



The U.S. Postal Inspection Service

By Doug Files

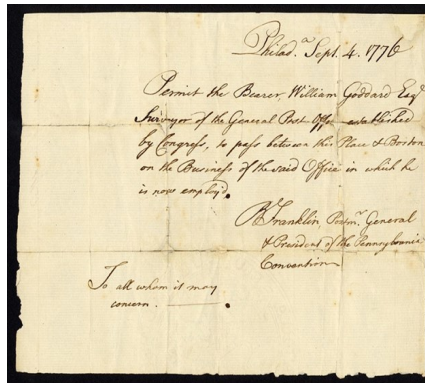
The U.S. Postal Inspection Service (U.S.P.I.S.) is the law enforcement branch of the U.S. Postal Service. Its mandate includes protecting postal employees as well as preventing criminal or fraudulent use of the U.S. mail. About 200 federal crimes exist which involve the mail system and in 2021 inspectors arrested 5,141 people, 3,700 of which were convicted. Over 5,300 packages of illegal drugs have been removed from the mail since 2010. The 1,250 current postal inspectors carry weapons, guard facilities, make arrests and execute search warrants. In other words they are federal agents who deal with the postal service and the mail.

History

The Postal Inspection Service has been around for more than two centuries. In fact, it is older than the United States itself. In 1772 Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin appointed the first postal "surveyor" to ensure the safety of postal routes and to "audit" the mail. This was four years before the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1775 the Second Continental Congress appointed William Goddard as "Surveyor General of Post Roads", in other words the chief postal inspector. In 1801 the title of the inspectors was changed from surveyor to "special agent". With their new title they continued to guard roads and mail through the tu-

multuous early years of the United States. But there were still only 16 special agents in 1860. Also, in those years the inspectors were political appointees so the public expected that they might be advancing one political party's platforms. At least one postal leader agreed. Postmas-



1776 "Surveyor" Pass signed by Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin to inspect mail. Image from the National Postal Museum website, https://postalmuseum.si.edu/object/npm_1984.1127.5

ter General Jacob Collamer wrote that inspectors "are in fact busy as political emissaries, and in the propagation of party doctrines." Despite this concern, the few agents employed still did protect the mail.

In the decades following the Civil War the number of inspectors was greatly increased, particularly after the Comstock Act widened the scope of postal inspectors' duties. Starting in 1873 postal special agents investigated medical fraud and obscene material when it travelled through the mail. Seven years later Congress changed the name of postal agents to "post office inspector". This was done

— continued on page 6

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.

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

May 13—Board Meeting.

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

May 31-Jun 1, COLOPEX 2024, Double-Tree 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— 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; In Person & Zoom;

Aug 19— club meeting & Program—in Person & Zoom, Stamp/Cover that illustrates an item on My Bucket List (or would, if I had one) Member Participation—4-6 minutes.

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DSC NEWSLETTER

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CLUB OFFICERS 2023-2024



#82

| | |
|---|----------------|
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#80083

In memorial

Randolph L. Neil 1941-2024

Randy Neil, well known to American stamp collectors as an author, exhibitor, editor, researcher and expert on several aspects of United States philately died last month.

Randy was known to stamp collectors. He was a philately cheerleader. He was friends to all, positive and optimist. With his passing, philately has lost a beloved icon whose impact on our hobby has been — and will continue to be — enormous.

Randy was one of the most influential stamp and cover collectors of his era, and one of the best-known names in contemporary American philately.

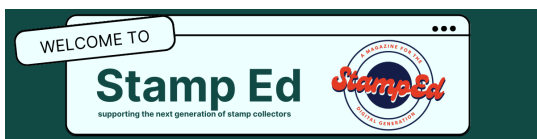


Randolph L. "Randy" Neil

His nonphilatelic life was equally notable. He founded the Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders in 1963, and he converted that success into a commercial firm training cheerleaders nationwide. In 1979, he authored the *Official Cheerleaders Handbook*, which became a *New York Times* best-

seller. When he retired from the cheerleading business in 1996, he used his mastery of computer technology to immerse himself in philately full time.

Randy Neil propelled the philatelic industry into the modern era. All who enjoy stamps and collecting honor Randy.



StampEd is live!

StampEd a new digital magazine for the next generation of stamp collectors, is now available at www.StampEd.pub. StampEd engages beginner and non-traditional collectors with innovative philatelic content that enlightens and inspires. The magazine shares entry-level practical collecting advice and mentorship; explores the connections between stamp collecting and other interests; and celebrates the growing online community of active collectors.

