STAMP & TONGS

DECEMBER 1 2023 DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY VOL. 62, NO. 6

ELECTIONS FOR DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2024

From Rod Gabel

The nominating committee consisting of Rod Gabel (Chairman), Stan Bartnikowski and Sam Phillippi have come up with the following proposed 2024 slate of officers and directors for the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society (DPCPS). This slate will be presented at the club holiday dinner on December 13, 2023 which is the last members meeting of the fiscal year.

President: Fernando Torres
Vice President: Rick Hosler
Secretary: Jerry Madden
Treasurer: Rod Gabel

Directors:
Al Dlhy
Sam Phillippi
Tim Wallaert

Continued on Page 7.

CLUB WINS TWO LARGE VERMEILS IN APS STAR ROUTE CONTEST

From the APS

The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society has won two Large Vermeil Awards from the American Philatelic Society (APS) 2023 Star Route contest—one for the club newsletter and the other for the club website.





Each year, the APS has launched chapter newsletter and website competitions, named the Star Route Awards.

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DPCPS Holiday Party

December 13, 2023

At the Edgemere

Contact Rod Gabel (214-802-9376) if you don't have your tickets yet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DPCPS meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays January through October and on the second Wednesday in November and December, at the Edgemere Retirement Community, 8523 Thackery Street in Dallas, Texas. Call to order is 7:30 p.m., but most members arrive by 7:00 p.m. for socializing and trading.

December 8-9	**DALLAS TSDA,** Doubletree Hotel, Bluebonnet Room, 1981 North Central Expressway (Hwy 75 & Campbell Rd), Richardson, TX 75080 (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
December 13	**DPCPS Holiday Dinner.**
January 10, 2024	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program*: TBD.*
January 12-13	**HOUSTON TSDA**, Hilton Garden Inn – Energy Corridor, 12245 Katy Freeway (I-10 and Dairy Ashford Exit), Houston, TX 77079 (Friday 10-5 and Saturday 9-4).
January 24	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program*: TBD.*
February 14	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program*: TBD.*
February 28	**DPCPS MEETING**, Program*: TBD.*
August 15-18	**Great American Stamp Show,** Connecticut Convention Center, Hall AB 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103
November 8-9	**MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB EXPO,** Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas 76051.
May 23-30, 2026	**Boston 2026 World Expo,** Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St, Boston, MA 02210

STAMP & TONGS

Newsletter of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society
Stan Bartnikowski, Editor (stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com)

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2022 DPCPS OFFICERS

President – Bill Laupus *(blaupus27@gmail.com)*
Vice President – Rick Hosler (*rhosler44@gmail.com*)
Secretary – Fernando Torres (*fernando.torres@sbc.global.net*)
Treasurer – Rod Gabel *(gabelassoc@sbcglobal.net)*
Past President – Stan Bartnikowski *(stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com)*

DPCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Baker • Al Dlhy • Sam Philippi

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: Fernando Torres (214) 663-7304 or fernando.torres@sbc.global.net. For a membership application write to: Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, c/o Fernando Torres, 6191 Preston Haven Dr., Dallas, TX 75203

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY BILL LAUPUS

It has been and honor and pleasure to have served as your club president for the past two years. I would like to thank all of our board members and past presidents who have worked very hard to insure that our club continues to grow and prosper. We have increased our membership and average attendance, published a new directory, purchased a new projector and clip on microphone, continued to have successful programs and helped many collectors and non-collectors discover the value of their stamp collections.

I am very grateful to George and Janet Clayton for giving us the opportunity to meet at The Edgemere and again hosting our very successful Holiday Dinner.

My special thanks to our vice-president, Rick Hosler, for providing us with very informative programs and thanks to Rick and Joe Patterson for providing us a new club directory. The first new directory in many years.

Many thanks to Stan Bartnikowski for publishing our award winning newsletter.

Our continued thanks to Jack Urish for bringing us many great albums to review and the opportunity to purchase stamps at 20-25% of Scott catalog value.

Thanks again to Al Dlhy, his committee and my wife, Susan, and all who participated in our very successful auctions.

My thanks to Tom Cunningham, Sam Phillippi , Don Wolman, Geoff Owens and our past presidents for their strong efforts to help many individuals understand our hobby and identify the value of their collections. This is also a way to bring additional stamp sale opportunities to our club and to attract new members.

