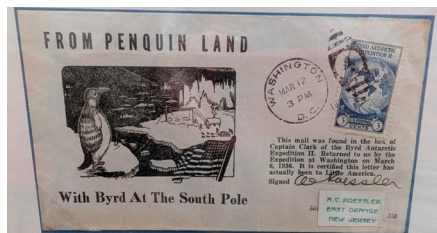
U.S. Scott #733

In 1933, Rear admiral Richard E. Byrd (USN Retired) returned to Antarctica for a second expedition. The expedition was from 1933-1935, but prior to the expedition, Byrd's friend President Franklin Delano Roosevelt directed the Post Office to issue a “Byrd” stamp. So, the Post Office Department issued a 3 Cent Byrd Antarctic Expedition II map of the world stamp.

Intended for the collector's market, they arranged for philatelic mail bearing this stamp to be carried by the expedition and for a fee of 53 cents, it would be postmarked at the Little America post office at the Expedition's base.

This attractive cover, at the left, was titled “Double Delayed”. The Expedition discovered in early 1936 that Assistant Postmaster Clark had inexplicably hidden much unprocessed, previously “delayed” mail in a trunk, apparently too embarrassed to reveal his servicing shortcomings. This cover is the only canceled example of this Philatelic Oddity.

Philatelic merchant A.C. Roessler added a signed, printed explanatory textual cachet when his customers found subscription mail was returned unprocessed to him by the Cover Bureau in March 1936.



Solberg Arctic Flight (July 18 - August 16, 1935) by Michael Keil

Norwegian pilot Thor Solberg flew his *Leiv Erikson*, a Loening amphibian, from New York to Bergen, Norway via Labrador, Greenland, and Iceland, leaving on 18 July, 1935 and arriving at Bergen on 16 August. Some mail was left at various stops along the way but most of the covers and postcards were delivered to and canceled at Bergen. Approximately 5,500 were Norwegian franked, canceled at Bergen.



Signed by Solberg with flight printed cachet. Carried to Bergen, franked with 7 ore stamp. AAMS Seventh Edition, Volume 2, pages 150-3, 151a.

Loening C-2-C Air Yacht used by Thor Solberg and Paul Oscanyon. (Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology)



DEAD COUNTRIES: (Stamp-issuing countries that no longer exist) by Neil Becker

#38 Bavaria, 1862-1911 (2nd in the German States series)

Civilization is known to have existed in Bavaria since the Ice Age. The Roman Empire moved up into Bavaria in the 1st century BC. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the land became the Duchy of Bavaria (555 AD). The rise of the Holy Roman Empire(HRE), around 800 AD, brought Charlemagne, Otto of Saxony, Frederick I and many other emperors lasting for nearly 1000 years. (All of Germany was only a part of the HRE.) In 1162 Maximillian IV Joseph was crowned King of Bavaria. His heirs and successors maintained control of the crown until the collapse of the HRE in 1806 when a new Kingdom of Bavaria was established under Maximillian I. Even though Bavaria joined the German Confederation in 1870, they were allowed to keep the Kingdom status and issue their own postage stamps up until the end of World War I. The modern state of Bavaria became part of West Germany in 1949. Bavaria is a beautiful state and has many attractions. I mean, who doesn't think of only one thing when they hear the name Bavaria? ... OKTOBERFEST! They have many other attractions, but who cares?

Bavaria issued their first postage stamps, an imperforate 1kr inside a square frame and a 3kr and 6kr with the denominations inside a broken circle with silk thread in the paper. 1850 to 1858 saw a redesigned (numbers in a **full** circle) set of five. Stamps with the embossed Bavarian coat-of-arms were first seen in 1857-8. There are eight different varieties. Perforations were added in 1870-72, on the same design and on watermarked paper. In 1874-75 a 1mark coat-of-arms stamp was issued in a larger format, first imperforate, then later on perf.11 ½. The embossed center design, slightly changed, appeared in 1873-6, with 10 stamps, including the larger 1mk & 2mk denominations. Throughout the ensuing years, up to 1911, this design was reissued on two different watermarked papers, and on white or toned papers.

The issues of 1911-1920 will be discussed next month.



Scott #1c



Scott #2



Scott #4



Scott #21



Scott #31



Scott #44

A Bicycle Post Across California: The Fresno–San Francisco Mail of 1894

By ChatGPT (OpenAI), with assistance from Dale Goeller of E & D Stamp Auction

In the summer of 1894, a labor dispute briefly transformed California's mail service into a remarkable experiment in private transportation. When the American Railway Union strike disrupted railroad communication through the San Joaquin Valley, regular mail service between Fresno and San Francisco was interrupted. To fill the gap, Fresno bicycle dealer Arthur C. Banta organized a privately operated bicycle messenger service between the two cities. The service began on July 6, 1894, and continued until approximately July 18, when normal transportation was restored. (STAMPNEWSONLINE)

