STAMP & TONGS

JUNE, 2026 DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY VOLUME 65, NO. 3

AN INTRODUCTION—AND RE-INTRODUCTION—TO THE WINEBURGH PHILATELIC RESEARCH LIBRARY

By Jennifer Ottinger



My name is Jennifer Ottinger, and I am the Special Collections Librarian at The University of Texas at Dallas, where I oversee instruction and outreach across several special collections, including the Nebula Gallery, Rare Books Collection, Belsterling Botanical Collection, and the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library (WPRL). I assumed responsibility for the WPRL in October 2024, following Cassandra's departure.

In this role, I focus on connecting special collections resources with students, staff, and faculty on campus, as well as community members and outside researchers, through instruction, outreach, and engagement initiatives.

If it has been a while since your last

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USPS ANNOUNCES STAMP ENCORE CONTEST WINNER

From the USPS Newsroom

BOSTON May 24, 2026 — Today at the Boston 2026 World Exposition, the Postal Service announced the winner of its Stamp Encore contest: the Mister Rogers stamp from 2018. To celebrate the organization's 250th anniversary, and gear up to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary, the public was invited to vote on their favorite of 25 stamp panes from the Postal Service's recent past.

The Mister Rogers stamp was re-issued — along with a new, four-image Mister Rogers souvenir sheet — in a ceremony as part of the exposition's favorite stamp theme day. The stamps and souvenir sheet are exclusively on sale at the Boston 2026 Expo through May 30, and will then be available at Post Office locations nationwide and online at The Postal Store starting June 1.

"When we issued the Mister Rogers stamp in 2018, we ordered a print run of some 12 million. That may sound like a lot, but Mister Rogers really took us by surprise," said Isaac Cronkhite, the Postal Service's chief processing and distribution officer and executive vice president. "Within just a few weeks, the stamps honoring this humble, softspoken man had sold out completely."

"Fred Rogers often shared the idea that 'You are not just the age you are. You are all the ages you ever have been.' In this context, I believe the Mister Rogers stamp resonated with the child in each of us — and

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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. The following schedule is tentative:

June 10	**DPCPS MEETING:** Silent Auction
June 19-20	**OKPEX:** Student Union of Rose State College 1910 Hudiburg Drive, Midwest City, OK
June 24	**DPCPS MEETING:** Ask the Expert
June 26-27	**DALLAS TSDA,** Holiday Inn & Suites – 3220. Craig Drive, McKinney, TX 75070 (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
July 8	**DPCPS MEETING:** Trading Night
July 17-18	**HOUSTON TSDA,** Hilton Garden Inn – Energy Corridor, 12245 Katy Freeway (I-10 and Dairy Ashford Exit), Houston, TX 77079. (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
July 22	**DPCPS MEETING:** Summer Auction
Aug 12	**DPCPS MEETING:** Stamp Bingo
Aug 21-22	**DALLAS TSDA,** Holiday Inn & Suites – 3220. Craig Drive, McKinney, TX 75070 (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)

STAMP & TONGS

Newsletter of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society

Stan Bartnikowski, Editor (stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com)

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2026 DPCPS OFFICERS

President – Fernando Torres (*president.dpcps@gmail.com*)
Vice President – Al Dlhy
Secretary – Jerry Madden
Treasurer – Rod Gabel
Past President – Bill Laupus

DPCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marilyn Morris-Smith • Sam Philippi • Tim Wallaert

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, check our website at ***DallasStamps.org*** or contact: Fernando Torres (president.dpcps@gmail.com). For a membership application, visit the aforementioned website or write to: Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, c/o Jerry Madden, 428 Valley Glen Dr, Richardson, TX 75080.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Fernando Torres

One of the fascinating aspects of stamp collecting is discovering how different countries have used postage stamps for purposes beyond simply paying the mail. Many nations have long issued semi-postal stamps (also known as charity stamps), where the purchase price exceeds the postal value. The additional amount is directed toward a charitable cause or public program.

Collectors in Europe are accustomed to seeing semi-postal stamps. Countries such as Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Netherlands have issued hundreds of them over the past century, raising funds for everything from disaster relief to children's welfare. In contrast, the United States has been far more conservative. Since the first U.S. semi-postal was issued in 1998, only a handful have been released.

