



Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

October 2023 Newsletter

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Commentary and updates: October is National Stamp Collecting Month. Some 54 years ago, USPS started issuing annually, commemorative stamps recognizing the event. The October 2nd issue of *Linn's Weekly* had a feature article on the significance of the postal service involvement in National Stamp Collecting Week. I would highly recommend a reading of the article by members and collectors alike. It offers a review of the stamps issued over the years for our hobby. Talk about a great topical collection, this would be a tremendous collection to build, mount and for exhibit. Anyone interested?

I am calling attention to our membership as a point of emphasis. We have 62 members on the rolls. Less than one third attend our meetings. To see if we can improve this, I am appointing a membership committee to draw up a plan of action to address the issue with several key goals: (1) to improve attendance, (2) to make a personal contact with every member who does not attend to let them know we appreciate their membership and their support and (3) show we care about them. You will be hearing more about this in the near future. Your input would be appreciated. Let me know your recommendations and advice.

I would like to thank Bob Anderson for filling in for me at last month's meeting. From what I've heard it went well and the auction was also a success.

We are likely to have a couple of visitors at the October meeting. If you see a new face in the room, please greet the newcomer. Introduce yourself and thank them for coming to the meeting. Be sure to wear your name tag for easy identification.

Our annual holiday banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 14 at the *Grecian Gardens Restaurant* in West Columbia. More information is at the end of the newsletter. Dale Carruth and I will handle ticket sales. If you want to help with decorations, contact Dale.

The newly completed CPS Constitution will be presented at the October meeting for review along with the bi-laws. We'll ask for final approval at the November meeting. Once completed and approved we'll file them with the Secretary of State's office and they will go into effect January 1, 2024. Be sure to attend this important meeting.

John Owen



The next meeting will be **Sunday, October 15**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.



A very Happy Birthday to: Jennifer Miller (3); Susan Postmus (6); Martin Miller (10); Frank Weick (24).
Congratulations and many, many more.

PROGRAM: UNDERSTANDING MY SWEDISH ROOTS:

“This is a topic that interests me because I am of Scandinavian origin. I knew my grandparents growing up and this got me interested in collecting Swedish stamps,” said Les Hall, who says he’s one-fourth Swedish.

As he started getting into Swedish stamp collecting he realized he knew nothing about the history of Sweden. It put him on a journey to learn more about the country. During his presentation he confined his remarks to what is called the modern era of Sweden which began in 1523.

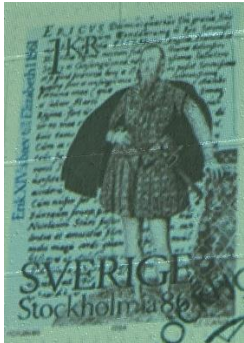
“We start with Gustavus I Vasa who rose to power after the Swedish War of Liberation where he helped to defeat Christian II of Denmark and Norway,” he said. “He knew the Protestant reformation in Germany and he believed similar changes needed to be made in Sweden,” he added.

Gustavus established the Lutheran Church as the official church in Sweden. He commissioned a Swedish bible to be translated from Latin. This stamp is a copy of the bible being presented to him.

When Gustavus died in 1560, his son, Eric 14th succeeded to the throne. He was enamored with England’s Queen Elizabeth I and was preparing to travel to London to ask for the queen’s hand in marriage. He sent, instead, a letter expressing his desire to wed the queen. Upon receiving the proposal, Elizabeth wrote back saying, “While we perceive...that the zeal and love of your



mind towards us is not diminished, yet in part we are grieved that we cannot gratify your Serene highness with the same kind of affection. We do not conceive in our heart to take a husband, but highly commend the single life.” The stamp shows Eric, the background being the letter, in Latin, he sent the queen.



After two wars, which weren't successful, Eric showed signs of insanity which led to his overthrow. He was succeeded by his half-brother John III who also ruled Finland. John's son, Sigismund III Vasa followed. He was one of those rulers who ruled multiple areas simultaneously. He started as the King of Poland. This is a dual set of stamps published jointly by Poland and Sweden. The picture is fashioned after a portrait which was painted by Peter Paul Rubens. Sigismund entered into a civil war with his uncle, Charles IX. Sigismund was pushing for Catholic influence, Charles for Protestant influence. It ended with Sigismund giving up the Swedish crown but remaining as King of Poland.



Charles IX was succeeded by his son, Gustaf II Adolf, who helped to establish Sweden as a major military power during the 30-years war.



“The stamp on the left is a coil which has no watermark. It's valued at 40 cents. The one in the middle has a wavy line watermark and that goes for \$35.00. The one on the right is priced at \$2.00, which is perforated,” Hall said.

