



The Philately Fun Times

**The Columbia Philatelic Society
June 2019**

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www.columbiaphilatelicsociety.org**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be **Tuesday, June 18th** at our usual place (now called Solstice), at 109 Keene St. in Columbia.

**6:00 Buying, selling, and socializing
6:30 Business meeting starts**

Our activities this month are:

Ice Cream Social & Stamp Bingo

John Marquardt promises to bring some yummy ice cream. While we're enjoying that, we'll also be enjoying a few rounds of stamp bingo. **There's always great prizes!** You don't have to be an experienced philatelist to win (it can help a little bit), but luck usually determines the winner.

There are usually 3-4 games, but we've had as many as 6! So the odds are pretty good, especially for having a great time!



Last Time

Mother Nature had other plans for us in May, with very strong storms in the area. So we've moved the May Bingo to this month. We hope that everyone was notified by phone.

Upcoming 2019 Programs

- Jun. 18:** Ice Cream Social & Stamp Bingo
- Jul. 16:** Album Night (Club Members)
- Aug. 20:** Club Fundraising & Col. \$ Auctions
- Sep. 17:** "Clothesline" (1-Page) Exhibits
- Oct. 15:** Fall Auction/Elections
- Nov. 19:** Philatelic Craft Night
- Dec. 10:** Christmas Party

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2019 Officers

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

Stamp of the Month: U.S. 324

**2 cent variety of the
Louisiana Purchase
Exposition (1904)**



This beautifully engraved issue has been selected In honor of the City of Jefferson, which has seen so much tragedy last month,. For fun and extra value, look for it on an Exposition cover, or with an Expo cancel.

Franking

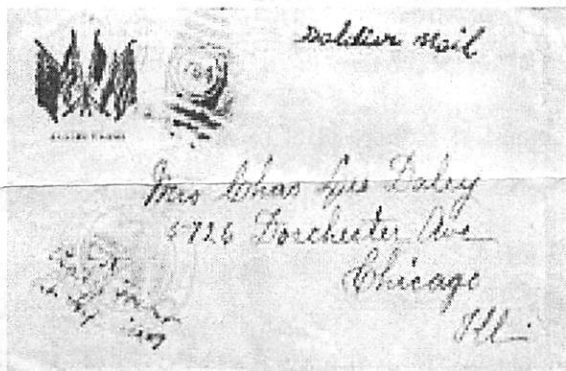
While the general definition of "franking" includes the application of virtually anything that makes the item valid for postal servicing (stamps, postage meter imprints, etc.), so-called "privilege franking" is something very specific.

"Privilege franking" is a personally pen-signed or printed facsimile signature of a person with a "franking privilege" such as certain government officials (especially legislators) and others designated by law or Postal Regulations. This allows the letter or other parcel to be sent without the application of a postage stamp.

In the United States this is called the "Congressional frank" which can only be used for "Official Business" mail.

The congressional franking privilege dates from 1775. Congress, through legislative branch appropriations, reimburses the U.S. Postal Service for the franked mail it handles.

In addition to this type of franking privilege, from time to time (especially during wartimes) governments and/or postal administrations also authorize active duty service members and other designated individuals to send mails for free by writing "Free" or "Soldier's Mail", such as the WWI example below.



This Month's Winner

Rich Grant will be receiving an additional \$30 Columbian with his newsletter, as a result of this month's random drawing. Congrats, Rich!

Semi-Postal (Charity) Stamps

Semi-postal stamps have been around a long time. Part of the cost of the stamp goes to charity. Switzerland holds the record for the longest-running charity issues. Their Pro-Juventute ("for youth") series began in 1919.



There have been a wide variety of charities that such stamps (from several countries) have helped people. These include flood relief, avalanche and earthquake victims, people displaced by volcanoes, hurricane victims, milk for children, clothing for army reservists, and many more.

The U.S. was late to the game of semi-postal stamps. The first one was July 29, 1998 for breast cancer research. Only 5 different semi-postal designs exist for U.S. stamps.



Dave's Corner

In the comic strip "Doonesbury" several years ago, the character B.D. decided to start collecting stamps. So he called a dealer and ordered all of the stamps of Nicaragua. Is that collecting?!

One of challenges in collecting stamps is looking for those elusive stamps to complete a set, a difficult to find issue, or a surprise find that you weren't expecting. The "thrill of the hunt" is one of the most rewarding parts of the hobby!