The first—and arguably the most successful—was the Breast Cancer Research semi-postal stamp. Issued in 1998, it carried an 8-cent surcharge above the First-Class postage rate, with the proceeds divided between the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. Since its introduction, the stamp has raised more than $95 million for breast cancer research.

Of course, no single stamp can claim credit for the remarkable advances in breast cancer treatment over the past three decades. However, the stamp accomplished something equally important: it helped bring breast cancer awareness into

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EDITOR'S MUSINGS

By Stan Bartnikowski

The Demise of the Postage Stamp

One of the joys of collecting stamps is receiving envelopes from collectors and dealers plastered with stamps, very often from foreign countries. If you're lucky the stamps will be neatly cancelled. Often, especially on items shipped within the U.S., the stamps arrive with no cancel. If I remove them, they aren't postally used, just mint no gum and not very collectible: they're neither mint nor used. I recall receiving my stamps from the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) with first-day-cancelled stamps on the containing envelope. This is no longer the case. Stamps sent from the UNPA are shipped with a simple postal sticker affixed. Most collector-dealers from foreign countries use attractive stamps to send items to me. Except recently, a guy from France used a non-descript postal label to send me stamps. The Polish auction house, Znaczki-pl.com, used to slap a full sheet of commemoratives on the envelope containing my winnings; lately they come with a simple label for postage. The real killer is that the American Philatelic Society (whose website name is *stamps*.org!) no longer uses

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SPOTLIGHT ON …

JOE BAKER

Interviewed by Stan Bartnikowski

Joe Baker was born and grew up near Boston, Massachusetts. His career was as a technician with the U.S. Air Force, based primarily in San Antonio, but also in Turkey, Germany, Thailand, Canada and other countries. He transferred to the Dallas area in 1996.



Joe started stamp collecting in the late 1970s and has been collecting ever since. His tour in Turkey got him interested in that country's stamps and he boasts a 95 to 98 percent complete collection of Turkey up until 2020, Mint Never Hinged. Having also been based in Germany, Joe collects stamps of that country and related areas, such as German states, plebiscites and occupations. He also has a worldwide collection, through about 1950, on the back shelf. He gave up collecting U.S. in 1983 due to the overwhelming number of new issues and associated costs.

Joe has been a member of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society for about 15 years and has served as secretary of the club in the past. He is also a 50-year member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and a 50-year member of the German Philatelic Society.

Joe obtains his stamps at the club and online from the APS. He indicated that at the club "he likes people who collect stamps" and finds the club meetings very enjoyable even if the subject or program is not aligned with his interests.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfortunately, there are none.

We welcome letters to the editor. Please send your philatelic or club related letter via email to stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com. Thank you.

SCOTT Standard Postage Stamp Catalog & U.S. Specialized Available for Review at the club meetings or to take home. See George Clayton at any club meeting.

SHOW 'N TELL

GOLD AND SLAVES ON THE GULF OF GUINEA

By Geoff Owens

Many times a postmark adds much interest to an otherwise ordinary stamp. Recently while working up some Gold Coast stamps I came across this example of Scott #8. The basic stamp is from the second issue of adhesive stamps sent to the Gold Coast Colony in 1876, distinguished from the first issue of 1875 only by being perf 14 rather than perf 12½.

Prior to the arrival of Europeans the native people called the town Anomansah. The Portuguese defeated other European powers in 1478 for control of territories along the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa and persuaded the local chief to allow them to build a fortress by the coast. This castle, which was called São Jorge da Mina (Saint George of the Mine), was built in 1482 and is believed to be the oldest surviving European building in sub-Saharan Africa. Over time the surrounding town became known as simply Elmina. Initially its purpose was to safeguard the transport of gold to Portugal. Some 8,000 ounces were shipped between 1487 and 1489, increasing to 26,000 ounces by the turn of the century. By 1479 Portugal was also involved in the slave trade, of whom 10,000 to 12,000 passed through the port between 1500 and 1535.

In 1637 Dutch forces captured Elmina, and they continued gold and slave trading for over another century. In 1872 the Dutch Gold Coast was sold to Great Britain. Netherlands had abolished slavery in its colonies in 1863, and Great Britain had abolished the buying and selling of slaves in 1807, so the slave trade in Elmina had mercifully ceased by the time Britain assumed control.

