



Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News

Everett, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM
Snohomish County PUD
2320 California Street

Edmonds, 3rd Friday, 7 PM – 9 PM
South County Senior Center
220 South Railroad Avenue

Volume 23

May, 2017

Number 5

Online at: <http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/> copies of these newsletters available there, too!

Everett Meeting - Wednesday, May 10th, 7:30 PM

- **Dealer Night – Keith Ferris** - based in Marysville, Keith will bring his material to the meeting this month - including some new material for us.
 - As always, feel free to bring some Show and Tell items to talk about.

Most meetings also include **show-and-tell**, along with time to **buy and sell** stamps

Edmonds Meeting - Friday, May 19th, 7 PM

Join us in Edmonds! We always have a nice time visiting and looking through stamps.

Bring along your duplicates to sell and trade.

Bring some Show and Tell items to talk about

2017 Club Officers

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Everett 2017 meeting dates at the PUD: (2nd Wednesday of each month)
5/10, 6/14, 7/12, (Aug BBQ), 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, (Dec dinner)

Edmonds 2017 meeting dates at the South County Senior Center: (on the 3rd - or sometimes 4th - Friday of the month)
5/19, 6/23, (none-July), (Aug BBQ), 9/22, 10/20, (none-Nov.), (Dec dinner)

President's Column

Our May Everett meeting will feature the year's first Dealer Night. Keith Ferris, based in Marysville, will bring his wares to the May 10 meeting at the Snohomish County PUD Building. Keith had a busy April. He rented tables at two two-day stamp shows in Bellingham and Kent and two one-day shows in Renton and Chehalis. He did promise "new material" for his appearance at our club.

We have a potential for three dealers to round out this year's Dealer Night schedule. This does not count Carol Edholm of Peafowl Philatelics, already slotted for October. That leaves June, July, September and November. I will be in touch with these dealers and hope to establish dates for them. For those who aren't members, I will tell them the only condition is that they be members.

Aside from that, we have the expectation that they will offer discounts to members who make substantial purchases. But, there is no condition as to the breadth of any discount. The club does not charge anything akin to a table fee. Nor does it exact a percentage of sales.

If we book all potential dealers for Dealer Nights this year, that will leave one meeting without a program. Unless someone volunteers to do a program, I will arrange for either a club auction or a box of American Philatelic Society circuit books.

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In an effort to cut costs, our club has been encouraging members to receive this newsletter electronically. Lately, there have been few conversions from paper copies to on line. Recently, I learned of research that militates in favor of getting your news on the printed page, rather than on a luminescent screen.

According to researchers, readers who rely on paper copy absorb information better and retain it longer. One researcher likened it to two people who ride in the same car to an unfamiliar destination. The driver is like the reader of the printed page, the passenger a stand in for the computer gazer.

The driver is more likely to remember the route traveled, so if each has to make a second trip, the driver is less likely to make wrong turns.

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An old Weekly Philatelic Gossip tells of a collector who entered his favorite Chicago stamp shop sometime in the latest 1930s. To his shock, the dealer is berating an elderly man cringing at this unexpected display of temper. The old man entered the store with some stamps he wanted to sell.

Now, these weren't common stamps then selling for a penny or two each. They were highly desirable and hard to obtain in the condition of those this gentleman offered for sale.

His family came from the Ukraine. After World War I, this family's part of Ukraine came under Polish occupation, part of the chaos that enveloped Eastern Europe after the fall of the Russian czars and the thirst for territorial expansion on the part of newly created nations. Amidst this chaos, his family managed to send registered letters to relatives in the United States.

This mail was franked with Ukraine stamps overprinted by Polish occupational forces. Given the way wars interfere with normal postal operations, postally used specimens of these overprints are hard to come by. In any case, 20 years later, this man was offering these gems for sale.

The dealer asked why the stamps were so damp. The gentleman explained he spent the morning soaking the stamps off the envelopes. The dealer exploded, explaining in the most undiplomatic terms possible that however desirable these stamps were off paper, they were priceless still on cover.

Perhaps, you might say, the dealer should have been far more tactful. Bear in mind this was Chicago between the world wars. Perhaps, more than ever, Chicago was then the City of Broad Shoulders and Blunt Rejoinders.

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While riffling through one dealer's 102 cards, I was bemused by observing "CTO" and "NH" on the same item. Not being the type that keeps my bemusement to myself, I asked the dealer the necessity of assuring buyers that a canceled-to-order stamp had never been sullied by a stamp hinge.

That's how collectors in the Peoples Republic of China select stamps, he told me. They do not object to CTO material, though they might prefer mint, but they do insist on the absence of hinge marks. The stamp I asked about was a PRC issue. What I liked about this dealer's stock is that he identified which stamps bore postal cancelations and which were CTO.

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Most collectors of US classics regard the 1869 issue as the most elegantly designed postal issues of the 19th Century. The set of 11 vignettes, while not deemed commemoratives, were issued in connection with the completion that year of the transcontinental railway. The pictorials limned a theme of exploration and communication. Designs featured Columbus landing, a pony express rider, a locomotive and an ocean liner.

Yet, these pretty stamps were panned by no less than the U.S. Post Office. In 1870, the post office asked Congress to appropriate money for a replacement issue, contending the 1869 issue was unattractive and unserviceable.

In his formal report to Congress, the postmaster-general complained that the 1869 stamps "are unsatisfactory, the gum is poor, the designs are small and indistinct, the size is awkward and the stamps are uncancellable." He urged a replacement issue of stamps one-third again as large and depicting Americans of "historical prominence."

