



The Philately Fun Times of the Columbia Philatelic Society

July 2013

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www.columbiaphilatelicsociety.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be Tuesday, **July 16th** at our usual place, Boone Landing Activity Room, 109 Keene St. in Columbia. The meeting will start at 7 PM. The club meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at this location.

Our activity this month is:

Stamp Bingo

As usual, there will be significant prizes awarded to the winners. If you haven't played before, give it a try, and I guarantee that you'll have a fun time.

Last Time

Our meeting in June featured a pair of auctions: The Columbian Dollar Auction and the Club Benefit Auction. **John Marquardt** reported that we had a great evening with some 20 bidders competing for four full tables full of lots. We had the "good, bad, and ugly" lots, but when the evening was over we made \$339.00 for the club treasury. Thanks to the members for bringing a large number of lots, and also to **John M., Chuck Barsamian,** and **Rich Grant** who facilitated the auction.

2013 Officers

Our officers for this year: are

President: **Charles Peterson** (442-0042)

V. President: **Don Barnett** (573-635-1853)

Treasurer: **John Marquardt** (474-7254)

Libry/APS: **Chuck Barsamian** (446-9110)

Newsletter: **Dave Benish** (696-2597)

Upcoming 2013 Programs

Jul.: Stamp Bingo (**Dave Benish**)

Aug.: Stamps and History of Hawaii (APS)

Sep.: "Clothesline" Exhibits

Oct.: Precancels (**T.G. Rehkop**)

Nov.: Fall Auction/Elections

Dec.: Christmas Party

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Philatelic Humor

This was contributed by alert member **Paul Berg** and originally authored by humorist Bennet Cerf:

George Ansbarry tells about a twelve-year-old boy who was passionately devoted to his stamp album until the kid next door began collecting stamps, too. "He buys every stamp I do," the twelve-year-old complained to his father, "and has taken all the fun out of it for me. I'm quitting!" "Don't be a fool, my boy," counseled the father. "You seem to forget that imitation is the sincerest form of philately."



ZIP Code Birthday

Mr. ZIP is celebrating his 50th birthday this year. The ZIP (**Z**one **I**mprovement **P**lan) codes were introduced in 1963 as a result of the very high, overwhelming volume of mail that had to be delivered in those days. Too much labor was needed to sort the mail, so this numeric system came to the rescue. There are almost 42,000 ZIP codes in the U.S.

The iconic Mr. ZIP image can be seen on sheets of stamps, and some philatelists collect "Mr. ZIP" blocks.



If you look at some old covers, it's amazing that they ever reached their destination at all (for example, Mr. Robert Smith, Boston Massachusetts).

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Printing Methods

The production of United States stamps has involved all four basic forms of printing:

1. Engraved
2. Photogravure
3. Lithography
4. Offset

The earliest used approach was engraved printing, and is considered by many to produce the most beautiful stamps. Virtually all of the "classic" U.S. stamps are engraved.

Offset printing is actually a modern development of the lithographic printing process. The main advantage to this type of printing is lower cost.

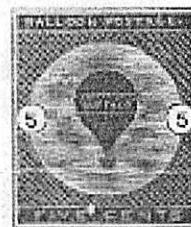
The specific procedures involved in the production of stamps using these different methods are described in detail in the front of the U.S. Scott Catalog.

Early Airmail

The earliest records of transmitting messages through the air include an array of interesting approaches:

- ❖ Messages by arrow in the 5th century BC during the Siege of Potidaea.
- ❖ Letters flown by kite in AD 549 in China.
- ❖ "Pigeon Post" in Holland in 1575.
- ❖ British letters carried by balloon in 1784.

The first "official airmail" was in 1859 between the towns of Lafayette and Crawfordsville, Indiana in the balloon "Jupiter" by John Wise. The USA issued a 7c airmail stamp in 1959 to celebrate the centenary of this flight. A semi-official airmail stamp, the "Buffalo Balloon" stamp of 1877 (shown below), was used by a private company in Tennessee. The first U.S.P.S. stamp, the 24c biplane, came out in May of 1913. The 16c and 6c biplane stamps came out later that year in that order.



Dave's Corner

In my younger years, I was a Boy Scout, and their publication was "Boy's Life". A recent article in a stamp magazine brought back the memory of the many stamp approval ads that appeared in "Boy's Life." They offered exotic stamps for a dime or a quarter if you started reviewing their approvals they sent. I took the bait a couple of times and fondly remember looking forward to the mail each day!