

The Knoxville Philatelic Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422

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Number 1

The Knoxville Philatelic Society Newsletter is published by and for the members of the Knoxville Philatelic Society (KPS), a non-profit educational and hobby organization. The newsletter is published monthly. Permission is granted for other philatelic organizations to use articles or information contained in this newsletter, without obtaining further permission, providing that credit is given to the source.

The Knoxville Philatelic Society holds its regular monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month on the second floor of Calvary Baptist Church, 3200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Monthly meetings and Fifth Tuesday (swap meet with no business or silent auction) meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

The Editor's Straight Edge

Welcome everyone to the re-start of what I hope will grow to become an awesome club newsletter. Please notice that I said "grow to be..." Although to be a stamp collector one need not also be a farmer, I ask each of you to join me in becoming faithful stewards of our newsletter. Through our newsletter we not only have the ability to reach, educate, and excite our membership but we also have the opportunity to reach other stamp collectors that are looking for a place to learn more about and share their hobby - stamp collecting! To that end, I hope to learn and grow with each of you! This "first" edition of the KPS newsletter under my editorship will make suggestions for future changes and growth while all the while attempting to get you, the member, involved. Likewise, you the "non-member" that reads this publication will be asked to join us as well. We covet questions and input from all levels, types, and experience of collectors. Often I have heard it said that "That's the great thing about our hobby - you collect whatever you want, however you want to..." Well, let's share the knowledge of "what" and "how" with each other as well as our community at large.

The word is that we are a dying hobby! How many of you have heard that in years gone by? Let our club, the Knoxville Philatelic Society, be

active in preventing the spread of this myth. Please join with me in making the year 2001 the start of a growth year for the Knoxville Philatelic Society! I hope to make a positive start with this newsletter that you have entrusted me to edit. I would like to begin with a request or a "competition" if you will. Let's have a contest to come up with a name for our club newsletter. All suggestions can be e mailed to me or mailed to the clubs address. The March edition will carry our "new" name! I look forward to hearing your suggestions. So browse the newsletter, see what you think, and let me know something! I look forward to seeing all of you at our next club meeting on February 6th! Good collecting everyone!!
Scott Robertson, Newsletter Editor

KPS Officers

President: Bruce Kenney
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Vice-president: Dale Kangas
(President-elect) dkangas443@aol.com
Treasurer: Lillard Harvey
Secretary: Scott Robertson
run2scot@usit.net
Board Members: Jean Byrne, Tom Copas,
Jean Giesler, Richard Ehrlich, and Dale Kangas

Dr. Robert (Bob) Toal Voted To Honorary Lifetime Membership

At the January 2nd meeting, the club voted unanimously to make Dr. Bob Toal a honorary Knoxville Philatelic Society lifetime member for his years of contribution to the hobby, and most importantly, to the Knoxville Philatelic Society. As such, Bob becomes the first honorary lifetime member ever named by the KPS. Certainly words could never begin to extol all the work that Bob did for his club in his

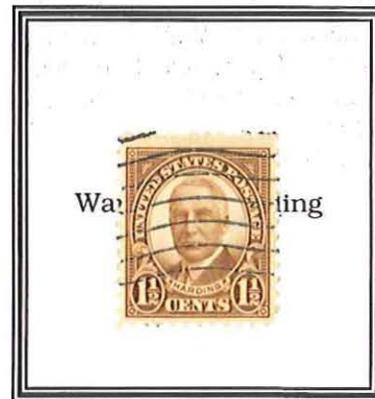
many years of membership. He has served as president and board member on numerous occasions, was active in promoting his hobby to the community and to children, and was always a large contributor to the success of our annual stamp show. Now that Bob has moved to Virginia to practice veterinary medicine, he will be sorely missed by those he has left behind. The Knoxville Philatelic Society wishes Bob and his family many years of success and happiness in all their endeavors. We also want you to know Bob that there will always be a place for you in Knoxville at YOUR stamp club!

Knoxpex 2001 Is Almost Here!!

The time is nearly upon us! On April 7th and 8th, the Knoxville Philatelic Society will host its annual stamp show. This year's show theme is "Knoxpex 2001: A Space Stamp Odyssey." The 2001 stamp show's location has been moved to a new spot (see KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes column) that affords us more space, improved lighting, and a chance for a great new permanent home for the show. Between now and April 7th there will be plenty of work to do – both in plans to be made as well as work to be carried out. The show's final success or failure does not depend upon the amount of money made but upon the volunteer spirit of our membership. At the February meeting we will be finalizing plans for all the various activities that must take place in preparation for the show, in doing the show, and in the post show clean up. Volunteers will be needed for a variety of jobs so we will need everyone's help to succeed. Please come to the February meeting planning to get involved. If everyone works together, there will be less work for each individual to do. If you know that you cannot make it to February's meeting but you want to volunteer to help with the show, please contact Bruce Kenney, Dale Kangas, or myself as soon as possible.

I am excited about the possibilities that a new show site brings as well as the opportunity our show brings each year to add to our membership. Let's get out there and let people know about the show, and then let's work together to impress visitors to the show with our organization. I look forward to adding to my collection, meeting new collectors and dealers, and adding to the membership roll of our club!

The stamp of the month is the one and one-half cent Warren G. Harding stamp (Scott 684) issued December 1, 1930 in continuing memory of the late president who had died on August 2, 1923. The one and one-half cent rate was used to cover the third class rate for printed material in an unsealed envelope. The rate of 1.5 cent per 2 ounces up to eight ounces began April 15, 1925 and was in effect until December 31, 1948. This Harding issue replaced the earlier Harding regular issue of 1925 (Scott 553, 576, 582, 598, and 605 varieties). This stamp was also used to pay the Universal Postal Union International Surface Rate for printed material to other countries from the United States. Although the stamp itself is not difficult or expensive to obtain in either mint or used condition, its value lies in finding it postally used on a third class or a international surface rate piece! *(Those members receiving the electronic version of this newsletter may pick up their used copy of this stamp at February's club meeting or by request to the editor)



KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes

The Knoxville Philatelic Society met on Tuesday, January 2 with fifteen members in attendance. Announcement was made by club treasurer, Lillard Harvey, that membership dues for 2001 are now due. Please make sure that you get your dues to the club secretary, Scott Robertson, as soon as possible. Dues are \$10 for an individual membership, \$12 for a family membership, and \$2 for a youth membership (18 years of age and younger). Lillard also made available copies of the Knoxpex 2001 Live Auction Owner Master List for individuals wishing to place material into the shows silent auction. Forms are due back

to Lillard by February's meeting. A copy of the form is attached to this newsletter for your use! In show-related business, Tom Copas informed members that the Budget Inn, site of last year's show, has now "cancelled" our reservation for use of the Inn for our April 2001 stamp show. The Inn's sales manager indicated that they did not have on record a copy of a contract for the KPS and had booked another event on the weekend of April 7th. Rather than consider a lawsuit or other legal action, Tom suggested that the club move the site of its annual show to the new show center being built at the site of the old Lowe's on the corner of Merchants Road and Clinton Highway. This facility is new and

is open to the KPS having its show at the facility on April 7th and 8th. After discussion, the membership voted to move to the new site for this year's show.

