

February, Time to Share Chocolates, Special dinners or Doily cards with our Loved Ones.

Valentine was a popular name in ancient Rome, and there are at least 50 stories of different saints by that name. The most common is a martyr and was not associated with romance and may not have existed at all.

The day was also associated with a pagan holiday, Lupercalia. This custom was practiced for several hundred years, a celebration of romance, love and fertility.

Geoffrey Chaucer is believed to have been the first to associate Valentine's Day with romantic love in Chaucer's *Parlement of Foules* (1382).

Esther Howland (1828-904) urged her father, who owed a printing business, to order special materials and she experimented with crafting her own valentines. By 1849 she had created a dozen different cards. She built the New England Valentine Company into a flourishing business by introducing many variations on her cards.



In the 18th and 19th centuries, puzzle purses were popular Valentine's gifts in England and the United States. A puzzle purse consists of an intricately folded sheet of paper with parts of a message or verses written on different corners.

The mid-19th century marked the beginning of many of the commercialized Valentine's Day customs we know today. Victorian men wooed women with flowers, Richard Cadbury (1835-1889) created the first heart-shaped box of chocolates, and the New England Confectionery Company, or Necco, began stamping out an early version of Conversation Hearts.

Ayo Handy-Kendi, founder of the African American Holiday Association, was inspired to start Black Love Day in 1993.. She says she wanted a holiday to focus on "increasing peace and stopping violence." For Black Love Day, Handy-Kendi instituted "a value system based on principles, like Kwanzaa." She says, "The five tenets were showing love for the creator, showing love for ourself, showing love for the Black family, the Black community and the race."

The first USA Valentine postage stamp was issued in 1973 (Scott # 1475) and designed by American artist Robert Indiana, was issued for special occasion uses such as weddings or valentines.

The tradition of sweets, dinner, flowers and a card have been around for years. How about celebrating this year?



Valentine by Esther Howland

Meetings / Activities

Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays (adjusted for holidays) at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429

For the Zoom invitation and link, please email daytonstampclub@gmail.com

Member's Socializing and Silent Auctions begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

Feb 3 -Mid-Winter Stamp and Coin Show; Mozelle Hall-Ashland Cty Fairgrounds 10-33 PM; Ashland Stamp and Coin Clb; 419-496-1317.

Feb 5 Club Meeting & Program, - In Person & Zoom,- CLUB AUCTION #1.

Feb 12 Board Meeting.

Feb 19 No Meeting, Presidents' Day Holiday - Church Closed.

Feb. 23-24, Toledo Stamps Expo, 100 Graystone Banquet Hall, Hufford Rd. Hrs: Fri.10-5 pm, Sat: 10-4pm, Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, 419-291-7604..

Feb 26 - 4th Monday Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom, My Stamp Collection I Never Talk About, Member Participation 4-6 Minutes.

Mar.3-4, McKinley Stamp Show, St. George Servian Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St. NW, Hrs. Sat:10-5pm Sun:10-3p, 330-819-9999.

Mar 4 -Club Meeting & Program- In Person & Zoom, Member Bourse & Club Open House - Buy, Sell, Trade.

Mar 11 Board Meeting.

Mar 18—SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:25PM, Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom Philippine Gorilla Stamps, DSC Member Speaker - Jack Matheny.

Apr/1— Club meeting & Program –in Person & Zoom; CLUB AUCTION #2

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DSC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Bill Smith, 329 East 1st St., Suite 311, Dayton, OH 45402 Phone (937) 344-3155

Asst. Editor: Steve Bricker, 3302 Diamondback Dr. Dayton, OH 45414 Phone: (937) 898-5181

Newsletter email: wesjemail@gmail.com DSC email: daytonstampclub@gmail.com Website: www.daytonstampclub.com

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CLUB OFFICERS 2023-2024



#82

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#80083

Venezuela, officially Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



Map of Venezuela is South America

Venezuela is on the north coast of South America. Venezuela comprises a continental landmass and many islands and islets in the Caribbean Sea. Venezuela is a Presidential republic consisting of 23 states, the Capitol

District and federal dependencies covering Venezuela's offshore islands. The majority of its 29 million people live in the cities of the north.

The territory of Venezuela was colonized by Spain in 1522a and from Indigenous people. In 1811, it became one of the first territories to declare independence from the Spanish and form part of the first federal Republic of Colombia. The 2013 presidential election was disputed leading to widespread protest which continues to the present.

Tourism has increase is recent years. Spanish most common language. English is most widely used foreign language by many professionals, academics and members of upperclass as a result of oil exploitation.



