

STAMP & TONGS



MARCH-APRIL 2021

DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VOL. 60, NO. 2

SEVEN MORE U.S. STAMP ISSUES ON THE WAY

By Arthur P. von Reyn

As expected, more additions to the 2021 U.S. stamp program have been announced since an article on the subject appeared in the January-February edition of *Stamp and Tongs*. There have been 32 more stamps added since then, including two issues with 10 different designs—Star Wars Droids and Sunscapes.

In addition to seven more issues yet to come, one new stamp not previously reported herein is already on sale, a Castillo de San Marcos priority mail stamp, denominated \$7.95 and issued January 24 for the latest rate increase. There is still no word about any end-of-the year holiday adhesives.

Except for a new three-ounce stamp and a stamped card, all the other items are forever stamps with a current value of 55¢ per stamp. As always, stamp designs are preliminary and subject to change. The following commentary is based on USPS press releases announcing these issues.

Star Wars Droids

The first characters fans meet in the first Star Wars film, *Star Wars: A New Hope*, are droids—namely C-3PO and R2-D2—and droids have continued to play pivotal roles throughout the “Star Wars” galaxy.



A Star Wars pane of 20 stamps due out sometime in the spring will feature 10 different designs.

Representing more than four decades of films, the droids featured in this pane of 20 stamps are IG-11, R2-D2, K-2SO, D-O, L3-37, BB-8, C-3PO, a GNK (or Gonk) power droid, 2-1B surgical droid and C1-10P, commonly known as “Chopper.” The characters are shown against backgrounds representing settings of memorable adventures. The selvaqe features a passageway

from the floating Cloud City above the planet Bespin, introduced in *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. Lucasfilm, the

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DALLAS TSDA HAS NEW LOCATION

The Texas Stamp Dealers Association has found a new location in Richardson for the bourse it sponsors four times annually.

The event, the first one to be held April 9-10, will be held in the Bluebonnet Room of the DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 North Central Expressway. The hotel is located at the southwest corner of the freeway at Campbell Road, about 1½ miles north of the old location at the Richardson Civic Center.

Dates for this and other 2021 area stamp shows and bourses can be found on the dallasstamps.org home page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, all DPCPS meetings at the Edgemere Retirement Community have been canceled until further notice. Meetings will be held instead on the internet. In the event meetings at the Edgemere or somewhere else resume before the May-June edition of *Stamp and Tongs*, members will receive either an email or postcard notice. Regular DPCPS meetings are called to order at 7:30 p.m., but most members arrive by 7:00 p.m. for socializing and trading.

- March 10** DPCPS INTERNET MEETING, Program: *Philatelic Phollies*, presented by Geoff Owens.
- March 24** DPCPS INTERNET MEETING, Program: *Stamps of USA Presidents*, presented by various members
- April 7** DPCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTERNET MEETING. Call to order 7:00 p.m.
- April 9-10** DALLAS TSDA, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 North Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75081. (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4).
- April 14** DPCPS INTERNET MEETING, Program: *The World's Salute to the Olympics*, presented by Bill Laupus.
- April 28** DPCPS INTERNET MEETING, Program: *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter O*, presented by various members.
- May 12** DPCPS INTERNET MEETING, Program: Quarterly Auction
- May 26** DPCPS INTERNET MEETING, Program: to be determined.

STAMP & TONGS
Newsletter of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society
Arthur von Reyn, Editor (apvr@msn.com)

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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 Rick Hosler, 4601 S. Versailles Ave., Dallas, TX 75209.

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MARCH-APRIL 2021

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY STAN BARTNIKOWSKI



Well, it has been almost a year since the COVID-19 lockdown began. I thought I would have more time to work on my stamp collection, but I don't feel I have made much progress in sorting and mounting my accumulation. Partly, this is because I have found new areas to occupy my time:

Beethoven's 250th birth anniversary, Poland joint issues with other countries and, thanks to the club auctions, U.S. possessions.

I wasn't on top of the latest postal regulations when I dropped in a mailbox a club shirt addressed to one of our members. It was in a padded envelope with postage stamps applied. I was under the impression that a mail piece weighing less than 13 ounces could be placed in the mailstream without submission to a postal clerk. The envelope came back to me with the illustrated sticker slapped over the addressee's address. So, I had to take it to the post office and stand in line, so that the postal clerk could apply a "\$0.00" postage label and a tracking sticker over mine.



I was unaware that in 2019, the maximum weight was reduced from 13 to 10 ounces, with an additional 1/2" restriction in thickness. These limitations originated with the 1978-95 Unabomber incidents, where stamped packages with bombs were mailed.

Stay happy, safe, and healthy. Enjoy your stamps!



EDITOR'S MUSINGS

BY ARTHUR VON REYN

For those of you owning smart phones, consider checking out our dallasstamps.org website, which has been upgraded to make it "mobile friendly." The website is updated multiple times each month, so the latest meeting and area philatelic event schedule is always available.

The upgrade includes even more content at your fingertips. The "Links" page now features more than 400 philatelic links that include many postal administrations where stamps can be ordered online. Specialty philatelic society and general interest philatelic websites have been added. Many more sites deserving of inclusion are out there; members are invited to suggest additions.