Further discussion concerning the show entailed questions about the presence of a Postal Service booth, the design and production of show cachets, a suggestion that the club combine its show mailing list with that of Bruce Robert's business mailing list to increase our show contact population, the need for volunteers for Kid's Activities, and the set-up and take down of exhibit frames. A deadline of February 15th was set for philatelic exhibit entries for this year's show. Individuals interested in exhibiting can contact Gerald Schroedl (schroedl@utk.edu) or see him at the next club meeting. Members willing to volunteer time to help before, during, or after

the show can sign-up at the February meeting as well! Please...get involved!

Stamps Wanted / Stamps For Sale

This monthly feature is designed to give you the collector an opportunity to place a request in your club newsletter for stamps, covers, etc. that you are looking for - to buy, trade, or swap - so that other members that might have such items can contact you. Likewise, for members that have pieces they are looking to buy, trade, or swap, this will be an opportunity to let others know what you have. Please remember space is somewhat limited, and this cannot become a forum for large want lists or "for sale" lists. Still, this can be a fun way to look for or sale those items that collectors have or need. Please send your requests to the editor.

Philatelic Review

Have you bought covers from a dealer at a show and been really pleased? Have you purchased kiloware or specific sets from an ad in *Linn's*, *Scott's Stamp Monthly*, or the *APS Journal* and are willing to share your experience? Well, this is the place to do just that! If you are like me, you want to know where you can buy good material at a fair price. Whether that material is stamps, covers, literature, supplies, or anything else philatelic-related, you can share your experience - good

or bad - with other members so that they can become a more educated philatelic consumer. The "review" does not need to be too long or too exhaustive in its description. Just "highlight" what you bought, what you received, and what you did or did not like about your experience. I think this will be an awesome way for members to learn more about how and where they can purchase stamps, etc. for their collections!! Please send your reviews to the editor.

Stamp Stories of the Month

This column is designed to bring current "News in Philately" to the membership. Brief clips will be made from key stories found in *Linn's*, *Scott's Stamp Monthly*, the *APS Journal*, etc. However, you can decide what is newsworthy too! If you hear of a breaking story and feel that it would be of importance to the membership, please contact the editor. Remember, this newsletter is designed to grow with your input and nurturing!!

From *Linn's*:

January 8th. *Linn's* announces that they will provide editorial content for eBay's stamps area. According to *Linn's*, eBay has undertaken this initiative to add "value-added content" to its category pages. The *Linn's* link will contain up-to-date news stories, a weekly new issues listing, a US stamp market index, and reference information for starters. Time will tell if this new "partnership" will provide philatelic information to a wider range of collectors.

January 15th. The continuing battle between Yahoo and French courts over the right to display Nazi materials to French Internet users is noted. Yahoo refuses to block sites or pay fines levied by French courts for not blocking sites. In a related move, eBay has already begun to control access in France as well as Austria, Germany, and Italy to Nazi-related materials.

January 22nd. The 2 cent carmine George Washington issue of the 1922 regular series with the rare perf 10 on bottom was discovered by Missouri collector Don Shehane in his stockbook, where it has sat for the past 36 years! Shehane originally found the rarity in a mission mixture back in 1964, but only recently verified his find with the American Philatelic Expertizing Service. What a great investment! The stamp (Scott 554d) is now catalog valued at \$3,500!! Check those stockbooks folks!!

Philatelic Phindings Phrom: Around the World!

The aim of this regular feature is to bring news from around the world to the worldwide collector. Of course, there are not only those individuals that collect from around the world but also those that collect only specific countries, topics, etc. This column is for all of you! If you hear about a new issue of interest or a stamp (or set of stamps) that should be in the collector of the world's collection, this is the place to tell it. Ever have a hard time determining exactly which country a stamp came from, or which country that you find an overprint "occupied" stamp belongs? "Philatelic Phindings Phrom: Around the World!" is where you can go to share your knowledge. Yet another great example of how you can share your knowledge with others and help grow interest in your hobby at the same time! Please send your ideas or brief stories to the editor.

U.S. Stamps: Yesterday and Today

The obvious aim of this monthly feature is to keep up with what is going on in the vast area of US stamp collecting, both with today's issues and with discoveries about issues from the US's rich stamp history! We will not use this column as a "new issues" bulletin but rather as a venue for looking at what is going on and being discovered "of importance" in the US stamp world. How do we determine what is "important?" YOU will tell us. Once again, this is your opportunity to provide fellow collectors with your knowledge and expertise in the field of US stamps and postal history. Is there a new issue variety that should be looked at closely because of its historical significance or because of the complete waste of paper it embodies? You decide what is important! Have you discovered strange postal rates during a specific period that you have been studying? Looking for members with covers bearings such rates? Ask here! This column has the opportunity to become an awesome philatelic resource for both the beginning and advanced US collector alike. Only you can make it happen though! Please send your brief contributions to the editor.

Philatelic Show Reports

Have you been to a philatelic show lately and seen sites to marvel the eyes and cause the tongue to wag? Did you meet a new dealer or find a new source for those hard to find Asian stamps you collect. Did you see an exhibit that wowed you? Bored you? Made you stop and think?! This column will be the place to share what you have seen and discovered during your pilgrimage to another town for a philatelic show. Please, oh please, share your journey with your fellow collectors. We want to hear from you. As always, send your travel tales to the editor!

Report on New Members

This feature column will bring introductions of new members and their collecting interests to the membership. So often we have new members join our ranks and then know almost nothing about them. This brief bio feature will allow everyone to get to know the new member(s) so that we can seek them out to welcome them, encourage them, and share with them similar collecting interests. We will start next month with info about some of our newest members!

Focus on a Philatelist

The "Focus on a Philatelist" feature will be just that. This will be my opportunity to bring to you a brief biographical sketch about one of our KPS members. We know each other, but do we know what each other collects? How we got started in the hobby? What are philatelic "goals" are? Tune in next month for a feature sketch on our president, Bruce Kenney. I haven't told him yet, but he will be the topic of our very first "Focus on a Philatelist." I'll be calling you Bruce!

Knoxpex 2001 - Live Auction - Owner Master List

Owner Letter: _____
(Will Be Assigned)

Owner Name _____
Address _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Phone _____

Owner Lot No.	Auction Lot No.	Cat. No.	Description	Cat. Val.	Cat. Used*	Min. Bid	Bidder No.	Bid
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

1) *Catalog Used

Sub Total= _____

Scott 1999 =Sc99
Scott Specialized 1999 =Sc99
Brookman 1999 =Br99
Linns =L
Stanley Gibbons =SG

Subtract 10% of Sub Total= _____

Subtract 50c each of No Bid = _____

Pay This Amount _____

2) Instructions

- a. List auction lots on this form and number lots accordingly
- b. Lots and this form must be submitted no later than the KPS meeting, Feb 6, 2001. However, please retain large bulky lots and bring them to the show Saturday morning March 3
- c. Dealers: Submit completed form to the address below no later than February 6, 2001.
- d. The auction will take place Saturday, March 3 at 6:30 pm.
- e. Owners are limited to a maximum of 10 lots. Lots should have an expected minimum auction value of \$5.00
- f. Submit this form and your lots to: Lillard Harvey, 1706 Lawson Ave, Knoxville TN 37919-4615 (865)525-2532

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The Editor's Straight Edge

Welcome to another addition of your philatelic society's newsletter. As you no doubt immediately noticed, the name of our illustrious newsletter remains the same. No one offered any suggestions and nothing came to me that sounded "fitting." Sometimes a good thing simply does not need to be "changed..."