This is my last opportunity to sincerely thank all our club members for their support. Dedicated, active club members are the essential element in the success of any club. We are blessed to have many outstanding stamp collectors in our club. Helping lead a volunteer organization can be tough and I never take our members who give their time on our behalf lightly. I'm thankful for all our members, no matter what your role is. Whether it is big or small, you matter, and we are proud to have you and sincerely appreciate your membership.

I hope to see you at our Holiday Dinner!

Bill

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

BY STAN BARTNIKOWSKI

I was surprised and delighted to see this newsletter win a large vermeil from the APS. I didn't expect much when I submitted my entry.

The comments from the judges were quite apropos and well-taken. Expect to see a spotlight on individual members, beginning with the next issue. I plan to select a member at

Continued on Page 9.

USPS ANNOUNCES 2024 STAMPS

From the USPS Newsroom

The U.S. Postal Service today announced many of the stamps it will issue in 2024.

"As always, our stamp program features a broad array of subjects and designs. Stamps are miniature works of art and often tell a story that highlights our American culture, our people or an important point in our history," said Lisa Bobb-Semple, acting Stamp Services director for USPS. "Stamps also allow us to show what's important to us as we carefully select which stamp adorns our mail pieces. The 2024 stamps were designed to offer the American public a broad array of choices for those looking to collect stamps or send a special message."

This is a partial list, with more to be revealed in the weeks and months ahead. All stamp designs are preliminary and subject to change.

Lunar New Year · Year of the Dragon



The fifth of 12 stamps in the latest Lunar New Year stamp series celebrates the Year of the Dragon. Calling to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in dances often performed in Lunar New Year parades, this three-dimensional mask depicting a dragon is a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk art crafts created during this auspicious time of year. The dragon mask design incorporates colors and patterns with symbolic meaning. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp and pane with original art by Camille Chew.

Love



The 2024 Love stamp features a stylized bird in flight bearing a message of love in its beak. Made of four geometric shapes shown against a rich red background, the white bird carries a pink envelope sealed with a red heart. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed this stamp with an original digital illustration by Katie Kirk.

U.S. Flags



The Postal Service continues its tradition of celebrating the U.S. flag with these stamps, available in booklets of 20 and in coils of 100, 3,000 and 10,000. Four stamps feature the flag majestically waving at different times of the day. While the shapes and colors of the clouds change, the sun is always shining on Old Glory. Shown from a low-angle perspective, the flags draw attention upward, toward the magic of the sky. Illustrator Laura Stutzman painted the designs using gouache on illustration board. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps.

Constance Baker Motley



The 47th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Constance Baker Motley (1921–2005), the first African American woman known to have argued a case before the United States Supreme Court and the first to serve as a federal judge. The stamp features a portrait of Motley created by Charly Palmer. The stenciled circular shapes create a subtle crowning effect, and the heavy brushstrokes and scratches add texture to the acrylic-on-canvas work. Stenciled curlicues embellish the lower background and continue onto Motley's black dress. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp.

$1 Floral Geometry



In 2024, a new Floral Geometry stamp, denominated at $1, will be available for purchase. The stamp will complement the similarly designed $2 and $5 stamps issued in 2022 and the $10 stamp issued in 2023. The stamps lend an elegant and contemporary appearance to packages, large envelopes and other mailings. The stamp art features a series of overlapping geometric shapes that mimic the symmetry of floral patterns found in nature. The watercolor background and the glimmer of the foil-stamped design and typography create a sophisticated look. This stamp will be issued in panes of 10. The stamps were designed and created by the firm Spaeth Hill. Antonio Alcalá served as art director for USPS.