Gustaf II Adolf was killed in the battle of Lutzen, as the stamp on the right depicts. His death brought his daughter, Kristina to the throne. She was six-years old. She assumed



full control of the government at age 18. “She was one of the most learned women of the 17th century,” Hall stated, “and she was the first female ruler of Sweden.” She was also ruler of Finland and she set the stage for the establishment of universities there. She had a long-term relationship with her lady-in-waiting which negatively affected her popularity. She abdicated in 1654.

We'll continue the history of Sweden and its postage stamps next month.

Les Hall

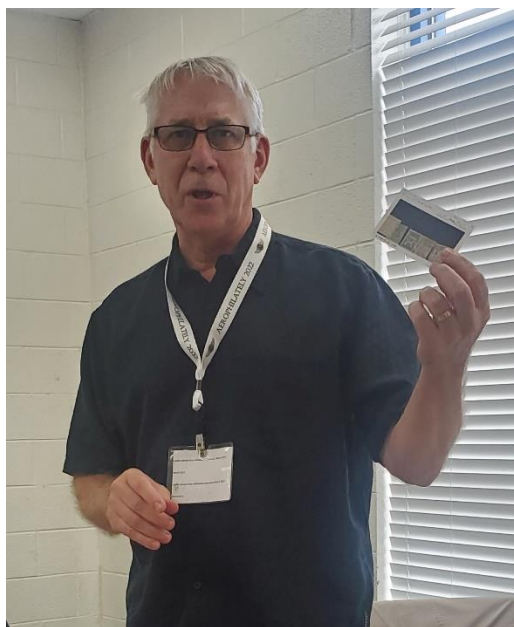
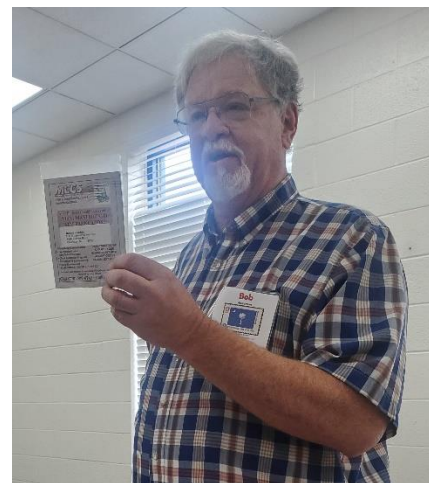


TELL US WHAT YOU BOUGHT AT OUR AUGUST STAMP SHOW:

For 33 cents I got this card. It's a legitimate advertising card with a transportation coil on it.

Twenty cent rate, 20 cent card, and I loved it because I don't think I have a single card that's oriented that way, that's a commercial postcard. I've got hundreds, if not thousands, of postcards and I can't tell you if I've got one that's vertically oriented. I was thrilled to find it.

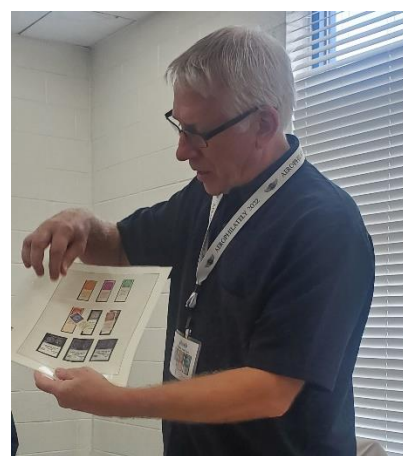
Bob Anderson



My grandfather was in WWI, actually a year after WWI, there was an expedition of the U. S. Army that went into Russia and spent a year in the country in the northern portion of the country. I was talking to one of the dealers at the show and he said, "Oh yeah, there's a set of stamps...and he gave me a set of stamps: the Army of the North, (Siberia) Russian stamps and they're from that era at that time.

I also collect Israel, mint and tab stamps. The first six I've been wanting to collect for some time. I have them in the Lindler Album

where you can move the pages back and forth. The tabs themselves – I'm not sure why they do it but they usually have some scriptural verses on the tab or artwork and, it's just been there from the very beginning. Usually, on the bottom of a sheet of stamps they'll have that row of stamps as tabs. The other stamps don't have the tabs so you can collect them one way or another.