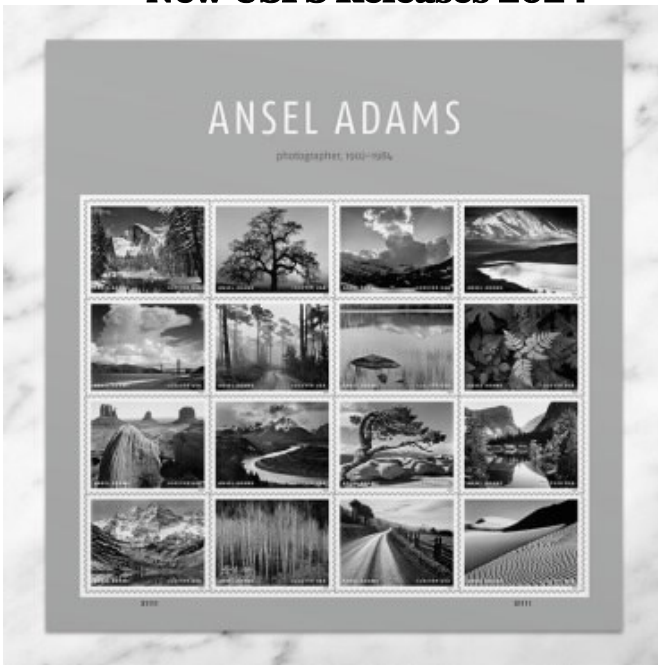
How to Support StampEd

The most effective form of marketing is word of mouth. Spread the word – sign up for email updates and share this page with others. Pass the issue along to others, your friends, family, and fellow club members, talk about it on social media, even print out a copy and leave it at your local library. Every little bit helps – and people will respond to your enthusiasm!

Write for StampEd

The APS editorial team is looking for one-time and long-term authors and columnists for StampEd. If you have a fun idea that you think would speak to StampEd's target audience, or want to contribute in other ways, please reach out to Editor-in-Chief Susanna Mills at stampedit@stamps.org. APS membership is not required to author an article, or to be featured in the magazine..

New USPS Releases 2024



Issued on May 15, 2024, pane of 16 stamps features some of Ansel Adams most famous images in his signature "straight photography" style. These are Forever stamps equal in value to current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate, Ceremony Yosemite National Park, CA



USPS Released Commemorative Stamp for Hank Aaron

The USPS revealed the surprise addition to its 2024 stamp program on the 50th anniversary of Aaron hitting his record-breaking 715th home run during an April 8, 1974, game between the Atlanta Braves and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Hank Aaron stamp Issued April 8, 2024. It is a Forever stamp commemorative issue in a pane of 20 stamps

Aaron (1934-2021), who played for the Braves at the time, broke Babe Ruth's record of 714 home runs that had stood since 1935.

"The stamp art features a digital painting of Aaron as a member of the Atlanta Braves, showing his famous right-handed batting stance from the waist up," the Postal Service said in an April 8 press release IN *Linn's News Stamp*, April 29, 2024



The pane of 16 Hank Aaron stamps shows a digital painting of him watching the ball he just hit for his record-breaking 715th home run on April 8, 1974.



INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PHILATELIC CORPORATION

The Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) announced in an April 1 press release the launch of its updated website in the *Linn's Stamp News* issue April 22, 2024. The new website includes postage stamps from nations not previously listed or available through IGPC. The website also features improved search filters with a new secure ordering and checkout platform. With the help of artificial intelligence, IGPC enhanced tens of thousands of stamp images for the updated website.

IGPC is the world leader in assisting government postal authorities in matters of philately, all forms of currency, as well as authorized consultants in all matters of post and telecommunications. For over half a century, IGPC has been recognized as the leading philatelic agent to emerging nations, bringing them to the forefront of the international stamp collecting community.

IGPC president Sam Malamud said the website "will open the doors to countless collectors who previously had no idea of the greatness of our amazing hobby."

According to the press release, IGPC launched its first website in the early 1990s and was the first global stamp collecting firm to have a website.

Manfred Lehman founded IGPC in 1957 as a one-stop postal and philatelic agent for emerging nations in need of aid in the operation of their post offices and the production, distribution, and marketing of their postage stamps.

For more information contact IGPC <http://www.igpc.com/> Never miss anything from IGPC by signing up to the IGPC newsletter or email at customerservice@igpc.com.