Pillars of Creation (Priority Mail)



Captured by the James Webb Space Telescope, this extremely high-definition infrared image shows the magnificent Pillars of Creation formation within the Eagle Nebula. By assigning color to various wavelengths, the digitized image allows us to see a landscape otherwise invisible to the human eye. Red areas toward the end of the pillars show burgeoning stars ejecting raw materials as they form, while the relatively small red orbs scattered throughout the image show newly born stars. Greg Breed-

ing, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp with an image provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency, the Canadian Space Agency and the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Cosmic Cliffs (Priority Mail Express)



This remarkable image from the James Webb Space Telescope is a digitally colored depiction of the invisible bands of mid-infrared light emitted by the Cosmic Cliffs of the Carina Nebula. Red and yellow flares scattered throughout the cliffs show developing and newly born stars. The orange-and-brown clouds in the lower third of the image are swirls of dust and gas. Additional stars, in our Milky Way and in distant galaxies, appear in the blue and black regions above and beyond the nebula. Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp using an image provided by NASA, the European Space Agency, the Canadian Space Agency and the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Low Denomination Flowers (1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 cents)



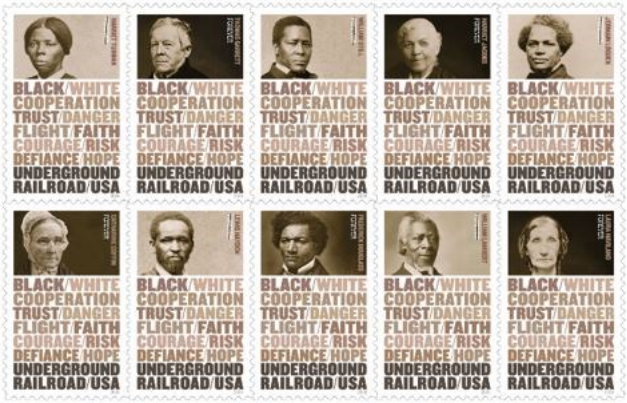
A new series of low denomination stamps will debut in 2024. Each stamp will showcase a different flower design: 1-cent fringed tulip, 2-cent daffodils, 3-cent peonies, 5-cent red tulips and 10-cent poppies and coneflowers. Photographer Harold Davis combines innovative technology with digital painting and photographic techniques to arrive at his unique floral designs. These stamps will be available in panes of 20 and coils of 10,000. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps.

Save Manatees



The Save Manatees stamp will be issued to create awareness about the threats posed to this beloved marine mammal. Human vigilance is crucial for its protection — both to minimize motorboat strikes and to maintain the aquatic plants on which the manatee feeds in the warm coastal waters in and around Florida. The stamp art is a digital rendering of a manatee placidly lolling near the surface of the water. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp and booklet cover using illustrator Nancy Stahl's original graphic design.

Underground Railroad



From the time slavery was introduced to the Colonies until it was abolished in 1865, enslaved people tried to escape. This stamp issuance commemorates the Underground Railroad, as their resistance efforts became known. The pane of 20 stamps features 10 sepia-toned portraits of men and women who escaped slavery and/or helped others escape: Catharine Coffin, Frederick Douglass, Thomas Garrett, Laura Haviland, Lewis Hayden, Harriet Jacobs, William Lambert, Jermain Loguen, William Still and Harriet Tubman. Below each portrait are eight lines of text: BLACK/WHITE; COOPERATION; TRUST/DANGER; FLIGHT/FAITH; COURAGE/RISK; DEFIANCE/HOPE; UNDERGROUND; RAILROAD/USA. On the pane's verso is a map showing the general routes freedom seekers followed and a list of individuals pictured on the stamps with a few words of biographical information about each. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps using existing images.

Radiant Star



Radiant Star will be a new presorted standard stamp intended for bulk mailers and will be sold in self-adhesive coils of 3,000 and 10,000. In this vibrant graphic design, red and white stripes radiate from a blue star. The star is in two shades of blue to give it a three-dimensional look. Antonio Alcalá was the art director for USPS on the project. The stamp was designed by Carol Beehler.

Wedding Blooms



This 2-ounce floral stamp can be used to accommodate the weight of heavy invitations for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other celebrations; oversized greeting cards; and small gifts that require extra postage. This stamp is similar in design to the Celebration Blooms Forever stamp, also to be issued in 2024. The two will form a natural pair. This stamp

features a vertical graphic illustration of brilliantly colored flowers rendered in ink and gouache paint. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp using an existing illustration by artist Kim Parker.

Celebration Blooms



Similar in design to the 2-ounce Wedding Blooms stamp, this floral Forever stamp can be used on the RSVP envelopes often enclosed with wedding invitations. A beautiful addition to regular correspondence, it is also ideal for party invitations, thank-you notes and important announcements. The stamp features a horizontal graphic illustration of brilliantly colored flowers rendered in ink and gouache paint. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp using an existing illustration by artist Kim Parker.