The postmaster-general did get his replacement issue. What he should have got were pointed questions as to who should take the blame for the poor gum and the other faults he found with the 1869 issue.

USPS - New Issues for May 2017

May 2 **Celebration Corsage**
SAINT LOUIS, MO



May 2 **Celebration Boutonniere**
SAINT LOUIS, MO



May 5 **3¢ Strawberries**
ACTON, MA (Philatelic Show)



May 23 **Henry David Thoreau**
CONCORD, MA

USPS to Mark Eclipse with First-of-its-Kind Stamp

With a full solar eclipse coming in August, the U.S. Postal Service is marking the rare event with a new Forever Stamp unlike anything it's issued before.

(Before-and-after images of the new Total Eclipse Forever stamp to be issued in June by the U.S. Postal Service. The first-of-its kind stamp changes when touched by a finger.)



The Total Eclipse Forever stamp changes into an image of the moon when it's touched, reflecting the fast-moving path of the eclipse, which will race across the continental U.S. for the first time in nearly a century.

The new 49-cent, first-class postage stamp, which features thermochromatic ink technology, will be unveiled June 20 at the University of Wyoming, near the path of the eclipse.

The stamp images, according to the USPS, were taken by Fred Espenak, an astrophysicist, and depict a total solar eclipse in Libya in 2006.

Thermochromatic inks are more vulnerable to UV light, thus enabling the new stamp to give off its special effect. Once the stamp has "cooled" after being touched, it reverts to the original image of the sun.



A map of the eclipse path across the United States is shown on the back pane of the Forever Stamp issued for the event.

A total solar eclipse hasn't been seen on the U.S. mainland since 1979, and it's been 1918 since one traveled across the entire country.

On the afternoon of Aug. 21, the eclipse will travel across portions of 14 states (including Georgia), covering 2,500 miles in an estimated 90 minutes. The eclipse will be visible across a 70-mile-wide shadow path, or what's known as a "path of totality."

The projected path for the eclipse, according to the NASA website, begins in Salem, Ore., then on to Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Casper, Wyo. The route continues over Lincoln, Neb., Kansas City, Mo., and Nashville, Tenn., before ending near Charleston, S.C.

Now, coffee-scented stamps priced at Rs 100 from India Post

from www.FirstPost.com Apr, 24 2017



Bengaluru: Coffee scented postage stamps, priced at Rs 100, were released here today at the General Post Office.

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha released the stamps at a function at the post office .

The stamps will be printed at India Security Press.

India had introduced aromatic sandalwood stamp, priced at Rs 15, in 2006. Nearly 30 lakh such stamps (approx. US \$50,000) were sold out within two weeks. Rose-scented stamps were also released in four varieties of flowers in 2007. The varieties were Jawahar, Neelam, Delhi Princess and Bhim, each priced at Rs five.

A Jasmine-scented stamp was released in 2008.

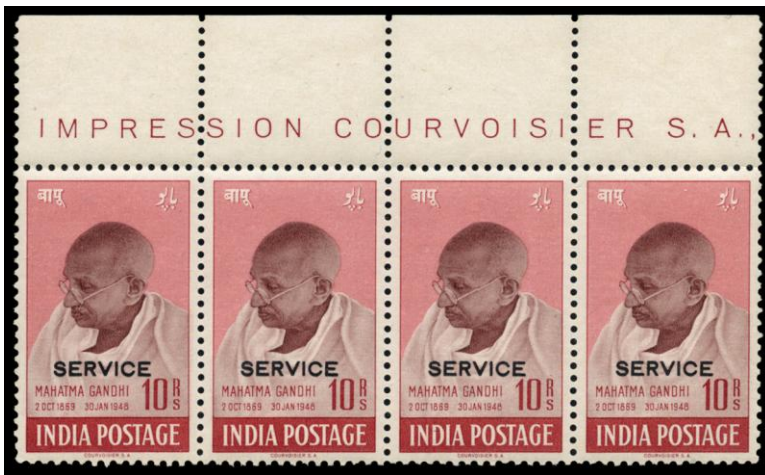
[Editors Note: Rs100, or 100 Indian Rupees, is currently equivalent to roughly US \$1.50]

Rare Indian Stamps Sold for Record Price by British Dealer

from Bloomberg.com April 19, 2017 1:15 AM

A set of 1948 stamps picturing Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi has sold for a record half a million pounds (**\$598,000**).

The “unique” strip of four ten-rupee stamps is considered the most important and desirable item of post-Indian independence philately, Jersey, U.K.-based dealer Stanley Gibbons said in a statement Wednesday. Its shares rose as much as 7 percent in London.



The strip of four ten-rupee stamps.

The purple-brown stamps are emblazoned with the word ‘SERVICE’ and were issued to the Governor-General’s Secretariat for official use. Only single stamps of this kind have previously been recorded to exist in private collections.

The purchase by an Australian investor is the latest in a number of transactions highlighting the strength of the market for rare Indian stamps. Stanley Gibbons sold a single Gandhi ten-rupee stamp to a client in Uruguay last year for 160,000 pounds. In March, an Indian stamp where the head of the young Queen Victoria had been inverted in error sold for 110,000 pounds.

“The market for high-quality Indian rarities is supported by the on-going desire of the wealthy, Indian diaspora and savvy international clients to own these historic assets,” the dealer said.

Although the company highlights the strength of the Indian collectibles market, it reported a pretax loss of 29 million pounds last year amid financial restructuring and discovery of errors in its accounting methods.