United States POSTAL RATE INCREASE

| | CURRENT | PROPOSED |
|---|---------|---------------|
| First Class Letter (1 oz) | \$0.68 | \$0.73 |
| Additional oz (up to 3.5 oz) | \$0.24 | \$0.28 |
| Domestic Postcard | \$0.53 | \$0.56 |
| First Class International Letter (1 oz) | \$1.55 | \$1.65 |
| First Class International Postcard | \$1.55 | \$1.65 |

EFFECTIVE: July 14, 2024

Artistic Presentation of Postal Covers

Continued from page 1
Activities and Happenings

Thanks to Dayton Stamp Club member Carol C. for sharing with us these delightful covers including both fun philatelic cartoons and delightful art work.

The covers were created by Charlie Delgado of Elyria OH. He is a musician, who writes his own music, collects covers and produces fun, colorful art cachets and is an officer and member of Art Cover Exchange.. The Art Cover Exchange is a proud affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS)- Affiliate 243, as well as a chapter of the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) - Chapter 79

In 1935, Leonard J. Turley, ACE 001, formed the original Art Cover Exchange, known as the Ace of Clubs. His concept was simple: "Send a cover with a handmade cachet to a member and receive one in return."

Most important was the cover and the exchange. Everyone was welcome to draw or paint in their own style, write a friendly message, affix postage and send a cover to another member.



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

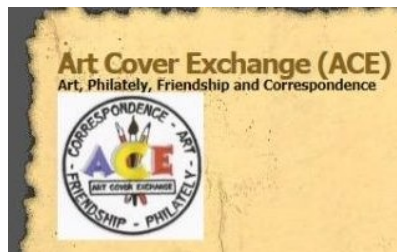
Dec 16—No meeting—Enjoy the Holiday Season!

Family members have maintained A.C.E. The concept of the original club continues and the goals remain the same — a club for pleasure, not for profit.

Today, in addition to hand-drawn or painted art, members use a variety of artistic methods for decorating their covers, including computer art, stickers, rubber stamps, collage and just about anything else that will adhere to a cover and go through the mails.



ACE is an active club with members across the country and beyond. Membership application information and application form is available from <https://artcoverexchange.org/index.html>.

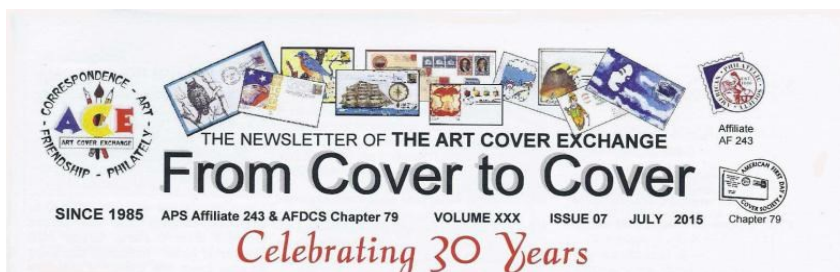


Members make Covers following their interests and whatever fancies their artistic flavors. The idea is to exchange the cover with other ACE members. There is a sample newsletter on their homepage The page has numerous examples of other collector's creative covers. On the home page there is a gallery available for more examples.

Great Britain Proposes Changes to Six-day-a-week Deliveries

Great Britain's Royal Mail calls for stopping six-day-a-week deliveries for some letters. Some letters would be franked at the first-class rate and continue to be delivered six days a week. All non-first-class letters would be delivered every other weekday. Bulk business mail would arrive within three weekdays, instead of the current two. Parcels would be delivered up to seven days a week.

The proposal changes will be reviewed and would be implemented no later than April 2025. The proposed changes would allow the postal system to be more efficient and cost effective. The change would allow for the elimination of 7-9,000 daily routes and be a significant cost reduction.



Dayton Stamp Club and its members congratulate the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club as it celebrates its 75 year anniversary. Brandywine serves the area of Hockessin Delaware, a suburb of Philadelphia PA.

Taking a Look Back to the Year 1949

SPECIAL 75th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Brandywine Valley Stamp Club and their Newsletter *The First State Philatelist*

1949-2024: 27,375 Days of Philately!

The BVSC Celebrates 75 Years of Philatelic Activity



On March 31, 2024, the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. The Club was founded on March 31, 1949, during an era of multiple stamp clubs in the greater Wilmington area (Wilmington, Springfield-Delco,

Chester Suburban, and DuPont stamp clubs). As those wound down or merged, at the end of the day, what remained was the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club. This issue will have several features taking us back to that special year of 1949 to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

An Article inside the 1949 *Linn's Stamp News*

Inside the issue is an editorial by George Linn (the then 65-year-old founder of *Linn's Stamp News*) in which he criticizes the collecting of plate blocks, a recent but increasingly popular philatelic area the time. He wrote the following:



In 1949, George Linn, the founder of *Linn's Stamp News*, had a few things to say about plate block collectors.