Flag of Venezuela

Venezuela's postal service is operated by the country's government-owned postal service, Instituto Postal

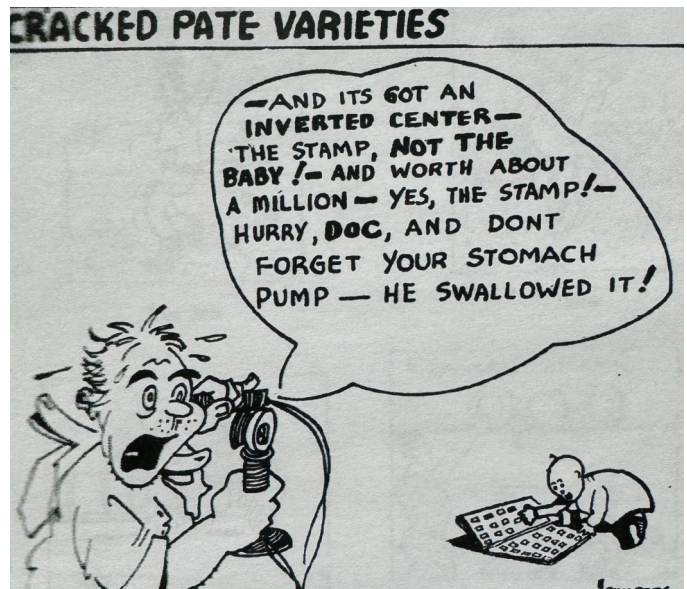
Telegrafico de Venezuela (IPOSTEL), which is responsible for all mail and package deliveries within the country. Typical letters from the United States to Venezuela costs \$1.55 current-



ly in U.S. dollars. Mailing is normally reliable using the IPOSTEL services.

A Venezuela stamp catalogue is authored by Carlos Romero and published by the Asociacion Filatelica de Caracas, better known as ASOFILCA, the predominant collector's society in Venezuela. Stamp dealers handing foreign countries should have Venezuela stamps. Would create an interesting collection.

Reference: Wikipedia



Trans-Polar Flight Expedition by Douglas Files



1924 Trans-Polar Flight Expedition Card - part of a fundraiser to finance the expedition

Images from the New York Public Library digital collections, <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e3-ade6-a3d9-e040->

At a stamp show I found an intriguing item and this article will cover what I unearthed in my research about an overseas post card, mailed in the 1920s.

Our story begins with the intrepid polar explorer Roald Amundsen. In 1924 Amundsen began to consider flying over the North Pole in an airplane, which had never been accomplished before. After some research, the idea of flying over the arctic had to be discarded as any mechanical issue which occurred could stop the mission cold (very cold, in fact). As an alternative Amundsen asked airship designer Umberto Nobile if the Italian dirigible airship (like a Zeppelin) he had designed could successfully complete a flight over the North Pole. Nobile replied that it could. As a bonus, an airship could carry more cargo than an airplane. The Aero Club of Norway offered to partially finance the trip and American explorer Lincoln Ellsworth joined the group. The planned project became known as the Amundsen-Ellsworth Trans-Polar Flight.

The airship the explorers obtained had been constructed in Italy in 1923. The dirigible was simply a metal frame covered in fabric which could be filled with hydrogen. The hydrogen makes the vessel lighter than air. Since the proposed trip was financed out of Norway the airship was called the "Norge", the Norwegian name for their country. Once enough money was gathered – more on this later - the explorers began to bring their plans to fruition. Sixteen expedition members gathered in the north of Norway along with one member's dog who served as a mascot. On the 11th of May 1926 the team embarked on their attempt to fly over the polar ice. The airship's designer Umberto

Nobile served as pilot for the mission and the following day the airship succeeded in flying over the North Pole. As it passed over the landmark, the expedition dropped flags representing Norway, Italy and the United States. Amundsen noticed to his irritation that the Italian flag was larger than the other nations' flags, but the aviators agreed to let the matter lie.

The airship's voyage continued for a few more days over the polar ice. The explorers encountered a storm on the 13th that buffeted the airship in heavy winds. This led to fear and discomfort but the airship remained intact. On the 14th of May the Norge landed at Teller, Alaska, somewhat short of its intended destination. It was a hard landing and the airship was damaged badly enough that it could not take off again. Instead the dirigible was disassembled. The pieces were gathered into boxes to be sent back to Italy, but for unknown reasons that never occurred. Whatever did happen, pieces of the Norge's structure and fabric have turned up in various places. One chair and a fuel tank remain in a museum in Anchorage, Alaska. Other parts of the Norge have been found in other countries, so perhaps the explorers took souvenir pieces home with them.

