



## Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

February 2024 Newsletter

Editor: Jerry Emanuel

[jemassoc2@gmail.com](mailto:jemassoc2@gmail.com)

**Commentary and updates:** Welcome to the second newsletter of the year. Don't forget, the meeting for February is this Sunday, February 11. The Spring Stamp and Postcard Show has been cancelled due to problems with Spring Valley High School. If Mark can't get an early commitment from SVHS, the August show may have to be moved to another venue. We are trying to expand our auctions and after the success in January we'll have another auction this month. An auction form will be available later in the newsletter.

We're in the process of putting together a membership list with emails and phone numbers. All members will be given a copy of the list at the March meeting. If you don't want your information added to the list, you may **opt out** by letting Jerry Emanuel know.

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Our January program, by David Crone, on counterfeit stamps from China was very enlightening. I wonder when the postal service is going to put a stop to this nonsense? It seems they could go after the obvious advertisers on the internet. I'm doing the program this month about Delcampe and the couple of years I worked for them as U.S. representative. Plenty of funny stories about differences between Belgium and the United States.

Your club officers and media volunteers are working on getting a club website and live Zoom broadcasts of our meetings.

We've talked about putting an exhibition in a venue other than our stamp show. We've put a display in the main post office in the past. In order to encourage more participation in our hobby we may want to put some exhibits in other places, like high schools or at other organizations, like the Rotary Club. Your input is solicited.

Keep on the lookout for potential members and give Midge their names. Thanks.

*Fred McGary*



The next meeting will be **Sunday, February 11**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.



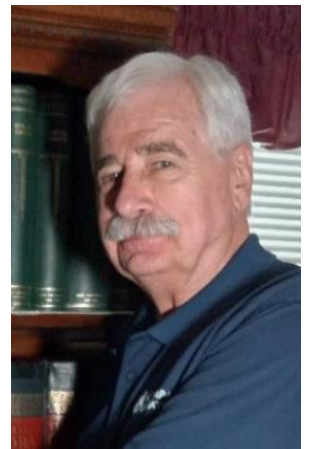
A very Happy Birthday to: Alex Haimann (9), Don Hensley (28) Congratulations and many, many more.

# PROGRAM:

“Counterfeit stamps is nothing new,” said David Crone, “and the United States is not the only country facing this problem.”



He said forever stamps make counterfeiting easier. He added, all 2023 stamps can be counterfeited and there are postal meters that can print counterfeit impressions also.



“Probably as much as 30% of stamped letters use counterfeit stamps,” Crone said, “there are so many counterfeits out there that the market is saturated.”

He complained that many postal clerks and even postmasters can’t tell the difference between a legal and counterfeit stamp. There are multiple counterfeits for every variety and they react differently under special ultraviolet light. The U. S. Inspection Service has intercepted \$7.5 billion worth of counterfeit postage. The USPS lost more than \$500,000,000 in the last few years.

“The counterfeits are coming primarily from China, but Russia and North Korea are culprits too,” Crone said. “The package you receive in the mail may say T-shirt or hat because if the package said ‘stamps’ it would never go through U. S. Customs,” he added.

Great Britain Counterfeit  
"Machin" issue of 24 pence

If there's a QR code on the package, it will take you directly to a Chinese website that looks like the USPS website.

Crone says almost every U.S. stamp has micro-printing on it but, "The Postal Service doesn't bother to tag the low value issues because it's too expensive," he said.

There are ways to detect counterfeits, according to Crone. "Spelling errors, size difference, punctuation errors, bar code errors are just a few ways to check," he said.



If the U. S. Postal Service finds packages or envelopes with counterfeit stamps it goes right into the dumpster, according to Crone.

If someone sells you a sheet of stamps for five dollars, especially high values, you can be sure they're counterfeit, he added.



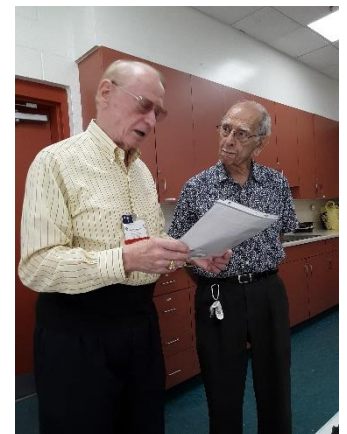
It is with sadness we remember Harold Kline, a long-term member of the Columbia Philatelic Society, who died January 11 at the age of 95.

During WWII, unable to join the military because of his age, he joined the U.S. Ground Observer Corps. When he became of age, he joined and served in the S. C. Air National Guard and was called to duty during the Korean Conflict. For many years he joined other retirees from the Guard at weekly lunches.

Harold had a career as Chief Financial Officer at Kline Iron and Steel Company in Columbia.

He was active in the community as a board member of Beth Shalom Synagogue where he was a past president and as a member of the board of trustees of the Columbia Jewish Federation. He also served on the boards of other organizations including the Palmetto Richland Foundation, the Forest Acres Zoning Board, the Dreher High School Foundation and was also involved with Leeza's Care Connection.

Last year he was granted honorary membership in the CPS at a ceremony at the May meeting.



# February

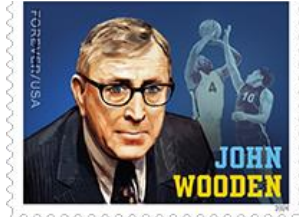
## NEW ISSUES:



Novelist Saul Bellow  
Feb. 6, Chicago



Radiant Star  
Feb. 19, Star, Idaho



Coach John Wooden  
Feb. 24, Los Angeles

# March



Underground Railroad, March 9, Church Creek, MD

Bluegrass, March 15, Owensboro, Kentucky

Garden Delights, March 16, Strongville, Ohio

Celebration Blooms (Horizontal) March 22, St. Louis, Missouri

Wedding Blooms, (Vertical) March 22, St. Louis, Missouri

Save the Manatees, March 27, Silver Springs, Florida



### 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