



## *The Philately Fun Times*

The Columbia Philatelic Society  
September 2017

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

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be Tuesday, **September 19th** at our usual place, Boone Landing Activity Room, 109 Keene St. in Columbia. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

The activity this month is our annual:

### **Clothesline Exhibits**

Like previously, there will be two "tracks":

**Topicals:** Basically a presentation of stamps with a similar topic/subject.

**Philatelic Theme:** A presentation that focuses on a philatelic area and would be educational.

Although voluntary, of course, this is supposed to be a fun event, so try to bring something. Exhibits (for either or both tracks) can be 1-2 pages and can have as many stamps and/or covers as desired plus possible text. Multiple entries are possible.

**There will be substantial prizes!**

### Last Time

We had our fundraising and Columbian \$ auctions. There was a great turnout that night for the auctions (23), And we set a record for the fundraising auction (\$320)!

There was a nice variety of items, including a philatelic Raggedy Ann doll brought by **Russ Baughman** and bought by **Dan French** (by the way, Dan, thanks for bringing the nametags and old club catalogs, the latter fetching \$55). **Jon Hardgrove** donated a large amount of philatelic literature. **Charles Peterson** brought several unique and interesting items. Thanks to the many other members who donated items, and also to those who bid on them.

### OOPS!

I had the wrong activity for "Last Time" in the August newsletter!

**In July, we actually had a wonderful program by Lester Perkins on Perfins.** It was a really well-done program. My deepest apologies, Lester.



### Upcoming 2017 Programs

**Sep.:** "Clothesline" (1 or 2-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**  
Librarian/APS: **Charlie Brown**  
Newsletter: **Dave Benish**  
Webmaster: **Rebecca DeCourley**

## This Month's Winner

Congrats go to this month's random winner **George Donovan** of Centralia for an extra \$30 Columbian in his newsletter!

## Low Denomination Stamp

Ever wonder what the lowest face value has been on a stamp that was postally valid? Well, it was the 1/10 of a cent value on a stamp of French Indochina of 1922.

## Quick Recap of NVI Stamps

Non-denominated stamps do not have numbers on them, but are printed with letters called non-value indicators. Thus, these are actually called by the USPS non-value indicator (NVI) stamps, and they are issued by in the following denominations:

- A = 15 cents
- B = 18 cents
- C = 20 cents
- D = 22 cents
- E = 25 cents
- F = 29 cents
- G = 32 cents
- G Postcard = 20 cents
- H = 33 cents



## Common Stamp Shape

Did you ever wonder why most stamps, other than commemoratives, are about the same size and shape?

The shape of the first adhesive postage stamp (Great Britain #1, the Penny Black) was determined by the gummed labels which secured tax stamps to parchment legal documents. These measured 18 mm wide by 24 mm tall.

Many of the early stamp-issuing countries followed Britain's lead, and human nature being what it is, few changes were made to the initial size and shape.

## Early Zip Codes & Mr. Zip

The first country to adopt postal codes to aid in the delivery of mail was not the U.S., but rather Germany. They did this in 1942 during WWII. Although it was a fairly rudimentary system that used two-digits numbers corresponding to postal areas, it nonetheless was very helpful in the prompt delivery of mail.

Germany went to four digits in 1961. The U.S. followed suit with postal codes in 1963 with its 5-number zip code system. When you look at some of the really old covers with just a name, a street (sometimes), and a city, sometimes you almost wonder how the mail made it through.



Mr. Zip did not just appear in the early ZIP Code promotions. The Post Office Department featured Mr. Zip in an advertisement announcing the 1968 increase in postage rates.

## Dave's Corner

I would encourage all members of the club to try to bring something to the Clothesline Exhibits program this month. It doesn't have to be fancy, expensive, or something that took 8 hours of time to put together. Let's have some fun stuff to look at!

Everyone who brings an exhibit (or exhibits) will receive \$10 Columbian for each exhibit, (this is in addition to the usual \$10 for being at the meeting). Plus you have the chance to win some really great prizes!