



The Philately Fun Times

The Columbia Philatelic Society
November 2017

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www.columbiaphilatelicssociety.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be Tuesday, **November 21st** at our usual place, Boone Landing Activity Room, 109 Keene St. in Columbia. The meeting will start at 7 PM. There will be several activities this month:

- **Over \$100 CV in door prizes!!!**
- **2018 Officer Elections**
- **2018 Programs**
- **Fall Member Auction**

You can bring stamps and other philatelic items to auction off. Please attach the item to a bid sheet.

Any items that receive a bid of \$3 or more will go into the live auction at the end of the meeting, with smaller-value lots are sold via the typical silent auction method. As always, this auction is a great chance to sell your duplicates and make \$, as well as pick up some nice material.

This is usually one of the best-attended meetings of the year. There will also be a sign-up sheet this month for the Christmas party at the Olive Garden.

Last Time

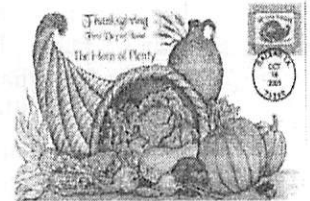
Last month we had the fun "Violating the Rules" APS slide program. It was truly a fascinating look into the human psyche.

Upcoming 2017 Programs

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

Michael Sell may be surprised to find an extra \$30 Columbian with his newsletter as this month's random winner!

Tidbits from Mound City

As a member of the Greater Mound City Stamp Club in the St. Louis area, I get their newsletter. From time to time, I'll report on something interesting from them. This time:

Gene Stewart's monthly bourse (2nd Sat. of each month) is now at the Holiday Inn S. County on I-55 and Lindbergh.

Their club has an **extensive** library. Go to www.GreaterMoundCity.org for a listing. I'm sure they would let our club borrow one.

They had an interesting note about the first Scott catalog. It was published in 1868, had 21 pages, and had all the stamps since 1840.



Member Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight focuses on long-time member **Joan Luterman**. Below is information she provided:

She's collected stamps since she was 9 or 10. Joan rediscovered the hobby when she lived in Puerto Rico in the early 1970's and became a member of the APS in 1973, which made her an automatic lifetime member of that organization a few years ago. She collects US philatelic literature and US covers, mostly 19th and early 20th century. She's collected picture postcards for decades and done an international postcard exchange through the website **Postcrossing.com** for about 8 or 9 years.

Professionally, she was a medical social worker at the University Hospital for many years and still works a day or two a month.

She recently received her best birthday present ever when her four children surprised her with a bench in her honor on the Grindstone Trail.

Cachets

A "cachet" (pronounced cash-A) is a design or artwork on the left hand side of an envelope. There have even been small black and white photographs used as part of a cachet. The cachets are found primarily on first day covers.

Hand-drawn ones and certain earlier cachets on cover created by prominent artists command premium values. Creating a nice thematic cover collection with interesting cachets can be challenging and a lot of fun.



Check the Color!

The U.S. Specialized Catalog has a lot of uses, and one of them is showing key variations in the original stamp.

I wanted to highlight two of them where **color** makes a huge difference. The 4-cent Columbian of 1893 comes in ultramarine (\$9) and blue (\$16,500). The 2-cent Parcel Post (Q2) comes in carmine (\$1), carmine lake (\$350), and lake (\$17,500). Auction catalogs often have good color photos of the more expensive ones. I cut them out and put them in my color reference book.

Dave's Corner

We had an interesting discussion last meeting about stamp collecting in general. Joan had read a couple of articles that talked about what appears to be a general decline in the popularity of the hobby.

If one's talking about the sheer number of collectors, that may be true. However, remember that a huge number of collectors began in the 1930s and 1940s--because stamp collecting can be very inexpensive (a "plus" during the Great Depression) and the nation's President was an active collector and proponent of the hobby. These early collectors are in the 80s and 90s now. Of course, there are also definitely more distractions and competition now--most notably the computer and social media.

However, there are still a large number of avid collectors. Topical collecting is hot. People in countries such as China and Russia are snapping up postage stamps. Traditionally strong collecting countries such as the U.S., Germany, France, and Great Britain have a good collector base.

What other hobby can take you all over the world, give one the opportunity to learn new things, create order out of chaos, meet interesting people along the way and even give you a chance to find that "diamond in the rough"? I've collected for over 50 years and never regretted a minute of it.