Britain moved swiftly to establish colonial administration over the Gold Coast, including setting up postal service. The "Elmina Paid" hand stamp on covers was first used in 1873, prior to the first issue of adhesive postage stamps in 1875. Apparently a normal CDS cancelling device was not initially provided, or they were used in parallel, because the "Elmina Paid" obliteration is occasionally found on stamps as late as 1884.



The example shown, cancelled 19 July 1877, is thus a fairly early use.

CLOSED ALBUM

Bernie Falk

DPCPS member Bernie Falk passed away on May 10. While a member of the club for a relatively short time, Bernie quickly became a friendly and engaged part of our community. Al Dlhy also knew Bernie as a kind and thoughtful friend. Bernie was an integral member of the stamp collecting community and especially enjoyed collecting worldwide stamps. He boasted a collection of 150,000 to 160,000 stamps. Bernie volunteered at the kids' section at the Midwest Cities Stamp Shows.

Bernie was born in the Bronx, New York City, and at the age of 2 moved to Brooklyn where he spent most of his life. He was an IRS agent. He leaves his wife Andrea and 2 boys and 7 grandchildren, all in the DFW area.

Please keep Bernie's family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. His funeral service was held at Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home on May 17.

Further information about Bernie is available at https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/tx/frisco/bernard-falk-21543557.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

by Jerry Madden

April 8, 2026

The Board meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society at the Edgemere senior Living facility was called to order by the President Fernando Torres at 6:29 p.m. We congratulated Stan on the great job he has done on the Newsletter publication and he was questioned on the effort he was putting in which has been substantial. We questioned if someone could be mentored to help him. We had three other subjects we discussed - the major one being the Holiday Party and we decided to set up a committee to work on the party for this coming year and the future. We discussed several items including location and attendance. We requested Marilyn take over as the chairman of the committee to plan the upcoming party and she graciously accepted. We will be hearing from her on this soon.

We discussed other items about our member meeting but no other actions were taken. We then discussed the upcoming meetings and Al gave us some good information: first, that the upcoming meeting for the 22nd of April would be our quarterly auction and second, that the first meeting in May would be a Scavenger Hunt and that Al would give a lot of information on the Scavenger Hunt Requirements at the 22 April Meeting. The Secretary will be making copies of our bylaws for all members to be presented at one of our next meetings prior to the next board meeting. We adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Madden Secretary.

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

by Jerry Madden

April 8, 2026

The April 8 Meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society was called to order at the Edgemere Senior Living Facility at 7:45 p.m. by President Torres. Jon Cagley paid his member dues and so did Jack Urish giving us 44 paid members. Fernando reported on the board meeting and introduced Marilyn as our Holiday Party committee chairman, and then announced the schedule for meetings was modified so that the Scavenger hunt would be the first meeting in May. Richard Laster is scheduled to give our second meeting in May about the Texas Philatelic Society activities. We waived the reading of the minutes and the treasurer gave his report and showed our finances in good condition. The President then reminded the members of the upcoming Stamp Dealers sale at the Holiday Inn in McKinney the 10th and 11th of April. Al then took over the program which was our trading night. After the trading activities we had Jack's books and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Madden Secretary.

P.S. As a reminder if you are receiving these minutes and are not paid for this years dues please send your check to the Secretary at 428 Valley Glen Drive Richardson TX, 75080. If you no longer want to retain membership please notify me at this email address.

April 22, 2026

The April 22, 2026 meeting of the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society was called to order by President Torres at 7:41 p.m. He first called on our Treasurer for his report which showed the club in good financial condition. The Secretary moved we dispense with the reading of the last meeting minutes and this was approved unanimously. We have added one more paid member, for a total of 45. There was some discussion of if and where the club might hold meetings in the future but nothing concrete was decided. The President asked for Show and Tell but nothing was brought up. Al then was given the floor and discussed the upcoming scavenger hunt and the decision to make the subject soccer stamps. The rules for the hunt were provided. The April 10 and 11 show at the Holiday Inn in McKinney was well attended and I believe many of the auction dealers did well.

The main event for the meeting was the auction and Al did his usual good job with the auction with many items sold to the members. We then moved to Jack's books and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Madden Secretary.