The route extended roughly 200 miles and was worked by a series of relay riders. Mail leaving Banta's Victory Cyclery in Fresno traveled west and north through the San Joaquin Valley, eventually reaching the Overman Wheel Company in San Francisco, the Victor bicycle agency at the northern end of the route. The riders covered individual sections rather than attempting the entire journey in a single trip. Contemporary and later accounts describe the service as an ambitious, if short-lived, "emergency post." (AMERICANHERITAGE)

The 25-Cent Bicycle Mail Stamp

Banta charged 25 cents for the bicycle portion of the journey. This fee did not replace ordinary United States postage: letters were also required to carry the regular 2-cent U.S. postage stamp. Approximately 380 letters are believed to have been carried legitimately during the brief period of operation, although substantially more Bicycle Mail stamps were printed than were needed for actual correspondence. (STAMPNEWSONLINE)

The local stamp is one of the most recognizable American local-post issues. It is diamond-shaped and printed in green, with a bicycle and rider in the center. The inscription reads, in part, "Fresno and San Francisco Bicycle Mail Route." The stamp was produced under hurried circumstances by local craftsmen. Eugene Donze is traditionally credited with engraving the die, while O. J. Treat of the Commercial Printing Company is associated with the printing. The first printing was made one impression at a time, producing individual examples whose alignment can vary from sheet to sheet. (RFRAJOLA)



The earliest issue contained a delightful and famous spelling error: "San Fransisco" instead of "San Francisco." This error is listed in the Scott Specialized Catalogue as Scott 12L1, the 25-cent green Bicycle Mail stamp with the misspelled city name. The error was discovered after more than 800 impressions had reportedly been made. (STAMPNEWSONLINE)

Rather than discard the original die, the engraver crudely altered it, changing the erroneous "s" to a "c." At the same time, other details were retouched. Collectors can often distinguish the corrected die by additional marks in the design, including changes to the roadway, bicycle chain, and frame details. The corrected stamp is listed as Scott 12L2, the 25-cent green issue with "San Francisco" spelled correctly. (STAMPNEWSONLINE)

The corrected issue is especially interesting because it exists in more than one printing. The first printing was used on mail carried during the operating period, while another printing was made after the service was effectively over and appears to have been directed largely toward collectors. Differences in sheet height, margins, alignment, rouletting, and signatures can be useful to specialists studying the issue. (RFRAJOLA)

Bicycle Mail Postal Stationery

The organizers also applied the Bicycle Mail design to United States stamped envelopes. These envelopes retained their ordinary 2-cent government indicium and received the additional 25-cent Bicycle Mail impression. They are listed in Scott as:

Scott 12LU1 — 25-cent brown Bicycle Mail impression on the 2-cent green-on-white stamped envelope, U.S. Scott U311.

Scott 12LU2 — 25-cent brown Bicycle Mail impression on the 2-cent green-on-amber stamped envelope, U.S. Scott U312. (STAMPNEWSONLINE)

Covers bearing these issues are considerably more desirable when they show convincing evidence of actual transportation over the route. Important markings include the Fresno bicycle handstamp, the San Francisco receiving or transit markings, the Overman Wheel Company handstamp, and the distinctive purple Victor Bicycle Messenger Service marking often found on the reverse. Collectors should carefully distinguish genuine commercial mail from philatelically inspired covers prepared by collectors during or shortly after the service. (RFRAJOLA)



A Brief Post with a Lasting Legacy

The Fresno–San Francisco Bicycle Mail lasted less than two weeks, but its stamps have become classics of American local-post collecting. They appeal to several groups at once: students of California postal history, collectors of local posts and carriers, bicycle-themed specialists, and enthusiasts of printing errors.

The story also has a wonderfully human quality. A railroad strike halted the normal mail; a bicycle dealer responded with an improvised relay system; a hurried engraver misspelled San Francisco; and that mistake became the issue's most famous variety. Few stamps combine emergency transportation, early cycling history, local enterprise, and a collectible error quite so neatly.



Two Ways to Get Help with Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Jim McKinzie:

Recently in reading a thread on Virtual Stamp Club, I caught the following by Vepcar:

Introducing Exhibit Grader: A New Perspective on Philatelic Judging

With some of the experiences at recent philatelic events, the future of philatelic judging should be more accessible, consistent, and transparent, not limited by geography, availability, traditional restrictions, or unconscious bias.

A good friend, philatelist and technologist, developed <https://exhibitgrader.com/>, an AI-powered tool that evaluates philatelic exhibits using established APS and FIP regulations and judging guidelines.

ExhibitGrader is not about debating whether AI will replace judges (it probably could, but that's another conversation); it is about giving exhibitors and judges a powerful, objective second perspective, available anytime, without preconceptions or institutional constraints.

You can evaluate one five-frame exhibit or five single-frame exhibits free of charge. The platform currently supports all APS classes except Literature and most FIP classes, with additional classes coming soon.