Garden Delights



These stamps will be available for mailers who enjoy adorning their cards and letters with beautiful stamps depicting nature scenes. In each of the four photographs, a different female ruby-throated hummingbird hovers next to either a zinnia, cigar flower, spotted touch-me-not or sunflower. Garden Delights will be issued in booklets of 20. Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps using existing photographs by wildlife photographer Ben King.

Saul Bellow



The 34th issuance in the Literary Arts series honors novelist Saul Bellow (1915-2005). Winner of three National Book Awards, a Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize, Bellow is widely regarded as one of the greatest authors of the 20th century. The stamp art is a portrait of Bellow in pen, ink

Pinback Buttons

These vibrant stamps will add cheer and whimsical flair to cards and envelopes. The pane of 20 stamps features 10 typographic designs by 10 different artists in their unique styles, each with a single word as the prominent element — smile (Don Clark), hello! (Tré Seals), peace (Jay Fletcher), love (Juan Carlos Pagan), fun (Gia Graham), sweet (Jeff Rogers), yes! (Ryan Feerer), cheers! (Lisa Congdon), kudos! (DKNG Studios) and happy (Gina Triplett). The round shape of the stamps, as well as shadowing and reflection effects, give the



appearance of three-dimensional pinback buttons. The pane verso features an illustration of a round silver button back with pin fastener repeated 20 times, one for each pinback button stamp shown on the front of the pane. Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps.

Protect Sea Turtles



This issuance encourages the protection of sea turtles, one of the oldest groups of animals on Earth. These ancient mariners can migrate long distances, sometimes crossing entire oceans. The pane of 18 stamps features close-up photographs of six species — the loggerhead, leatherback, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley, olive ridley and green sea turtle — that depend on U.S. coastal waters for foraging and migratory habitats during various stages of their life. All six are listed and protected under the Endangered Species Act. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps and stamp pane using existing images.

Shaker Design



The year 2024 will mark the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the first Shakers in the United States. Shaker communities made much of what they needed for daily life themselves, including furniture, fabrics, communal buildings and houses. These 12 stamps feature beautiful photographs of items that highlight the core elements of Shaker design: simplicity and utility. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps with existing photographs by Michael Freeman.



Horses

This stamp issuance celebrates America's love of horses. Once instrumental in the early economic development of the United States, horses are now valued athletes and loyal companions, and are important in law enforcement, forestry, entertainment, equine therapy and cattle ranching. This pane of 20 stamps features five photographs of beautiful equines, each in profile. The selvage showcases a sixth horse. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed these stamps with existing photographs by Stephanie Moon and Karen Wegehenkel.

Bluegrass



Bluegrass music combines elements of country music, sacred songs, string band music, the blues and traditions of Scotland and Ireland into a style that is uniquely American. The stamp art showcases a graphic design that includes four of the string instruments typically used by bluegrass bands: guitar, fiddle, five-string banjo and mandolin. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp with original art by Heather Moulder

First Continental Congress, 1774

In 2024, the Postal Service commemorates the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress. Made up of delegates from 12 of the 13 Colonies, the First Continental Congress convened in 1774 to decide how the Colonies should respond to increasing threats to their freedom. In addition to denouncing taxation without representation, the Congress called for a general boycott of British goods. It also issued a declaration of rights that included life, liberty, property and trial by jury, and laid the foundation for government during the American Revolution. The stamp art features a quote from the Congress's protest letter to the King of England. The 12 stars stand for the 12 Colonies represented at the meeting. (Georgia did not agree with the protest and did not send representatives.) Antonio Alcalá served as art director, designer and typographer for this stamp.



Autumn Colors

The radiant beauty of fall will be celebrated with 10 new stamps in a pane of 20, featuring a portfolio of brilliant photographs taken in a variety of locations around the United States. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps with existing photographs by renowned nature and garden photographer Allen Rokach (1941–2021). The stamps are illustrated at the bottom of this page.