For those who keep up with new U.S. stamps, the 2021 USPS stamp program is available under the "Resources" heading. Illustrations of all the new issues, if available, are present. News about the latest American stamps will continue to appear in this publication, but since the website is updated frequently, members can check there for the latest posts.

Did you know PDF editions of *Stamp and Tongs* over the past few years are bookmarked? When hovering over (or touching if using a tablet or smartphone) a website cited in an article, a little hand will pop up so you can immediately link to the website. Page jumps are also enabled, so selecting a "Continued on Page ..." mention will take you to the next page of an article.

THE BOGUS FAMINE RELIEF STAMPS OF AZERBAIJAN

By Geoff Owens

Last year, I came across some Azerbaijani stamps I had never seen before. Since my knowledge of Azerbaijan philately is close to nil, I pulled out my trusty Scott. But there is no mention of them at all. What could they be? Perhaps fiscal stamps?

I consulted my friend Google and after several false starts I found a blog written by a gentleman named Jim Jackson. It turns out these stamps are part of a set of six Famine Relief bogus stamps issued in 1923 by someone in Udine, Italy. They had no postal or official validity whatsoever.

Bizarrely, someone saw an opportunity and a set of forgeries was produced, probably in Belgium. It appears at least one or more other forgers copied the original bogus set as well. All the knockoffs are noticeably cruder than the originals, but still, fakes of bogus stamps. What is the world coming to?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The low value of the set is shown in the Focus on Forgeries book by Varro E. Tyler, the last edition of which was published by Linn's in 2000. The images shown here are from the stampforgeries.com website that is now a go-to internet source for research on stamp forgeries. Note that the original bogus stamps are perforated 11 only; a stamp is automatically a forgery if it is imperforate, perforated 11½, or is roughly perforated.

FOR FURTHER READING:

<https://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.com/2018/01/azerbaijan-forgeries-closer-look.html>

<http://stampforgeries.com/forged-stamps-of-azerbaijan-unissued/>



HALF DOZEN MORE U.S. ISSUES ON THE WAY

Continued from page 1

studio that created the “Star Wars” franchise, is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021. Greg Breeding was the designer of the stamps and pane. William Gicker was the art director.

Castillo de San Marcos

Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Florida, is the oldest masonry fortification in the United States.

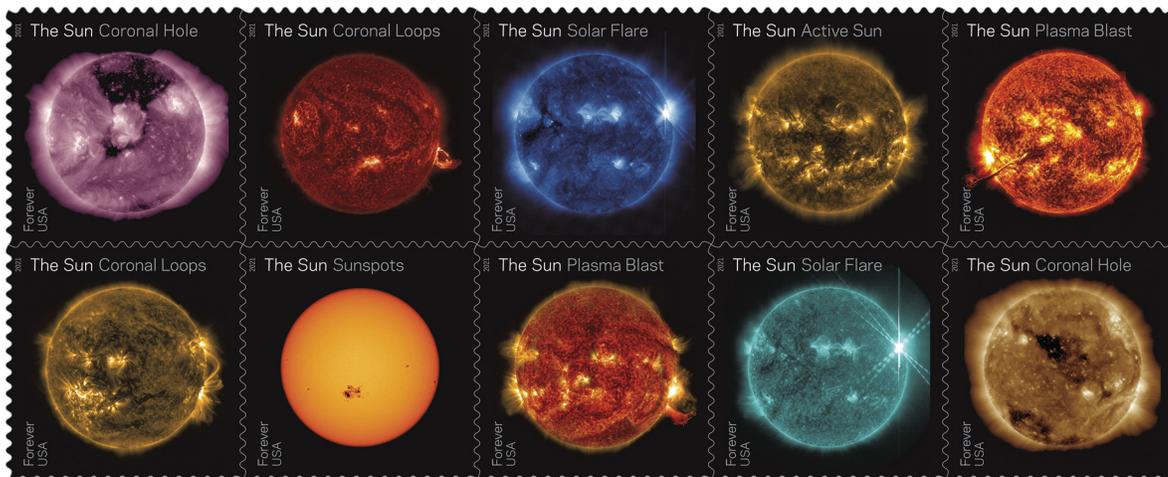
The stamp “features a digital illustration of the fortress based on a contemporary photograph. With a view toward the northeast corner of the fortress, the artwork captures it in the golden glow of sunrise over Matanzas Bay. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with art created by Chicago-based graphic illustrator Dan Cosgrove.” The stamp is issued in panes of four.

Yogi Berra

Honoring Yogi Berra (1925-2015), this stamp salutes one of the best and most celebrated baseball players of his era, winning a record 10 World Series with the New York Yankees. The stamp art is an original digital portrait of Berra dressed in his Yankees cap, pinstripes and catcher’s chest protector. Considered the best catcher in the American League in the 1950s, he was also a feared hitter, and in 1972 was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Antonio Alcalá was the art director and stamp designer. Charles Chaisson was the artist. The “Yogi Berra” lettering was created by Michael Doret. The stamp comes in a pane of 20.