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CLUB MEETING MINUTES

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May 13, 2026

The 5/13/2026 Meeting of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society was called to order at 7:38PM by President Torres at the Senior Living Facility in Dallas. There was a treasurer's report and the minutes of the previous meeting being read was waived by the membership.

The subject of the meeting was our scavenger hunt. The subject of the hunt was the game of soccer because of the upcoming Soccer world cup to be held here in the USA with several games in the Dallas area. The games begin in about 3 weeks from the writing of these minutes. Al Dlhy presented the program and called for the showing of what the members had to resent. Al selected 3 members of the club who were not showing items in the scavenger hunt to be the judges. Al had the most countries (about 68) to show so he was awarded first place. The Secretary had some 50 plus countries and several members had lesser number of countries. Cash Awards were given for first through 4th place. I think we learned things about our collections and I found the hunt interesting. I know I looked at items in my collection I had not seen in months or years.

We then moved to Jack's books and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Madden Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Jerry Madden

There are 46 paid members, including new members. Jackie Burk and Richard Laster. If you haven't already, please extend a warm welcome to Jackie and Richard.

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Continued from Page 2

stamps to send stamp circuits and online purchases to me. No wonder our hobby is losing popularity.

As promised, I have included in this issue an article on a smartphone app to help identify stamps. Last issue, Tim Wallaert described software alternatives for inventorying our collections. Awhile back, Art von Reyn and I wrote an article describing software programs to create album pages. I look to other members of the club to submit articles on software, or any tool or method, of use for our stamp collections.

I have been editor of this newsletter for about four years and I believe the time has come to allow someone else to produce the newsletter. If you have any interest, please contact me (Stan Bartnikowski). Thank you.

AN APP TO ASSIST IN STAMP IDENTIFICATION

By Stan Bartnikowski



While most of us have no problem identifying the country of a stamp, but, for a stamp from a country with many stamp issues, and thus many album pages, how does one determine where in the album to mount it? One could flip through the album pages or catalog to search for the stamp. An easier way is to use an app available on your smartphone called Stamp Identifier. Position the phone's camera at the stamp. The app will focus on the stamp, even if it's not "straight" and then look it up on the Colnect database to present candidates for the stamp. Click on the matching stamp and you will get the Scott catalog number (disguised), as well as other catalog numbers as appropriate, such as Michel, Stanley Gibbons, Yvert and Teller (sorry, no Minkus). (For Polish stamps it does include the Fischer Catalog number!) You will also see detailed information such as the date of issue (which helps you find the album page, if the catalog number doesn't), size, color, watermark, designer, perf., face value, etc.

This app is not going to help you determine whether a stamp is a U.S. Scott 634A or the common Scott U.S. 634. There may be another app for this - whch I have yet to find.



Using a smartphone to capture the stamp requires a steady hand and I use a phone holder, such as the Omoton available on Amazon at $8.99 and pictured here.

The app is free, but after continued use, the user is bombarded with ads. The annual cost of the iPhone version without ads is $28.99 plus tax. I would assume the price for the Android version is similar. There are several apps with similar names. Be sure to choose the one with the icon pictured above.

The author has no financial interest in the products described above or their company or author.

FOR SALE ITEMS

Please use the stage at the meeting room to place items for sale. Be sure to include your name and asking price!

THE WINEBURGH PHILATELIC RESEARCH LIBRARY

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visit—or if you haven't yet made the trip—I wanted to take this opportunity to reintroduce you to the WPRL and highlight the resources available to you.

Located on the University of Texas at Dallas campus in Richardson, Texas, the WPRL began in 1976 through the vision and generosity of Harold Wineburgh, who sought to create a space where serious study of stamps could thrive alongside a broader curiosity for history and learning. Five decades later, the library continues to serve that purpose, supporting a wide range of research interests for collectors, scholars, and students alike.

Over time, the collection has become a nationally recognized resource, with thousands of volumes spanning books, journals, catalogs, newsletters, and archival materials. It supports research across geographic regions and languages, with strengths in areas such as postal history, stamp authentication, and air mail studies, as well as related formats including postcards, mail art, and revenue stamps. Together, these resources support research, teaching, and creative engagement.