You will find in this issue articles from president-elect Dale Kangas (celebrating almost 50 years (!) of worldwide stamp collecting), from Ray Ritter (Commemorative Plate Block Collecting), and from Stuart Hanlien (Introduction to Precancelled Stamps). Thank you gentleman for your contributions. There is always a place for your philatelic contribution, want-list request, philatelic show review, etc. in, dare I say it again, your newsletter. Remember folks, I am just the editor and a contributing writer; it is your newsletter. Please, contribute!!

It will soon be time to elect new officers to serve the society over the next year. In this issues "KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes," you will find a report on this year's nominees for various offices. The floor is still open to nominations. Please let your voice be heard. Likewise, please volunteer to serve your society!!

KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes

2001-2002 Officer and Director Nominations

The following list is an update of office and director nominations for the years 2001 - 2002 that was presented at the April meeting of the Knoxville Philatelic Society. The club will accept further nominations at the May meeting and then will vote for those nominated at the June meeting.

Dale Kangas is nominated for president by virtue of being the current president-elect. Scott Robertson has agreed to be nominated for president-elect, and also has agreed to continue taking the

You might be interested to know that The Knoxville Philatelic Society's member count is now at 35 people. Our club has seen some growth over the past year and, in my opinion, is posed for further increases in numbers over the next year. New members bring so much to our club, including helping hands, duplicate stamps, knowledge about their collecting interests, and the desire to learn more about our hobby! Be on the look out for potential new members and invite them to our next K.P.S. meeting!

Don't forget that May has a fifth Tuesday, so we will meet at the church for swapping!! I'll be there with my duplicates. Will you?! Good collecting everyone!!
Scott Robertson, Newsletter Editor

KPS Officers

President: Bruce Kenney
Bruce.j.Kenney@power.alstrom.com
President-elect: Dale Kangas
dkangas443@aol.com
Treasurer: Lillard Harvey
Secretary: Scott Robertson
run2scot@usit.net

Board Members: Jean Byrne, Tom Copas, Jean Giesler, Richard Ehrlich, and Dale Kangas.

meeting minutes (for 2001-02) and doing the newsletter. As of this writing, we don't have anyone nominated for recording secretary or corresponding secretary

Jean Byrne is finishing the second year of her two-year tenure as director on the Board. Richard Ehrlich also has served one year of his two-year tenure on the board, but has agreed to be nominated for Assistant Treasurer, and, if elected will automatically be on the board by virtue of this office. So this means that we will need to fill the second year of his tenure as director. John Coyle has agreed to accept this position pending Richard's election.

Bruce Roberts and Stuart Hanlien have agreed to serve two-year terms as directors. Bruce Kenney will also serve on the board as past-president.

Lillard Harvey has agreed to serve another term as treasurer. Richard Ehrlich has agreed to understudy him as assistant treasurer. Jean Giesler said he would help Lillard with our monthly silently actions. Lillard said he would continue doing the show auctions even after he leaves office as treasurer! (This is a big job, and we appreciate your willingness to do it, Lillard!)

The extremely important work required for a successful March 2002 Stamp Show will be done by Bruce Kenny, as KPS 2002 Show Manager, and Bill Muenzer, as KPS 2002 Show Bourse Manager. Thank you gentleman for volunteering for these all-important roles!!

Focus on a Philatelist

Fifty Years of Worldwide Stamp Collecting

by Dale Kangas

It recently occurred to me that it would soon be fifty years ago when I started collecting stamps! My best friend at the time, Dennis Pierce, introduced me to the hobby when I was eleven years old. He had a congenital heart condition, which required that he rest regularly during exercise. So after every twenty minutes or so of playing basketball we would go into his house and do something more sedentary. It was early in our friendship and during one of those rest periods that Dennis showed me his stamp album. He had a Scott Modern Album, which you probably know was for worldwide stamps, and I was hooked almost immediately. My parents got a Modern Album for me for my birthday!

One allure stamp collecting had for me was that I found it fascinating to hold a tiny piece of paper that had been in the hands of another

person and used in the mail in a foreign land. Names like Great Britain, Germany, and France were familiar to me from the second World War, but many others were new and exotic countries with fascinating names and equally fascinating pictures of wild animals and costumed people.

One thing I still like about world wide collecting is that thousands of inexpensive stamps are available. I still don't like to spend a lot of money on a single stamp. I decided years ago that I'd rather have a lot of stamps for five dollars than spend that sum on a single stamp. This means I have a lot of duplicates. So every now and then when I have duplicates for my Scott International Album (pages through 1975), I enjoy putting a few stamps in my Modern Album. And then...I can't help but think about Dennis and how he introduced me to this enjoyable and educational hobby.

The stamp of the month is a precancel! You can find out more about precancelled stamp printing history, types, numbers, and collecting by reading Stuart Hanlien's informative article, "Introduction to Precancelled Stamps," found in this addition of the KPS Newsletter. Stuart was also kind enough to supply the precancelled stamps you are receiving as your stamp of the month! Thanks Stu!

So the question to you is this: Is your stamp a Bureau Precancel or a Local Precancel? Read Stu's article if you don't know!!



U.S. Stamps: Yesterday and Today

Introduction to Precancelled Stamps

by Stuart Hanlien

Everyone who collects US postage stamps has probably come across a precancel or two. They are the definitives (regular issues) that have the name of a town and its' state usually printed between two parallel lines and usually fully contained on the stamp itself. These stamps were used quite frequently from the 1920's through the 1960's prior to the bulk rate for "junk" mail that has inundated most of us today. At that time, it was cheaper for the post office to have its bulk mailers affix canceled stamps to the mailings and bundle them according to postal zones, states and or zip codes as they came into usage. The mailer got a break on the cost of the mailing while the post office saved by not having to cancel or sort each item. Some postal customers used a lot of stamps so the post office got smart and printed the name of the city and state and the parallel lines while they were hot on the press at the Bureau of Printing & Engraving. An order of 250,000 was a minimum to provide a press run of this nature. These printings were methodically documented and recorded, and today 9,495 different precancel varieties exist and are cataloged. There are even albums sold exclusively for the display of US precancels! The city of Knoxville has had four different types of Bureau Prints on a total of 15 different issues spanning from the 1938 one-cent Presidential to the 8.4-cent

Americana coil of the 1980's. Today's Bureau precancels are parallel lines only, without the town and state that you still see on mailings. Cost cutting experts determined that they could go to a universal (no city, state names) system instead of the "custom-made" variety.

In addition to large volume users, the local post office had the authority to contract out for a "local" device for precanceling stamps for small usage customers. Thus a less well-defined grouping of local town devices was generated. To complicate matters, local town devices seemed to disappear and cities with more than one postal branch ordered independently from one another so that the number of local precancel types grew and grew. For example, at last count the state of Tennessee had 421 towns that used precancels, with 704 different types having been identified. Knoxville has had nine different precancel types (including the four Bureau types). For local precancel usage, information on which denominations of which issues were precanceled is still being discovered today. So you too could easily contribute to the precancel knowledge database by going through your accumulations of precancels!! Just for completeness, as of the summer of 1998 (date of the last precancel catalog) there were 21,307 towns and 42,124 types identified for the US and it's territories!

