

STAMP & TONGS



MARCH-APRIL 2020

DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VOL. 59, NO. 2

MEMBERS RESPOND TO 2020 DPCPS SURVEY

By Bill Laupus

Of the club's 46 members as of the end of last year, 22 responded to the 2020 survey sent out in January.

A question as to members' collecting interests drew 20 responses. Not surprisingly, all 20 said they collect U.S. stamps, either mint, used or both. Worldwide collecting is not dead among DPCPS members, as 13 indicated they collected the world mint, and 14 preferred the world used.

U.S. specialty collections included back-of-the-book, Civil War, plate number singles, computer vended stamps, Canal Zone and postal history.

In addition, 14 members wrote they collect specific countries or areas. The multiple responses covered all the continents except South America and obviously, Antarctica. All the largest European countries were represented except for Italy, though one respondent did report Italian colonies and Fiume. Also present were all the Scandinavian countries including Greenland and Iceland. The Republic of South Africa

was the only African country claimed; Israel, Thailand and Turkey were the Asian representatives. Both Australia and New Zealand rounded out the list.



Australia Post issued in February a booklet of five A\$1.10 stamps with A\$2.00 of the A\$5.50 purchase price going to aid communities affected by the worst bush fire season in decades. By the time the fires subsided, 72,000 square miles were burned, with over 5,900 buildings destroyed, at least 34 people killed and an estimated one billion animals perishing.

Members' topical collections included U.S. presidents, coats of arms, flags, military uniforms, Olympics, Pope John Paul II, railroads, and errors on stamps.

As to presenting a program, 13 members indicated they were willing to tell about their collections.

Suggestions for future programs included U.S. postal history, quizzes, hobby trends, how to care for and value a collection, how to sell on eBay, stamp history plus issues of specific countries, among them Belgian Congo and Cape of Good Hope. Due to the survey, the latter two countries were scheduled as programs.

The overwhelming number of members indicated they would like to see the quarterly auctions continue, but the majority indicated they would prefer programs be presented at meetings before Jack Urish's collection drawings.

Members' suggestions as to club activities are always welcome. Contact a club officer or director with yours!

These are responses to selected questions on the 2020 DPCPS survey...

Collect U.S.?	mint: 20	used: 17	pre 1955: 18	post 1955: 17
Collect worldwide?	mint: 13	used: 14	pre 1955: 13	post 1955: 11
	Yes	No	NR*	
Are you willing to share your interest with club members?	21	1	-	
Are you willing to present a program?	13	-	-	
Would you like to see quarterly auctions continue?	20	2	-	
Should all programs be presented before Jack's auctions?	12	6	4	

*Neutral or no response

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Self-Adhesives Can Be Removed From Mail! Page 3

DEPARTMENTS:

Editor's Musings Page 2 President's Corner Page 2

Meeting Minutes Page 4 Upcoming Events Page 2

2020 U.S. New Issues CalendarPage 4



EDITOR'S MUSINGS

BY ARTHUR VON REYN

As I mentioned in my missive in the last newsletter, I am really into postally used stamps. The major reason is older stamps are a whole lot more affordable. However, collecting only used can be a real challenge for modern day stamps as well as 20th century emissions from the former Communist block and the then newly independent African nations, if one desires nice circular dated cancels, the quest often increases manifold.

My focus remains on the U.S. and Western Europe, but I have never shied away from acquiring postally used copies from countries that flooded the philatelic market with canceled-to-order junk like East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Sierra Leone and even Liberia.

Unfortunately, advancing technology and greed has resulted in the cessation of my collecting postally used stamps from numerous countries that were formerly collectible. Spray cancellations like those used by the U.S., Canada, France and Sweden have made their used stamps too ugly for me to save; there's also the problem of self-adhesive stamps that won't soak. And too many postal administrations never realize that trying to make up for declining mail volumes with prolific topical issues aimed at collectors simply kills collector interest in their emissions.

Last August, Iceland's post office announced it was shutting down its philatelic bureau and may even quit issuing stamps after 2021 because it was too expensive to print them and it had enough on hand to last for years. With all the stamps the country issued since the turn of the century, it's not a surprise no one wants to collect them anymore!