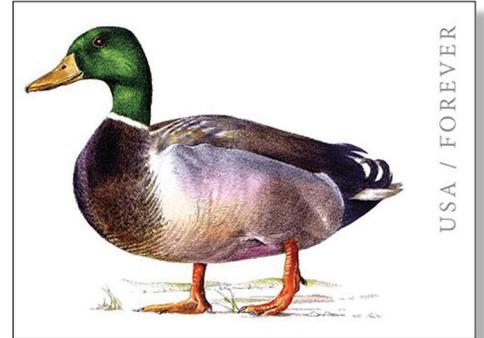
Sun Science

These 10 new stamps in a pane of 20 highlight stunning images



of the sun that celebrate the science behind the ongoing exploration of our nearest star. The striking colors do not represent the actual colors of the sun as perceived by human eyesight.

Instead, each image is colorized by NASA according to different wavelengths that reveal or highlight specific features of the sun’s activity. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamps with digital images from NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory, a spacecraft launched in February 2010 to keep constant watch on the sun from geosynchronous orbit over the craft’s ground station in New Mexico.



Mallard

This new stamped card for 2021 features an illustration of a mallard drake (*Anas platyrhynchos*) from preexisting artwork by illustrator and designer Dugald Stermer (1936-2011). The full-body, left-facing profile was created in pencil and watercolor. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamped card.

Ursula K. Le Guin

The 33rd stamp in the Literary Arts series honors Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-2018), who expanded the scope of literature through novels and short stories that increased critical and popular appreciation of science fiction and fantasy. The three-ounce (95¢) stamp features a portrait of Le Guin based on a 2006 photograph. The background shows a scene from her landmark 1969 novel “The Left Hand of Darkness,” in which an envoy from Earth named Genly Ai escapes from a prison camp across the wintry planet of Gethen with Estraven, a disgraced Gethenian politician. The artist for this stamp was Donato Giancola. The art



director was Antonio Alcalá. The stamp will be available in a pane of 20.

Emilio Sanchez

The art of Emilio Sanchez (1921-1999) is celebrated with four new stamps featuring his colorful architectural lithographs and paintings: *Los Toldos* (1973), *Ty’s Place* (1976), *En el Souk* (1972) and

Untitled (Ventanita entreabierta)(1981). Sanchez explored the effects of light and shadow to emphasize the abstract geometry of his subjects. His artwork encompasses his Cuban heritage as well as his long life in New York City. Antonio Alcalá served as art director and designer for this pane of 20 stamps.

Tap Dance

Celebrating tap dancing as a uniquely American contribution to world dance, these five stamps feature photographs of different tap dancers performing against brightly colored backgrounds that highlight their form and movement. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with



photographs by Matthew Murphy. The stamps will be sold in panes of 20.

No specific issue dates have yet been announced for this flurry of additional stamps, though the Star War Droids are said to be coming to post offices in the spring. The entire 2021 U.S. stamp program with high resolution images is available in the “resources” area of the

dallasstamps.org website and is updated regularly. Page 12 of this newsletter has a recap of U.S. new issues scheduled to appear over the next few months along with first days and debut cities, if known.

FOR FURTHER READING

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2021/0105-usps-will-release-three-new-stamps-as-part-of-2021-price-change.htm>

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2021/0115-usps-announces-several-additional-stamps-to-be-issued-in-2021.htm>

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2021/0126-new-star-wars-stamps-coming-this-spring.htm>

THE LAST POSTAGE STAMP ISSUES OF ICELAND

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Iceland quit issuing new postage stamps on October 29 of last year, as was widely reported in the philatelic media and in this publication.

However, the country’s post office continues to sell stamps because there are so many old ones on hand.

Like many countries these days, Iceland tried to cash in on the collector market by issuing more and more stamps every year, the object being to milk as much money as possible from collectors. In the end, this tactic apparently drove away collectors, and philatelic income dropped.

According to Iceland Post, the current supply of stamps is enough to last for years. On their website, offerings include stamps that are over 10 years old.

So far, Iceland is the only postal administration to give up on stamps. Many others continue to pump out as many stamps as they think the philatelic market will bear; likewise, philatelic agents haven’t abandoned the tradition of producing and promoting topical issues that will never see the light of day in any post office of the supposed issuing country, except for maybe the philatelic bureau!

LETTER TOUCHES UPON FATE OF GERMAN POWS

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Collecting old covers, researching their origins, transit routes and postal rates is an engrossing facet of philately, but occasionally one comes across a bonus—the original correspondence included inside.

Although I have numerous German covers from the immediate post World War II period and have previously written about them in this newsletter, so far I have only come across one with a letter enclosed.

For almost a year after World War II ended, German civilians were, in most instances, prohibited from sending mail out of the country.

In a speech on May 8, 1945, British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery described the situation that Germany faced:

“Displaced Persons were roaming about the country, often looting as they went. Transportation and communication services had ceased to function. Agriculture and industry were largely at a standstill. Food was scarce and there was a serious risk of famine and disease during the coming months. And to crown it all there was no central government in being, and the machinery whereby a central government could function no longer existed.”

With the lifting of the ban on international correspondence in March of 1946, Germans started seeking charity.