Instruction and outreach are a central part of my role, and I now incorporate philatelic materials into every student session I teach. I also work closely with faculty to embed the collection into coursework. This fall, we look forward to welcoming our first cohort of 300 Design I students, who will use the collection to create original stamp series for their design portfolios. This work will be complemented by multiple outreach initiatives centered on the collection.

With researchers in mind, I've also helped implement several changes to improve access and usability. The collection has been reorganized to bring journals and monographs together into a single, cohesive arrangement, making materials easier to navigate. In addition, our catalogers updated our records in the David Straight Memorial Philatelic Union Catalog, maintained by the American Philatelic Research Library, making the collection more readily discoverable for researchers. Together, these updates reflect a broader effort to support a wide range of research needs.

Access to the collection has also expanded beyond our reading room. I've helped increase the number of WPRL materials available through Interlibrary Loan (ILL). Most journals and monographs can now be requested through your local library and consulted closer to home. While materials cannot be shipped directly to personal residences, they may be used at another participating library with more convenient hours. Holdings can be searched through the WPRL webpage, with requests initiated through your local library.

As part of my outreach efforts, I recently began writing a regular column for the Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History, sharing insights into how the collection is used and highlighting interesting discoveries.

For those interested in visiting, the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. The closest parking is Parking Structure 1, located about a block from the library, which may be a new parking location since your last visit.

Please feel free to stop in, explore the collection, and spend some time getting lost among the shelves and deep into philatelic research. I welcome your questions and look forward to finding ways to connect you with the resources you need.

Jennifer Ottinger, MLIS
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972-883-2583

P.S. Click on https://services.utdallas.edu/download/Parking_Map.pdf for a map of the UTD campus. Parking Structure 1, closest to the library, has metered parking on the first level. Please contact the editor or Jennifer for the Department Code to gain free entry.

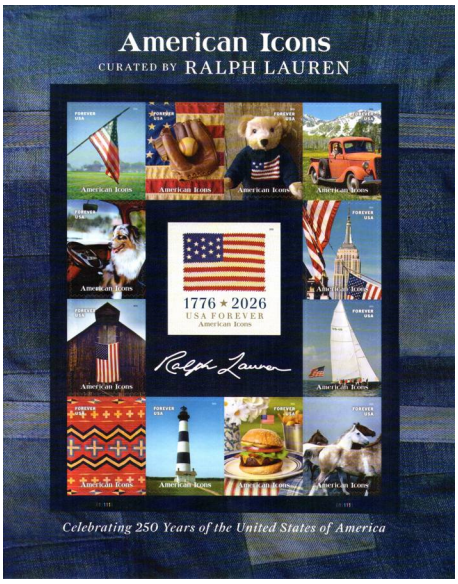
The library is located on the 3rd floor of the Eugene McDermott Library, a block from Parking Structure 1. You enter the building on the second floor and the 3rd floor is one floor up. You will need to show your Driver's License to enter the library.

AMERICAN ICONS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP COLLECTION CURATED BY RALPH LAUREN MARKS AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

From the USPS Newsroom

On June 6, the U.S. Postal Service honored the nation's 250th anniversary with American Icons, a collection of 13 commemorative stamps curated by legendary American designer Ralph Lauren.

The stamp pane features 13 photographs selected from Ralph Lauren's archive and from visuals that have inspired him. The images reflect the unique fabric of the nation, representing freedom, independence, equality, opportunity and the pursuit of happiness. Twelve of the 13 stamps include the "American Icons" title and "FOREVER" and "USA" in white text in the upper left or upper right corners. In the center of the pane, surrounded by blue denim and framed by the other 12 stamps, a 13th stamp shows a knit flag designed by Ralph Lauren with text that reads "1776 to 2026" along with the "American Icons" title and "FOREVER" and "USA" in gold. The text at the top of the selvage reads "American Icons CURATED BY RALPH LAUREN" and the bottom row reads "Celebrating 250 Years of the United States of America."



STAMP ENCORE CONTEST WINNER

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Reissued Mister Rogers Commem. and new souvenir sheet

the children and former children who cast so many votes," Cronkhite said, linking the positive public response to how Rogers addressed childhood insecurities in a calm, reassuring manner that helped viewers feel safe in a sometimes-frightening world. "Although his show allowed him to speak to millions, his gift was communicating in a way that spoke directly to each child, on subjects both serious and silly," he said. "He showed tremendous respect and compassion for everyone and knew how to nurture the best in all of us. It seems especially fitting that Mister Rogers is the winner because Fred Rogers was a passionately loyal postal customer and a huge advocate for the power of mail."