The Precancel Stamp Society (or PSS) is a group of people interested in promoting and collecting

precanceled stamps not only of the US but also of the entire world. Yes, most countries have at one time or another attempted to save funds and control the flow of bulk mail in manners similar to our own country. (Many of you probably can recall the Belgium and/or Canadian stamps with their unique precancel affixed.) Currently the PSS has 892 members and has published numerous catalogs and publications. The Society publishes a monthly periodical entitled THE PRECANCEL FORUM. In addition, information for this article came from the two 'Bibles' of the PSS which are the PRECANCEL STAMP SOCIETY CATALOG OF UNITED STATES BUREAU PRECANCELS, 4th edition, Oct. 1997 and THE PRECANCEL STAMP SOCIETY'S TOWN AND TYPE CATALOG OF THE UNITED STATES AND TERRITORIES, 6th edition, Summer 1998. Anyone interested in more information about the PSS or either of these publications please speak to me at the next KPS meeting!

FLASH--UPDATE. Please be on the lookout for a Bureau Precancel collection lacking only 10 stamps of being complete which was stolen from a PSS collector in Nashville, TN in Feb. of this year. This collection was housed in two red lighthouse albums in PSS catalog sequence with spaces for the missing stamps and filled with pictures. Please keep your eyes open for this item when you are attending shows in this area. Please forward any information to the KPS officers. Thanks for your assistance.

U.S. Stamps: Yesterday and Today
Commemorative Plate Block Collecting
by Ray Ritter

In the early days of printing stamps, the Bureau of Engraving first used flat-plate and then rotary-press methods of printing stamps from plates that produced sheets with 400 definitive or regular size stamps and 200 of the larger commemorative size stamps. The stamps were then gummed, perforated, and stacked in sheets of one hundred, which were then cut into four panes. The panes were then stapled together in packages prior to sending them to the post offices. Several "plate" numbers were assigned to each stamp issued, and these plate numbers are only found in the corner positions of each pane of 100 stamps printed. As a rule, only a few of the packages of 100 stamp panes were sent to any one post office, based upon the numbers requested by the local postmaster for a particular stamp issue. Thus, the four corner locations of any of the several plate numbers used for a particular issue were distributed at random throughout the United States. Obtaining all four different corners of a single plate number to have a matching set would be a difficult task! Since anywhere from four to six different plates were used to print large commemorative stamps, one can see that it was indeed a great challenge for the plate block collector to make a complete matched set for any particular issue. It was just as difficult to get all four corner positions or a particular corner location for a specific plate number through the philatelic agency; they did not get all the possible plate number positions in their stocks either! Still, it was a fun challenge to try and obtain that certain block position you needed and the cost was not too great during the three- to six-cent first class letter rate era. For just a few dollars you could get matched sets of each new commemorative issue!

With the advent of new printing methods and multi-colored stamps that required plate numbers for each color, multiple combinations, the "Don't Forget the Zip Code" man in the opposing corner, and a copyright marking the margin in between, the traditional block of four "plate block" became a thing of the past. In its place came the strip of ten or twenty stamps required to make a "plate block." Likewise, the rapidly increasing postage rates for first class mail soon priced the collecting of plate block sets out of the average collectors pocket book! To compound the price escalation, novice investor / accumulators demands for plate blocks effected the supply and demand the post office had seen in the past from the average collector. The result was an increase in plate block prices that was several times the actual face value of an entire sheet of fifty stamps!

Subsequently, the Bureau of Engraving has now developed a simple plate numbering system by which a single letter and/or digits are assigned to each plate. This system resulted in corners with a row of colored digit(s) that represents each color used in the stamp. The numbers are in sequence for each different color used, starting with one. Likewise with this new system one can no longer use the five-digit plate number to identify the year the stamp was issued.

Even with all the changes made in "plate block" definition and use, there are still hundreds of plate blocks in the three- to six-cent value that can make plate block collecting a formidable challenge. My goal is to obtain all four corners, in plate blocks of four of any one number, of each commemorative issued in that era. I mount my block sets using one protective acetate sleeve sheet to display each matched set of plate blocks for a particular commemorative stamp issue. I place the Scott Catalog number at the upper left corner of the page and the plate number at the upper right. I then center the commemorative stamp issues name at the top of each page.

Don't Forget the Fifth Tuesday Swap Meet in May!

Stamps Wanted / Stamps For Sale

Scott Robertson is still looking for anyone that has duplicates of recent U.S. issues (from 1990 forward) in mint, NH condition and will be willing to sell at a reasonable price or trade for similar value U.S. If you can help, please contact Scott at the next KPS meeting or e mail at run2scot@usit.net. Thanks to those who have helped so far!!

Stamp Stories of the Month

From Linn's:

April 9th. In an "after the fact move," the U.S. Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee has changed three of its stamp design criteria to combat recent criticism of several new issues released that have not met the letter of the law in accepted stamp design. The main focus has been on the Celebrate the Century issues, which contain some stamps that critics claim were blatant promotions of commercial enterprise or products. Examples stated were the Crayola Crayon issue and the Ford Mustang issue. The criteria revision states that "commercial products or enterprises might be used to illustrate more general concepts related to American culture." I can sleep better tonight knowing this! Can you?!

April 16th. In yet another money saving effort by the USPS, the Stampers program for children has been placed under the administrative wings of the Wee Deliver program, another youth stamp program. The Wee Deliver program is an older USPS program that was designed to interest elementary school aged students in postal operations, mainly in-school post offices and letter writing. The newer Stamper program was designed to encourage "new" stamp collectors to collect trading cards that featured new stamp issues. By the way, has anybody found the Babe Ruth combo baseball card / stamp issue? I reeeaaallllyyyy need it for my collection! ☺

April 23rd. Linn's reports that a single copy of the famous inverted Jenny airmail stamp has torn apart a family in Tewksbury, MA, pitting brother against brother in a lawsuit filed where one brother sued the other brother claiming he had stolen the famous stamp. The 66-year-old retired police officer, Thomas Flynn, claimed that the stamp was part of a collection that he received as payment for doing chores for an elderly woman back in 1944. When Flynn grew up and left home he left the collection. Later his brother told him that the collection no longer existed but soon found out his brother had lied. Finally, the stamp collection was found, minus the famous Jenny invert. However, based upon the testimony of a third brother, Flynn was awarded \$182,505 by a jury (\$150,000 hinged value & \$32,505 in interest). The whereabouts of the stamp are still unknown!!

April 30th. Linn's reports that the one-cent blue imperforate Benjamin Franklin stamp of 1851, type 1, plate position 7R1E was sold at auction \$80,000, two-times the current catalog value! The stamp was part of the Twigg-Smith collection. Twigg-Smith was the former publisher of the *Honolulu Advertiser* and began collecting US used stamps some 70-years ago.

From the May issue of the *American Philatelist*:

In an article entitled "Movie Star Mail," Regis Hoffman and Thomas J. Richards explore the "unique blend" of social and postal history that can be learned from fan mail sent to movie stars from the 1910's through the 1950's. In an article that is both informative and entertaining, the authors describe how fan mail postal history describes letters and cards sent from extreme locations (German prison camps) to those that bore significant postal censor markings and descriptive "damaged by fire" markings. Also discussed are the various studio markings - from receiving marks (only one such type has been recorded!) to "Not At" marks indicating that the ardent fan did not know where the object of their adoration was employed!!

The Knoxville Philatelic Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422

Volume 18

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The Editor's Straight Edge

I know that you have been wondering just where in the world that your Newsletter has been! I have too!! I appreciate the continued support that so many of you have given me over the past several months during which I have had family-related medical problems along with an overly demanding work schedule. Things are finally back to "normal," and I look forward to getting into a monthly publication schedule. I also want to take a moment to thank Mrs. Jean Byrne who acted as Recording Secretary Pro Tem in my absence. Thanks Jean!!

