Columbia Philatelic Society

Since 1935

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APS chapter #043067

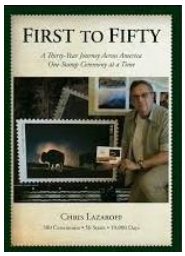
July 2026 Newsletter

Editor: Jerry Emanuel

(jemassoc2@gmail.com)

Commentary and updates: Our show is coming up on September 25-26 and since this is the 250th anniversary of the country we want to put an exhibit together of old or bicentennial issues. People 30 years old and younger have never seen a 50-year-old stamp. We can do six or seven frames or do one person per frame. Just decide what you want to exhibit. We've got 18 good frames and each frame takes 16 entries. Every member who comes to the show will get a $10 credit they can spend with any of the dealers. Just pick up the voucher at the registration desk. It's personalized so only you can use it.

The postcards I sent to myself at the Boston show just came back from the Faroe Islands. Mick (Zais) said he received his from Greenland. You addressed them at the show and they would take them back to their country and mail them, so you'd get a postmark from that country. The organizers of the Boston show asked for donations of two million stamps to give away at a table for new collectors or anyone who needed to fill in spaces in their albums. About four days later, they had five million and asked everyone to stop sending any more.



Chris Lazaroff will be coming to our August meeting to talk about a lot of stamp things and to show us his latest book, "First to Fifty," a memoir, travelogue and a history of first day collecting. Lazaroff has attended first day ceremonies in all 50 states and he writes about those trips and the friends he's made and the triumphs and flops he's encountered along the way. His book will be available for sale. Bookstore price is $50.

Did you know President Andrew Jackson's picture was supposed to be on America's first postage stamp? Because of unrest in the country and the threat of civil war it was decided to put Benjamin Franklin's picture on the five-cent stamp. New York postmaster, Robert Morris proposed following Great Britain's Penny Black with stamps of our own. In 1845, Morris issued a provisional stamp, paid for with his own money. In 1847, the U. S. Post Office created its own stamps putting George Washington on the ten-cent blue.

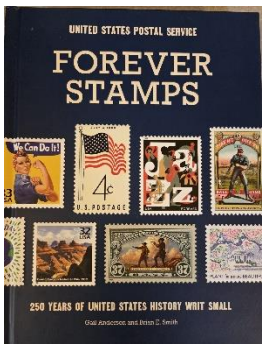
Fred McGary

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

A very Happy August Birthday to: Madeleine Wenzel; D. C. Locke. Congratulations and many, many more.

SHOW & TELL:

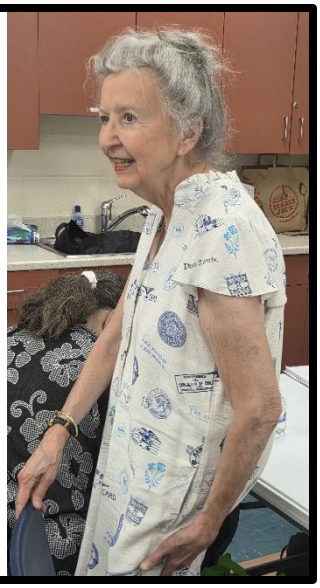
For Father's Day my daughter gave me this book. It's 250 years of history in forever stamps. Three hundred twenty pages with stories about the stamps. It was a great gift.



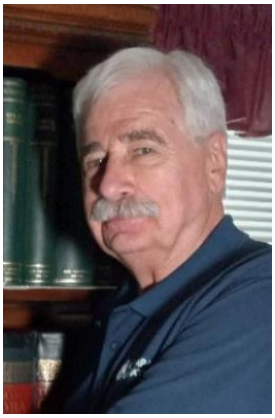
Jerry Emanuel

"My show and tell is my dress," said Beverly Triber, "the dress has postmarks from all over the world."

Beverly Triber



PROGRAMS:



"I travel the world with different orchestras, *(besides being an authority on counterfeit stamps, David is also a cellist)* and in December 2024 I was in Hungary for a series of concerts," remembered David Crone." While there he found a philatelic museum adjacent to Hero's Square. "This is the outside of the museum and the only way to know what it is, is because you looked it up!" he added.

There are no signs except at the top. There is a sign that says Postal Sculptural Center which isn't visible. "There are two mailboxes sitting outside the door and that's the only indication of what's inside," he said.

Inside the building, which used to be a businessman's house which was converted into a museum in 2012, there's a "beautiful staircase going to the second floor. The first floor is a restaurant, the second floor the museum which exhibits primarily postal equipment," Crone mentioned.

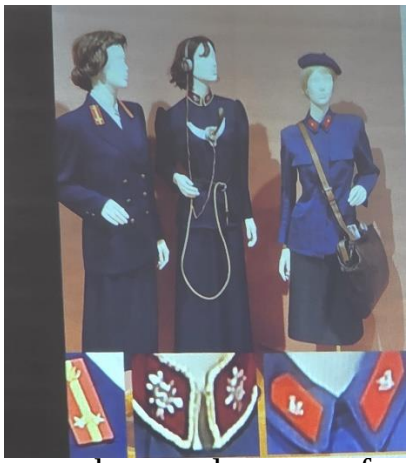
When you walk in there's a typical layout of the early Hungarian postal telegraph and telephone office, Crone stated, and if you look in the upper left corner, you'll see a big clock on the wall. To the left of the desk was the patch panel where telephone operators would connect a caller to a recipient by "patching in" to different cities around the country.