The Trans-Polar Flight was the first to cross the entire Arctic Ocean. Other explorers had claimed to reach the North Pole previously on ground expeditions, but the claims of Frederick Cook (1908), Robert Peary (1909) and Richard Byrd (1926) were all disputed. Some people count the Norge team as the first to reach the North Pole, even though they were in the air

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over it. Additionally, participants Roald Amundsen and Oscar Wisting had previously visited the South Pole so if this flight is counted they were the first two people to venture to both poles.



The airship Norge in flight

Image by Bran News Service. This image is available from the United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division under the digital ID gg Bain.39238. This tag does not indicate the copyright status of the attached work. A normal copyright tag is still required. See Commons:Licensing for more information., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8408055>

Philately

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The author's 1924 registered, trans-polar flight post card
Scans by the author of an item in his collection

So, you might ask, what does any of this have to do with stamp collecting? One of the methods used to raise money for the Trans-Polar Flight was a philatelic program. The expedition's organizers commissioned the American Bank Note Company to print small post cards, pre-addressed to "The Trans-Polar Flight Expedition, Christiana, Norway". Some collectors assume these cards were carried on the flight, but postmarks on the cards will show that the cards were sent in 1924, two years before the flight occurred. Thus, this was simply a fund-raising program prior to the flight.

Where is Christiana, Norway? The short answer is that it is Oslo. Christiana was the name of Norway's capital in 1924 when the post cards were sent. The longer answer is that in the 1600s Norway was part of the Kingdom of Denmark. The name of the town at that site was Oslo, but after it burned in 1624, the newly built city was called re-christened Christiana, after King Christian of Denmark. Later, in the 1800s, Norway became part of the Kingdom of Sweden

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Thereafter it seemed to the city's residents like "Christiana" was a name honoring the Danish invaders. Thus in late 1924 the name of the city was changed back to Oslo, like it had been prior to 1624.

Let us now return to the fund-raising program for the Trans-Polar Flight. The post cards were printed in the U.S. and sold for \$1.00 at large stores. If the person who bought the card mailed it to the address in Norway, the flight's organizers affixed Norwegian postage and returned it to them, as a Trans-Atlantic postal history souvenir. The cost of the cards was not insubstantial, as \$1.00 in 1924 had the same purchasing power as \$17.50 today. Additionally, the author's card was sent by registered mail, which required 10 cents more than the 2-cent overseas post card rate. It was still a reasonable investment, since the author paid more than \$17.50 for the card.

Overall, the Trans-Polar Flight was but one episode in the 20th century's race to the poles. The philatelic component of the expedition only increases collectors' interest today. Readers are encouraged to explore the items in their collections. You never know what you might discover.

References

Amundsen, Roald, Wikipedia, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8888909>, accessed 8 Feb 2023

Expeditions: The Norge Flight 1926, FRAM – The Polar Exploration Museum, <https://framuseum.no/polar-history/expeditions/the-norge-flight-1926/>, accessed 15 Dec 2022

Norge (airship), Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norge_\(airship\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norge_(airship)), accessed 8 Feb 2023

Write For Your Newsletter

What story do you have:
to tell about one of your stamps
or how you gained that stamp
or where you went to find that
stamp.

A good story to share with others.
Send your story to editor of this
newsletter.

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Activities and Happenings

Apr/8—Board Meeting

Apr/15—Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom; Counterfeit Stamps DSC Member Speaker Frank Miller

May 6—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom Team Stamp Quiz Competition. Details to follow in newsletter.

May 13—Board Meeting.

May 16-17, March Party 2024, Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd. Hrs. Fri & Sat: 10-6pm, Sun 10-4am Garfield-Perry Stamp Club Strongsville 330-819-9999.

May 20 - Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; CLUB AUCTION #3.

May 31-Jun 1, COLOPEX 2024, DoubleTree Hilton Worthington, 175 Hutchinson Ave. Hrs. Fri: 10-6pm Sat: 10-5pm, Columbus Philatelic Club., 614-306-3701.

Jun 3—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; Weird Stuff First Day Covers - from the Simple to the Sublime and Sometimes Silly; Video by Lloyd de Vries

Jun 10—Board Meeting.

Jun 17—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; Masonic Philately; DSC Member Speaker - Rocky Jackson.

Jul 1—SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:25PM; Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; Red, White, and Blue item from your Collection; Member Participation 4-6 minutes

Jul 8 Board Meeting.