There are too many stamps out there to collect, and even col-

lectors' long time solution to this reality—limiting one's interest to a single country—is too expensive unless one simply cuts off collecting stamps issued after a certain date.

As for me and many other collectors, there are so many stamps on the market, there's little incentive to acquire new issues.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY STAN BARTNIKOWSKI

First of all, thanks to Arthur von Reyn for accepting the challenge of producing our newsletter, and doing a fantastic job!

In the previous issue, Arthur described and illustrated the 2020 U.S. Stamp issuing program. One particular stamp, the \$7.75 Big Bend National Park Priority Mail stamp, evoked memories of my visits to Big Bend National Park, the first one Memorial Day weekend 1969. I took my family there several times in the 1990s before the digital camera age. I have photos somewhere but wasn't able to find them. It's a spectacular place and I encourage everyone to visit it.

A new issue from Canada depicts another favorite place of mine: the Cabot Trail on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. I drove this road with my mom and sisters in the summer of 1965 in my father's, and later my, 1964 Chevrolet Impala. A beautiful ride, with mountains on one side and the sea on the other.



Last month, we enjoyed Jack Urish's presentation of his Belgian Congo collection. This month, Ben Schkolne will present his Cape of Good Hope collection. Next month I'll show pages from my Poland collection. I encourage y'all to find a country or topic in your collection, select pages from it, and present them to the club. I believe we will all benefit from your insight, and we will be on the lookout for items that you may want for your collection.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 11** **DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *Stamps and History of The Cape of Good Hope* by Ben Schkolne.
- March 13-14** **DALLAS TSDA**, Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX 75080 (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4).
- March 13-14** **GREATER DALLAS POSTCARD AND PAPER SHOW**, Comfort Inn and Suites Plano East, 700 Central Pkwy E., Plano, TX. 75074 (Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-4). \$4 Admission.
- March 25** **DPCPS MEETING**, *The story behind the stamps, Letter J*, presented by Stan Bartnikowski, Stuart Barzune, Jack Urish, George Clayton, Bill Laupus and others.
- April 8** **DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *Stamps and History of Poland* by Stan Bartnikowski.
- April 22** **DPCPS MEETING**, *The story behind the stamps, Letter K*. Volunteers are needed!

STAMP & TONGS

Newsletter of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society

Arthur von Reyn, Editor (apvr@msn.com)

Stamp and Tongs is published bimonthly by the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society or its officers.

2020 DPCPS OFFICERS

President – Stan Bartnikowski (stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com)

Vice-President – Bill Laupus (walsr4005@juno.com)

Secretary – Joe Baker (jebaker350@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer – Rod Gabel (gabelassoc@sbcglobal.net)

President Emeritus – Geoff Owens

DPCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Barzune • Ben Schkolne • George Clayton

Membership in the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society is available to all persons of good character who are interested in philately. Dues are \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, contact: (972) 956-6840 or: apvr@msn.com. For a membership application write to: Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, c/o Joseph E. Baker, 1623 Lake Travis Dr., Allen, TX 75002.

Find us online at:

STAMPS.ORG/DALLAS



Instagram [DALLAS STAMP](https://www.instagram.com/DALLASSTAMP)



@DALLAS STAMP

SELF-ADHESIVE STAMPS CAN BE REMOVED FROM MAIL!

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Collectors of used U.S. self-adhesive stamps have likely heard of Pure Citrus®, an aerosol air freshener. I have used it several years now for philatelic purposes, and having read about it again in the most recent Mid-Cities Stamp Club newsletter, thought it might be beneficial to share my own experiences with Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society members.

First off, Pure Citrus® does indeed allow nearly all self-adhesive stamps to be peeled from envelopes. The big exception I have found thus far is some Brazilian self-adhesive commemoratives that seem to have some sort of special adhesive for tropical climates that prevents their removal. It's also very tricky to remove stamps placed on plastic, such as the Priority Mail padded envelopes the U.S. Postal Service gives away.