"These are some of the sealing stamps that were used on security and registered letters," Crone declared. Each registered letter had to have five seals to verify it had not been tampered with. "There are different types of seals that were used, plus a stamp which might read, 'Registered Mail'," Crone said.

In the late 1890's the Hungarians developed a lock to use on security mailbags. It was first used to ship money. They expanded the design for all types of mail.

"After locking, they would place a piece of paper over the key slot," Crone described, "and the piece of paper would be stamped with the post office where it was shipped. They claimed they invented all this."

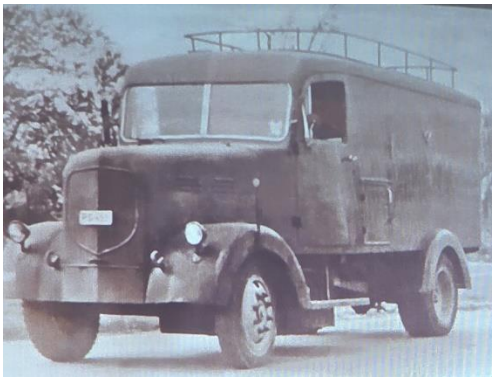
The purpose of the security mailbag was to eliminate the need for an iron box. The bag was lightweight and more could go into the vehicles they used to move the product.



The Hungarian Post Office was run primarily by women, and these are some of their uniforms. They showed three different branches. The carrier is on the right, the telephone operator is in the middle and the radio operator is on the left. "Each branch had different types of uniforms and the insignia on their collars showed where they belonged," Crone stated. The insignia on the right is a post horn, the middle insignia is like a telephone and the one on the left like a radio station.

In 1900, the Hungarians were trying to figure out a way to move the mail faster, so they made many of these bicycles and they used them between 1900 and 1920. It had a 2 ¼ horsepower engine, single cylinder adapted to a Peugeot tricycle.

"This 1904 vehicle was also built on a Peugeot chassis," Crone commented, "they had 91 built between 1897 and 1904. Most were destroyed during the second world war."



In 1936, the Hungarians started experimenting with electric trucks. Ten were constructed in 1940 and they were used for 20 years. "The range was about 30 miles," Crone said, " On the front bumper of the truck, you'll notice two big hooks. They are there to get you out of trouble," he added.

David Crone

THE SILLY ¼ MILLIMETER:

"I've been attempting to identify Special Handling stamps issued between 1925 and 1955," said Page Berry. "Could one of the differences be something as simple as a quarter millimeter?" Berry asked.

These are Special Handling stamps. They were around from 1925 into the 1950's. They were printed in four denominations. The ink color is the variant.

These stamps are known as "Critter Covers" because that's what they were designed to do – ship live animals like baby chicks and baby alligators. They were used throughout history for many other things: for instance, a salesman shipped his laundry back to his favorite dry cleaner.

Paper shrinkage was a major problem for coil stamps because they were printed in sheets, slit into strips and then glued together to make a coil of 500 or 1,000 stamps. They were printed on what we'd call today, Regular Paper. A thicker paper was called Booklet Paper.

The difference is in the direction of the grain in the paper. In regular paper the grain direction is vertical along the short axis. In Booklet Paper, the grain direction is horizontal

along the long axis. Booklet paper was done for coil stamps and booklets because in booklets shrinkage is toward the tab, not toward the sides.

Paper shrinkage along the grain is up to four times greater than across the grain. They were able to trim booklets and get the margins because they were throwing away huge amounts of booklets due to paper shrinkage being uncontrollable. The 1925 and 1928 stamps are on regular paper so they're easily identifiable even though they are identified as green and yellow-green. The 1925 issue is deep green, the 1928 stamp is yellow-green.

The 10, 15 and 20 cent issues ended up on booklet paper. "In 1955, they went to a dry print, so the ones that were difficult to identify were the 1928 and 1940 to 1954 issues," Berry said.

The primary difference between dry print and wet print lies in the moisture content of the paper before printing, which affects ink adhesion, pressure requirements and paper shrinkage.

Wet printing requires paper to be thoroughly soaked, causing it to stretch. Dry printing uses, as the name implies, dry paper. Wet printing results in slight shrinkage when the paper dries after printing, making the final image slightly smaller. Dry printing doesn't cause shrinking, but it requires much higher pressure and specialized fast-drying inks compared to wet printing. Dry prints typically feature whiter paper, higher surface sheen and better, clearer image detail. Wet prints often have a duller, rougher and softer surface.

"When I started the project," Berry mentioned, "I was looking for a way to positively identify the 1928 and 1940 version as a stamp." The 1928 version, booklet paper, is consistently shorter and wider. The 1940 issue on regular paper is narrower and taller.