Christmas Madonna and Child



A new traditional Christmas stamp will be issued in 2024 featuring the Madonna and Child from the Workshop of Sassoferrato. Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato (1609-1685), gained popularity for his modestly scaled depictions of the Madonna and Child. It is not known whether he painted this work or if it was painted by another artist in his workshop. The painting is in the collection of the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. William Gicker was the art director for the project. Greg Breeding designed the stamp, which will be sold in booklets of 20.

Hanukkah



A new stamp celebrating the joyous Jewish holiday of Hanukkah will be issued in 2024. The art is a graphic depiction of a hanukkiah, the nine-branch candelabra used only at Hanukkah, with all candles lighted, signifying the last evening of the holiday. The artwork is created mostly in



blue and white, common Hanukkah colors. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed and illustrated the stamp art.

Kwanzaa



The Postal Service will issue its 10th stamp celebrating Kwanzaa in 2024. Observed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, the annual pan-African holiday brings together family, community and culture. The artwork for this colorful stamp is a digital collage depicting three figures: a male drummer and two female dancers. The art was inspired by a live performance witnessed by the artist, Ekua Holmes, during a Kwanzaa event. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp.

Winter Whimsy



Four new stamps in a booklet of 20 celebrate the winter season with lacy, symmetrical graphic forms inspired by snowflakes. Each stamp in the block of four includes a unique design in white against a background of a single color: navy blue, teal, tan or dark blue-green. Greg Breeding was the art director for the project. Bailey Sullivan designed and illustrated the stamps.

ELECTIONS FOR DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2024

Continued from Page 1.

Bill Laupus is stepping down as President after two years of service, and Joe Baker has completed his 3 year term as director. The club thanks them for their service.

Fernando Torres has served as Secretary and Director before being nominated as President.

Rick Hosler, Rod Gabel, Al Dlhy and Sam Phillippi are nominated to continue their service as Vice President, Treasurer and Directors, respectively.

Not to be forgotten, but thanked for their efforts, are Stan Bartnikowski (Newsletter editor), George Clayton (Edgemere Liaison), Geoff Owens (Appraisal and Acquisition), Jack Urish (Acquisition) and Paul Witthoeft (Exhibits).

Thanks also for those members who have presented to the club, submitted auction items and participated in the auctions. As Bill Laupus has repeatedly pointed out, all our members, no matter what their role, are sincerely appreciated.

CLUB WINS 2 LARGE VERMEILS FROM APS

Continued from Page 1.

Since the mid-1800s, the Star Routes were the most challenging routes in the country to deliver U.S. mail. Legislation was established by Congress in 1845 calling for contractors to carry the mail with “celerity, certainty, and security.”, but postal clerks weary of repeatedly writing these words in ledgers substituted three asterisks— * * * —and the phrase “Star Route” was born. Star Routes were renamed "Highway Contract Routes” in 1970, though they are still commonly known by their original name today.

The APS chapters serve and grow the hobby in those same tough terrains with that same mission.

Our neighbor club, Mid-Cities Stamp Club, also received a Large Vermeil for their newsletter. The Grand Champion in the newsletter category is the Greater Richmond Stamp Club; the grand champion in the website category is the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County.

Here is the judges’ feedback on the DPCPS **newsletter**:

Content Comments

Judge 1: Does a good job of keeping members informed of what is happening at club meetings and events in this well-produced publication. There are also new-issue reports, mostly picked up from USPS, Linn’s and other sources, and commentary from the president and editor, but the editor is visibly struggling to attract original philatelic content from members.

Judge 2: Include hot links to other sites, media.

Judge 3: Consider adding a column to recognize/introduce/spotlight members. consider noting preferred format/timeframe to submit items for publication.

Judge 4: Content seems heavy with philatelic wire service news (USPS, Linn’s, etc.). While these stories are worth relaying, it may be best to edit down these pieces to essential info.

Localize the publication’s content with more local stories about the club and its members.

Judge 5: Images are too small to see easily, quality seems fine, submission info in 1 issue.

Design Comments

Judge 1: This is an attractively laid out newsletter. The two/three-column format makes it easy to read and gives it a polished, semi-professional image. Rotating the color theme for each issue is also a good idea. More large images (when appropriate) would help, as would a little more consistency in font choice and occasional use of a spell checker to catch typos.

Judge 2: Lacks mention of, and a direct link to, the web site.