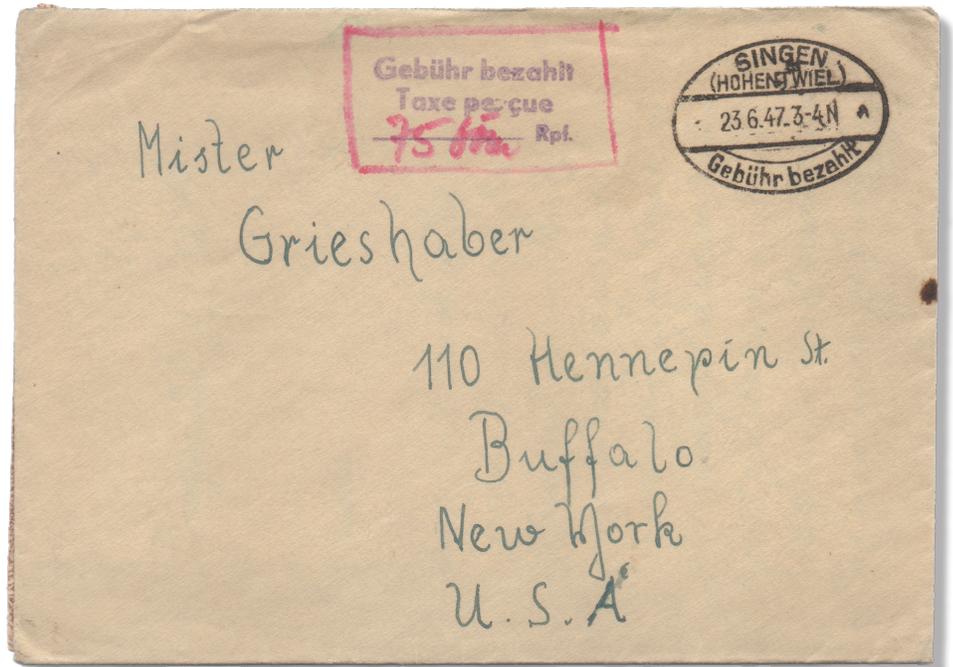
Many remembered they had relatives who emigrated to the United States years before, even if no correspondence had taken place for decades. Soon letters from the forgotten relatives in Germany began arriving in the mailboxes of these American citizens.

Initially, correspondence were limited to one page and subject to censorship. The letter within the cover I possess is written on both sides of yellow ruled paper. The cover was sent to a cousin living in Buffalo, New York. Here is the content, as best I can translate it from the German cursive:

Singen, June 22, 1947

Dear Relative,

Let's try to get back in touch. After the first world war, I exchanged letters with Aunt Viktoria for a long town, until one day the exchange ended. We must assume that uncle and aunt have blessed the temporal, since 20 years have passed and Aunt [Viktoria] was already old at that time. In the meantime, a lot of things have happened and changed.



This cover, previously illustrated in the May-June 2020 issue of *Stamp and Tongs*, actually contained the original correspondence, a one page letter requesting assistance for a cousin's son being held as a prisoner of war in France. Singen is located near the German border with Switzerland.

May I ask you, my dear relatives, whether my Aunt [Viktoria] or my Uncle Wilhelm are still living in the new world? I don't want to write much about our fate for today. We have had to and still have to experience quite a lot of difficult and sad things. My young son Helmut is still in prisoner of war, and for what?

Only because at the age of 17½ he was forced into the damn military service and guilt. Eight months ago, I also had to tell him about the death of his good father. You can't imagine what that means. I don't want to deal with it for today, only I would like to ask you to do something for our Helmut, that means of course, only if you can. His address is: Prisoner of War Helmut Götsch, Prisoner Number 1540045 (1a) Camp 15 B, Lens-Pas-de-Calais, France. I have to explain to you who I am. I am the daughter of Friedrich Speck von Zimmerholz and was married in Singen. My marriage was a rarely happy, unfortunately now I am a widow. My father was a brother of Aunt Viktoria, Uncle Wilhelm and Aunt Oliva and Ursula. If it is possible for you to do anything for my poor Helmut, please do it for God's sake; I would be grateful from my heart. In the hope of getting a response from you, I send you all warm greetings.

Your cousin, Berka Götsch, born Spech. Although the Geneva Convention of

1929 required that prisoners of war (POW) be returned to their homeland as soon as possible after the conclusion of hostilities, this did not happen with German POWs, who were reclassified as “disarmed enemy forces.” Rather than making Germany pay reparations as it did after World War I, German POWs were used as forced labor. The French government wanted two million POWs to help rebuild France, but eventually received one million. They were shipped there in cattle cars from POW camps in Germany. At stops during their transport, they were often spat upon or beaten up. Many wound up clearing land mines, or in mining or agriculture. Lens-Pas-de-Calais, where Helmut Götsch was held, was a coal mining town.

Like Germany, conditions in France were catastrophic with a scarcity of food and clothing. The situation became worse, with the winter of 1946-47 being one of the harshest of the 20th century. Being low on the value chain, an estimated 40,000 German POWs perished in France.

The United States finally began to apply intensive pressure on France to release its POWs, who would be needed to help rebuild western Germany as a bulwark in the looming Cold War with the Soviet Union. On March 13, 1947, France announced

Continued on Page 12

Lingen 22. II. 1947.

Liebe Verwandte!