"Fred Rogers considered the space between the television set and a viewer to be 'holy ground,'" said Emma Lee, Director of the Fred Rogers Institute. "The mail children sent to Mister Rogers, and his letters back, became an essential extension of that sacred connection. Reissuing this stamp beautifully honors the enduring ties he built with his television friends."

"Celebrating Fred Rogers' legacy as the Stamp Encore honoree during such a historic year for our nation is a profound privilege," said Paul Siefken, President and CEO of Fred Rogers Productions. "When people use this stamp, we hope it serves as a small, daily reminder of Fred's enduring belief in the inherent worth of every human being."

The Stamp Encore competition gave the public 10 weeks to vote on their favorite stamp by mail, in-person at first-day-of-issue ceremonies and online. Over 500,000 votes were received, with the Mister Rogers stamp securing the win by more than 40,000 votes over the next highest contender.

Fred McFeely Rogers was born on March 20,1928, in Latrobe, PA. Envisioning the potential for creating quality programming for children, Rogers helped found the educational television station WQED in Pittsburgh in 1953. There, Rogers co-produced "The Children's Corner," a 1-hour show for which he was musical composer, organist and puppeteer. In 1963 Rogers was hired by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to host a daily children's television show, "Mister Rogers." He shortly thereafter began to produce a half-hour version of the show for WQED. The following year, several East Coast public television stations aired the program, which was later renamed "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

Every episode of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" began with Mister Rogers welcoming the audience into his television house as he put on his trademark cardigan, changed into sneakers, and then introduced the day's topic. The show featured a Trolley visit to "The Neighborhood of Make-Believe," where the personalities and interactions of many characters helped impart real-life lessons. Rogers addressed young children's concerns and emotions, helping them to feel good about who they were, to appreciate others, and foster curiosity about the world.

After the announcement of the Stamp Encore competition last July, the city of Pittsburgh campaigned for the stamp to make a comeback. Social media posts highlighting the potential return earned over 20,000 likes and shares, and even more votes. Rogers' influence can still be seen today in the award-winning PBS KIDS series "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood," produced by Fred Rogers Productions and featuring characters based on those from the original "Neighborhood of Make-Believe."

Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp. "It's all about the man, and his universal appeal, which will carry on," Noyes said, "The best I can do as a graphic designer is to portray him clearly, straightforward, without special gimmicks, just as he would have wanted."

The original stamp features Walt Seng's photograph of Rogers in a red cardigan and includes King Friday XIII, a puppet character hailing from "The Neighborhood of Make-Believe." To mark the occasion, Noyes also designed a Mister Rogers souvenir sheet with four new stamps, featuring additional images by Seng with other characters from the "Neighborhood," a fitting keepsake to further honor Rogers.

USPS has produced several exclusive Boston 2026 Exposition products featuring Mister Rogers. In addition to the Fred Rogers souvenir sheet, there is a writing kit, a premium stamp pin, a Field Notes memo pad and many more. All show exclusive products will be available online at The Postal Store starting June 1.

The Mister Rogers stamps are being issued as Forever stamps in a pane of 20. The Mister Rogers souvenir sheet is being issued as Forever stamps in a pane of four. These Forever stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce rate.

Editor's Note: It is not clear whether or not the reissue will differ from the original, if so resulting in a new variety.