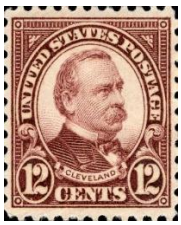
The actual dimensions of each issue:
1928 Booklet paper: 21.5mm by 36.75 mm
1940 Regular paper: 21.75mm by 36.50mm

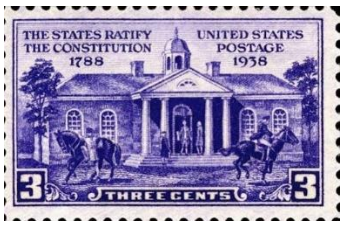
"…and there's the silly ¼ millimeter," Berry concluded.

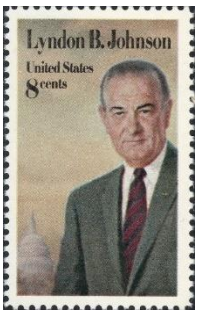
Page Berry

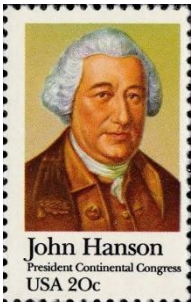
MOMENTS IN HISTORY:

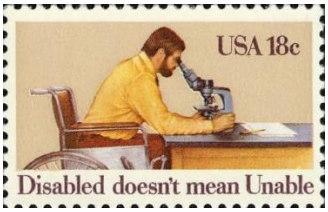
"It's time to check out the historical events in postage stamps for July," said Rick Miller. "This month's historical figures and events range from the civil war to the Civil Rights Act; from George Washington to George Herbert Walker Bush; and from Grover Cleveland to William McKinley. Let's not forget the many people celebrating birthdays this month. So, let's begin." He explained.





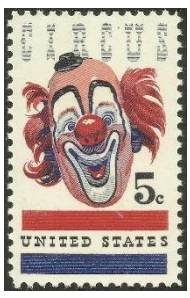


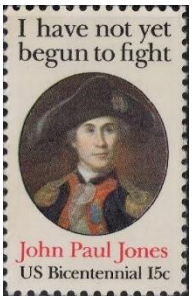


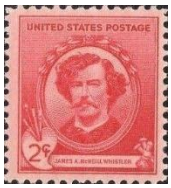


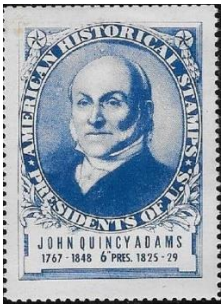
July 1, 1863: The battle of Gettysburg begins; July 1, 1893: President Grover Cleveland undergoes secret surgery to remove a cancerous growth in his mouth; July 2, 1788: Congress announces the Constitution has been ratified by nine states; July 2, 1964: President Lyndon B. Johnson, a southern president, signs the Civil Rights Act; July 3, 1775: George Washington becomes commander of American forces in the fight for independence; July 4, 1776: The Declaration of Independence is approved by the Continental Congress; July 4, 1863: The battle of Vicksburg. The last Confederate stronghold surrendered to Gen. U. S. Grant; July7, 1898: President William McKinley signed a resolution annexing the territory of Hawaii by removing Queen Lili'uokalani from the throne of her kingdom. July 16, 1861: The battle of Bull Run was the first major land battle of the civil war. Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, was victorious. July 20, 1969: Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin were the first humans to walk on the surface of the moon. Astronaut Michael Collins flew the command module around the moon, a vehicle that would return them to Earth; July 26, 1990: President George Herbert Walker Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act; July 27, 1953: The Korean War ends with an armistice, not an official peace treaty.

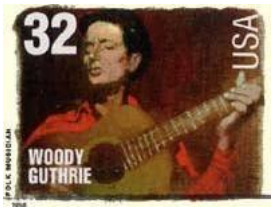
BIRTHDAYS:

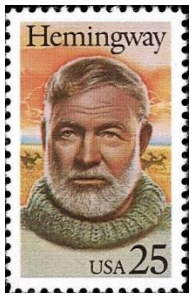












July 2: Thurgood Marshall; July 4: Nathaniel Hawthorne; July 4: Stephen Foster; July 4: President Calvin Coolidge; July 5: Admiral David Farragut; July 6: Phineas Taylor (P. T.) Barnum; July 6: John Paul Jones; July 10: James Whistler and his painting; July 10: Arthur Ashe; July 10: President John Quincey Adams; July 12: Henry David Thoreau; July 14: Woodrow (Woody) Wilson Guthrie; July 14: President Gerald R. Ford (whose real name was Leslie Lynch King, Jr.); July 21: Ernest Hemingway; July 24: Simon Bolivar; July 24: Amelia Earhart; July 30: Henry Ford.

Rick Miller

NEW STAMP ISSUES:

August 7: Diagonal flag envelope
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
August 21: Sarah Orne Jewett
S. Berwick, Maine 03908

Sarah Jewett was an American author best known for her local color and regionalist fiction depicting the rural, coastal seaport communities of Maine.

NEW STAMP FIRST CLASS POSTAGE RATE IS NOW $.82