



## *The Philately Fun Times of the Columbia Philatelic Society*

**August 2013**

**Dave Benish, Ed., 696-2597**

[www.columbiaphilatelicssociety.org](http://www.columbiaphilatelicssociety.org)

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be Tuesday, **August 20<sup>th</sup>** at our usual place, Boone Landing Activity Room, 109 Keene St. in Columbia. The meeting will start at 7 PM. The club meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at this location.

Come take a summer vacation this month to the tropical isles. Our program will be on the

### **Stamps and History of Hawaii**

This will be a great slide program from the American Philatelic Society (APS). Stamps of Hawaii were in use from 1851 to 1900 as it went from a kingdom to a U.S. Territory. Look for a Hawaiian-themed evening of fun, including the door prizes.



### Last Time

Our meeting in July was Stamp Bingo. We managed to fit in four games with four different winners of big prizes (congrats to them!).

### 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

**Aug.:** Stamps and History of Hawaii (APS)

**Sep.:** "Clothesline" Exhibits

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

**Nov.:** Fall Auction/Elections

**Dec.:** Christmas Party

### Clotheslines Exhibits

It's that time of year to begin thinking about one-page exhibits again! Our September program will feature these exhibits developed by the members with nice prizes going to the top three places in the topical and the philatelic categories. Look for more details in the September newsletter.

### Etiquette

In the world of philately, an "etiquette" is a gummed label manufactured for application to an envelope to designate a specific mail service. Airmail etiquettes are most common.

## 2014 Scott Catalogs

The reference section of the Columbia Public Library is starting to receive the 2014 Scott Catalogs. Last week, they had Volume 1 (U.S. and countries A-B), Volume 2 (countries C-F), and Volume 3 (countries G-I).

There were just a few changes in the U.S. values, according to the publisher. Austria recorded many strong gains. Other countries with major changes according to the publisher (mostly upward) include Antigua, Argentina, the Australian States and Barbados. In Volume 2, apparently Egypt and China had the most changes.

Just a reminder that our club has the 2013 Classic Specialized Catalog, which covers stamps issued from all countries from 1840-1940. This is available to any member to check out (see our librarian **Chuck Barsamian**).

## Encased Postage Stamps

In 1860, just before the start of the Civil War, people began hoarding coins, anticipating hard times and shortages ahead. This prompted the idea of using stamps for money.

Because the fragility of stamps made them unsuitable for hand-to-hand circulation, a man by the name of John Gault invented the encased postage stamp in 1862.

This involved using a normal U. S. stamp, which was then wrapped around a circular cardboard disc and then placed inside a coin-like circular brass jacket. A transparent mica window in the jacket allowed the face of the stamp to be seen. Denominations between 1 cent and 90 cents are known. Eight different stamps from the 1861 U.S. regular issue were used. An example appears below. These are all quite rare, particularly in sound condition.



## "Big Bens"

Near the end of the Washington-Franklin era of U.S. stamps, two larger stamps featuring Ben Franklin were issued in 1918. Images of these stamps appear below. Because of their high denominations and larger than usual size, they are sometimes called the "Big Bens."



## Dave's Corner

I read recently that topical collecting has become the most popular form of stamp collecting. Indeed many "veteran" collectors have started topical collections after reaching the point where additions to their "main" collection have become financially daunting.

The main advantages to topical collecting seem to be that it's fun to select a topic, material can be inexpensive, and you can have a great time creating a nice presentation of the stamps or covers (anyone who's seen members **Lester Perkins'** or **Chuck Barsamian's** pages would agree to that).

My grand-nieces each have topical collections that are very interesting. They mount their collections on black 3-stock pages, which give them a lot of flexibility on how to arrange the stamps.

Obviously, the topic can be as broad or narrow as you'd like—anywhere, say, from animals to Bengal tigers. That's part of the fun.



The American Topical Association (ATA) is a tremendous resource for topical collectors. Their website is

[www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)

They offer "checklists" (paper or Excel formats) for almost 600 different topics for a nominal fee (20 cents a page). This can save a lot of time and effort.