A lot of exciting opportunities are on the horizon for your club and a lot of our members are doing great philatelic things! Please make sure that you read the "KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes" that follows this column. We are looking for ideas for a theme for next spring's stamp show! What historically or philatelically can we "commemorate" in 2002!! At the November meeting we will be distributing stamps from worldwide and U.S. mixtures in a "random" giveaway fashion to have fun and say thanks to all those who have been faithful to

come to meetings this year. Come to the meeting in October for more details! Make sure that you see the "Focus on a Philatelist" column featuring Mr. Ron Sarson as well as Ron's contributed article on "Collecting First Flight Covers." Thank you Ron for your contribution!!

Finally, on a note of congratulations, Dr. Tom Broadhead won a gold medal at the APS Nationals meeting in Chicago for his French Balloon Postal Cards exhibit. Hopefully Tom will be able to present his exhibit at a future meeting of the club and describe for us the history surrounding the French Balloon Post! We are very proud to claim Tom as one of our fellow Knoxville Philatelic Society members! Way to go Tom!!

KPS Officers

President: Dale Kangas
dkangas@aol.com
President-elect: Scott Robertson
run2scot@usit.net
Treasurer: Lillard Harvey
Secretary: Scott Robertson

Want to go to an APS Show?!?!

Are you interested in going to a future APS meeting as part of a group from the Knoxville Philatelic Society?! We can rent a van together or Bob Ericksen has offered to let us use his van. If you are interested in going to a future APS Show as part of a KPS group, please let Dale Kangas or Scott Robertson know as soon as possible and we will begin to make plans. Thanks!!!

KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes

September's meeting opened with the introduction of two "visitors," Nick and Irena Stone, who had actually just decided to become new members! The Stones are visiting professors from England and are in the States for two to three months each year through work collaborations. We are very excited to have Nick and Irena joining us. They collect Swiss, French, Dutch, Czech, Great Britain and British Empire, Irish, and U.S. issues.

The board met prior to the 7 pm meeting time and discussed important issues pertaining to our society. The board feels that we need to a primary goal of meeting just to "have fun (!)" as well as to strive to have an increase in our membership, to have planned interesting programs each month, and to work on having a "structured" meeting each first Tuesday. *(See the "Plan" for next month's meeting in a later part of this newsletter!) Remember, board meetings are open to all the membership, but please be on time (6:30 pm) so that we do not have to continuously go back over what we have covered. Thanks!

Tom Copas reported that everything is "on" for next years Philatelic Show. Although a theme for next years show has not been determined to date, we are hoping that a member that is a "historian" may come up with a suitable historical theme for next year's show. Please come with your ideas to the October meeting!!

Finally, for next month's meeting we will do "Show and Tell" for the meeting presentation, so please bring something from your collection (or collections!) to share with your fellow philatelists. Also, don't forget to bring something for the silent auction! Let's have a great October meeting!!

Focus on a Philatelist

Meet Ron Sarson

Ron became a member of the Knoxville Philatelic Society in 1985 and served as club treasurer from the late 80's to 1993 when he moved to Bellefontaine, OH. While a junior in high school in Dubuque, IA, Ron started a collection of Great Britain and British West Indies. He was able to buy a Great Britain #1, the 1840 Penny Black, with four nice margins for \$1.00! IN 1986 while vacationing in England, Ron purchased one on cover for \$85.00 – and he still has that cover today! The rest of his Canadian and Great Britain machines collections have all been sold. Today Ron collects early First Flight Covers (which he exhibited at KnoxPex 2001 – "Dickinson Airmail, CAM 9").

Ron first became interested in First Flight Covers (FFC) when Frank Doyle, a former KPS member who has since passed away, had an exhibit on early mail covers. Ron liked the research aspect needed to complete a series of covers on early airmail service. In fact, in a recently published American Air Mail Society catalog pertaining to crash covers, Ron discovered an error in a listing of a crash that did not take place! His research on this flight indicates that the pilot made a forced landing in a farmer's field because of a fabric tear in one of the plane's wings! You can learn more about this event in Ron's article found later in this newsletter!

Ron's interest in aviation goes back to when he was a young lad of five in 1923. He was sitting in his backyard in England when he heard a roar in the sky and looked up to see "white clouds" in funny patterns high in the sky. Shortly afterwards, his father came home and Ron questioned him about the white clouds. "It was a skywriting plane," was his father's reply. Several weeks later Ron's father took him to an air show and Ron became hooked on flying! Ron learned how to fly on a Taylorcraft plane in 1938. Later he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and taught as an instructor in the Royal Air Force during World War Two.

After leaving the service, Ron became a Tool Designer and Systems Analyst for the manufacture of jet engine parts at Ex Cell O Corporation. Ron is now retired but is still an active stamp collector and one of our "out-of-town" members that still takes great pride in being a member of the Knoxville Philatelic Society. Thank you Ron for an awesome story!!

The stamp of the month is the first in a series of stamps issued as "transitional" rate first class postage stamps by the US. The A stamp was issued in May of 1978 in three forms – sheet, booklet, and coil. The rate for first class had been thirteen cents and was going to fifteen cents. The transitional rate series went through the letter H (issued in 1998) when the first class postage rate went from 32 to 33-cents. Although issued in huge quantities, how many of you have each variety of the "A" stamp on cover?



Collecting First Flight Covers

By Ron Sarson

A First Flight Cover collection is an accumulation of covers that were flown on the first flight of a route between two or more cities, e.g., New York to Bellefonte to Cleveland and Chicago on September 1, 1927.

The United States Post Office first started flying the mails from New York to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. on May 15, 1918, using Army pilots. A twenty-four cent airmail stamp was issued for this service. The rate included special delivery service in order to compete with delivery via train.

On September 5, 1918, experimental flights were conducted between New York and Chicago via Lockhaven, PA. On September 8, 1920, first flights were made between New York and San Francisco on the Governmental Transcontinental Route.

With the successful development of the Governmental Transcontinental Route (GTR), it was decided to allow private companies to establish and bid on feeder lines to add airmail service for the GTR. On February 15, 1926, Contract Air Mail (CAM) routes six and seven were flown between Detroit (Dearborn) to Cleveland and Detroit to Chicago as established by the Ford Motor Company. Ford had already established its own air route, carrying mail, passengers, and auto parts.

Other CAM routes were rapidly established in 1926, including CAM 9 on June 7 between Chicago and the Twin Cities. My exhibit at KnoxPex 2001 entitled "Dickson Air Line, CAM 9" told the story of this route. The activities of the first flights of CAM 9 would have made good Hollywood movie. Six planes and six pilots were involved. Three of the planes were forced to make emergency landings due to inclement weather or mechanical problems. One pilot, Elmer Partridge, was killed while in route from Minneapolis to Chicago.

The most intriguing part of collecting first flight covers is the study of the routes and pilots who flew the mail on these routes. By studying postmarks, backstamps, cachets, and any special cachets or markings, one can discover a great deal about first flights. There are many specialty areas to collect with first flight covers, including CAM's, Zeppelin covers, ocean flights, Government flights, and experimental flights, to name a few.

