



The Philately Fun Times

The Columbia Philatelic Society
May 2017

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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be Tuesday, **May 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.

Our program this month is:

Joint Issues

Our special guest speaker for the program will be our friend from St. Louis, Alan Barasch.

Joint issues are when two countries issue stamps honoring the same subject. I'm sure Alan will be able to show several interesting joint issues, as well as provide some insight into their background and purpose.



Last Time

We had our club's annual Spring Auction. A special thanks to **Scott Ward** who brought a large number of diverse auction items and helped with the auction process. Thanks as well as to the other people who brought (and bought) auction items.

We also had a good discussion on tips for handling what to leave heirs about our collections. Some key concepts were noted by our president, **Dick Robinson**.

Upcoming 2017 Programs

- May:** Joint Issues (Alan Barasch)
- Jun.:** Ice Cream Social + (John M.)
- Jul.:** Perfins (Lester Perkins)
- Aug.:** Club Fundraising & Col. \$ Auctions
- Sep.:** "Clothesline" (1-Page) Exhibits
- Oct.:** Violating the Rules #2 (APS Prog.)
- Nov.:** Fall Auction/Elections
- Dec.:** Christmas Party

2017 Officers

- President: **Dick Robinson**
- Vice President: **Jean Walker**
- Treasurer: **John Marquardt**
- Lib./APS: **Charlie Brown**
- Newsletter: **Dave Benish**
- Webmaster: **Rebecca DeCourley**



Welcome New Member!

We had the pleasure of meeting **Frank Oakley** at our April meeting. Welcome to our merry group, Frank!

Discussion Topic

Our discussion topic for May will be "What Topicals (If Any) Do You Collect and Why That Subject?"

Congrats, Miranda

The youngest member of our club, **Miranda DeCourley**, attended the St. Louis Stamp Expo with her family. She made good use of her time there, winning the "Guess the Number of Stamps Contest" held in the Youth Room. She guessed 4,000 stamps in a jar. The actual number was 4,082. Great job and congratulations, Miranda!

Member Spotlight

The bright beam of our Member Spotlight this month shines down on one of the newest members of our club, **Sheryl Mehrhoff** (translates to "more hope" in German).

Although she just recently starting stamp collecting, Sheryl said that does have some knowledge of stamp collecting through her father-in-law who had a nice collection (he ultimately sold it). Professionally, Sheryl is the organist at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Columbia. She collects Music topicals (particularly if angels are featured), stamps of England, and has a budding interest in First Day covers.



This Month's Winner

This month's random winner of an extra \$30 Columbian is **Bruce Taylor**. Congrats!

Our August meeting will allow members to bid using these Columbian \$ (obtained through the newsletter each month, attendance, doing programs, etc.).

Did You Ever Wonder Why...

Some coil stamps are perforated vertically and some are perforated horizontally? It appears that it's just been part of the long history of the postal service trying to figure out what works best in dispensing and separation. Stamps perforated vertically (teeth on the sides) seems to have won out (at least before the self-adhesive period we're in and the phase-out of automatic dispensing). The last perforated horizontally stamp was way back in 1960 (the 1¼ turquoise Santa Fe Governor's Palace).



First U.S. Coil (#316), perf.12 horiz., 1908. Catalog Value \$115,000 !!!

Of course, the postal service has also played with the number of perforations to get optimum separation capability (settling at around perf. 11).

A fun fact: The perf. measure of a coil stamp is how many "teeth" are in 2 centimeters (just over ¾ of an inch).

The finest gauge ever used is perf. 18 on stamps of the Malay States in the early 1950s, and the coarsest is just perf. 2, seen on the 1891 stamps of Bhopal. In the early years, from 1840 until 1850, all stamps were issued imperforate, and had to be cut from the sheet with scissors or knife (yikes!).

Dave's Corner

Not much room to say anything here, but I would encourage any collector who doesn't yet have a topical collection to start one. They can be very inexpensive and a lot of fun to put together!