



The Philately Fun Times

The Columbia Philatelic Society April 2018

Dave Benish, Ed. 696-2597
www.columbiaphilatelicociety.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be Tuesday, April 17th at our usual place (now called Solstice), at 109 Keene St. in Columbia.

The meeting this month will start at 6:45 PM. The reason for the 15 minute early start is that under the new management, we need to be out of our meeting space by 8:00 (for security reasons, they want to lock all of the doors then). We'll need to discuss the implications at our meeting. Alternatives include maybe starting the official part of future meetings at 6:30, with buying, trading, and selling from 6:00-6:30. Or we can try to change the meeting location, and there may be other alternatives as well.

Our program this month is:

Match and Medicine Stamps

This will be an APS slide show that gives me a chance to drag out my ancient slide projector once again. I think you'll find this topic very interesting. Any members that have these type of stamps are encouraged to bring them to enable other members to see what they are.

Last Time

We had a HUGE number of auction lots and the bidding went on until 9 o'clock. Almost everyone acquired at least one new item. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Club News

Welcome to **Charles Gerdes**, of Kirksville, the newest member of our club. He collects U.S., Germany, and Nature topicals.

It was great to see **Scott Ward** and **Bill Hodges** at the last meeting, both recovering from some health issues.

A very big and special "Thank you!" to **David Durbin** who will be assuming the APS work while **Charlie Brown** takes care of his wife who needs some assistance.

Upcoming 2018 Programs

Apr.: "Match & Medicine" Stamps (APS)
May: Philatelic Security Features (AI W.)
Jun.: Scouting on Stamps (DVD)
Jul.: Ice Cream Social + (John M.)
Aug.: Club Fundraising & Col. \$ Auctions
Sep.: "Clothesline" (1-Page) Exhibits
Oct.: Kids and Stamps (Scott Ward)
Nov.: Fall Auction/Elections
Dec.: Christmas Party

2018 Officers

President: **Jean Walker**
V.P./Librarian/APS: **David Durbin**
Treasurer: **John Marquardt**
Newsletter: **Dave Benish**
Webmaster: **Rebecca DeCourley**



Member Spotlight

Long-time member **Jess Merritt** has been collecting stamps for a long time (since 1938!). He first started putting stamps he acquired in a photo album before moving onto more traditional albums. Jess is a registered pharmacist (still works a bit) who spent much of his life in southwest Missouri.

"In Case You Missed It" Dept.

First Class postage rates went up in January. Letters went up a penny to \$0.50 (each additional ounce is \$0.21). First Class mail flats went up to \$1 (additional ounces also \$0.21 each). The postcard rate went up a penny to \$0.35.

This was not widely publicized by the USPS, but it's important for those of us who still use stamps with numbers on them!



Match and Medicine Stamps

These type stamps are also known as "Private Die Proprietary Stamps". They're listed in the official Scott's Specialized catalog, and they range from inexpensive to extremely rare and valuable.

I think that one of the most notable characteristics of these stamps is the high quality of the engraved designs, which are typically very artistic. Simply put, these are beautiful stamps!

After the Civil War, the US levied taxes on patent medicines, match books and perfumes. Companies had to pay per bottle or pack sold, and a revenue stamp was required on the bottle to indicate that the tax had been paid. They could use U.S. revenue stamps or design their own, which they did because they looked better on their product.

Because the tax stamps were placed over the tops of the bottles or covers of the matches, most were damaged when the product was used and high quality specimens are hard to find.

Collecting Basics: Identification

Except for Great Britain (which has the head of their monarch), all countries are required to put their name on the stamps they issue. This is under international agreement (of the UPU). However, the name may not appear in English or use the English alphabet.

The APS does offer a Stamp Identifier publication, which can be handy. In some cases, a basic Internet search on a name will work. Once you know the country, you can find the specific issue in a Scott Catalog, although you may have to also consider the watermark, perforations, etc. in some cases.

A couple of weeks ago, I was visiting with **John Marquardt** who had some stamps inscribed Azad Hind, like the one below.



Perhaps you've see this stamp yourself. It turns out that it's actually a "Cinderella" issue (never used for postage) that was produced by Germany during World War II. They were meant to be used in India after the war.

Sometimes stamps are easy to identify, but in other cases (like this one), a bit harder!

Donations Wanted

One of the benefits of our club is free mixtures that anyone can go through. To keep these mixtures fresh and interesting, consider donating duplicate stamps that you can add to the bins!

Dave's Corner

It was great to see some of our club members at the Stamp Expo last month. The St. Louis club said the show was a success!