Will mal versuchen, mit Euch in Verbindung zu kommen. Nach dem ersten Weltkriege hat Tante Viktoria längere Zeit mit mir in Briefwechsel gestanden, bis dann einer Tages jode Post ausblieb. Wir müssen annehmen, das Onkel u Tante bereits das Zeitliche geregnet haben, denn es sind nun seither 20 Jahre verflissen u Tante war damals schon betagt. In der Zwischenzeit hat sich Vieles zugetragen und auch geändert. Darf ich Euch meine Lieben Verwandten darum bitten, mir mitzuteilen, ob drüber in der neuen Welt, noch eine Tante, oder vielleicht Onkel Wilhelm noch lebt? Über unser Schicksal will ich für heute nicht viel schreiben. Wir mußten und müssen noch heute recht viel Schweres u Trauriges erleben. So ist mein jüngster Sohn Helmut immer noch in Gefangenschaft, und wofür? Nur dafür das er mit 17 1/2 Jahren schon zu einer verdammten Pflicht und Schuldigkeit gezwängt wurde. Es ist himmelschreiend, nur daran denken zu müssen. Vor acht Monaten mußte ich ihm auch noch den Tod seines guten Vaters in die Gefangenschaft mitteilen. Ihr könnt Euch

was das heißt, nicht weiter
 möchte ich Euch
 etwas zu tun,
 wenn es Euch
 Kriegsgefangener
 ungenen Nummer
 B
 nreich.
 noch erklären,
 chter von
 erhalt u habe
 t u meine Ehe
 leider jetzt Witwe
 oder von Tante
 Tante Olive
 glich sein,
 nen Helmut
 offes Willen
 dankbar dafür,
 Euch ein
 sendet
 se.
 geb. Speck.

" Frau Berta Götsch Wm. in (17 b) Lingen
 a. H. Heinrich Weber Siedl. 98. (fr. Zone.)

CANCELLING STAMPS APPEARS TO BE PASSÉ

By Arthur P. von Reyn

With the demise of using the post for most personal communications, postage stamps are rarely seen on incoming mail these days unless they are those stamps used for bulk rate or non-profit mailings. The exception is the mail of stamp collectors who frequently buy or trade stamps. Most philatelic purchases by mail order or via the internet are still shipped by the U.S. Postal Service with postage being paid using stamps. However, an ever increasing number envelopes and parcels I receive seem to arrive with the stamps uncanceled.

Stamp cancellation, or rather the lack thereof, was the subject of several "Letters to the Editor" that appeared in the February 2021 edition of *The American Philatelist*. Letter writer Joseph Scafetta, Jr. of Falls Church, Virginia, chronicled how much cancelled and uncanceled postage stamps he received during the entire "dreaded year" of 2020. He wrote:

In 2020, which was a leap year, there were 366 days including 52 Sundays and 10 federal holidays on which mail was not delivered, leaving 304 days for the

actual receipt of mail. I received stamped mail on 115 of those 304 days. The total value of the stamps on that mail was \$207.02 of which \$33.24 or 16% of the stamps were not cancelled. I noticed that the uncanceled stamps were usually, but not always, on mail where multiple stamps were applied, so that some stamps were placed either too far to the left or too far below the normal extent of the average cancel.

I have no inclination to tally how much stamped mail I receive uncanceled, but it is considerable. Shown accompanying this article are a few of the uncanceled items I have received so far in 2021.

As Mr. Scafetta observed, mailings with multiple stamps, as dealers typically use from the stocks of old mint stamps bought at a discount, almost always arrive with many, if not all stamps uncanceled.

I have also observed that on philatelic orders from foreign sources, particularly Canada and Great Britain, the letters or parcels franked with stamps are almost never cancelled. One wonders whether those postal administrations don't bother with cancelling mail to foreign destinations because the chance of the stamps

being recycled for reuse is so low!

The greatest value of uncanceled postage I have received on a single mailing so far this year is \$8.45 used for an APS circuit forwarded to me. I am on three APS circuits and while I don't receive too many franked with stamps unless there are sent directly from the APS (shame on collectors who are too lazy to use stamps for circuits), those that are stamped too often arrive plastered with uncanceled stamps.

When I take circuits to the post office to forward on to the next recipient, I notice that some clerks toss the box into the carts behind them without bothering to cancel the stamps. It seems to be a 50-50 shot at whether the stamps get cancelled or not. Apparently when a uncanceled, stamped parcel lands in that cart, that's the way it's going to be delivered to the addressee.

These days mail bearing stamps is a rarity unless it's a bulk mail or non-profit coil. So few stamps are being postally used these days, despite the prodigious output of commemorative issues, maybe the USPS feels reigning in the problem of uncanceled stamps, many of which end up being reused, is not cost effective.



Most stamped mail the author receives for philatelic purchases from Canada arrives with uncanceled stamps, like the letter at left. The letter above is actually cancelled twice, perhaps because there's just one stamp used instead of the multiple older issues stamp dealers typically use because they buy old mint stamps at a discount.

Both the covers shown on this page arrived within a few weeks of each other. The one at right was a candidate for hand cancellation. The author has ordered from this dealer several times and has never received an order with the stamps cancelled. The item below should have received a spray cancel as it was sent in a standard 6" x 9" envelope. As usual, items franked with multiple stamps don't seem to get much attention even though they have the phosphor coated stamps. Anyway, the stamps are a great start to a collection of used but uncanceled Celebrate the Century stamps from two decades ago!



