



# Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News

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

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

Volume 25

January, 2019

Number 1

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

## Everett Meeting Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM

- **APS Pick Books** - Our January meeting will be our time to peruse through the APS pick books - see full details on next page.

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

[**Edmonds** meetings are on hold until further notice to sort out some  
how / where / when details]

### 2019 Club Officers

<b>President:</b>	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	<a href="mailto:stampingsteve42@hotmail.com">stampingsteve42@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Terry Ferrell,	360-863-3019;	<a href="mailto:tbferrell@juno.com">tbferrell@juno.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	<a href="mailto:ktk.lange@frontier.com">ktk.lange@frontier.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ruth Stevens,	206-546-3357;	<a href="mailto:wastevens@frontier.com">wastevens@frontier.com</a>
<b>Program Chairman:</b>	(available position)		
<b>Webmaster &amp; Newsletter Editor:</b>	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	<a href="http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/">http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/</a> <a href="mailto:ktk.lange@frontier.com">ktk.lange@frontier.com</a>

**Everett 2019** meeting dates at the PUD: 1/9, 2/13, (Our Club Show - Sunday March 3rd), 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, (August BBQ), 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, (Dec Dinner)

## President's Column

The phone rang as I was mulling possible programs for our **January meeting**. It being the first meeting of the year, I hadn't yet invited area dealers to reserve their Dealer Night slot. I toyed with a club auction or a similar barter/sell/swap night. As for circuit books, we had done those as recently as September. What about a speaker? There's this twisted personality who collects Disney stamps, but only those featuring unlovable Disney characters such as Gyro Gearloose and Scrooge McDuck. Don't think so.

My caller was a woman who works for the American Philatelic Society. She asked if the club had completed its 2019 schedule for APS circuit books. I said the club generally requests circuit books for months lacking a specific program, such as our popular Dealer Nights. She asked if the club wanted circuit books for January. Not having any other program in mind, I said yes. I asked her to use preferences from previous mailings of circuit books.

As this item went to press, the circuit books arrived. Highlights include **mint Columbians and Canada 19 (17-cent Cartier). There are books devoted to USA plate blocks, China, Czechoslovakia, India states, Middle East, Australian states and German area. There are many books devoted to US material and two to Canada.** We last bought from APS circuit books in September. The club's aggregate purchases exceeded \$700.

\* \* \* \* \*

The club enters 2019 with a revised slate of officers. Kurt Lange stepped forward during the election to take over Ray Anderson's position as treasurer. The other three officers stood for re-election and won. They are Steve LaVergne, president; Terry Ferrell, vice-president, and Ruth Stevens, secretary. In November, the club nominated those three and Ray, then willing to serve another term.

Ray had to step aside after his wife, Dorothy, was severely injured in an accidental fall in their home. She faces extensive rehabilitation, and Ray needs to spend considerable time at home. Any one who has cared for a severely disabled partner can get a sense of the challenges ahead for Ray and Dorothy. **We sincerely wish Dorothy a successful recovery. We also thank Ray for his years of selfless service to the club.**

With Kurt's elevation to treasurer, the club has among its four officers two retired King County deputy sheriffs. Kurt retired from the sheriff's force during the past summer. Terry retired years ago after a career of enforcing the letter of the law in King County's rural regions.

\* \* \* \* \*

My friend, Renee, inspired much levity at the December meeting, which was the annual holiday dinner at the V-Star Chinese Buffet. Members teased her over the empty envelopes they received from her. They were intended to enclose holiday cards. Renee sent dozens of holiday cards to friends old and new. They included Lincoln High (1972) classmates, shell club members, people she knew from her days as a hairdresser, employees of her bank branch, cousins and others. This year, she added people she's met since she started attending stamp club meetings.

Most recipients outside the stamp club received cards. Renee evidently neglected to stuff cards in the envelopes she sent to Sno-King members. Renee took the ribbing good-naturedly.

The good news is that Renee plans to become a club member in 2019. She is not taking up any form of stamp collecting. She simply enjoys the meetings and the people she meets there. If she were to take up some form of philately, a natural choice would be to specialize in the stamps issued by African countries depicting tribal hair stylings.