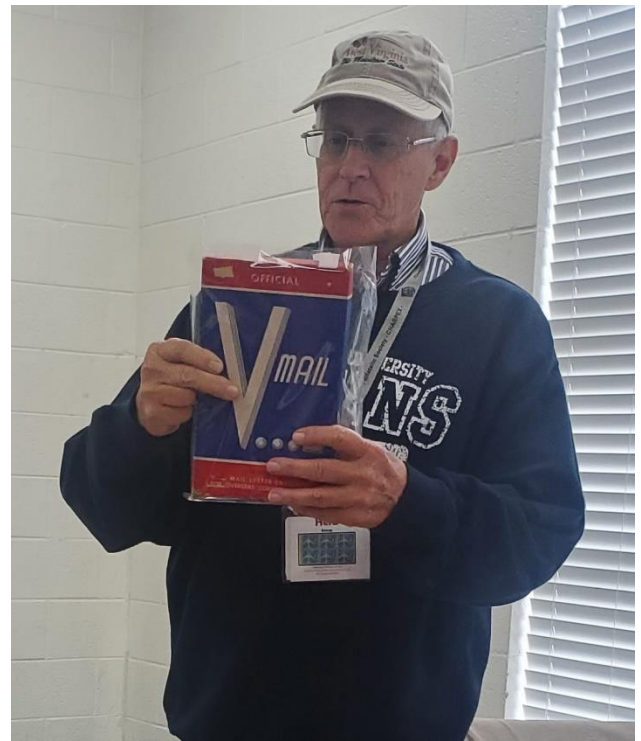
Mark Postmus



I collect U. S. stamps with other countries. I try to collect U. S. ones, foreign ones and joint stamps. One of the dealers had all three of them for me. Switzerland. I got all three at one time.

Remember when I gave a presentation about stamps in the funny papers? I picked up a Garfield first day cover and got two more cartoons out of the paper.

Dale Carruth



What I found is a box of 50, actually there are 65 in the box, of mint sheets of "V" mail, Victory Mail, that were used in WWII. "V" mail was used to expedite mail service for armed forces overseas. Soldiers would take a sheet, write their message on the back, fold the sheet and seal it. It would go to headquarters and be microfilmed and sent to the United States where they would print the message from the microfilm and deliver the letter to the addressee.

It was also a way the check outgoing messages making sure classified information wasn't being sent. Finding a whole box of mint sheets is very unusual. It was a great find.

Herb Estep



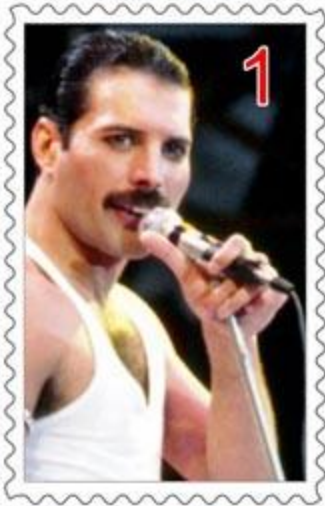
"He drooled on my stamp collection."



"They're called 'Forever Stamps' because the name, 'Forever Increasing In Price Stamps,' was rejected."

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

Recognize any of these famous collectors?



Freddie Mercury: The singer, from the English rock band, *Queen*, collected stamps as a child. After his death, his father sold Mercury's collection to the Royal Mail. The proceeds of the sale were donated to an AIDS charity.

Nicolas Sarkozy: The 23rd president of France has collected stamps since his youth. In 2004, he received from Queen Elizabeth II a series of stamps commemorating the Entente Cordiale, during his stay at Windsor Castle.



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presented the French president with an album filled with stamps plus two first day covers from California.



Queen Elizabeth II: Her Majesty has been collecting first day covers from the United Kingdom and overseas since 1952, the year she became queen. Her coronation, seen live by millions on television, took place June 2, 1953 in Westminster Abbey.

Guitarist Ron Wood: Wood began his career in 1964 playing lead guitar with several British bands, including *The Birds*. After the departure of Rick Taylor of *The Rolling Stones*,



Keith Richards invited Wood to join the band. He's been collecting stamps for years.



Maria Sharapova: The Russian tennis player collected stamps as a child. She competed on the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) from 2001 to 2020 and was ranked number one in singles by the WTA. She's one of ten women, and the only Russian, to achieve the Career Grand Slam in tennis, winning the Australian Open, the French Open, the U.S. Open and Wimbledon during her career.

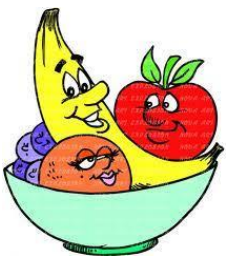
(source: Freestampmagazine.com)

NEW STAMP ISSUES FOR OCTOBER:

Former Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. October 2, Washington, D.C. This stamp marks a break in tradition that people be honored no sooner than 5 years after their death.



Winter Wonderland Animals
October 10, Woodland, Michigan



REFRESHMENTS: Our thanks go to Wallace Bird for providing sustenance at the October meeting.

HOLIDAY BANQUET: Our holiday gathering will be Thursday, December 14th beginning at 5 p.m. at the Grecian Gardens Restaurant, 2312 Sunset Boulevard, West Columbia. Menu: a choice of ½ **roasted chicken**, (oven roasted, marinated overnight and baked in Greek herbs and spices); **Lasagna** (homemade classic lasagna, topped with marinara sauce and melted mozzarella cheese) or **Salmon** (broiled with a little olive oil and lemon juice). Drinks, other than water is extra, as is dessert. Total cost to members is \$20 per person *collected in advance*. Put the date on your calendar and plan to join us. We'll introduce our new slate of officers, have a short business meeting plus a guest speaker. The event will replace a December meeting.