Most postal administrations still require that the back of their self-adhesive stamps first be coated with a protective layer similar to moisture activated gum—the kind used since 1840. Then the self-adhesive gum is applied over that. Such self-adhesive stamps can be separated by soaking, although the process may take longer and require warmer water.

The U.S. Postal Service has not required its printing contractors to apply a protective layer of gum to new stamps since around 2007. Within a few years, soakable U.S. stamps became a distant memory for collectors, with an occasional exception like the 2016 National Park issue.

Collectors of U.S. stamps who remove self-adhesive stamps from mailings overwhelmingly choose

Pure Citrus®. It can also be used on some foreign self-adhesive stamps that are otherwise non-soakable, mostly notably definitive issues of Great Britain and France.

Unfortunately, use of this product can ruin stamps! If the spray comes in contact with the spray cancellation ink now used on U.S. stamps, the cancellation ink will become wet and may smudge, so only light application of the product is recommended. It can ruin stamps that are not printed by traditional methods, such as ink-jet personalized stamps of foreign countries or those computer generated labels sold by Stamps.com, Neopost and so forth.

On the positive side, since Pure Citrus® is an air freshener that isn't petroleum based, it is safe for indoor use. I highly recommend using it by an open window if there are more than a couple of stamps that need removal. One can take only so much of the otherwise pleasant odor.

To remove a stamp using Pure Citrus®, spray the back of the envelope it is adhered to and let it rest a couple of minutes. Then, using tongs, peel the stamp off the front side of the envelope. This method does not work for stamps placed on plastic. On those, it is necessary to spray the front, then slowly pull the stamp off ever so slowly, spraying on more product during the process.

Once a stamp has been peeled off, unfailingly a tacky adhesive remains on its back. There are now two options. The first is easy, set the stamp aside and once the spray has dissipated, place it on some sort of alternative backing paper. The other option is considerably more complicated—trying to remove the remaining gum from the back of the stamp.

I prefer to remove the leftover adhesive for two reasons, putting the stamp on backing paper increases the thickness when mounting in an album; and although the Postal Service claims



Using Pure Citrus® to remove computer generated labels from mail may result in smudging, depending upon whether the indicia portion was laser or ink-jet printed.

today's self-adhesive gum is much more stable than that used on the ill-fated 1974 Dove Weather Vane Christmas stamp, I rather not take chances that self-adhesive stamps will discolor from deteriorating gum.

My method for removing the remaining adhesive is: (1) place the stamp face down on a piece of clean paper, (2) then with a couple of strokes, scrape the adhesive off the back of the stamp using an expired credit or stout gift card. (3) If there is still some residue, dampen a tissue with more of the spray and then rub off the remainder. I have heard of some collectors using talcum powder to remove remaining residue, but have never attempted that method.

During the entire removal process, avoid contacting or rubbing the printed side, as this could damage to the printed image. A stamp is safe to handle normally once the product has completely dissipated. I usually wait an hour or more before handling stamps so processed.

The manufacturer, who is based on Cleburne, Texas, sells other citrus scents, but I have never tried them. Likewise, I haven't used similar products offered by competitors as this product seems to be the one of choice among collectors. The manufacturer warns not to apply Pure Citrus® to any part of the body as doing so could cause severe burns to skin!

Home Depot currently sells Pure Citrus® for \$4.97 a can, plus tax. According to the internet, it is also sold by Walmart for about dollar cheaper, though I have never bought any from them.

The easiest route for collectors to save used self-adhesive remains to just cut around them and mount in an album. But for those who want a traditional presentation of their used stamp collection, this product seems to be the best alternative currently available.



Ink spray cancellations on U.S. stamps may run if too much Pure Citrus® is used to remove stamps from envelopes.

MEETING MINUTES

BY JOE BAKER

January 8th, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 22 members and one guest were present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer – Treasurer's made and sent under separate cover.

Program VP – Bill Laupus will send out a survey to determine what programs the membership is interested in having this year.

Editor – The October newsletter was published on October 20th.

Membership – The club membership are due. 23 members have paid their club dues for 2020.