Jul 15—Picnic at Church Picnic Shelter - 6:30 PM; Picnic Church OPEN for restroom access.

Aug 5—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom CLUB AUCTION #4

Aug 12—Board Meeting; AIRPEX Preview.

Aug 8—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; Stamp/Cover That Illustrates an Item on My Bucket List (or would, if I had a one); Member Participation - 4-6 minutes

Aug 23-24 (Fri-Sat) ; AIRPEX @ IBEW Hall (F: 12-6pm; Sa: 10am-4pm)

Sep 2—No Meeting—Labor Day Holiday - Church Closed.

Sep 9— Board Meeting—AIRPEX Review

Sep 16—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom CLUB AUCTION #5

Sep 23 - 4th Monday; Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom—Duck Stamps; DSC Member Speaker - Pat Westby.

Oct 7—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; My Favorite Stamp from My Birth Decade - Member Participation - 4-6 Minutes

Oct 14—Board Meeting.

Oct 21—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom How to Prepare Collection for Disposing of Collection - Video & Handouts.

Nov 4 - Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; CLUB AUCTION #6

Nov 11— Board Meeting; Set 2024 calendar & budget review.

Nov 18 - SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:25PM; Club Meeting & Program - Club Election for 2025; Christmas Seals Exhibit / Discussion with Bill Streisel, Doug Files, et al

Dec 2—Holiday/PEX Party Start at Church— Dinner Party At Church

Dec 9—Board Meeting

Dec 16—No meeting—Enjoy the Holiday Season!

February 5 is First Club Auction for the New Year



The first stamp club meeting in February, February 5th, will be the first Club Auction.

Bring your duplicates in tin cans, Amazon boxes or vario pages. Describe the material; country name, year of issue or Scott numbers, anything that will make the material more attractive to a potential buyer. Price the minimum bid for the item. Remember you want not take this back to your own home.

Auctions are fun and several items can be purchased with those wonderful Dayton Stamp Club Stamops Bucks!

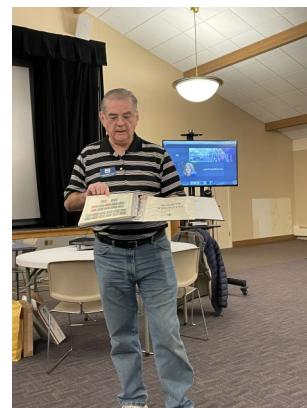


Club Program Creating Your Own Album Pages

For the second club January meeting member Tony Kosarew presented a fascinating and useful program on how to create your own album pages. He talked about designing each page how



you wanted to present the material. He discussed paper quality and using your printer or a copy machine such as available at contract business. Tony displayed examples of some of the ways he uses designs for his own ideas.



In the background is the zoom monitor for absent and long distant participants. Several of the club members present programs for other club meetings during the year.

Second February Stamp Club Meeting will be the 4th Monday of the Month.

February 26th

The Meeting Program will be "My Stamp Collection I Never Talk About"

A member participation program

Bring examples if you wish

No Meeting Monday
February 18

Garfield-Perry March Party 2024 to host Stamp Show and First-Day Ceremonies

The Garfield-Perry March Party 2024 stamp exhibition will host two first-day ceremonies during the March 15-17 stamp show at the Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Road in Strongsville OH.

At 12 pm Friday, March 15, a ceremony will be held for a sheet of stamps in the United Nations Flag series. The sheet of eight features four designs, and the stamps are denominated \$1.55 for use at U.N. headquarters in New York City.

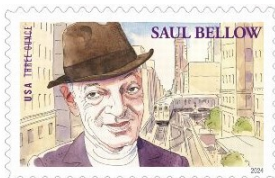
A ceremony for the set of four United States Garden Delights stamps will take place at 11 am Saturday, March 16. The four designs are forever stamps in a pane of 20. This will be a local ceremony because the Postal Service is not sponsoring an official first-day ceremony for this issue.

More information on the Garfield-Perry stamp Club and its March Party 2024 is available at www.garfieldperry.org.

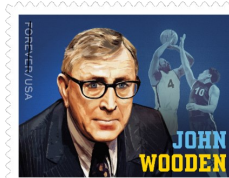
New USPS Releases 2024



Jan. 31, Constance Baker Motley, Forever commemorative, pane of 20, Black Heritage series.



Feb. 6, Saul Bellow, 3-oz. rate stamp, pane of 20,



Feb. 25, John Wooden, forever commemorative, pane of 20.



Feb. 19, Radiant Star, Presort standard definitive coil of 3,000 and 10,000, BCA..