“Plate Numbers seem to be about the hottest thing in the market but we wonder just how long this craze will hold up... It has always been our opinion that the sensible way to collect plate numbers would be to collect the single stamp alone with the number tab attached. This would reduce the cost tremendously and would answer the same purpose as in collecting in blocks.”

Not approving of keeping the original gum on the stamps comprising a plate block, Linn added this comment: “If we were all wise we would “dunk” our plate blocks, wash the gum off and prolong their life for many years more.” Relatedly is an article noting the newly issued *Minkus Empire Album* (a plate block album) has sold over 10,000 copies, perhaps to the chagrin of Mr. Linn and to the financial joy of Mr. Minkus

There is a Question: Where can you get a mint copy of Scott #245 — the \$5 Columbian issue — for only \$90? Answer: 1949; just hop in a time machine and order one from John Balter

and Company on the March 28, 1949 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. about a “splendid display” by New York City’s Cardinal Spellman (then-Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York) at a meeting of a local stamp club, showing off items in his collection.

Perhaps even of more interest to a modern-day United States collector is an ad by John Balter and Company on page 8. Among the items for sale are U.S.

Scott #245 (\$5 Columbian issue) for \$90 mint and U.S. Scott #1 (5¢ Ben Franklin) for \$30 used.

Of note, this issue of *Linn's Stamp News* was a scant 16 pages. This was the beginning of a growth era of philately, and so as the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s moved along, the hobby grew. Thus, by the 1970s, many issues of *Linn's Stamp News* boasted page counts that quadrupled those of the 16page count of 1949.

Also worth noting, in 1949, a single copy of *Linn's* was 5¢, while a 52-issue (one-year) subscription came in at the bargain price of \$1.00. *Linn's Stamp News* continues to be published today; the newspaper remains a weekly publication.



Question: Where can you get a mint copy of Scott #245 — the \$5 Columbian issue — for only \$90? Answer: 1949; just hop in a time machine and order one from John Balter and Company on page eight of the March 28, 1949 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

To quote Frank Sinatra ... okay to paraphrase Frank Sinatra: “1949, it was a very good year...” The Brandywine Valley Stamp Club was founded in 1949. According to the American Philatelic Society, our founding date is March 31, 1949. Thus, this year marks our 75th anniversary. Congratulations!

The year we were founded was the year that Universal Postal Union celebrated its 75th anniversary, and now, on its 150th anniversary, we celebrate our 75th.

So, what was philately like in 1949? The big stamp event of the year was the British Empire’s production of the most extensive omnibus series in history: A vast 315-stamp Universal Postal Union omnibus. France’s colonies produced a more modest 12stamp omnibus on the same theme.

In 1949, our nation was peppered with street-level stamp stores, and Gimbels Department stores had gigantic stamp departments in every major eastern city. By this time, the Scott Catalogue had grown to two volumes. Stamp collectors in the U.S. topped 10,000,000. *Linn's Stamp News* was one of scores of stamp publications. Most major city newspapers had a stamp-collecting section or column. The American Philatelic Society’s membership topped 11,000 for the first time (more than doubling since 1940)

On the everyday-life front, postage remained at 3¢ for a first-class letter. Most large Post Offices had a “Philatelic Window.” Stamps were generally still a single-color enterprise.

Most cities and towns had at least one stamp club. That isn’t the case today, but there are still many clubs around. Today, we still have ours, which celebrates 75 years of activity.

Happy anniversary, BVSCers!

Philatelically yours,
Fr. James Lentini
Newsletter Editor

— continued from page 1 Postal Inspection

to distinguish federal agents from the private security special agents hired by stagecoach companies. In 1897 the Post Office Department employed 100 inspectors, and fifteen years later their number had quadrupled.



Postal Inspector badge from 1900 to 1922

Around that time the director of the service stated that inspectors decided where new post offices should be located, as well as how many employees it might require. They negotiated leases, fired postmasters, and arrested criminals, so they performed a wide array of duties. In 1954 the job title changed from “post office inspector” to “postal inspector” to show that they were responsible for policing the mail, not only the physical post offices themselves. Prior to 1996 postal inspectors audited postal operations and investigated inefficiencies. But that year the USPS Office of Inspector General – a separate organization - was tasked with making operations more cost-effective.