Renee enjoys creating greeting cards from her photographs. With a start of a new month, she sends cards to every one she knows with a birthday scheduled for later in the month. If you were introduced to her, she probably asked for your birthday. She has an incredible memory for peoples' birthdays. With her outgoing personality, she enjoys brightening the days of people she meets.

\* \* \* \* \*

Philately isn't dying. It's simply being off-shored. Linn's recently reported that two out of every three stamp collectors globally live in Asian countries washed by the Pacific Ocean, notably China, Thailand and Korea. One wonders how this development will shape the future of philately. Do Asian collectors approach the hobby differently from philatelists in the Americas and Europe?

One dealer knowledgeable in the ways of Chinese collectors told me they prefer stamps which are mint and never-hinged. When in the market for canceled stamps, they insist on never-hinged canceled-to-order. What accounts for this fetish with undisturbed gum? Does the Peoples Republic impose a prohibitive tariff on stamp hinges?

\* \* \* \* \*

Kelleher's Stamp Collectors Quarterly recently ran a revealing article on the increasingly popular practice of grading. Its message that grading can dramatically increase the value of a highly graded stamp, especially in certain upwardly trending markets.

What is grading? Stamps are graded on a scale from 1 to 100, 100 representing a perfectly-centered stamp free of faults. Sometimes, you will see a "J" in the grade, such as 95J or 100J. The J stands for "jumbo," meaning that the stamp is well-centered with larger-than-usual margins.

Before 2002, grading was done by dealers selling the stamps in question. The drawbacks are obvious. Grading was inconsistent and skewed by the dealer's financial interest. In 2002, a private group known as Philatelic Stamp Experts (PSE) initiated third-party grading. Today, it and the Philatelic Foundation dominate the field. A third-party grader has no financial stake in the material it grades.

Take US C7, an early 10-cent airmail. PSE has graded 27 copies of this stamp. Some 15 copies graded higher than 90. Seven were 98, one was 100 and another topped that with a grading of 100J. The author contacted the owner of the 100J copy. That owner acquired it through eBay for \$15. He sold it for \$4,000.

This highlights one of the interesting developments of grading. The grading community refers to UPTs. That signifies a "unique population top." That means that there is only one stamp that qualifies for that stamp's highest rating. If you own it, you will be able to bargain from strength with multiple would-be buyers. The only risk is that if your UPT grades at 97, someone rummaging through his junk duplicates will happen on a 98, leaving you with an ex-UPT.

Now, you would never expect a three-cent Presidential in any form to command more than two bits. In December, 2017, one buyer paid \$500 for a vertical line pair of the three-cent Presidential coil with horizontal perforations. PSE graded that pair at 98, top grade for that stamp. A two-cent Presidential coil line pair, with vertical perforations, also graded at 98, sold for \$315. The article made the point that without grading, these stamps would probably sell for close to their catalog value.

Somewhere in your philatelic studio lies a long-neglected envelope stuffed with common US definitives. Might you be tempted to sort through that trash in hopes that a hundred-dollar treasure might be lurking therein?

\* \* \* \* \*

Someone who found my name on the club's web site donated a box of books. The most notable were a 1920 Scott catalog and "All About Stamps," a 1940 work by Mauritz Hallgren, a prominent writer and a former Marine who served in France during World War I. The New York Times stamp columnist hailed "All About Stamps" as the "most all-inclusive work" ever written about the hobby.

"All About Stamps" was a departure from Hallgren's previous writings. He left the Nation, then and now a left-liberal magazine, to write for the Baltimore Sun. He applied his journalistic skills to the writing of "All About Stamps." His lively writing style created a highly readable account of the history of the mails and the development of the postage stamp. He pored through English and American archives and performed an exhaustive review of philatelic literature. This enabled him to richly detail some of philately's familiar tales. The Times reviewer credited him with setting the record straight on some "unfortunate errors and superstitions" which had beset the hobby.

His research dispelled any belief that James Chalmers, not Rowland Hill, was the true inspiration for the world's first postage stamp. He ably disposed of the notion that the Penny Black was just something modeled after several forerunners.

In 1940, Hallgren seemed an odd choice to author a landmark book on stamp collecting. His previous writings reflected the ideological ferment of the New Deal years. He viewed himself as a liberal anti-fascist, which inclined him to approve of Stalin's Russia. In 1937, he made headlines with his public resignation from the American Committee for the Defense of (Leon) Trotsky. A Moscow show trial had convicted Trotsky, then in exile, of crimes against the Soviet Union. The Trotsky Defense Committee held its own show trial, which exonerated Trotsky.