Judge 3: Beautiful design, enjoyed color format change w/ issue, thank you for submitting.

Continued on Page 10.

MURDER MEETS PHILATELY: HOLLYWOOD STYLE

By Arthur P. von Reyn

A body is tossed from a European express train. The wife of the deceased, not knowing yet of her husband's demise, is approached during her skiing holiday in the French Alps by a man using an alias. So begins *Charade*, a 1953 comedic thriller starring the charismatic Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn.

The cliché "the best Alfred Hitchcock film Hitchcock never directed," has often been applied to *Charade*, which happens to also be the best tribute to philately ever committed to celluloid. Despite being made in the classic Hollywood studio style, half of the filming was done on location in instead of on a studio backlot.

The MacGuffin in the movie is $250,000 stolen behind enemy lines by four World War II comrades, one of whom absconds with the entire bundle, leaving his three buddies empty handed.

The philatelic aspects don't become evident to viewers until the final 30 minutes of the film. So if you have never seen the movie and don't want to miss any of the suspense, skip reading the balance of this article.

Now, back to the $250,000, which would be about $2,515,000 in 2023 dollars. The body tossed from the train, of course, is that of the comrade who purloined the loot but didn't have it. The remaining trio terrorize the decedent's wife, who claims she has no idea of the money's whereabouts. However, among the personnel effects left by her husband is an unmailed letter with several stamps affixed.



In this scene about an hour into the 1963 movie *Charade*, two crooked World War II veterans, played by Ned Glass and James Coburn, search through their deceased buddy's belongings for $250,000 in stolen money. Glass casually throws aside an envelope with rare stamps stuck to it.

The film has two separate sequences shot in Paris open-air stamp market, known in French as Marché aux Timbres. During the first sequence, the protagonist and remaining antagonist realize the $250,000 was spent on rare stamps, ones that had been in front of them the entire time.



The denominations of the three rare stamps featured in *Charade* differ by one increment from their genuine counterparts: the Swedish Treskilling Yellow, the 2¢ Hawaiian Missionary and the Romanian 81 Parole Blue. The movie assigned a value of $250,000 to the trio, which might have been a tad too much in the early 1960s.

The three stamps on the letter are knockoffs similar to three genuine rarities. Until the 1970s, filmmakers were reluctant to depict U.S. securities like paper money and stamps, due to a federal prohibition against depicting such, unless they were shown at 75% or less or 150% or greater than normal size. Even though the stamps on the envelope in the film are foreign, apparently to be on the safe side, the director decided against using exact replicas of genuine ones.

Thus, one unit of currency was added to each item, resulting in a 3¢ Hawaiian Missionary, a Swedish Fyraskilling Yellow and a Romanian 82 Parole Blue with values in the film of $65,000, $85,000 and $100,000 respectively. All appear to be unused copies.

While the 1963 *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* has no values for any of these mint stamps, the 1971 edition lists the 2¢ Hawaiian Missionary (Scott #1) at $65,000 and 81 Parole Blue (Scott #4) at only $6,500, the latter being referred to in the movie is as "the most valuable stamp in the world." The Treskilling Yellow (Scott #1a) is a unique color error and only exists used; it changed hands for an undisclosed price in 1950 and prior to that, for $30,000 when King Carol II of Romania bought it in 1937. It finally sold in 1978 for about $500,000 (including buyer's premium).

In the 2022 *Scott* catalogues, the value of the three genuine stamps are total $3,675,000, with $3,000,000 of that assigned the Treskilling Yellow, $650,000 to the Hawaiian Missionary and only $50,000 to the Romanian Parole, assuming the latter isn't cut to shape.

Should you be inspired to visit the still extant open-air stamp market in Paris, you need not worry about crowds shown in *Charade*, or depicted in old photographs or on old picture postcards. During a stop there on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in early October of this year, there were only two stands in operation, which one operator said was pretty much the norm these days.

On the other hand, if you want to experience how popular the Marché aux Timbres formerly was, the movie *Charade* is usually available anytime on various streaming services, often in glorious 1:85 ratio widescreen Technicolor!



Cary Grant (white overcoat) tails James Coburn (light brown overcoat) through the Paris open air stamp market. Images of stamps soon flash across the screen as both realize the $250,000 they are looking for was spent on stamps.