THE BACKSTAMPS OF ERRINGTON & MARTIN

By Arthur P. von Reyn

One never knows when an item in one of Jack Urish's albums that will open up another philatelic road to travel.

Shown below is five-centavo stamp of the numeral types sold in Mexican post offices from 1886 until about 1895. Those



who collect Mexico know nicely centered copies with perforations on all sides are a bit difficult to find. But what sets this particular copy apart is a

This attractive copy of a Mexican numeral stamp has a surprise on the backside.

rubber stamped marking on the back—what

appears to be an assurance from the seller that the stamp is genuine.

I won't attempt here to debate the practice of rubber stamping or writing on the back of stamps. But the marking did raise the question, "Who was Errington & Martin" and are they still around?

Since the stamp was mounted in *The Ideal Stamp Album* published by Stanley Gibbons, it's possible the album emigrated to the United States from the United Kingdom, meaning Errington & Martin might have been a British stamp house. An internet search proved the latter assumption to be correct.

But I was wrong in thinking that the marking was an assurance this particular stamp was genuine.

An internet blog revealed that Errington

& Martin operated in London for almost 40 years and used the back of stamps to advertise its wares.

Apparently it was their practice to rubber stamp the back of damaged stamps or ones that had the minimum catalogue value of a hundred or more years ago—which was one pence. A variety of different rubber stamps were used.



British stamp dealer Errington and Martin used the back of damaged or what at the time were cheap stamps for advertising its wares, which included approvals, philatelic accessories and albums.

An article on unofficial backstamped markings on stamps that appeared in the March 2006 issue of the *American Philatelist*, noted that "Errington & Martin is a stamp company that was established in England in 1880. The firm specialized in importing stamps and, later, in selling approvals worldwide. Part of the firm's focus was that all stamps sold by Errington & Martin were guaranteed genuine. Indeed, the company was known for its efforts at battling forgeries throughout the first half of the twentieth century."

The company sold not only stamps and

philatelic accessories, but offered a line of stamp albums as well.

Errington & Martin was a partnership between Edgar Frank Errington and Benjamin Ernest Martin. The partnership was dissolved on December 23, 1919, and taken over by Martin. It was later bought by Oswald Marsh and the high quality albums that they sold were acquired by Dauwalders of Salisbury, which is still in operation but no longer sells the albums.

FOR FURTHER READING

<https://stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=15473>

IMPERFORATE PRESS SHEETS RETURN

By Arthur P. von Reyn

They're back... If you didn't read about it in *Linn's Stamp News*, then the 2021 Quarter 1 edition of the *USA Philatelic* catalogue published by the U.S. Postal Service has a small surprise. Among the new offerings are press sheets *without* die cuts.

Press sheets *with* die cuts have been sold to collectors since the mid-1990s, but only from mid-2012 to early 2016 were imperforate versions offered.

USPS senior public relations representative Roy Betts is quoted in *Linn's* as saying, "Our philatelic customers have been asking for some time for us to bring back uncut press sheets without die cuts.... We have decided to do this for 2021."

Listed in *USA Philatelic* as available in no die cut press sheets are the 55¢ Love, 55¢ August Wilson, 55¢ Chien-Shiung Wu and 55¢ Year of the Ox stamps. Appar-

ently, new imperforate press sheet sales will be limited to commemorative issues.

According to Betts, the imperforate press sheets were pulled from sale in early 2016 due to sales being "low quantity." The USPS had been evaluating the program for a while before that.

The previous round of imperforate press sheets began with Major League Baseball Stars issue (Scott #4694-97) and ended with the Year of the Monkey Lunar New Year forever stamp (Scott #5057). During that period, 114 imperforate press sheets were marketed comprising 288 stamps.



Some would argue this back-stamp damaged a perfectly good Mexican stamp.

New Books Arriving!
JACK'S ALBUMS
 Call (214) 349-6372
 for an appointment to pick up
 my bargain albums on approval.

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

BY RICK HOSLER

Editor's Note: All meetings listed below were held on the internet using the Zoom video conferencing application. Minutes are edited due to space considerations.

January 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 16 members were present.

Officer Reports:

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

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

Program VP – January and February meeting schedule:

January 27 - Quarterly Auction.

February 10 - *Dead Countries of Asia*, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

February 24 - *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter N*, by various presenters.

Editor/Website – The next newsletter will be published around March 1. The website is now "mobile friendly."

Membership – There are 42 active members; 23 have paid their \$12.00 dues for 2021.

Exhibitor's Report – The TSDA Stamp Fairs will be held during 2021 at a new location in Richardson.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Announcements – The club still has polo shirts for sale at \$8.00.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Jack Urish discussed the history of Hungary's Crown of Saint Stephen, which appeared on postal cancels used prior to, during and after WWI. New countries created after the war continued to use the cancellation devices for several years, oftentimes modifying them by deleting the crown.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – Don Wolman won a set of Ethiopia stamps (Scott #268-77) donated by Stuart Barzune.

Program – Paul Whitthoef, who organized the DPCPS frame for the Mid-Cities Stamp Expo, showed images of the 15 pages that members submitted for the display.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

January 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 18 members were present.