Hallgren resigned because he feared the committee's activities would be used to justify political intervention into the internal affairs of Soviet Russia. "Stalin has his faults," he said, but should be admired for Russia's progress in forging a socialist economy. He made the curious statement that Russians hustled before firing squads by show-trial jurists received a fair trial and deserved their fate.

Not a whiff of ideology creeps into "All About Stamps." Perhaps, by 1940, Hallgren may have run out of nice things to say about Stalin. More likely, Hallgren was miffed that Stalin cast off his anti-fascist posturing by forging a non-aggression treaty with Hitler's Germany.

Modern readers will chuckle over his excoriation of postal administrations which issued stamps primarily for the collector trade. After all, he was writing decades before the world's first Disney stamp. He was

expressing dismay over the profusion of giraffes and zebras coming out of Africa primarily for sale to junior collectors. He also included America's zepplin airmails in his gallery of philatelically inspired stamp issues.

"All About Stamps" is club property and will eventually be offered for sale. In the meantime, it will be available for loan to club members.

---

## Heads up - Stamp prices are increasing in January

-Stamps are set for a record-level price increase in January.

Forever stamps will increase from 50 cents to **55 cents** on Jan. 27. Metered letter will go to 50 cents from 47 cents, but instead of 21 cents the cost for **each additional ounce will decrease to 15 cents**.

The new prices will take effect Jan. 27, 2019.

The increase is the largest in history for the price of a stamp. The 5 cent increase in stamp prices is also the largest since 1991, when the cost grew from 25 cents to 29 cents.

Package prices will increase, too:

- Small flat rate box - from \$7.20 to \$7.90
- Medium flat rate box - from \$13.65 to \$14.35
- Large flat rate box - From \$18.90 to \$19.95.
- Regular flat rate envelope - From \$6.70 to \$7.35
- Large flat rate envelope - From \$7 to \$7.65
- Padded flat rate envelope - From \$7.25 to \$8.

(File this story under "O" for OOPS!)

the following article is from The Mirror (UK newspaper)

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/royal-mail-sorry-over-d-13785921>

## *Royal Mail sorry over D-Day anniversary stamp showing US troops on ASIA beach*

The stamp was intended to represent British troops landing in France  
by Lizzie Roberts - 28 DEC 2018



The stamp was meant to show the Normandy landings but is actually of modern-day Indonesia

Royal Mail has said sorry after a stamp design marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day actually showed US troops on a beach in Asia.

The stamp was intended to represent British troops landing in France and was labelled as "D-Day Allied soldiers and medics wade ashore".

It was part of the 2019 Special Stamp programme showcasing the "Best of British" and was to be released in June.

Royal Mail said the image will no longer be part of the final collection.

A spokesman said: "We work very hard to ensure that our Special Stamp programme appropriately commemorates anniversaries and events that are relevant to UK heritage and life.

"We would like to offer our sincere apologies that our preview release for our 2019 Special Stamp programme included a stamp design which had been incorrectly associated with the D-Day landings."

When an image of the stamp was posted on Twitter users were quick to point out the mistake.

Paul Woodadge, a filmmaker, author and historian, said: "The image chosen actually depicts US troops disembarking from LCI(L) 30 at Dutch New Guinea in May 1944. Please correct this or you will look like idiots."

The image is also captioned on the US National World War II museum website as "USS LCI(L)-30 landing troops carrying stretchers onto a beach during a second assault [sic] wave", and was taken on May 17 1944.

According to The Spirit of Normandy Trust this is not the first time an incorrect image has been used in relation to the D-Day landings.

Ian Stewart, vice chairman of the trust, said: "The problem with most of these things is that research has got to be thorough and done well ahead of time.

"It's very unfortunate, but research is absolutely critical and it's not the first time it's been done about D-Day. People think that it doesn't matter who's in the photograph."

The "Best of British" collection will feature 11 stamps to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

The collection will also include six stamps to commemorate the life of Queen Victoria, whose bicentenary will take place in May 2019.



**And a couple candid photos during the holiday dinner gathering last month ...**