In the 21st century the focus of postal inspectors shifted somewhat, due to emerging threats. For example, terrorism became a major focus after the 9-11 attacks. In the early 2000s several dangerous toxins were sent through the U.S. mail. Efforts of the inspectors were re-directed to combat these threats. Currently the efforts of postal inspectors can be separated into categories such as mail fraud, external crime, prohibited mailing, aviation and homeland security, revenue investigations, international cases and joint task forces. In many cases postal inspectors work with international organizations such as the Universal Postal Union and Europol.

The term external crime refers to theft of mail by non-employees of the postal service. It maintains trust in the security of the mails. The prohibited mailing section investigates cases of people sending narcotics, bombs, toxins or child pornography through the mail.

The revenue investigations team fights stamp counterfeiting and other threats to the postal service’s finances. Another key part of the postal inspection service is a technical laboratory in Dulles, Virginia that supports the law enforcement efforts of the postal inspectors.

When toxins have been sent by mail, targets have included the President, other government employees and election officials. The USPS now recommends that election personnel open mail in an isolated room or one opening to the outdoors. Election offices also



Wanted Poster for the Unabomber

keep stocks of naloxone (a narcotic reversal drug) in case fentanyl is involved in the attacks. As soon as practical, toxins in mail should be reported to both



Postal Inspector cuffing a suspect

postal inspectors and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Annually the Postal Inspection Service receives over 100,000 reports of fraud and 1,500 of them result in an arrest. They also arrest 3,000 people for theft of mail. Over 2,000 people are arrested for mailing drugs and 300 people for threatening or assaulting postal employees.

Between 1978 and 1996 Ted Kaczynski (the Unabomber) placed 9 bombs into the U.S. mail. Three people were killed and 26 others were injured. The term “Unabomber” was an abbreviation of “university and airline bomber”. Intrepid postal inspectors worked with the FBI to catch this dangerous man and prevent further attacks.

Overview

U.S. postal inspectors thus carry out a wide variety of law enforcement duties. They arrest thousands of criminals each year and they keep postal employees safe from harm. Over the years their focus has evolved from catching highwaymen and stagecoach robbers to preventing terrorism in the mails, as with bombs and powdered toxins. They struggle to deal with stamp counterfeiters in unfriendly nations, but they do shut down websites and on-line sources of fake stamps.

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U.S. Postal Inspection Service website, <https://www.uspis.gov/about/what-we-do>, accessed 10 Apr 2024

Figure 1: ,mage by United States Postal Inspection Service (shared on their verified Facebook page) - <https://www.facebook.com/162472513791849/posts/this-weeks-history-spotlight-covers-the-history-of-our-badges-22-uspis-history/3988923964479999/>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=123369133>

Figure 2:Image by Pmaupride - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=133874828>

Figure 3: Image from National Postal Museum website, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/behind-the-badge/postal-inspection-service>

Dayton Stamp Club Programs and Activities

Club Exhibits

Recently, DSC member, Carol C. introduced the idea of having exhibits during club meetings for members to share philatelic materials, collecting topics with examples and other interesting displays.

Two easels with background for support are available at each meeting. Members bring to a meeting materials and post the informal display.



The initial display was an interest of DSC club member Greg B., geology and he is member of the Dayton Gem and Mineral Society. His display was titled Pyrite—Fools Gold. The exhibit included stamps picturing specimens, actual rocks and brief explanation of collecting and storing material.

All members are welcomed and encouraged to prepare an exhibit. The display might be up to four pages of information. Earn Stamp Bucks for each page.

Club Auctions—Silent and Noisy

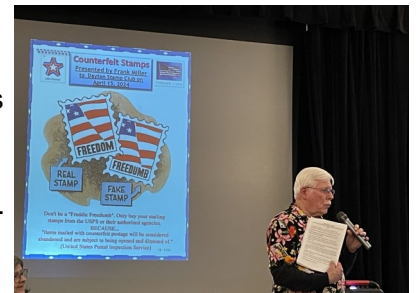
Three Silent Auctions are held from 7:00 to 7:25 pm. These include all types of philatelic material and supplies. Many items can be purchased with DSC Stamp Bucks. The Silent Auctions are scheduled March 18, July 1 and November 18 this year,

Throughout the calendar year six member auctions are scheduled February 5, April 1, May 5, August 5 September 18 and November 4. for 2024. Members prepare bid lots and bring to designated meetings.