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Continued from Page 2.

random and conduct an interview with him or her regarding their experiences in the club and their collecting interests.

In retrospect, my attempt to shove 4 exhibit pages into a newsletter page was not successful. Alas, we may not be having club exhibits in the future.

The judges noted the lack of articles from or about members, focusing instead on "philatelic wire service news (USPS, Linn's, etc.). ". Hint to you members. We could use written by yourselves some aspect of philately or your collecting interest.

I guess I need to consider increasing the font size. We are, after all, mostly in our 70s and 80s and our eyesight is not getting any better.

Finally, I need to remember to run spell-check before publishing the final copy.

USPS TO HIKE PRICES IN 2024

From the USPS Newsroom

- *New prices scheduled to take effect Jan. 21, 2024*
- *Postal Service prices remain among the most affordable in the world*
- *First-Class Forever stamp will be 68 cents*

WASHINGTON, DC — On October 6, the United States Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of mailing services price changes to take effect Jan. 21, 2024. The new rates include a 2-cent increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp, from 66 cents to 68 cents.

The proposed adjustments, approved by the governors of the Postal Service, would raise mailing services product prices approximately 2 percent. The price changes would include:

Product	Current Prices	Planned Prices
Letters (1 ounce)	66 cents	68 cents
Letters (metered 1 ounce)	63 cents	64 cents
Domestic Postcards	51 cents	53 cents
International Postcards	$1.50	$1.55
International Letter (1 ounce)	$1.50	$1.55

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

BY FERNANDO TORRES

September 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Bill Laupus

There were19 members present at the Edgemere Retirement Center.

Officer Reports:

Program VP—Very emotional presentation on the Holocaust stamps and personal life as a Jewish child in Hungary.

Secretary — Minutes of previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer — No new update.

Old Business — None

New Business — None

Announcements — No new announcements

Appraisals and Acquisitions – None

Program: Presentation of the life as a child in Hungary as a Jewish child in Hungary under German occupation.

Jack's Albums

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

October 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Bill Laupus

There were 22 members and one guest present at the Edgemere Retirement Center.

Program VP

- Quarterly Auction tonight
- Next meeting (October 25): Program on Cinderellas by Geoff Owens

Secretary — Minutes of previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer — Please see the club treasurer Rod Gabel for financial details.

Old Business — None

New Business — None

Announcements — No new announcements

Appraisals and Acquisitions – Waiting for acquisitions.

Program: Quarterly Auction. Total sales $436.50

Jack's Albums

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm**.**

October 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Bill Laupus

There were 21 members present at the Edgemere Retirement Center.

Program VP -Next Meeting (11/8/2023) Bill Laupus: *Stamps of the British Empire and Queen Victoria Stamps*

Secretary — Minutes of previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer — No new update.

Appraisal and acquisitions: None

Old Business — None

New Business — None

Announcements —No new announcements

Appraisals and Acquisitions – None

Program: Presentation by Geoff Owens: Cinderella *Stamps: Collectibles or Clutter*

Jack's Albums

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

November 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Bill Laupus

There were 20 members present at the Edgemere Retirement Center.

Program VP —Next Meeting (1/10/2023) Members opted to skip next meeting given Thanksgiving Week

Show and Tell: Two pages of Cinderella stamps from Japan/Spain by Paul Without

Secretary — Minutes of previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer — The bank statement was not available at the time of the meeting. An update will be made to the club once it arrives. Appraisal and acquisitions: None

Old Business — None

New Business — None

Announcements:

- Holiday Dinner 12/13/2023- Dues to be paid by mail or person $10/ person
- The American Philatelic Society recognized The DPCPS with APS Star Awards:

  i) News Letter

  ii) Web Site

Appraisals and Acquisitions – None

Program: Presentation by Bill Laupus: British Empire and Queen Victoria Stamps

Jack's Albums

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

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BOARD MEETING

BY BILL LAUPUS

September 27, 2023

The following issues were discussed:

 Geoff Owens presented a proposal to purchase a new projector and clip on microphone for club use (especially for presentation of programs). Geoff and Tim Wallaert were previously asked by the board to undertake this project and their proposal to purchase the equipment was unanimously approved by the board. Many thanks to Geoff and Tim.

