



## Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

April 2024 Newsletter

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**Commentary and updates:** Welcome to our April newsletter. The start of my favorite part of the year is here...Baseball!

Bob Anderson and I picked up two bins of inherited stamps given to the club by a son of a stamp collector. He was going to throw them away if we didn't take it. I guess that means we're going to have a unique auction coming up this month to reduce the size of this contribution. The contents look like they've not been touched since the 1970's. There is a very nice Master Global Album with some stamps in it. We haven't gone through the collection and we've taken nothing out of it, soooo, come to the meeting, see what this "time capsule" contains and, hopefully go home with some treasures. Bring your stuff too. We'll have our regular auction as well. Auction forms are at the end of this newsletter.

John Withers, our member from Connecticut, has sent a \$100 check to the club to cover his dues for this year and next. He suggested the remainder be used to attract new members. We'll make that money available to the membership committee to be used to recruit more young people and adults into the hobby of philately.

Remember David Crone's program in January on counterfeit stamps? He sent a follow-up memo:

"At the meeting, I suggested that the barcoded labels and imprints from China were also counterfeit. The packages go through Customs and then are delivered to the postal service. It looks like the USPS agreed with my observations," he wrote.

The news item stated, "a woman has been arrested as the mastermind behind a postal service scheme that left the USPS with an estimated \$80 million in losses. New court documents allege that Lijuan 'Angela' Chen, of Walnut, California scammed the service by mailing over 9 million packages with fake postage over six months. Chen reportedly provided shipping and postage services to several businesses operating out of China, from November 1, 2022, through the end of April 2023. The scam began unraveling after USPS investigator Mark White, noticed Chen's packages were being sent with meter "07" meter numbers, which haven't been used since 2020." Caveat Emptor!

*Fred McGary*



The next meeting will be **Sunday, April 21**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.



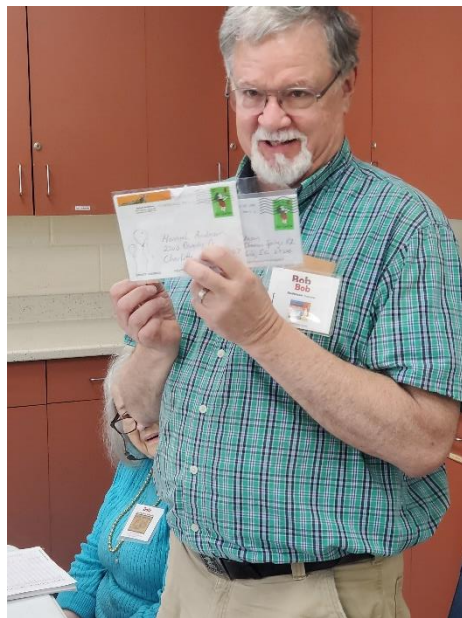
A very Happy Birthday to: Fred McGary (13); Beverly Triber (14); and Scott English (21)  
Congratulations and many, many more.

**PROGRAMS:** The color green has been associated with St. Patrick’s Day since it was introduced to the festival in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, the shamrock became the national symbol of Ireland. Because of the shamrock’s popularity and Ireland’s landscape, the color of the shamrock became associated with the holiday.



the envelope back.

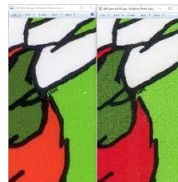
“Since we’re meeting on St. Patty’s Day,” Bob Anderson observed, “I was thinking, what’s the greenest stamp I have?” The Shel Silverstein stamp came out last year and I sent this one to my granddaughter in Charlotte for her birthday.” Bob has a policy where the recipient can keep the contents of the envelope, he just wants



Shel Silverstein is the author of a number of books for children, including: *The Giving Tree*, *Falling up*, *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and *a Light in the attic*, which this stamp is based upon. “Those are just joyful books of poetry,” he said.

What he’s showing are two envelopes with identical stamps. “What you see is a genuine Shel Silverstein on my right and a fake, from China, on my left. There’s a good chance you’ve seen a counterfeit stamp, but you may not have known it,” he concluded.

See the difference in the color of the boy’s pants



*Bob Anderson*

**POSTCROSSING:** “There’s a website called Postcrossing. It’s free. You sign up and basically send and receive postcards from around the world,” Anna Brannin stated. She said it’s not like a pen pal and you can’t send hundreds of postcards at once.



The first time you participate you can only send about five postcards and you must wait until the recipients register your cards before you can send more. “When it’s time to send a postcard, I click “send” and the site gives me the person’s name and address and a code which I write on the card so the recipients can register the postcard with the website, she said.

Anna puts her interests on the postcard and she may get themed stamps back in return. “It’s not just the communication, it’s a whole themed thing. I get to see stamps I would never have seen before,” she noted.

This is a card from Denmark, she said. “This guy sent a postcard in an envelope which had a ton of stamps on it. He wrote on the postcard the government of Denmark was about to privatize the postal service, so all the stamps he had would be null and void,” she said.



One time she received a postcard from Germany and the code of the sender was missing. She wanted to make sure the sender got credit for sending the card.

“The website has a really good support team,” she said. “It didn’t take a whole day for them to find the sender and give me the code so I could register receiving it.”



Anna said Germany is the highest country in sending and receiving. “Now, in addition to my stamps, I’m going to estate sales looking for old postcards,” she declared.

*Anna Brannin*

**COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY AUCTION FORM**

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ LOT # \_\_\_\_\_

SCOTT # \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIVE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: X.FINE, V.FINE, FINE, V.GOOD, GOOD

(Scott Definition) Circle Appropriate

STAMPS: Mint-NH, H Used-NH, H

Complete Set, Short Set, Single, Block, PI Blk,  
Misc Mixture, Other \_\_\_\_\_

COVER(S): FDI, SPEC CANCEL, OTHER CANCEL  
(Circle Appropriate)

SUPPLIES: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERIC DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

MINIMUM OR \_\_\_\_\_ WINNING BID \_\_\_\_\_

SELLER \_\_\_\_\_ BUYER \_\_\_\_\_

PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO CPS: Y / N

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SELLER \_\_\_\_\_ BUYER \_\_\_\_\_

PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO CPS: Y / N