The American Air Mail Society (AAMS) has been established for many years. It is the leader in publishing first flight cover catalogs and has a membership of approximately 1,700 members from all over the world. A monthly magazine, *Air Post Journal*, a mail-in auction and catalogs are available from AAMS. For more information and membership write to: Rudy Roy, Membership Secretary, PO Box 5367, Virginia Beach, VA 23471-0367.

Stamp Stories of the Month

From Linn's:

September 24th. *Linn's* reported that two covers sent from Liberia (a country in Africa that has been in the midst of Civil War for more than a decade!) to the US in 2001 indicate that the Liberian post office is operating to some extent. A letter published in 1999 in the "Journal of the Liberian Philatelic Society" stated that no postal services had been restored in the country as of August 1999. Scott Publishing Company located the covers during research into the postal services problems made known by the aforementioned journal letter.

In a follow-up story to a front page article in their September 3rd issue, *Linn's* made some corrections to the story involving the discovery of a block of 39 stamps of Norway's 1855 4-skilling blue block issue that had been used as insulation behind a wall. The block was first discovered in the 1920s and has since been bought and resold several times. This is a great article for those intrigued by the mysteries and sometimes outright fantasy that comes with the discovery of philatelic treasures!

October 1st. Sadly (!) the final in a series of Looney Tunes stamps is announced. Porky Pig will grace the last of five commemorative postage sheets dedicated to those Warner Brother characters that Americans have grown up with. An interesting contrast and comparison of the Porky Pig stamp design with the previous designs is made. Sadly..."that's all folks!"

Linn's announces the USPS planned first class rate hike from 34 to 37-cents in the fall of 2002. USPS Board Chairman Robert F. Rider is "optimistic" that an upturn in the nation's economy in 2002 might cut the Postal Service's need for more money (after predicting a possible \$1.3 billion loss in 2002!).

Want to build a philatelic library but don't know where to get started? *Linn's* offers a refresher "Course" article by Janet Klug in "How to build a basic stamp reference library." This is a very nice article and well worth the reading. I'll have copies at the Tuesday night meeting.

From the September Issue of the American Philatelist:

One of the most difficult processes any cover collector goes through, or even those who collect used stamps with a focus on cancellation types, is the classification of postmarks. Kenneth Nilsestuen and Laurence Lambert provide an exceptionally good article on how they overcame the challenges of developing a classification system for Algerian hand cancels. They stress some key factors when working on preparing a classification system. First, many times a collector will find that a previous system is incomplete or obsolete. Therefore, they suggest that the collector must "know the markings." Then the collector must make the leap from cancel description to classification! To find out how they did this with Algerian hand cancels, check out their article in the September *AP*.

October 2nd KPS Meeting Agenda **

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 6:30 pm | - | Open Board Meeting (please come on time!) |
| 7:00 pm | - | KPS Meeting begins with time for swapping, trading, and conversation. |
| 7:15 pm | - | Silent Auction Begins |
| 7:30 pm | - | Presentation: Membership Show and Tell. Please bring something from your collection to share!! |
| 8:10 pm
to 8:30 pm | - | Business Meeting |
| 8:30 pm | - | Continue trading, etc. |
| 8:40 pm | - | Silent Auction ends |
| 9:00 pm | - | Meeting ends |

** This is a tentative schedule that may vary as we work on developing a set monthly meeting plan. Scott

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The Editor's Straight Edge

I am very excited about the next two month's meetings for the K.P.S.! At the November meeting we will all be participating in a very fun activity - a blind draw give away of 3 ounce (!) mixed lots of either international or U.S. stamp mixtures. The club has purchased these mixtures from K-Town Stamps and will be giving them away **free** to all members that are present at the November meeting. Make sure you are there!!!

In December, the club will hold its annual Christmas dinner meeting at a local restaurant. This meeting is always a special time of sharing and great fun for everyone. We will have a philatelic gift white elephant give away and also a fun philatelic program planned! Please mark your calendars now for the first Tuesday in December and then look for the dinner location and more details in next month's issue of the KPS newsletter.

The Knoxville Philatelic Stamp show will be here before you know it! Next year's dates are Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd. We will probably use the Friday evening before the show start to come in and set up. Over the next three months we will be busy making preparations for this major event in our club's life. PLEASE volunteer to help in a major or in a minor way for this show. Everyone's efforts, both great and small, are welcome and very much needed. If you would like to volunteer to help, please let Dale

Kangas or myself know as soon as you can. I for one am looking forward with great anticipation to next year's show!! Save your pennies and make your plans to be there starting today!!

The KPS Board will be meeting at 6:30 pm, prior to the 7 pm start of the November 6th meeting. If you would like to attend, please be there at 6:30. If you are a board member, and you know that you will not be able to attend, please let Dale know as soon as possible. We will be discussing several important topics at next month's board meeting, including the 2002 Stamp Show, the use of K-Town Stamps as a storage site for some of our KPS Library materials (to make it easier for members to borrow materials during the month in between meetings!); the purchase of quality philatelic reference materials to enhance our library; and the possibility of starting a club member's philatelic sales circular similar to the one the APS provides. Make your voice heard - be at the Board meeting at 6:30 pm!

KPS Officers

President: Dale Kangas *call* 693-6749
Dkangas@aol.com
President-elect: Scott Robertson
run2scot@usit.net
Treasurer: Lillard Harvey
Newsletter Editor: Scott Robertson

Don't Miss the November 7th Club Meeting!!!

The club has purchased huge mixtures of U.S. and International stamps on paper and will be giving out **free** 3-ounce lots using a blind draw to members and visitors present at the November meeting. Leftover stamps will be placed on a table for everyone to look through, and everyone will be asked to share their "stamp soaking secrets" with the club. Make sure you are there for a tremendous evening of "Philatelic Phun!!!"

KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes

October's meeting was marked by the absence of our president, Dale Kangas, because of personal illness. We hope you are better Dale and look forward to seeing you at the November meeting!! Oh and by the way Dale, while you were gone I did call a quorum and there have been a few changes made in our KPS constitution. You don't mind addressing me as "Philatelic Emperor for Life," do you? ☺

Yours truly conducted a short business meeting in Dale's absence. The society is still financially healthy with an overall balance of \$5,300.32 at the end of September. A lot of this money will be used towards preparations for and paying for KnoxPex 2002, but still overall, we are enjoying unprecedented financial health!! In old business, the question was raised as to whether Calvary Baptist Church had accepted our offer to buy two or three eight foot tables as a gift to the church for the use of the facilities throughout the year. My final meeting with Bob Bowman at Calvary is scheduled for the first of November at which time we should get the green light to purchase the tables.

In new business, we first discussed the location of the December meeting, which is usually held at a local restaurant. I will be reporting on my findings / arrangements at the November meeting. Next, we discussed our planning procedure for KnoxPex 2002. It is our desire to have everything planned and on go by the February meeting so that we can avoid last minute panic! I will be meeting with Tom Broadhead prior to the November meeting and will report back on a "step-by-step" procedure that we should do to make our 2002 show successful. Certainly, we need all of our membership to be willing to volunteer some of their time to help us in the planning and execution of this event! Be true to Tennessee's state motto and be a VOLUNTEER!! Also, Bill Muenzer, owner of K-Town Stamps, has offered his shop as a "limited" storage facility for KPS library materials. His suggestion was to use his shop to store key reference materials that would be helpful to club members and could be easily checked out and returned to his shop. We will discuss this issue further at the November board meeting. Bill also suggested that the club strongly consider using some of our surplus monies to purchase quality reference material and philatelic guides. Not only would this be invaluable to society members but also would be a strong draw for new members. This too will be discussed at the November board meeting.

