



Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

January 2024 Newsletter

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Commentary and updates: The new CPS officers are ready to start serving. Thanks to everybody who is willing to serve. **Rick Miller** is our new vice-president, serving as an officer for the first time; **Jerry Emanuel** will continue as secretary and newsletter editor and will continue to do a great job; **Bob Anderson** will now be treasurer, after doing a great job as vice-president. **John Owen** will be on the CPS board as past president. Thank you, John, for everything you've done. **Midge Mirabella** is membership chairperson and she needs a few more people to help increase membership. **Mark Postmus** continues as director of our stamp shows.

The bank accounts were transferred on Friday, January 5th with the new officers signing the needed documents. Bob Anderson will give a current financial report at our January meeting.

The holiday banquet at Grecian Gardens was great. John Owen, with the help from others, did a great job putting it together. If you weren't there, you missed a lot of fun and fellowship. We heard from our keynote speaker, Martin Miller, who talked about the American Topical Association and the work it does.

Our January meeting will have a great program by a friend of mine, David Crone. He'll give us information about all the U. S. counterfeit stamps appearing on the internet at half price which are coming from China.

We'll also have our quarterly auction. Bring some treasures to sell and some cash to buy. Auction forms appear later in this newsletter. Fill them out, designating whether you'll be keeping the proceeds or donating them to CPS.

The biggest stamp show and exhibit in the southeast will be the weekend of January 26-28 at the Hilton Hotel NE in the Atlanta area. If you need more information, please talk to me or John Owen. There's more information later in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, January 21st.

Fred McGary, president



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



A very Happy Birthday to: Harold Kline (2); Bill Lindsay (4); Bill Baab (29)
Congratulations and many, many more.



ANNUAL BANQUET:

Members gathered at the Grecian Gardens in West Columbia December 14 for a dinner of salmon, lasagna or chicken and to hear from Martin Miller, editor of the *American Philatelist*, *First Days* and three other stamp publications. His topic that night was the American Topical Association, a subject he's well familiar with since his wife, Jennifer, is ATA executive director.



Outgoing CPS president John Owen welcomes guests to the annual banquet.

“CPS has been very good to ATA and we appreciate the support and encouragement of the membership,” he said. He said membership is absolutely crucial to the future of philately.



Martin Miller

out having the collecting gene ignited yet.

He told the story of visiting a stamp show in Atlanta and a vendor asked Jennifer, “What are you interested in?” She replied, “I don’t collect.” He repeated, “What are you interested in?” “Oh, I love sheep,” she said. She’s been collecting sheep on stamps for years.

“We’ve got to realize,” Miller said, “people might be interested in collecting because they have a passion for something and they can indulge their passion through stamps.” He added ATA is working to make those connections. “It’s working to set up a scenario where someone in their twenties can enjoy the hobby,” he said.

He stays away from younger people because they don’t have disposable income and they’ve got all the distractions of life ahead of them. Many of us, he continued, started with stamps as kids and dropped it for a period of time.

“What I want is someone who has the attention span and the income to develop a lasting interest. That’s what the American Topical Association provides.



He reported that during times when there was a decline in membership, the mission was to stem the decline, “The ATA executive director took another tack and said, ‘How do we manage the growth?’” One of those growths is in Asia, specifically India, where there are more unaffiliated stamp collectors than anywhere else.

Martin suggested going to the ATA website and viewing some of the videos, some of which show suggestions on increasing membership. “The other thing ATA has done is to open an online store,” he added. He also recommended every club have a web presence, like Facebook.

“One of the things I would encourage you to pick up is the free ATA holiday checklist even if you don’t think you want to collect Mistletoe on stamps. It gives a good picture of what an ATA checklist looks like and it gives you the opportunity to see what you can find in a checklist. If you go to www.tropicalchecklist.org, you’ll see an ATA property. It describes the checklist and when you scroll down the page, it will tell you more about ATA,” he concluded.



Sandra Mitchell, widow of long-time CPS member Bill Mitchell attended and thanked everyone for visiting Bill and supporting her during Bill's last days.



Jennifer Miller



SOUTHEASTERN STAMP EXPO

January 26 – 28

Hilton Hotel NE,

5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd.

Peachtree Corners, Ga. 30092

Theme: The centenary of the birth of president Jimmy Carter

Free parking - \$5 admission, includes raffle ticket for autographed presidential inauguration day cover.

- More than 140 frames of exhibits
- 20 dealers with 40 tables of stamps, postal history and supplies
- Stamp appraisals
- Structured youth activities, including free stamps

Presentations include:

Jimmy Carter Philately

The creative first day covers of artist Pete McClure

Designing a first day cover – the 2024 SESE Jimmy Carter cover

Scouting on stamps

Display, thematic and topical: what are they and how to use them

Contextual and collateral collecting – the USMA at West Point

NEW STAMP ISSUES: Love – Jan. 12, Romance, AR; Pillars of Creation and

Cosmic Cliffs – Jan. 22, Greenbelt, MD; Lunar New Year – Jan. 25, Seattle, WA;

Constance Baker Motley – Jan. 31, New York City

POSTAL RATES INCREASE JAN. 24 TO \$.68/OUNCE

