



## Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

September 2023 Newsletter

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**Commentary and updates:** How was your Labor Day? Safe, I trust and then enjoyable. Will we see cooler temperatures and the first signs of the fall season soon and milder weather? Don't forget, however, hurricane season doesn't end until November. Be prepared!

A treat has been offered by our world-traveling and major philatelic exhibitions attendee, Dr. Mick Zais. He attended the British National Stamp Exhibit in August and was asked to make a presentation. Our honorary member, Alex Haimann, also was there and provided an additional program. Dr. Zais said he will give the presentation to our members at a later meeting.

Mark Postmus and a solid number of our members provided another great stamp show due to their diligence and Mark's leadership. A special opening program, "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Military" was presented with all the bells and whistles. (See it later in the newsletter). As Master of Ceremonies, I was able to secure the support of two of our Armed Services who were present and recognized. The program honored two of our members, Cassandra and O'Neal Tyler, who were recognized by the American Philatelic Association. Also presented an award was Tracey Howard of the USPS who has provided stamp sales at our shows for years. She also helped get approval of our show cachet and cancellation. Thanks to all who set up, manned the front desk, exhibited (Fred Miller, Jerry Emanuel, Mick Zais, Bob Wilson, John Owen) and put things away after the show.

October is National Stamp Collecting Month. Would several of you be interested in presenting a program at a local venue? Contact Bob Anderson: 803-331-7814 – [suziepepperlaurie@yahoo.com](mailto:suziepepperlaurie@yahoo.com) or me (803-465-7977 – [johnwovensr@gmail.com](mailto:johnwovensr@gmail.com) to help with the project. We need to start now to plan and get ready for October.

Lastly, I'm calling attention to our membership as a point of emphasis. We have 62 members on our roster. Less than 1/3 attend our meetings. To see if we can improve this, I'm appointing a membership committee to draw a plan of action and to make personal contact with those who don't attend and see if we can find a way to make it easier for them to do so. Truly, some of them live out of town but many more are closer to Columbia and we'd love to have them attend in person.

*John Owen*



The next meeting will be **Sunday, September 17**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.



A very Happy Birthday to: Wallace Bird (1); Phil Sheppard (9); Andy Banco (15); Steve Fitzner (16); Jim Richardson (17); Wayne Peelman (19); Brent Wunderlich (22)

Congratulations and many, many more.

## PROGRAMS:

# The Scandal of Apollo 15



On July 26, 1971, three astronauts lifted off the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida on their way to the moon. Riding atop a Saturn V rocket, Commander David R. Scott, Command Module Pilot, Alfred M. Worden and Lunar Module Pilot, James B. Irwin would be the ninth mission to Earth's satellite and the fourth to land on its surface. Attached to their spacecraft was the Lunar Roving Vehicle, a car-like device which would give Scott and Irwin



the means to navigate farther from the Lunar Lander than ever before. Worden would remain on board the space capsule continually orbiting the moon.

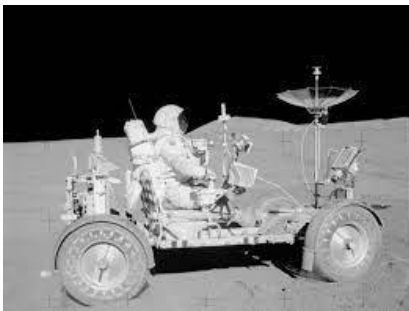
Before leaving Earth, each astronaut was able to bring with them a few items friends and family wanted taken into space and returned as souvenirs. The three also brought with them a brand, new stamp recently issued by the U. S. Postal Service. The eight-cent pair, "United States in Space... a Decade of Achievement," featured a picture of the moon and the Lunar Module. This pair was to coincide with the flight of Apollo 15 and to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Project Mercury and John Glenn's flight as the first American to orbit the Earth.



Once on the surface of the moon the astronauts cancelled a first day cover for the U. S. Postal Service with a postmark brought from Earth for the occasion. This cancellation was truly “out of this world.” They also brought with them other first day covers, lots of first day covers and therein lies the problem.

This was an extremely successful moon mission as it debuted the Lunar Rover and it was the longest time spent on the moon by any crew to that point. There was also strong emphasis on obtaining scientific data and geological samples. They also launched a sub-satellite which orbited the moon for over a year collecting additional data.