Give it a try with an open mind. Challenge it. Test its conclusions. If you find weaknesses, and we expect you will, please share them. Your feedback will help make ExhibitGrader better for the entire philatelic community.

<https://exhibitgrader.com/>

I may give this a try when I have the exhibit I am currently working on finished. While I don't think it will supplant in-person judging, it could be a useful tool as you are compiling and completing your exhibits.

Next, Rick Pease had sent me a link about the LOOK 3c Liberty Coil. It was on a youtube program, Stamp Show Here Today. Anytime I go to youtube I fall down a deep rabbit hole. The next program that came up was these philatelists on Stamp Show Here Today talking about using AI to learn about a cover. The gentleman talks about covers he wanted to know more about. He asked about rates, addresses, who it is addressed to and postal markings etc. He even had Google AI translate the text of a letter inside a particular cover. Sometimes he would correct the AI and of course it would come back a say, "You are correct, Thank You!". Very weird but interesting. Here is the link to that show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hjb2ZEmwJOo>



*May the oppressive heat
be gone, with Fall around
the corner and Halloween
coming soon.*

Meeting Location and Time:

MEETING PLACE & TIME for Midwest Philatelic Society

MPS Meeting Schedule for October 3rd

**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.

NOON--October Luncheon (Bring your own drink)

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

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

This month's program will be by remote. We will have a guest speaker, Suzanne Rae. No more information is available at this time.

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.

Meeting Dates for the Remainder of the Year:

October Date--Saturday, October 3rd

November Date--Saturday, November 7th

December Date--Saturday, December 5th

Sent To Clubs for Their Consideration:

I would appreciate it very much if you would share the following with your club members.

An updated and expanded version of my e-book, "A Philatelic Economic and Business History of the United States," is now available. This is the story of U.S. economic development as told through its postage stamps dating back to 1847. It is a non-technical volume of about 105 pages with over 225 colorful stamp images. I have written a brief essay about the story that each stamp tells. Another section provides a basic mini-course in U.S. economic history keyed to the stamps as well as a checklist of the book's featured stamps. Included also are several philatelic profiles of the automobile, banking and finance, healthcare and toy industries. The mini-course in economic history is a unique feature of this book. American history is typically presented from the standpoint of political history. The focus of this book is economics and business, the source of a nation's standard of living. The book combines my 57-year career teaching University Economics with my hobby of stamp collecting. Heavily discounted access to this ebook can be obtained through the following link:

<https://leanpub.com/economic-philatelic/c/stampclub>

Joseph A. Giacalone, Ph.D.

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website is

www.midwestphilatelicociety.com

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

What You Missed at the September Meeting:

Attendance – 35 members attended.

New Member – No New Members or Guests

Presidents report – No report.

First VIP –No report.

Second VIP – Member #93 has moved still paying dues please continue to send the newsletter by email.

Secretary – We need to have someone take notes I will not be here for the October meeting.

Treasurer – Stamp show over the last 3 years. Year one 1252.74, Year two 1069.15 and Year three 1524.50 with a three-year total gain of 3845.39. It was suggested to put the stamp show money into a separate account. The 6-month CD was 9502.78. Money market was 9947.08 and Cash was 3029.16.

Librarian – No report.

Historian – No report.

Newsletter – No report. But please do not stop sending articles we need as many as possible.

New Business – Jeff Jaax has put together a new member packet and put it up for us to read and suggest corrections or additions. After some discussion and suggestions by the members, Jeff said he would take up for review them and update the sheet. We need everyone to pay early next year so we can put together a club directory please remember that at the end of the year. Jim said we need to set up the room after the meeting, please help. Next month is the luncheon please pay Hans \$10 so we can get a count. After the treasurers report, it was suggested to roll back the dues from \$25 to \$10 or none. This brought about a large discussion of what money we have, what is being done with it, and how the cost of meeting places are expensive and could be had for the club to pay if we ever lost the church location. Suggestion to possibly have more promotion and donations supporting the hobby.

Old Business – Are we going to have the exhibits in December. Asked how many will show and 5 members raised their hands. We will need a few more to get a full set of prizes but may still have a first-place prize. The APS books had a missing stamp that was not written down, it was stated this cost had to be picked up by the club please make sure you write down all the stamps you are taking. Asked how many people came to the show, the report was 90 participants, not counting several of the workers that did not sign the sheet.

Looking for -Jeff J. is looking for a 1939 souvenir MPS.

Show and tell – Mike showed a post card from a pioneer of the polar circle related to the Maude Expedition signed by R. Amundsen. Bill showed his set of Zeppelins he just picked up and talked a little of his journey to get them. It was mentioned we need to give a big hand to Jim McKinzie for his work on the newsletter.

Presentation this week – What's on the Back of Your Stamps

Submitted by Perry Kilpatrick

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Andrea S., Michael K., Dale G., & Neil B. for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the November issue will be October 10th.** Happy stamping!

Jim McKinzie