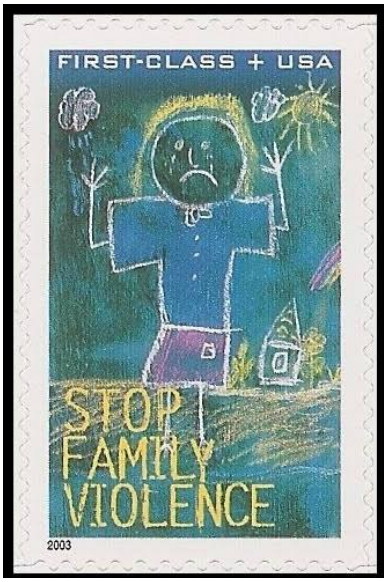
PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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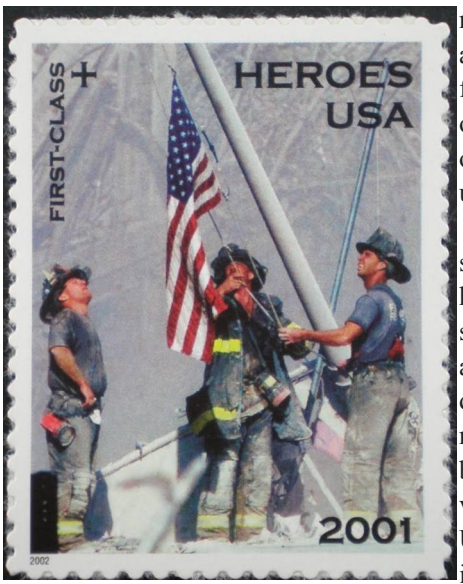
millions of American homes. Every envelope bearing the stamp served as a small reminder of the importance of research, early detection, and support for those affected by the disease. During the same period, significant advances —including improved mammography, genetic testing for BRCA mutations, targeted therapies such as trastuzumab (Herceptin), hormone-based treatments, and immunotherapy—have dramatically improved survival rates. Today, many women diagnosed with breast cancer can expect excellent long-term outcomes that would have been unimaginable a generation ago.

The success of the Breast Cancer Research stamp encouraged Congress and the U.S. Postal Service to authorize additional semi-postal issues.



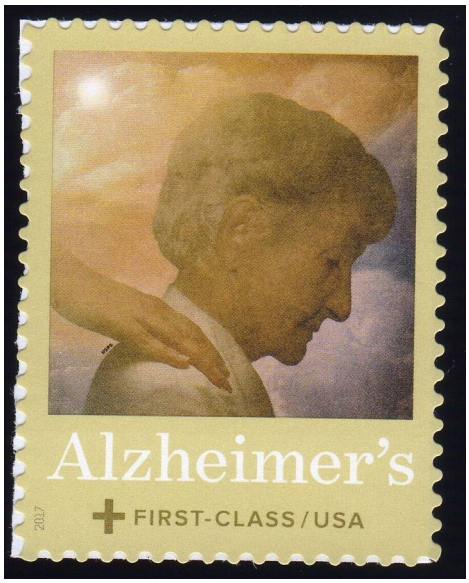
The Stop Family Violence stamp, issued in 2003, helped raise funds to support programs addressing domestic violence and child abuse. Although it did not receive the same public attention as the breast cancer issue, it generated several million dollars for prevention, education, and victim assistance programs. More importantly, it reminded Americans that domestic violence is not merely a private matter but a societal problem deserving public awareness and support.

Following the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Postal Service issued the Heroes of 2001 semi-postal stamp in 2002. Unlike the previous issues, proceeds from this stamp benefited the families of emergency relief personnel affected by the attacks through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The stamp featured a photograph of the American flag flying above the ruins of the World Trade Center, symbolizing both loss and national resilience. More than $10

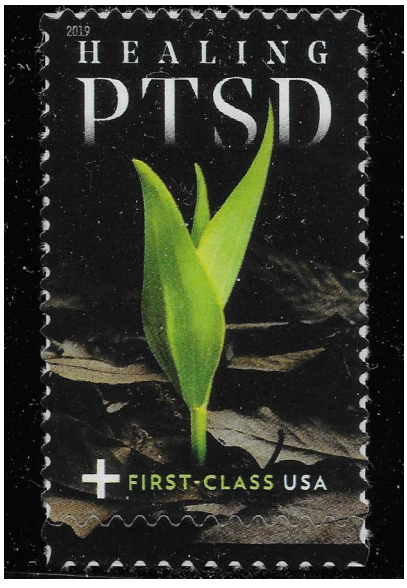


million was raised to assist the families of first responders and other public safety officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Additional U.S. semi-postal stamps have supported causes such as the fight against Alzheimer's disease and, more recently, programs benefiting military veterans. While the United States has issued relatively few semi-postals compared with many other countries, these stamps demonstrate that philately can be more than a hobby. They remind us that postage stamps can educate the public, promote worthy causes, and even contribute to scientific research and humanitarian efforts.