This month's Stamp of the Month comes from Nicaragua and is the two-cent issue in a six-member set issued in 1978 to commemorate the centenary of passenger and freight locomotives in Nicaragua. This particular stamp represents the lightweight freight locomotive. This stamp and the others in the set are a must for railroad stamp collectors, transportation collectors, and, of course, worldwide collectors like myself! It would be great if someone in the society could translate what is said underneath the train. Can you?!



Stamp Stories of the Month

From Linn's:

October 15th. *Linn's* reports that a new "United We Stand" self-adhesive definitive stamp will be issued in October (it was later reported in the Oct. 29th issue that the release date would be Oct. 24th) as a new "patriotic" stamp. The quick release of a stamp that was previously unannounced was the Postal Service's response to the terrorist activities of September 11th. No announcement was made of format(s) in this issue, but again, the Oct 29th issue announced coil and booklet varieties would be released, with no official first-day ceremony planned.

October 22nd. *Linn's* reports that a new 50-pane stamp issue will be released entitled "Greetings From America" and will be composed of 50 different stamps, one for each state in the union. The USPS and the Travel Industry Association of America announced jointly that the stamps would be released to promote "increased pride in America and renewed interest in domestic travel in the United States." Again, the October 29th issue of *Linn's* ran a cover story indicating that the "Greetings from New York" stamp had been redesigned to remove the World Trade Center's twin towers from the skyline design.

From the October Issue of the American Philatelist:

Three articles caught my "eye" in this month's issue. One, by Larisa Miller, discussed the end of City Delivery at Yosemite National Park in a very thought provoking article. I will have copies available at the November meeting for those interested. Secondly, an "International Potpourri" article by Edward Rasmussen describes the postal route taken by a postcard mailed in April 1908 from Turkey

*(continued on the next page)

and addressed to "Her Excellency Madame" Ambassador of Russia to Japan. However, formal relations between Russia and Japan did not begin until May of 1908! The ambassador, Nicolas Malewitch, was male and so the postcard was supposedly written to his wife. Yet this was not the case! The postcard was actually meant for Despina Liotto, a member of the ambassador's court! Both the message and the many cancels and "adjustments" to the cards address make for a fascinating story. I'll bring my APS journal in November if you want to read this great philatelic "mystery" article. Finally, Rick Miller authors an article describing the non-Scott listed stamps of Lithuania from 1990 to 1991. The focus of Miller's article is Scott's refusal to recognize Lithuania as anything more than a republic of the USSR during this period, which was the Soviet Union's "legal" standpoint on the issue. An interesting article with beautiful stamp and cover pictures!

Report on the 80th Annual Convention of the Precancel Stamp Society

By Stu Hanlein

On August 14th, my wife and I headed south on I-75 bright and early in the morning. We arrived in Chattanooga, TN and headed to the Clarion Hotel. When we got there at 8:30 am, I registered as the 50th person to sign in - these precancel people get there early and don't leave until they shut the lights off at 11:00 pm! There were 23 dealers present, and there were lots of tables for collectors to set up their catalogs and albums so they could get to business. I was able to add several thousand precancelled stamps from the state of Tennessee to my general collection. My want list was reduced down to a precious few stamps! I purchased three mounted Tennessee town and type collections, then settled down for the next four days to search through every sales book and lot of Tennessee precancels I could find. The thing that made this show so much fun was that once the people knew what I was looking for, everyone brought material for me to search through! There were so many good deals that one could not make up his or her mind as to what one he or she wanted the most.

For me, this was a real treat because I had not been to

a PSS convention for at least 10 years. It was nice to see people that I knew from all over the country. One gentleman was attending his 38th consecutive convention!

Once the word got out that I was now collecting worldwide, I got to see some of the material that the dealers brought along for general collectors. I was able to pick up several cartons of general stamps from around the world as well as find some great deals on slightly used binders and pages. I also purchased the PSS Town and Type computer program, which puts the entire precancel catalog on a single CD. This well written, user-friendly program allows one to enter scanned images of stamps in your own collection. I received a program update about a week after I returned home, because the programmer had corrected some minor flaws that were brought up at the convention (talk about quick turn around!).

The USPS attended the meeting and brought the latest precancel devices from surrounding locales. I got examples from Chattanooga, Signal Mountain, Birchwood, and Harrison, TN as well as Chickamauga, GA. Each of these postal offices was represented at the show.

I took a break on Wednesday and took my wife on a river cruise luncheon aboard the Southern Belle, which had been arranged through the convention planners. For interested attendees, they had also set up a Civil War sites bus tour on Friday. Several of the collector's wives conned me into driving them out to Route 127 on Lookout Mountain to see the world's "longest" yard sale. We had a good time until one of the ladies bought a kitchen cabinet that filled up about two-thirds of my mini-van! However, I bought a box of stamps from one of the "yard-salers" for \$50.00. Later, upon closer examination, I found \$32.00 face value of mint US postage and a mint, one-cent Columbian issue with a catalog value of \$30.00+. Not a bad deal at all. I was glad I took the ladies to the yard sale!

The PSS convention ended with a banquet on Saturday evening. I am looking forward to next year when the 81st PSS convention will be held at the Sheraton Westport in St. Louis, MO, July 29th through August 4th. Let me know if you are interested in attending. You can also get more information from the PSS website at www.precancels.com

If you would be interested in starting a KPS sales circular program, please let one of the club officers or board members know. They will be discussing this possibility at the November board meeting and possibly bringing it to the society for discussion and vote at the November meeting. The format of our sales circulars would be similar to that used by the American Philatelic Society. Members would pick up sales books from the club, fill them with stamps or covers, and then distribute them in some fashion (to be decided later) upon for other members to see and to possibly buy stamps, covers, etc. from. Stay tuned for more details at the November KPS meeting and next month's newsletter!!

November 6th KPS Meeting Agenda

- 6:30 pm - Open Board Meeting (please come on time and please let Dale know if you are a board member and will not be able to attend!)
- 7:00 pm - KPS Meeting begins with Swapping / Shopping and Silent Auction
- 8:00 pm - Silent Auction ends
- 8:10 pm - Door Prize awarded
- 8:15 pm - Business Meeting begins. Any announcements to be made will be done at this time.
- 8:30 pm - October Program: "Mixture Night!"
Everyone in attendance will receive either an International or US stamp mixture (3-ounces!) by blind draw. You will then be given time to look through your mixture after which all leftover stamps will be placed in a central "pile" for everyone to peruse. We will also spend 10 to 15 minutes sharing our "successful stamp soaking and drying" secrets! Everybody be sure and be there for what promises to be a great night of Philatelic Fun!!!

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The Editor's Straight Edge

Christmas is almost here (less than a month for you "number of days" counters!) and we are getting ready to celebrate together over dinner and philatelic fun on Tuesday, December 4th starting at 6 pm. We will be gathering in the back room dining area of Ryan's Steakhouse on Cedar Lane in Northwest Knoxville on the 4th to break bread together, share the joys of the season and of our hobby, and have some "philatelic fun" with a geographical twist this year (best be studying your globe and maps!). I hope to see all of you at this year's dinner, along with your significant others!

