



Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

July 2023 Newsletter

Editor: Jerry Emanuel

Commentary and updates: *Happy Birthday America!* I trust everyone enjoyed some festivities over the holiday. Lots of things to do in the Midlands. Hope you got to enjoy some event, cookout, etc.

Welcome again to our newest member, Rev. Fred Davis of Florence. He's a collector of mainly U.S. but has 'broad interest' in U.S. philately. Thanks for joining us.

Thanks to everyone who had input to the discussion on the revised by-laws which we updated and voted on last meeting. Now, putting the by-laws with a revised copy of the Constitution will require one more presentation for discussion. Our current Constitution from 'yonder years,' just needs updating and we'll bring that to the membership in August. Once approved, we'll have a complete document (by-laws & constitution) to submit to the Secretary of State. Thanks to Jerry Emanuel who has done some footwork to bring the document along. His efforts have been appreciated.

We'll have another club philatelic auction this meeting so bring what you want to sell, up to ten items. We've got more display room this month. Put your initials on items you wish to bid on. Jim Sneed will be our auctioneer. If you're selling, sign your name on the sales form (elsewhere in this newsletter) and add your intentions; keep the cash or donate it.

Dr. Mick Zais is attending the Royal Philatelic Society's big annual gathering in London and is exhibiting historical documents of the Great Britain/Zulu war of the late 1880's titled, "Clash of Empires." Take a look at Mick's presentation and other parts of the show at <https://clashofempires.org>. I've asked Mick to do the program at a future presentation for us. He was also asked by the RPS to participate in a seminar by presenting a program on part of his well-developed collection centered on the U.S. Army-Navy stamp issue of 1936-37.

Our fall stamp show is August 19-20 at Spring Valley High School. Volunteers are needed for the registration table, set up and take down and putting up signs. A sign-up sheet will be at the July meeting. If you can't make it, let me know how you want to help.

Officers are working with Mark Postmus, our show director, to provide a special program related to our theme, "The 50th Anniversary of the all-Volunteer Military." Bob Anderson is designing the cachet and postal cancellation. The USPS is being invited to provide postal services at their booth during the show.

The featured program this month is my quick overview of a longer program I'll present later on "Special Handling U.S. Postage of the 1912 – 1955 era." Sunday's presentation will include Parcel Post, Parcel Post Due and Special Handling.

Refreshments are provided by CPS members with a 'picnic style' assortment of fresh fruits, brownies, a special baked peach cobbler (provided by Mike Michaelski), assorted drinks and more. Let Bob Anderson know if you can bring additional food.

If you subscribe to multiple stamp organization publications, please bring them to the meeting so others can access them. D. C. Locke has been distributing the leftover literature to a local branch of the Lexington County Library.

John Owen



The next meeting will be Sunday, July 16, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia. **August meeting is Aug. 13**



A very Happy Birthday to our members: Ken Ferguson (1); Michael Taylor (6); O'Neil Tyler (7); Mark Postmus (8); Bob Wilson (8); Jim Sneed (11); Dale Carruth (20); John Dulaveris (26); John Withers (29)

Congratulations and many, many more.

PROGRAMS: Bob Anderson provided members with the story of the Pitcairn Island stamps. "It's in the middle of nowhere," Anderson said, "southeast of French Polynesia and Bora Bora in the southern Pacific Ocean." Anderson said the definition of "cairn" is a pile of rocks, and, "it's certainly that!" he added.



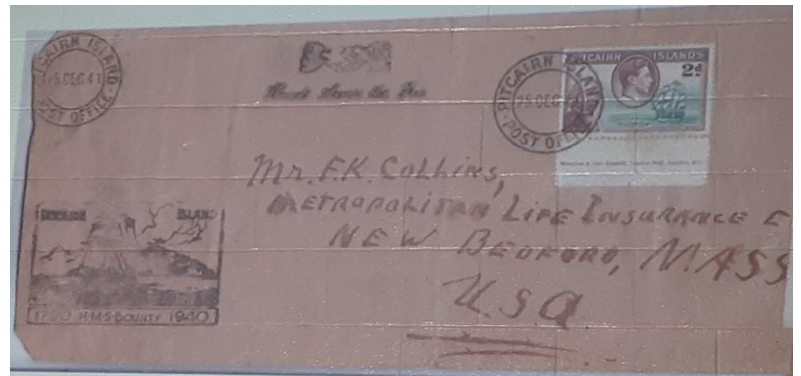
The island might have been lost to history had it not been the stopping point for Fletcher Christian and the crew of the "Bounty" after they mutinied. The Commander of the ship, Lt. William Bligh, and eighteen loyal officers were set adrift on April 29, 1789 and a few survivors eventually made their way back to England.



This is the first set of Pitcairn Island stamps of 1940. “I was surprised there were no British overprints,” Anderson said.

Mail was very irregular and depended upon a ship visiting the island. There was no post office, per se, before the 1940’s.

“This is a cover from 1941 with one of the first issues. Look at the wonderful cachet and nice postmark, the 25th of December, Christmas Day, during wartime, mailed to Mr. F. K. Collins in Bedford, Massachusetts,” Anderson observed.



Some envelopes were made with coconut leaf paper, a course brown paper. “Many of these covers on EBAY sold for over \$100,” Anderson said. “Covers of this philatelic period are not common,” he added.



“This is not the first set of stamps, probably the second set,” Anderson said, “It’s one of the omnibus issues with a beautiful cachet, dated December 1, 1946.”

“Look who it’s addressed to: The great-great grandson of Fletcher Christian, living on Pitcairn Island,” Anderson added.

