



Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

April 2025 Newsletter

Editor: Jerry Emanuel

(jemassoc2@gmail.com)

Commentary and updates: It's May, when April showers bring May flowers. It's also time to honor mom. Julia Ward Howe, author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" proposed a day to honor mothers after seeing the death and destruction during the Civil War. She urged the creation of an international body of women who could find a way to avoid war.

The version we celebrate today is because of the work of Ann Jarvis and her daughter, Anna Jarvis who established the holiday to



honor her mother. Anna chose the second Sunday in May, which is the day her mother died.

President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation of the first National Mother's Day just prior to the start of the first World War in 1914.

We've been talking about altering the days of our stamp shows. They're currently Saturday and Sunday. The biggest attendance day is Saturday with a handful of people coming on Sunday. We're exploring moving the show to Friday and Saturday and starting later in the morning to lower the cost of security and, hopefully boost attendance. Nothing definite yet.

Our meeting dates are now being published by the "Columbia Star" newspaper so hopefully we'll see more attendance at our meetings.

It was good to see Bruce LaFleur on our Zoom video last meeting. He's living at a senior living facility where he works on his stamp collection, sometimes as much as nine hours a day. A few of us went to visit recently, which we do a couple of times a month. He's always up for CPS members to come a chat and see what he's working on with his stamps.

We also had some interesting items for auction at the last meeting. If you've got duplicates or items you're ready to part with, bring them to the meeting and auction them.

A reminder, our June meeting will be a week earlier, June 8th so we don't conflict with Father's Day. Jerry Emanuel has the program next month. He's taking us on a tour of the Charleston Stamp Museum.



Fred McGary



The next meeting will be **Sunday, May 18**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.



A very Happy Birthday to: Rick Miller (8); Lewis Boatwright (10); Saba Demian (16); James Lauer (18); David Pugh (21); Herb Estep (22); John Owen (24); Gary Baker (26). Congratulations and many, many more.

PROGRAMS: THE TRIPLE EIGHT CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION

“I had not heard of this battalion at all,” commented Anna Brannin, “I was at the library and saw a book that had to do with mail, so, I was obviously drawn to it. Since it was fiction based on actual events, I wanted to read the real story.”



When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, women weren't allowed to officially serve in the Army. On May 14, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed a bill creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), later the Women's Army Corps.

“In December 1944, the 688th Battalion was formed for the purpose of alleviating the backlog of mail that had accumulated for U. S. soldiers stationed in Europe,” Anna said. The battalion was comprised of mainly black women. They trained at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia and were subjected to racial discrimination during their stay. Their commander was Major Charity Adams, the first black woman to serve as an officer.



Major Charity Adams

“Adams was a teacher in civilian life. She was a student at Howard University when she heard about the WAAC and signed up to join,” Anna mentioned.

The unit was sent to Birmingham, England where they learned there was six warehouses of undelivered mail and packages, some with food that had rotted and attracted rats and other vermin.

Major Adams divided the 855 women into three shifts, working 24 hours-a-day.

“Seven million members of the military were constantly on the move and many personnel had the same name, so finding the right person and delivering the mail to the correct individual was a huge undertaking,” Anna declared.

The Army estimated it would take six months or more to complete the job of sorting and delivering the mail. Because of the

24-hour rotation, it was finished in three months. In peak efficiency, the Six Triple eight processed for delivery over 65,000 pieces of mail *per shift*. By the end of the war, it added up to 17 million pieces of mail.



On November 30, 2018, a monument was erected at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas honoring the Six Triple 8 Battalion. On February 30, 2019, Secretary of the Army Mark Esper awarded them the Meritorious Unit Commendation for Meritorious Service during military operations from 2/15/1945 to 3/4/1946.

Anna Brannin

UPCOMING STAMP SHOW:

HUNTSPEX 2025, Postcard and Coin Show

May 31 to June 1 Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jaycees Community Building, 2180 Airport Road, SW,
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Competitive exhibits; Post office substation; Dealer bourse with stamp, postcard and coin dealers. Contact: Mike O'Reilly (mcoreilly@yahoo.com)

NEW STAMP ISSUES:



Only two new stamps are being issued this month but there are a lot of them.

Goodnight Moon, May 2, N. Kansas City, Missouri 64116
Baby Wild Animals, May 23, Aurora, Colorado 80010

HOW I GOT STARTED...

I've been collecting stamps since I was eight years old, almost 60 years. My dad would take me to the Town & Country store in West Chester every month and he would buy me a different pack of U. S. stamps. Since then, as you can imagine, my collection has grown. I collect United States, United Nations, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. I now collect the rest of the world. I have a few pet projects: Precancels, Perfins, Rhino's on stamps, and my latest project, collecting a stamped envelope from every post office in the country. I have doubles, so let me know what areas you collect and maybe I can help you out. If you have doubles, let me know. Now that I'm retired, I'm going to do a little travelling and I'll let you know where I'm going just in case you need some stamps from there.



Jim Lauer

Everyone has a story to tell. We would like to hear yours. How did you get started collecting stamps? Did someone give you a "push?" Has your collecting changed over the years? Take a few moments to jot it down and email it to the address on the front of this newsletter. Editor