The scandal involves taking souvenirs into space. Each astronaut is given a small pouch into which they can put personal artifacts for friends and family just for the uniqueness of the item(s) being in space. Each of the items in the pouch must be authorized by NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and they must not lead to any direct financial benefits to the astronauts. The Apollo missions were funded by taxpayers and many believed the space program was a waste of money. So, seeing an astronaut benefit financially from items sent to space would not have gone well.



They also put a pouch in the Lunar Module which contained a family friend’s wedding ring, currency, medallions and flags. The most common item that was taken into space were philatelic covers. Since no company would issue insurance to an astronaut, at a reasonable price, they used signed first day covers to provide for their families in case of a tragedy. These covers would become valuable and when sold, would pay for the day-to-day expenses and, perhaps provide for college costs.

The astronauts were approached by someone with a business proposition on behalf of a stamp dealer named Herman Sieger. The proposal: Take 100 covers to the moon and back and give them to Sieger who will sell them. In return, Sieger would create an account for each of the astronauts and deposit \$7,000 in each account. The astronauts agreed and they decided to take an additional 100 covers each for themselves to later sell. The only condition was that neither Sieger nor the astronauts could sell any of the covers until the Apollo program ended. The astronauts didn’t want NASA to find out about the deal, clearly breaking the rules.

The morning of the launch, the 400 covers were taken to the Kennedy Space Center post office to get postmarked. The covers were not stored in the small pouch but were put in Commander Scott’s leg pocket of his space suit unbeknownst to NASA. They remained there for the entire mission.

After all the “roving” and scientific experiments and a gathering of some moon rocks, Scott and Irwin returned to the Lunar Module and blasted off the moon’s surface.

While Scott and Irwin were on the moon, Worden was conducting experiments from the Command Module above.

When the Lunar Module was no longer needed and the two astronauts had joined Alfred Worden in the Command Module, the Lunar Module was released and drifted into space.

What the astronauts realized, too late, was the pouch containing the wedding ring and the rest, including the cover cancelled on the moon were aboard the Lunar Module heading into the unknown.

They landed safely back on Earth August 7<sup>th</sup> dangling beneath three parachutes and landing in the north Pacific Ocean. They were picked up by the recovery ship, the U.S.S. Okinawa and while on board, they purchased the newly issued stamps and applied them to each of the 400 covers. Then they got the ship's post office to cancel the stamps. Each astronaut signed the bottom left and on the 100 Sieger covers, Irwin and Scott further confirmed that the covers actually landed on the moon, with signatures.

Shortly upon their return to dry land, they sent the covers to Sieger, mission accomplished. Unfortunately, Sieger began selling the covers immediately without waiting for the Apollo program to end. The astronauts panicked once they found out. They gave their \$7,000 back to Sieger and surrendered the covers to NASA.

By the next year, the astronauts were reprimanded and never flew a space mission again.



David Scott (upper left) checks out a site on the moon; a view of Earth from the moon; the Rover on the moon's surface; the Landing Module. To leave the moon, astronauts enter the upper portion which separates from the lander and lifts them to the orbiting Command Module. After docking and the astronauts transfer, its released into space.



# AUGUST STAMP SHOW AND CEREMONY:

The August stamp and postcard show had 15 vendors, a few more than usual and the majority of them did a brisk business.

There were 111 visitors during the show on Saturday and a few brought stamp collections they wanted appraised or sold.

The U. S. Postal Service had a booth in the lobby of Spring Valley High School as did ESPER, the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections. An encouraging sight was the number of young people at the event who were actively seeking philatelic material and looking at the many exhibits on display.



**The ESPER table in the lobby**



**Mom, I need this stamp**



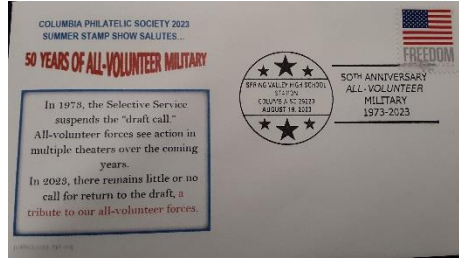
**Looking at the displays**

The theme for the show was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Military. A ceremony was held at 11 o'clock on Saturday, August 20 commemorating the event.