Bid Lots are displayed before the auction. An auctioneer is one of the members and present the item separately for bids and purchase. Most of the items are for cash purchase. However, there are several items for bid and purchase with DSC Stamp Bucks.

Club Programs

The club is fortunate to have members with exciting and interesting ideas to share with other club members. These are individual or small group presentations with a wide variety of topics which may be personal collection ideas or researched information.



Several of our scheduled meetings include topics that encourage member participation. The topics may be favorite stamps or weird first day covers. Member volunteers would speak about his/her materials for 4-6 minutes. Member earn DSC Stamp Bucks for presentations.

Several meetings during the year will be programs by guest speakers from the area, national organizations, and speakers from a distance through zoom or recorded.

Social Programs

Several meetings are scheduled for guests to be included. These are pizza parties and a picnic this year. This year we chartered a bus to travel and attend a national stamp show out of the city

The annual DSC local stamp show at end of August is a fun opportunity to work together for three days and meet dealers and other collectors.

May 3-4 2024 Ohio Precancel Club (OPC) Spring Gathering:

LOCATION: McKinley Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2370, 5024 Monticello Ave NW, Canton, Ohio 44708.

TIME: Friday 9am-9pm and Saturday 9am-3pm.

Four Dealers expected with millions of precancels.

The facility is large, well lit and there are plenty of tables with electricity available for your computers.

Access to the venue is direct walk-in with no steps

Parking and admission is free.

There is plenty of reasonably priced lodging in the area.

The OPC business meeting will be at 2pm on Friday.

For more information, contact at 740-260-2891 or Marty Adams martyprecancel@gmail.com



Instructions for

Team Stamp Quiz Competition

On May 6th, we will have our club annual quiz event, a Team Stamp Quiz Compensation.

- All members present will be divided randomly into 5-6 groups.
- Groups will receive a list of 10 questions about US stamps.
- A group leader will assign questions to group members.
- The answers will be found in the Scott U.S. Catalogue.
- There will be two rounds, timed.
- Teams will receive points based on how many correct answers they found in the allotted time.

IMPORTANT !

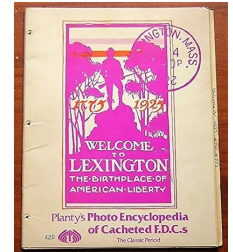
Bring a US catalogue to the meeting. It does not need to be current. It does not need to be the Specialized version. If you have more than one, bring extras. Each person will need a catalog



Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers
2024 Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue, but any recent will suffice.

What is this First Day Cover worth? Do I have this Cover Who made this Cover?

Until 1977 the answers to these questions were a mystery or a surprise. Dr. Earl Planty along with Mike Mellone published *Planty's Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted FDCs* in 1977. The first edition covered the years 1923 through 1939



Planty, a business professor, was the first to catalog different cachets for early FDCs, identifying them, assigning a catalog number and a value

Mellone added photos of the cachets to make identification easier. Instead of written description, collectors could compare what they had to the pictures. He also expanded Planty's listings significantly, adding dozens of newly identified cachets. Then Mellone added issues, first for the 1930s and eventually for nearly every issue through the 1960s.

Adding convenience and increasing interest a pocket catalogue called *Discovering the Fun in First Day Covers*



with a license from Scott Publishing Co. using its catalogue numbers American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) was formed in 1955 as a volunteer non-

profit organization serving the needs of First Day Cover collectors, cachetmakers and dealers. AFDCS has received permission to reprint the Mellone cachet catalogs and eventually update them.

Denmark Hikes Postal Rates as of January 1st 2024; Demonetizes Older Stamps

Denmark's PostNord (Postal Service) raised the price of sending a first class letter to 25-krone (\$3.62). Simultaneously, it announced that previous stamp issues will no longer be valid on domestic mail.

A swap out program where older stamps could be exchanged for new Issues was launched; it requires customers to show a receipt for the original stamp purchases.

Additionally, a new Danish post law that took effect in January 2024 dictates that PostNord Denmark is no longer obligated to deliver mail to all parts of the coun-

try.

The cost increase of stamp was precipitated by a VAT (value added tax) of 25% being applied to domestic postage. International postage is not affected by this.

To make the distinction on the type of postage being bought, stamps are now inscribed as either "inland" (meaning domestic) or "udland" (meaning abroad or international).

Postnord Denmark pledges to deliver a letter within five working days. This probably means that it only offers one weekly delivery of mail to Danish households unless one pays a much higher fee for quicker delivery.



Left: Denmark's new domestic postage stamp inscribed "Inland."