Officer Reports:

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

Treasurer – No report due.

Program VP - February and March meeting schedule:

February 10 - *Dead Countries of Asia*, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

February 24 - Philatelic Subjects

Related to the Letter N, by various presenters

March 10 - *Philatelic Phollies* presented by Geoff Owens.

Upcoming stamp shows:

TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show:

April 9-10 at the DoubleTree hotel in Richardson

Editor – The deadline for submitting ads for the next newsletter is February 15. Members were reminded the website has been upgraded to "mobile friendly."

Membership – Currently there are 42 active members, of whom 25 have paid their 2021 dues.

Exhibitor's Report – None.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Announcements – Club polo shirts are still available.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Art von Reyn displayed images of upcoming U.S. stamp issues announced since the last newsletter was published. Jack Urish showed a French Colonies general issue stamp with an anchor in the cancellation indicating a letter was posted at sea.

Door Prize/Album Drawing – Geoff Owens won a \$10 gift certificate good for purchases from Jack Urish's albums.

Program – *Quarterly Auction*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

JANUARY 27, 2021 AUCTION RESULTS

Description	Cat.	Min. Value	Bid	Price
Philippines #C29-35 NG		\$18.55	\$4.00	\$4.00
D.W.I. #21-22 used		28.00	4.00	7.00
U.S. #548-50 mh		38.75	8.00	8.00
Canal Zone #42-43,45 mlh		37.75	8.00	9.00
U.S. #704-15 unused, ng		20.65	5.00	5.00
Togo 2010 Boxing SS est 2.00-6.00			1.00	1.00
New Caledonia C45a mnh		7.50	2.00	2.00
Mayotte #75-87, C1 mnh		31.55	9.00	9.00
Bhutan #145Ef mnh		7.50	2.00	unsold
U.S. #4074 mnh		8.50	2.50	4.00
Canada #34-37 used		14.25	3.50	3.50
Canada #51, 53 used		10.50	2.50	2.50
Canada 97-98		9.00	2.00	2.00
Germany #689//693 used		39.25	10.00	unsold
U.S. #233 used		8.00	2.00	2.50
U.S. #272 used		4.75	1.00	2.00
U.S. #U10 used		4.00	1.00	2.50
Austria #376 mnh		2.25	.50	.50
Austria #B264 used		10.00	2.50	2.50
Great Britain. #68 used		42.50	9.00	unsold
Great Britain #129, 133 used		22.50	6.00	unsold
Great Britain #114, 119 used		11.00	3.00	unsold
Great Britain #1230-33 used		11.75	3.00	2.00
Great Britain #127//163 used		9.75	3.00	3.00
Total Sales				\$72.00

February 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 18 members were present.

Officer Reports:

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

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

Program VP – February meeting schedule:

February 24 - *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter N*, by various presenters.

March 10 - *Philatelic Phollies* presented by Geoff Owens.

Editor/Website – The deadline for submitting classified ads for the next newsletter is February 15.

Membership – Currently there are 41 active members, of whom 27 have paid their 2021 dues.

Exhibitor's Report – None.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Stan Bartnikowski said one more of the club polo shirts had been sold.

Announcements – Jack Urish asked if members were interested in perusing a Singapore album he erroneously received in a recent auction.

Trivia/Show & Tell – None

Door Prize – An Austrian toilet paper souvenir sheet donated by Art von Reyn was won by Stuart Barzune.

Program – A *Dead Countries of Asia Quiz* was presented by Stan Bartnikowski with Jack Urish winning an album for answering 17 of the 25 questions correctly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

February 24, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 16 members were present.

Officer Reports:

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

Treasurer – No report due.

Program VP - March and April meeting schedule:

March 10 - *Philatelic Phollies* presented by Geoff Owens.

March 24 - *Stamps of USA Presidents*, presented by various members.

April 24 - *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter N*, by various presenters

April 10 - *Dead Countries of Asia*, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

May 12 - Quarterly Auction.

Editor – The next newsletter should appear around March 1.

Membership – Currently there are 40 active members, of whom 28 have paid their 2021 dues.

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LETTER TOUCHES UPON FATE OF GERMAN POWS

Continued from Page 9

it would repatriate its German POWs by the end of 1948, though that goal was not achieved until the end of the following year.

As France still needed cheap labor, it did offer paid positions to the POWs; about 137,000 took up the offer, most of whom might otherwise have wound up in the Soviet zone of occupied Germany. In the 1950s, there were still 30,000-40,000 former Wehrmacht soldiers living in France in the 1950s, many of whom had binational families and children.

Given the abuse of POWs by both sides during and after World War II, the Geneva Convention of 1929 was revised, as set forth in the Geneva Convention of 1949.

FOR FURTHER READING

<https://www.ranker.com/list/germany-after-ww2/david-sharp>

<https://p.dw.com/p/3bxG9>

https://nlp.cs.nyu.edu/meyers/controversial-wikipedia-corpora/english-html/main/main_0217.html

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/prisoner-of-war>

2021 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. The complete 2021 U.S. stamp program can be found on the dallasstamps.org website.

