



The Philately Fun Times

The Columbia Philatelic Society
February 2020

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

Next Meeting

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

6:00 Pre-meeting buying, selling, and socializing

6:30 Business meeting and program start

The program this month is:

Modern U.S. Official Stamps

Our president, **David Durbin**, will be delivering the program which includes an exhibit of these unusual stamps. Should be interesting! I recall that another member of our club, **Rich Grant**, actively collected this series of stamps.



Last Time

We got to see an amazing variety of "Show and Tell" items from our members. To mention just a few, **Denny Donnell** brought a collection of various revenue stamps issued by the State of Missouri, **Dave Benish** had some autographed covers, and **Don Barnett** showed us his collection of single stamps from each country that he's working on. Several other fun ones. Thanks to all who brought something to share.



A Fancy Cancel

2020 Officers

President/Librarian/APS: **David Durbin**
Vice President: **Bruce Taylor**
Treasurer: **John Marquardt**
Newsletter: **Dave Benish**
Webmaster: **Rebecca DeCourley**

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2020 Programs

Feb: Modern U.S. Officials (**David Durbin**)
Mar: Stamp Bingo (**Dave Benish**)
Apr: Spring Auction
May: Outside Program (**TBA**)
Jun: Ice Cream Social/Triva (**John M.**)
Jul: Club Member Program (**TBA**)
Aug: Fall Auction
Sep: Clothesline Exhibits
Oct: Columbian \$/Club Benefit Auctions
Nov: APS Program/Elections
Dec: Christmas Party

Club Dues

If you missed paying the annual dues last month, **John Marquardt** will be happy to accept your \$10 at the meeting, or you can mail them to him at 609 Woodridge, Columbia, MO 65201.

"H" Is For Handstamp

Continuing our journey into the website

alphabetilately.org

we'll take a look at Handstamps.

Quoting from the article,

"A **Handstamp** is "a postal marking applied by hand with a predefined marking device," usually using an inkpad and stamping device, whether as a cancellation, postmark, routing mark, or other processing notice (e.g., the Pointing Hand, "Return to Sender", "Received Without Contents", etc.).

Rare today, they were common and varied in the early days of our postal service, and their collection and study are popular, both among Postal Historians and general collectors. Important collections have been assembled based on single types of handstamps, such as Killers, Pointing Hands, CDS's (Circular Date Stamps), Backstamps, Special Service Markings, Fancy Cancels, etc.

But most of the ones we see today are machine cancels, applied by high-speed automated sorting and cancelling equipment. Most hand cancels date from the years before 1890, though you can still get one if you present your mail to a postal clerk and ask for it." Special cancellations have also been developed and used, such as below. And, of course, we're all familiar with First Day cancels.



St. Louis Stamp Expo

The show will be from March 27-29 at the Renaissance Hotel near the airport.

Stamp of the Month: Love Stamp (#1475)



The stamp shown above was the first Love stamp and was issued in late January 1973. Ostensibly, it was issued to send Valentine's cards and other mail in early February.

The USPS has issued Love stamps about this time every year since. They actually make a nice topical collection!

This Month's Winner

Congratulations to our webmaster, **Rebecca DeCourley** for being this month's random winner of \$30 Columbian with her newsletter!

Dave's Corner

I read an interesting article recently in a stamp magazine about "luck" and stamp collecting.

You may have experienced "luck" yourself in finding a "diamond in the rough", such as a valuable stamp in a mixture or a great cover in a huge stack of covers. However, it often takes knowledge, experience, and determination to find these gems. The more you know, the "luckier" you will be!

As Bruce Springsteen put it, "When it comes to luck, you make your own."