Right: Denmark's new international postage stamp inscribed "udland."

What's the Best Way To Present a Large Collection to a Dealer or Buyer?

by Ray Peterson

There are a lot of potential answers to this question, but more information is needed for the right answer.

Possibly the most important thing to consider is: Was the collection/accumulation formed randomly, by accumulating stamps as opportunities presented themselves, or was it formed by careful buying of quality material from dealers or auction houses?

If it was the result of careful purchasing, and you know there are items of particular value, then those should be organized to present nicely to potential buyers.

If it is really just a casual collection/accumulation, then it probably would not be worth the time spent to do a lot of organizing.

If the potential buyer is a dealer, they will be able to assess the potential resale value quite quickly (most dealers have gone through this drill dozens, or hundreds or thousands of times already - they can assess even very large collections very quickly).

If the potential buyer is a collector, they would probably prefer having the collection remain largely "unchecked". A neatly sorted collection or accumulation means that there would be little chance of finding hidden gems. (The term hid-

den gems is not intended to mean a rarity or high value - what it means is finding a \$1 value stamp mixed in with many 5¢ stamps, or a \$10 value stamp mixed in among many \$1 value stamps).

Other considerations are that, while it is easier to find a potential dealer buyer (just go to a stamp show and you will find many there in one place or purchase a stamps collecting journal) a dealer will be offering you a wholesale price, which is based on what their potential resale (profit) will be, combined with how long the items will remain in inventory. If they decline to make an offer, it doesn't necessarily reflect on the collection itself, but is more a reflection of what they want/need for their own inventory. (For example - don't offer a collection of modern foreign topicals to a dealer who specializes in classic US only).

Selling directly to a collector might yield a better price, but finding that one interested collector is a lot harder than finding a potential dealer buyer.

Another possibility is to take the collection to a local stamp club meeting. My own local club (in CT) runs auctions for our own members, and is a frequent buyer of collections to sell at our own auctions, or to sell at our monthly local stamp show.

U.S. Postal Service plans 5¢ letter rate increase, other price hikes for July 14 — U.S. postal rate chart on page 3

The United States Postal Service announced April 9 that it will boost the price of a first class forever stamp to 73¢, a 5¢ increase from the current 68¢ price.

If approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission, the change will be effective July 14, along with a series of other increases.

A number of other proposed increases were announced by the Postal Service.

Metered first-class letters will rise to 69¢ from 64¢.

The additional-ounce rate for first-class letters will jump 4¢, from 24¢ to 28¢.

Domestic postcards will go to 56¢ from 53¢, and international letters will rise to \$1.65 from \$1.55.

In an April 9 news release, the Postal Service indicated the proposed increases were approximately 7.8 percent on average.

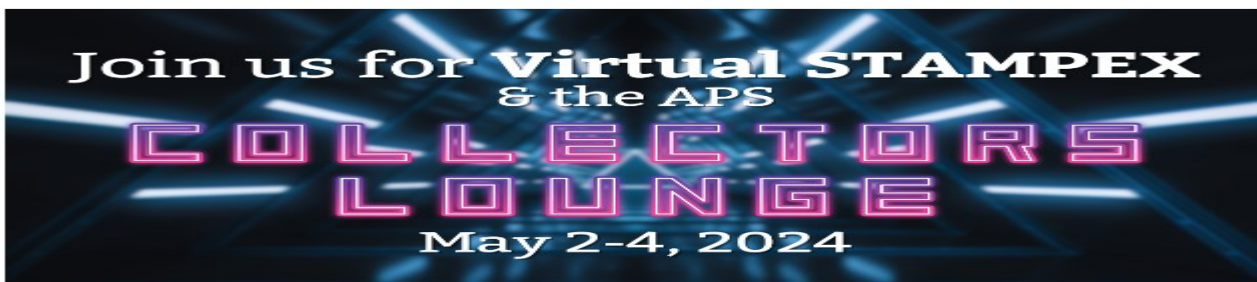
The April 9 Postal Service press release included two exceptions to the pending higher rates.

"There will be no price increase for Post Office Box rental fees, and the Postal Service will apply a price reduction of 10 percent for postal insurance when mailing an item," the USPS said.

The rate increases were defended by the USPS, which said they would help achieve Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year Delivering for America plan.

—announced in *Linn's Stamp News* April 29, 2024

APS SPOTLIGHT



Join Us at Virtual STAMPEX!

The APS has partnered with STAMPEX International to sponsor the Collectors Lounge at [Virtual STAMPEX 2024](#) – and we hope to see you (virtually) at the show!