- 3/9/2021 **COLORADO HAIRSTREAK** (75¢) definitive stamp for non-machineable rate. Estes Park, CO 80517.
- 4/9/2021 **EXPRESSO DRINKS** (55¢) booklet stamps, four designs. Seattle, WA 98134.
- 5/4/2021 **STAR WARS DROIDS** (55¢) commemorative stamps, 10 designs. Nicasio, CA 94946.
- 5/17/2021 **HERITAGE BREEDS** (55¢) commemorative stamps, 10 designs. Location to come.
- 7/8/2021 **TAP DANCE** (55¢) commemorative stamps, 10 designs, New York City, NY 10199.
- ?/?/2021 **YOGI BERRA** (55¢) commemorative stamp. Details to be announced.
- ?/?/2021 **MYSTERY MESSAGE** (55¢) commemorative stamp. Details to be announced.
- ?/?/2021 **BACKYARD GAMES** (55¢) commemorative stamps, eight designs. Details to be announced.

STAMP & TONGS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BY RICK HOSLER

Editor's Note: Minutes of meetings are edited due to space considerations.

January 6, 2021

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Stan Bartnikowski presiding. 10 members present: Stan Bartnikowski, Joe Baker, Bill Laupus, Art von Reyn, Rod Gabel, Rick Hosler, Paul Witthoef, Joe Baker, Ben Schkolne, Geoff Owens, and Stuart Barzune.

Old Business:

Future meetings – Meetings will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future. George Clayton (absent) is encouraged to communicate with Edgemere about resuming meetings there when the pandemic abates.

Investment alternatives – A discussion focused on the Money Market account that earns about 0.006% per annum. Several mutual funds were put forward including Bill Laupus' suggestion of Fidelity Management 20% Fund. Action was deferred.

New Business:

Door prizes – A proposal was made to offer as a meeting door prize a \$10.00 certificate good for purchases from Jack Urish's albums, rather than relying on members donations. Offering a certificate at every other meeting was proposed.

Membership recruitment – It was suggested that a list of area members be requested from the APS so the DPCPS can send out an invitation letter and an application for membership.

Dues collections – Currently 20 of 42 active members have paid their 2021 dues. Suggestions were made as to ending the drawn out process of collecting dues.

Club APS Circuit Books – A proposal was made to restart receiving APS circuit books as was done years ago. The club would request primarily U.S. material to complement Jack Urish's albums that consist mainly of foreign stamps.

Budget for 2021 – A question was raised about the club having a budget. The club currently does not operate with a budget, however, the treasurer does track income and expenses. Income is derived mainly from dues and Jack Urish's albums.

Minimum Charge for Jack Urish's Album Purchases – The budget discussion led to the conclusion that the current 18% minimum catalogue percentage on purchases from Jack's Urish's albums was too little to generate income for the club. A motion was made, seconded and approved to increase the minimum to 20% at such time as Jack feels appropriate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Continued from Page 11

Exhibitor's Report – None.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Announcements – Door prize donations are needed. The club polo shirts are still available.

Trivia/Show & Tell – none

Door Prize/Album Drawing – Art von Reyn won a \$10 gift certificate good for purchases from Jack Urish's albums.

Program – The program was *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter N*, beginning with Jim Colliton's discussion of the establishment of the National Archives, which was commemorated on a 1980 U.S. stamp. Stan Bartnikowski related the story of the November Polish Uprising of 1830 against Russia and four stamps memorializing it. Don Wolman had a 1939 Nicaraguan set of stamps honoring humorist Will Rogers, who came to that country after the devastating 1931 earthquake. Bill Lupus discussed Netherland's longest reigning monarch, Queen Wilhelmina. Art von Reyn showed displayed examples of Great Britain's 1957-58 graphite issues, first called "Naphthadags" by collectors. Geoff Owens rounded out the program with a display of stamps showing Africa's third longest river, the Niger.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADS

One classified ad of up to 50 words, not counting name and address information, is available to members per issue on a space available basis. Submissions should arrive no later than the fifth of the month preceding the issue date. Ads run for two consecutive issues, unless canceled before then. Submissions can be emailed to apvr@msn.com or mailed to 10512 Countess Dr., Dallas, TX 75229-5103.

FOR SALE

U.S. 2021 COIL STAMPS at face: (20¢) Brush Rabbit, (36¢) Barns—strip of 4 (\$1.44). PNC strips (5 or 9) at twice face. Add 55¢ postage to overall order. I accept checks or usable U.S. postage. Stan Bartnikowski, stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com, (972) 365-2704.

COMPLETE SET of 2010 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue (six volumes). Price \$30.00. Pick up at my home in Dallas, at a club meeting when they resume or make other arrangements. Arthur P. von Reyn, apvr@msn.com, (214) 956-6840.

WANTED

HONG KONG postally used, 1960-1997 pre-Chinese takeover. Geoff Owens, gmoptx@verizon.net, (972) 839-2229.

U.S. JOINT ISSUE FDCs with U.S. and Foreign stamp(s) and cancels for these issues: 1995 U.N. 50th (N.Y. Cancel only; I have San Francisco); 2001 Frida Kahlo; 2001 Enrico Fermi. If you don't have them but spot them somewhere, please let me know. Arthur P. von Reyn, apvr@msn.com, (214) 956-6840.

MARCH-APRIL 2021