“Here are some stamps, surely a British territory, which it remains today,” Anderson said. “The Bounty mutineers arrived at the uninhabited island so all people on the island are descendants of the mutineers. There were people on the island before they came but they left before Fletcher Christian and his crew arrived.” Great Britain is the only country which doesn’t have to put its name on a stamp. Unlike other stamps, Great Britain uses the profile of the reigning monarch.



On the left is the coronation issue of 1953 showing Queen Elizabeth II.

At the bottom is the coronation issue of 2023 showing pictures of His Royal Highness, King Charles III.



Bob Anderson

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The **Charlotte Philatelic Society** (CPS-North) will hold its annual show July 29 – 30. There will be 22 dealers supporting CHARPEX 23 plus many interesting exhibits. Our members Rick Miller, Dr. Mick Zais and John Owen have entered exhibits so CPS-South will be represented. For more info, contact John Owen. We always support CPS-North’s show and this year should be no exception. Make plans to attend. Car-pooling works!

The **Great American Stamp Show** (GASS) is in Cleveland, Ohio August 11-13. John Owen is attending along with a friend from Hendersonville, NC. There’s room for one more person in the car-pool. Check with John for more information.

NEW STAMP ISSUES:

July 9: Northern
Cardinal stamped
envelope, Bird City, KS
July 21: John Lewis
Atlanta, Ga.



THE STORY BEHIND THE RAREST U.S. STAMP: THE INVERTED JENNY

by Edwards Park, Smithsonian Magazine

To a layman, the Inverted Jenny is just a 24-cent stamp, Red with a blue picture of an old-fashioned biplane – but oops! The plane is upside down. To a pilot it pictures an ancient Curtiss JN-4 or “Jenny,” apparently at the top of a loop or in the middle of a slow roll. To postal officials it’s an embarrassing error that regrettably stumbled into circulation.



Only 100 examples slipped past printing inspectors and made their way to the public at the tag end of World War I. All 100 instantly became collector’s items. To philatelists, each one is worth about \$100,000, depending on its condition. Quite a return on an original investment of 24 cents, though in 1918 for that sum you could buy four glasses of beer with change left over.

“Ever since we were given ours about 30 years ago,” said James Bruns, director of the National Postal Museum, “philatelists have planned their vacations around a visit to Washington just to look at it. When they arrive and find it’s hidden away, they complain and write nasty letters. We can’t put it on permanent display if we want our grandchildren to see it.”

Why? Because of that old museum curator’s bugaboo: Ultraviolet light. The stamp’s perimeter, the “frame,” is red, an unstable color. Ultraviolet light would gradually fade it, turning it orange. It’s okay, however, to showcase this Smithsonian treasure for short periods.

The star of the museum’s show are airmail stamps offered for sale on May 13, 1918, in time for the first official airmail flights, two days later. On the morning of the 14th, avid



Washington, D. C. collector William T. Robey showed up at a post office on New York Avenue near 13th Street. He was looking for errors and knew the last-minute rush to print, as well as the two-color printing process, would make the stamps especially vulnerable to discrepancies. He knew stamp collectors would pay high prices for those errors, but he probably never imagined just how high.

Though \$24 was serious money back then, Robey decided to get a sheet of 100 stamps. The details of what happened that day are varied, but one version recounted by Robey in 1938 describes how he went back to the post office and asked the clerk if any more airmail stamps had come in. “He brought forth a full sheet,” Robey said, “and my heart stood still.” The image was upside down. “It was a thrill that comes once in a lifetime,” he said.

The clerk scanned the sheet but didn’t hesitate to hand it over. Robey asked if he had more sheets just like it. “At that,” said Jim Bruns, “the clerk smelled a rat, and closed his window.

Laying the sheet carefully in his briefcase, he went back to work. There he quickly set about notifying friends and collectors of his find. It wasn’t long before a couple of postal inspectors arrived. One of his coworkers, upon hearing of Robey’s good fortune, had gone in search of more inverts and had told the postal officials where they could find Robey.

The inspectors were extra polite. Had he just purchased a sheet of 24-cent airmail stamps with an inverted center? “Yes.” “Would it be too much trouble to show it to us?” they asked. “Sorry,” Robey replied. “Would you be interested in selling it back to us?” they asked. Robey gave them the same answer.

Politeness aside, the inspectors then threatened that the government would confiscate the sheet. Robey went home that evening and hid the stamps under his mattress. He knew official pressure would increase so he got in touch with some well-known philatelists. One Eugene Klein of Philadelphia snapped up Robey’s sheet of stamps for \$15,000. Exit Robey, whistling happily. Enter Edward H. R. Green who paid Klein \$20,000 for the sheet.

Green broke the sheet up, dispersing individual stamps and blocks of four to collector friends. “The condition of some of those stamps had deteriorated since 1918,” said Bruns. “Four were stolen, two, recovered. The thief cut off the perforations so the stamps wouldn’t be recognized. Perforations are like a stamp’s fingerprints, they fit like pieces of a puzzle.

Robey’s sheet, ten stamps across by ten stamps down had been cut along its top and right side. That gave 19 stamps straight edges, nine on top, nine on the right, one at the corner with both top and right straight-edged. Green took the straight-edge stamps home and put them in a safe. After his death in 1936, they again came to light – by then all stuck together. Unsticking them with water removed the gum.

Most printing errors involve either an inverted plate or a sheet fed improperly to the printer. Most are caught quickly, either by a print inspector or a postal clerk. The clerk who sold Robey the sheet didn't spot the mistake. Asked about it later, he replied, "How was I to know the thing was upside down? I never saw an airplane before."



Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny"

COLUMBIA STAMP SHOW
 August 19 – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 August 20 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Spring Valley High School



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

COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY AUCTION FORM

COUNTRY _____ LOT # _____

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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,
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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