 Rick Hosler and Al Dlhy discussed their plans for our next quarterly auction to take place on October 11th .

 The board reviewed plans for our annual Holiday Dinner the second Wednesday in December. Details will be sent to all members in early November.

 Plans were discussed for the collection of club dues for 2024.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY FERNANDO TORRES

Membership remains at 53 members.

2024 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 or anticipated value in parenthesis, unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 12	**Love.** Forever special stamp (66c) , pane of 20; Romance, AK 72136
Jan. 22	**Pillars of Creation.** One Priority Mail definitive stamp, pane of 4; Greenbelt, MD 20770
Jan. 22	**Cosmic Cliffs .** One Priority Mail Express definitive stamp, pane of 4; Greenbelt, MD 20770
Jan. 25	**Year of the Dragon**. One (66¢) forever commemorative stamp, pane of 20; Lunar New Year series; Seattle, WA 98109
Jan. 31	**Constance Baker Motley**. One (68¢) forever commemorative stamp, pane of 20; Black Heritage series. New York, NY 10199
Feb. 6	**Saul Bellow**. One ($1.16) 3-ounce rate stamp, pane of 20, Literary Arts series; Chicago, IL 60607
Feb. 19	**Radiant Star**. Single (10¢) presorted standard definitive coil stamp, coils of 3,000 and 10,000; Star, ID 83669
March 9	**Underground Railroad**. Ten (68¢) forever commemorative stamps: Catharine Coffin, Frederick Douglass, Thomas Garrett, Laura Haviland, Lewis Hayden, Harriet Jacobs, William Lambert, Jermain Loguen, William Still and Harriet Tubman; pane of 20.; Church Creek, MD 21622
March 15	**Bluegrass**. Single (68¢) forever commemorative stamp, pane of 20; Owensboro, KY 42301
March 16	**Garden Delights**. Four (68¢) forever stamps, double-sided pane of 20; Strongsville, OH 44136
March 22	**Celebration Blooms**. Single (68¢) forever special stamp, pane of 20; St. Louis, MO 63155
March 22	**Wedding Blooms**. Single (92¢) 2-ounce special stamp, pane of 20; St. Louis, MO 63155
March 27	**Save Manatees**. Single (68¢) forever stamp; double-sided pane of 20; Silver Springs, FL 34488

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 twentieth of the month preceding the issue date. Ads run for four consecutive issues, unless canceled before then. Submissions can be emailed to stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com or mailed to 1413 Elizabeth Dr., Carrolton, TX 75007-2828.

FOR SALE

Worldwide 1840-1979, 25-33% OF Scott, over $1,500,000 inventory. Especially strong in British, Dutch, French & Italian colonies, U.S. 1840-1930, Japan, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Russia, Venezuela, & Souvenir sheets. Many hard-to-find-items. Price list available at www.BillsStamps.com or call Bill Wallace, 214-213-8066. doctoryes007@aol.com . Money-back satisfaction guaranteed.

CLUB WINS 2 LARGE VERMEILS FROM APS

Continued from Page 7

Judge 4: Including whole exhibit pages is less successful because type is so small, necessitating significant magnification to read them.

Judge 5: Seats not sits! Had to magnify to 150% to read it 3 column design effective - maybe more pages for same content.

Here is some of the judges' feedback on the club **website**:

Content Comments

Judge 1: Suggest using content from excellent newsletter in the website itself. Video live presentations and add to website. Spotlight members.

Judge 2:

● I like the level of detail an information on the main page.

● I feel like there could be more history and information on the "about us" section.

● It's wonderful how many resources you make available.

Judge 3: Overall, the website and content within are done well. One suggestion would be to publish the club bylaws to the website for easy access by current and prospective members.

Judge 5: Very informative content on the home page. Impressive links section.

Design Comments

Judge 2:

● I think the design is quite plain, but I do appreciate that it is consistent.

● It would helpful for there to be more photos and other visuals on the site.

● Membership application and dues payments should be online if possible.

Judge 3: The design is cohesive and easy to navigate from both desktop or mobile devices.

One issue is that some of the links on the "Links" page don\t work.

Judge 4: This is a well-constructed, high functioning and attractive website. linked on the site.)...Might consider adding a section where virtual exhibits and presentations can be shown. Otherwise, very well done.