As collectors, we often focus on perforations, watermarks, plate varieties, and postal history. Semi-postal stamps remind us that sometimes a stamp's greatest value lies not only in its rarity or catalog price, but in the positive impact it has on society. They are small pieces of paper with the power to deliver both mail—and hope.



Respectfully,

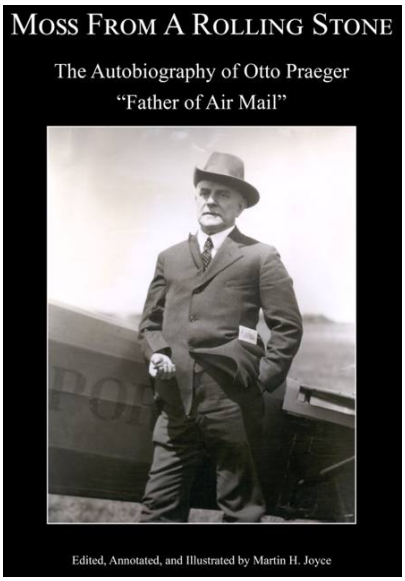
Fernando Torres
President

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

By Martin H. (Jay) Joyce

I am pleased to announce the publication of *Moss From a Rolling Stone — the Autobiography of Otto Praeger, "Father of Air Mail."*

Otto Praeger (1871–1948), was a "favorite son" of Texas. Though he never finished high school, by the age of eighteen he was working as a cub reporter for a San Antonio newspaper. At the age of twenty he bicycled across Mexico, chronicling his journey for the San Antonio Express (with excerpts published nationwide). He was later appointed San Antonio City Clerk, went on to become City Editor for the Express, and later worked as the Washington correspondent for three Texas newspapers. He was appointed postmaster of the Washington, D.C. post office in 1914, one of the largest in the country. After a short time in that capacity, he was appointed Second Assistant Postmaster General in Woodrow Wilson's administration. In that role, he created and developed the U.S. Post Office Department's Air Mail Service. Praeger's success in that endeavor earned him the title of "Father of Air Mail." In later years, he moved to Siam (modern day Thailand) to develop their postal system and air service. Upon returning to the United States in the mid-1930s, he served in a variety of roles with the U.S. government, including the U.S. Shipping Board.



In 1944, Otto Praeger wrote his autobiography, though never published it. Working with the family, I have taken Praeger's typewritten manuscript, and edited and annotated it extensively — fact-checking, elaborating upon key points, and providing historical context. More than eighty illustrations have been added, many in full color, to help bring Praeger's story to life.

The editor, Martin H. (Jay) Joyce, is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. He is the author of several books including *Postmarked West Point: A U.S. Postal History of West Point and its Graduates* (2021). *Moss from a Rolling Stone* can be found on Amazon.

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.

2026 U.S. NEW ISSUES CALENDAR

This is a list of U.S. new issues expected to debut in the next couple of months.

June 9	**American Icons**. Thirteen (78¢) forever commemorative stamp; pane of 13; BCA; New York, NY 10199.
June 9	**American Icons Flag stamp.** Possibly six (78¢) forever definitive stamps; pane of 20, double-sided pane of 20, coils of 100, 3,000 and 10,000; New York, NY 10199.
June 25	**Summer Sunset**. Single (5¢) nondenominated coil stamp; coil of 3,000 and 10,000; Edgartown, MA 02539
June 26	**Buffleheads.** Two $25 federal migratory waterfowl hunting and conservation stamps issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior, pane of one and pane of 20; AP; Saint Augustine, FL 32092.
July 4	**Declaration of Independence**. Single (78¢) forever commemorative stamp; pane of 20; Philadelphia, PA 19104
July 11	**Barbie.** Ten forever commemorative stamps: registered nurse, surgeon, astronaut, firefighter, paleontologist, sign language teacher, robotics engineer, judge, soccer player and music star ; pane of 10; Austin, Texas.
?	**Sarah Orne Jewett**. Single ($1.36) 3-ounce rate stamp, pane of 20, Literary Arts series.
?	**Squirrels & Chipmunks in Winter.** Four (78¢) forever stamp, double-sided pane of 20



Barbie stamps, to be released July 11 in Austin