The color guard from Spring Valley High School presented the colors as an audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The National Anthem was played and Columbia Philatelic Society president, John Owen addressed the crowd. He spoke of his naval career and his training at pharmacy school. He retired in 2004 but is still affiliated with the naval reserve.

He mentioned our own Fort Jackson, the largest recruiting facility in the country, training 50% of all soldiers and 60% of all women entering the Army each year.



Navy Captain John Owen was Master of Ceremonies during the presentation of the special cachet commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the all-volunteer military.

Mark Postmus, director of the stamp shows of the Columbia Philatelic Society, presented an award from the American Philatelic Association to O'Neal and Cassandra Tyler for their volunteer work as members of ESPER. The award was created to recognize those who serve the stamp collecting community with their time, talents and energy.

The show-themed cachet and cancellation was unveiled at the end of the ceremony. A thank you to Mystic Stamp Company for providing starter packs of stamps and stamp catalogs which were given to children and some adults as an incentive to become collectors.

## NEW ISSUES:

The United States Postal Service celebrates the fun of piñatas with a new booklet of 20 colorful and festive Forever stamps. These stamps feature four vibrant illustrations of the traditional Mexican party favorite. Two are of a donkey with either a bright pink or orange background, and two feature a seven-point star set against either a purple or green background.



First Date of Issue: September 8  
Where: Roswell, New Mexico

Celebrating the spirit of the season, the USPS captures the playful, artsy pleasures of Christmas snow globes on four new stamps. Snow globes share common features: A glass or plastic container filled with liquid that covers a central figure or scene; when shaken, the flutter, the technical term for the 'snow,' creates a storm which briefly obscures the inside. The artist is Gregory Manchess.



First Date of Issue: September 19  
Where: Breckenridge, Colorado

## MORE NEW ISSUES:

The new 20-cent stamp celebrates NASA's seven-year OSIRIS-Rex mission to study and map the asteroid Bennu and return a sample of the surface to Earth next month. This is the first pristine sample of an asteroid collected by the United States, and it will help scientists learn how our solar system formed.

OSIRIS-Rex left Earth aboard a rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida on September 8, 2016, then orbited the sun for a year before passing close to Earth for a gravity assist. The spacecraft arrived in the asteroid's vicinity in December 2018 and got to work. With its special cameras and spectrometers, it began photographing and mapping Bennu's surface to determine the best site from which to collect samples.

The time for the rendezvous arrived in October 2020. To carry out its task, the spacecraft didn't actually land on the asteroid, but instead slowly descended toward the surface and extended a robotic arm. A collection device at the hand-end of the arm then released a sudden puff of nitrogen gas that sent up a cloud of dust and rocks from Bennu's surface. More than two ounces of these materials were captured in a special container in the collection device, which then closed and retracted into the spacecraft. On May 10, 2021 OSIRIS-Rex began its flight back to Earth. Its container of asteroid dust and rocks, enclosed in a special capsule, will parachute to the Utah desert on September 24, 2023.



First Date of Issue: September 22

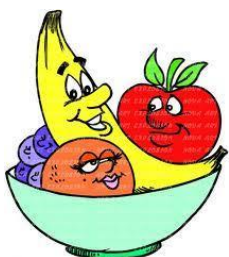
Where: Salt Lake City, Utah

## OUR NEXT PROGRAM:



Les Hall presents Royalty on Swedish Stamps.

Our Show & Tell for this month: Everyone bring an item acquired at our August stamp and postcard show.



Refreshments will be graciously provided by Saba Demian.

We need more people to come forward with some Show & Tell items and more members to do a program. Need help with either? Bob Anderson will guide you along the way. We also need some more, "How I Got Started" in stamp collecting. Email your stories to Jerry Emanuel. Please include your picture.



## OCTOBER IS AUCTION MONTH

The club will be sponsoring its quarterly auction of material brought in by members.

If you have philatelic items you no longer need, or they are duplicates, or you're just tired of looking at them, or your significant other has threatened divorce if you don't get rid of them, sell them at our auction. Take the money and run or donate it to the club. Fill out the auction form on this page and bring it to the October meeting. Copy the form for multiple entries.

### 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