Old Business – The club has purchased a Scott classic catalogue this year for the membership use. The club still has a few shirt with the club emblem for sale.

New Business – The membership approved the slate of officers for next year
President: Stan Bartnikowski
Vice-President: Bill Laupus
Secretary: Joe Baker
Treasurer: Rod Gable

The election of officers was held at the Christmas Dinner December 11. The price of stamps from Jack's albums increased from 17% to 18%. There was an Executive Board meeting this evening prior to the regular meeting.

Announcements – Paul Witthoef returned the Mid-Cities Stamp Expo club single frame exhibit pages. The club received a nice Christmas card signed by APS officers.

Trivia/Show & Tell – None.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – The album drawings were held.

Program – The club quarterly auction was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

January 22nd, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 21 members were present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Minutes of the previous

meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer – None due at this time.

Program VP – Bill sent out a survey to determine what programs the membership is interested in having this year. He will tabulate the results and send them out to membership.

Editor – Chris Titus can no longer publish newsletter due to other commitments.

Membership – The club membership are due. 23 members have paid their club dues for 2020.

Old Business – Paul Witthoef needs one page exhibits for June show in Oklahoma City.

New Business – None

Announcements – Sam Phillippi is seeking the return of borrowed stamp album.

Trivia/Show & Tell – None.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – The album drawings were held.

Program – Discussion about what type of programs the membership is interested in having. Jack Urish will present a program about the Belgium Congo at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28p.m.

February 12th, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 25 members and one guest were present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer – Treasurer's made and sent under separate cover.

Program VP – Bill discussed the results of the survey sent out to determine what programs the membership is interested in having.

Editor – Need a replacement to publish newsletter. Bill Laupus suggested a committee approach to publishing the newsletter. This is going to be a problem going forward due to lack of publishing skills needed. A suggestion was made to ask Chris if he would continue publishing the newsletter for payment by the club.

Membership – The club membership

are due. 32 members have paid their club dues for 2020.

Old Business – Paul Witthoef needs one page exhibits for June show in Oklahoma City.

New Business – None

Announcements – None.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Stuart Barzune passed around an 1858 embossed envelope that departed from N.Y., N.Y. Nov. 17 and arrived at Key West, FL. Dec. 14. Perry Denton passed a modern U.S. color error he discovered in a collection he purchased. Paul Witthoef circulated a DDR souvenir sheet printed on un-gummed synthetic fabric in Feb. 1963. It is listed under a foot note in the Scott Catalogue and as Block 18 in the Michel Germany Catalogue DDR section.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – The album drawings were held.

Program – Jack Urish presented a very interesting program about the creation of Congo Free State by King Leopold II, King of Belgium, and his exploitation of the local natives and resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

2020 U.S. NEW ISSUES CALENDAR

This is a list of U.S. new issues expected to debut in the next few months. Items are forever stamps with the current value in parenthesis, unless otherwise noted.

- 3/4/2020 **ARNOLD PALMER** (55¢) commemorative stamp. Orlando, FL 32862.
- 3/15/2020 **MAINE STATEHOOD** (55¢) commemorative stamp. August, ME 04330.
- 4/2/2020 **CONTEMPORARY BOUTONNIERE** (55¢) special stamp. Crestwood, KY 40014.
- 4/2/2020 **GARDEN CORSAGE** (70¢) two-ounce special stamp. Crestwood, KY 40014.
- 4/18/2020 **EARTH DAY** (55¢) commemorative stamp. Denver, CO.
- 4/24/2020 **GLOBAL CHRYSANTHEMUM** (\$1.20) international mail stamp. Burlingame, CA.
- 5/13/2020 **AMERICAN GARDENS** (55¢) commemorative stamps, 10 designs. Wintertur, DE.
- 5/21/2020 **VOICES OF HARLEM RENAISSANCE** (55¢) commemorative stamps, four designs. New York, NY.
- June ? **ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS** (55¢) commemorative stamps, 5 designs. First day location to be announced.
- June ? **HIP HOP** (55¢) commemorative stamps, 5 designs. First day location to be announced.