Virtual STAMPEX allows philatelists from around the world to learn, connect, explore, and pick up some new stamps for their collection along the way, all from the comfort of home.

At Virtual STAMPEX, you can:


- Buy, sell and discover new treasures, and shop direct with a new in-built catalogue
- Chat live via text, audio, and video
- Join roundtable discussions to chat to collectors with similar interests
- Attend talks in the STAMPEX Auditorium
- Visit the new “Display Your Way” hall to see exciting takes on philatelic collections
- Meet philatelic societies from around the world
- Chat with friends old and new and take part in APS and *StampEd* events in the Collectors Lounge

The show is live 24 hours a day from 8:00 a.m. BST (3:00 a.m. EDT) on May 2 to 7:59 a.m. BST (2:59 a.m. EDT) on May 5 – and it is **absolutely FREE** to attend. Just click the **Register** button below to sign up, and don't forget to save the Virtual STAMPEX event page on stamps.org by clicking the **Bookmark the Event Page** button. We'll be updating the event page with a full schedule of events, important announcements, and more in the days leading up to the show, so check back often!

Registration:

<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/local/post/virtue-stampex-register-today>

Inherited a stamp collection?
 Leaving instructions for your heirs?
 The APS can help.



Suggestions for an Inherited Collection

Keep the Collection Safe Until You Decide

While other more pressing concerns may need precedence, storing the stamps in your attic or basement is not a good idea. Make sure that you keep the collection in a cool, dry place. Humidity or moisture can destroy the value of a collection. Albums should be stored upright, rather than standing on their side (pressure on an album will sometimes cause the stamps to stick to the page).


Tips for deciding what to do with the collection

Determining what the collection is worth

Registration for more information:

<https://stamps.org/servives/inherited-a-collection>

What to with the Collection



**INSIDE THE HEAD
 OF A COLLECTOR**
 Neuropsychological Forces at Work
May 21, 7 p.m. Eastern
 with Shirley M. Mueller, M.D.

Stamp Chat: Inside the Head of a Collector

Our next Stamp Chat is coming soon — register now to join us on May 21 at 7 p.m. Eastern for "**Inside the Head of a Collector: Neuropsychological Forces at Work**" with Dr. Shirley M. Mueller.

Have questions for Dr. Mueller? You can submit them in advance; just click the second button below. Registration:

<https://stamps.org/learn/educator-resources/stamp-chats>

Dayton Stamp Club May Happenings

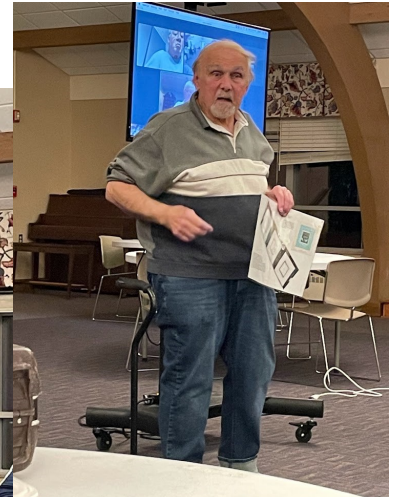
May 6 — Team Stamp Quiz Competition

Instructions and Directions are printed on **page 8** of May DSC Newsletter

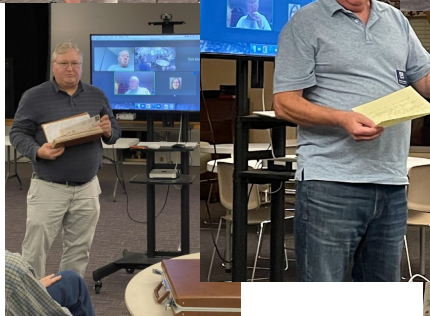


Dayton Stamp Club social time prior to meeting.
Photo by Greg Brown

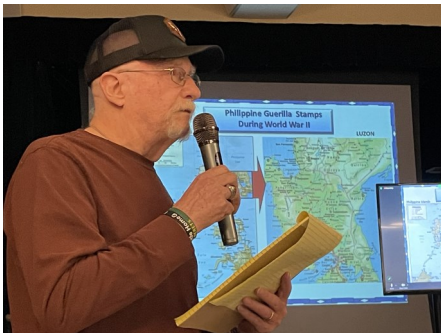
Stamp Collecting is FUN!



May 13 — DSC Board Meeting



May 20 — DSC Club Auction # 3



Make a presentation
for a club meeting



Bring a friend to the next meeting