As we approach a new year please be reminded that your annual KPS membership dues will be "due." Our dues have not changed in years and are a very nominal \$10 for an individual and \$12 for a family. Please plan to pay your dues at the January meeting, or if you wish, at the December dinner meeting. Bring your dues to me (Scott Robertson) and I will pas them on to our club treasurer, Lillard Harvey. Thanks everyone!

This newsletter will be a bit "leaner" than you are used to getting. Why you ask?! Well, mostly due to lack of subject matter to include. When I took over the helm as newsletter editor in January, I proposed several monthly "features" that I would like to incorporate into our newsletter based upon reports from you the membership, including "Stamps Wanted / Stamps For Sale" (an opportunity for you to sell your duplicates or place a want ad for what you need); "Philatelic Review" (an opportunity for you to review and write about a purchase that you had made for your collection);

Philatelic Phindings Phrom: Around the World" (a showcase for worldwide and/or foreign country specialists to share about your collecting interests); "U.S. Stamps: Yesterday and Today" (a venue for sharing interesting news, discoveries, etc. about US stamps); and "Philatelic Show Reports" (a review from you about a local or national show that you have attended - the good, the bad, and the ugly!). I want to plead with each of you to share all the knowledge that you have gained as a stamp collector, as a dealer, as an exhibitor, or as a neophyte to the hobby! I want this newsletter to be awesome, and I want it to inspire stamp collectors that are not members of KPS to want to join us so that they can learn from you as well as share their knowledge with us. Please help me reach my goal! Your articles can be short or long, typed or hand-written, and about any topic you wish. I will find room for it in your newsletter. You may e-mail them to me; pass them to me at a meeting; or mail them to me at home. I look forward to hearing from you!!

Finally, make sure that you attend the first meeting of the New Year on January 8th (we will not meet on the first Tuesday, January 1st!). We will be assigning jobs for the show in March and we will be having a very special presentation treat! Dr. Tom Broadhead will be presenting his APS Gold Award winning exhibit on the French Balloon Post. Please be there to support him and learn from Tom as he shares with us about his awesome exhibit! I hope to see all of you on December 4th! Good collecting everyone!!

Scott Robertson, Newsletter Editor

December 4th 2001 KPS Meeting

to be held at the Ryan's Steakhouse on Cedar Lane in Northwest Knoxville!!
Dinner starts at 6:00 PM followed by gift swapping and a fun Philatelic game!!!

KPS Miniature Meeting Minutes

The Knoxville Philatelic Society met on Tuesday, November 6th with sixteen members in attendance. Ms. Jean Byrne kindly took meeting minutes since I was late getting to the meeting on this night. Richard Ehrlich motioned that the club buy a set of Scott's 2002 Catalogs. The motion was seconded and carried by membership vote. President Dale Kangas noted that some time back the club had authorized the purchase of three eight-foot tables to be presented to Calvary Baptist Church as a "thank you" gift for allowing the Society to meet at the church. Let me make note that the church has "approved" and wholeheartedly welcomed this gesture by our group. I will be purchasing the tables in December and delivering them to the church.

KnoxPex 2002 was discussed. Tom Broadhead suggested that the show theme center around the 20th anniversary of the Knoxville World's Fair with a suggested title of "World's Fair: Bringing the World Together." The idea and theme was heartily endorsed by the membership present. Motion was made and seconded that the World's Fair Theme be accepted and was carried by vote. Discussion next turned to the design of the show cachet, with one idea being to use the Sunsphere and a superimposed Tennessee state quarter. Tom will work on the cachet design and cancel and then report back to the club in January.

Bruce Kenney had previously agreed to be the Show Chairman for KnoxPex 2002. The club applauded his confirmation of this fact. I know that Bruce, along with your help will do a great job. Don't forget to **VOLUNTEER** to help!!!

The November meeting ended with each member present being given the opportunity to select a 3-ounce grab bag of international or US stamps on paper. Members then went through their philatelic treasure bags, keeping what they wanted and trading with others their duplicates or extras. Hopefully, this will become a tradition that we share each year at this time. Great fun was had by all – new collector and old alike!!

In light of the great national tragedy of September 11th and as we think back on Thanksgiving and look forward to Christmas and a New Year, I thought it fitting that a US stamp commemorating our national capitol be used as the **Stamp of the Month**. This 3-cent stamp, issued as part of a four-stamp set in 1950, recognizes the 150th anniversary of the building of our president's White House. In it and in buildings akin to it in Washington DC, we remember that our nation survives and continues ever onward. God bless our nation! And may God bless the world, in which we all live, with peace!!



Stamp Stories of the Month

From Linn's:

November 19th. Linn's reports in front page news that the "APS ponders proposal to farm out its magazine." It was reported that the directors of the American Philatelic Society have been exploring this possibility since a closed-door meeting in August. Because of the "closed-door" meeting, questions about the APS board's ethical conduct concerning this issue has been raised. Linn's quotes one APS "insider" as saying that the entire process "reeks of cronyism." Close attention on how the APS magazine operates is now a focal point because of the abrupt termination (with 5-days notice) of the most recent editor, Peter Martin. Who says our hobby is boring? This story has more plot twists than a "Murder She Wrote" storyline!!

November 26th. Get excited all you John Wayne fans! Linn's reports that the next U.S. Legends of Hollywood series stamp may bear the picture of the "old Duke" himself! The USPS is quoted as having made no official decision yet and supposedly has four subjects on the drawing board at this time. Another interesting tidbit, it has been unofficially reported that Mr. Wayne's family was "concerned" about seeing him on a postage stamp although Terry McCaffrey, manager of stamp development for the USPS, has denied this story as "totally false."

From November's Scott Stamp Monthly:

James Kloetzel, editor of Scott's catalogs, reports in the Catalogue Column of this issue on "The catalog value is your starting point." In a very well written and basically unbiased fashion, he presents what he sees as a "lack of understanding of what catalog values represent and how they should be interpreted in order to evaluate material in one's collection." The article addresses the following topics: "Worthless" US values, "But what about condition," " 'Suspect' catalog values," and "What is a retail value?" If you are interested in getting a copy of this excellent information source, please let me know.

From the November Issue of the American Philatelist:

For U.S. collectors, especially of the classic era, there is an excellent article on "U.S. Stamp Paper," focusing on the "problem papers" of 1857 that were used for the first U.S. perforated stamps. This article by Albert Valente traces the history of Crane & Co., the paper manufacturers, and of Toppan Carpenter & Co., the company responsible for stamp printing and perforating.

THE KNOXVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 6, 2001

RECORDED MOTIONS

Motion was made by Richard Ehrlich that we buy a set of Scott's 2002 catalogs for the Society. Motion was seconded by Stuart Hanlein, voted and carried.

President Dale Kangas noted that the Society had voted some time back to buy three tables at \$80.00 each and that Lillard Harvey was authorized to pay for same.

Knoxplex 2002 was discussed. Tom Broadhead suggested that as 2002 will be the 20th anniversary of the Knoxville World's Fair, our theme might be World's Fair: Bringing the World Together. The idea was heartily endorsed.

Lillard Harvey moved that we accept the above mentioned theme, Stuart Hanlein seconded. The motion was voted and carried.

Several ideas were mentioned for a philatelic design, such as a drawing or shot of the sunsphere with a Tennessee quarter superimposed. Tom Broadhead will work on that.

Bruce Kenney had previously agreed to be Knoxplex 2002 Show Chairman and verified that fact. He was heartily applauded.


Jean Byrne Secretary Pro Tem

