



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 25

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

Everett Meeting Wednesday, May 8th, 7:30 PM

- **APS Circuit Books** - 20 APS circuit books arrived for this month's meeting including **Russia, Turkey, Iran, Czechoslovakia, Wurttemberg, Jordan, Kuwait, U.S., Canada, British Empire, and China.**

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

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Everett 2019 meeting dates at the PUD: 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, (August BBQ), 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, (Dec Dinner)

President's Column

Our **May** meeting will offer members the chance to browse through 20 American Philatelic Society circuit books. They arrived in plenty of time for our May 8 meeting. Books include **Russia, Turkey, Iran, Czechoslovakia, Wurttemberg, Jordan and Kuwait, as well as the usual selections of US, Canada and British Empire. There is one book of pre-1949 China**, seen by only two APS members. Here are selected highlights, with catalog value/asking price:

China 808 mint, \$20/\$6.65
US C4 used, \$12.50/\$4.20; C5 used, \$27.50/\$15.70 and C6 used, \$27.50/\$14.60
Canada C4 MNH, \$70.00/\$16.50
Wurttemberg 23 used, \$275/\$70
US E3, mint hinged, \$300/\$120
US 165 used, \$130/\$40
Croatia 31a-47a, MNH tete-beche pairs, \$61.70/\$35
Canada 54 mint (5c Jubilee), \$70/\$30
Gibraltar 12 mint, \$35/\$9
US 561 (9c Jefferson) mint block of four, \$105/\$54
Russia 45 mint, \$47.50/\$23
British Honduras 125 used, \$25/\$10

As before, I will ask each club member to document each item purchased, so I can apply the club's handstamp to the empty space. The club will levy a five percent surcharge to cover return postage and the APS insurance fee. APS also imposes a five-percent surcharge when club members' aggregate acquisitions amount to less than \$200. If but a fraction of the highlighted items find buyers, we should surpass the \$200 minimum. I will take steps, including making circuit books available to collectors outside the club, to assure reaching that \$200 threshold. Club members will have first crack at the circuit books.

In addition, I will try to organize club-owned material for sale to club members. In recent months, the club has received several donations, mostly of common material. But, these donations should provide a treasure hunt for certain members, as some include better-than-average material. I will also bring unsold lots from the Collectors Club of Seattle auctions, which take place on the first Friday of each month.

There are several club properties which I will put up for sale, beginning with our May meeting. They include--

--a 1920 Scott catalog,

--a Scott brown album, never used, covering the period from 1920 to 1928,

--Mauritz Hallgren's 1940 book, "All About Stamps." This is the book I wrote about several months ago. A contemporary New York Times review termed it the best-written and most-thoroughly-researched tome about philately through that time.

--a three-volume set, "Philatelic Gems," published by Linn's

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Our 2019 programs are falling in place. Our **June** meeting will feature Kurt Lange's computer-aided magnifier (along with the Identify-Your-Stamps night). We have Dealer Nights scheduled for **September, October and November**. Respectively, participating dealers are Keith Ferris, Carol Edholm of Peafowl Philatelics and Art Van Bergeyk of Aurora Stamps. I welcome suggestions for our July meeting. And, now is the time to begin planning our annual summer picnic in August.

I would like to clear up a possible misconception about the computer-enhanced magnifier. It really is not a tool for identifying stamps with strange inscriptions, such as the script found on stamps from many parts of Asia. Usually, an experienced collector should be able to identify the country of origin simply by examining the stamp, perhaps with a pocket magnifier.

I see this as a valuable tool for identifying stamps which went through multiple printings, with indistinct variations of design. One example are the 19th Century Greek issues which could be either a fine Paris impression, a "clear" Athens impression or a coarse Athens impression. Whenever I examine my copies with a hand-held magnifier, my eyes attempt to deceive me into seeing it as the impression with the most eye-popping catalog value.

Another example is an older stamp with a cancellation which obscures a key detail. I have a Fiji six-penny rose stamp with a cancellation which prevents me from discerning whether the initials in the design are "CR" or "VR." The difference is a stamp with a modest catalog value and one potentially worth several hundred dollars.

I encourage you to go through your albums, as well as your backlog of stamps which await mounting, and pull out items which have you stumped. Bring them to the **June** meeting, see them magnified 40 times and tap the collective wealth of philatelic knowledge within the club.

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Also on the agenda for our **May** meeting is the location of the club's 2020 stamp show. For the past three years, our show has taken place at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Over those three years, our club has developed an excellent relationship with the church. Sadly, that location is working in every way except for one. That is, financially. Over the three years, the club has just about broken even. Before that, in other locations, the club typically made a profit that helped keep our bank account healthy.

Recently, I became aware of a location which seems ideal and involves much lesser cost. Terry Ferrell, the club vice-president, and I have already examined the proposed location, which is in Kenmore. By the time you receive this newsletter, I and Jim Hall, the show chair, will have undertaken another inspection.

The hourly rate for this location is much less than the church's. The proposed location has 22 six-foot tables, which should reduce costs for renting tables. The organization which owns the building does not require event insurance, which the church required us to procure. Anyone with a desire for sticker shock should go online and purchase insurance for a six-hour event.

Moving to this location would involve a major change in our scheduling. This building is not available Sunday mornings, so we would need to hold our show on a Saturday. Also, we would have to base our table rentals on six-foot tables, rather than the traditional eight-foot variety. I believe these changes are manageable.

Mindful that holding an annual show in the same location has its advantages, I believe that moving our show site about eight miles south will not dampen attendance. We would remain the only stamp show north of the south Seattle city limits. I remember the show scene 20 years ago. Major shows were held at the Seattle Center and in Seattle's Georgetown neighborhood. In addition, I remember attending weekend bourses at an inn near the Interstate 5 exit in south Everett, Lynnwood's Embassy Suites and in a Northgate-area hotel.

Since then, shows have moved south. Fenwick departed Georgetown for its current location in Renton, Sea-Pex shifted from the Seattle Center to Tukwila, and the Boeing show in Renton morphed into the Evergreen show in Kent. Pop-up bourses have disappeared.

I hope to propose a decision, based on the two visits to the proposed site, at the May meeting. Even though our 2020 show is 10 months in the future, it behooves the club to decide quickly. The proposed site is already booked for several November dates.

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I look forward to the May 21 release date for the "wild and scenic rivers" issue. This promises to be a picturesque issue of twelve stamps, each featuring a photograph of a scenic river. Two of them are prominent among Washington State's scenic attractions. Having lived within a hop and a stutter-step from the Skagit River, I am delighted that a photograph of that waterway will grace one of the twelve stamps. The Snake River will be featured on another.

According to the U. S. Postal Service website, "these special streams are allowed to flow freely through natural settings without man-made alterations."

Wait a minute! Isn't Diablo Dam a man-made alteration? How about Gorge Dam and Ross Dam? These three structures, which make up Seattle City Light's hydroelectric project, affect the Skagit's flow from the Canadian border to the town of Newhalem. This stretch of the Skagit waterway sits in perhaps the most breathtaking scenery of the North Cascades. The impoundment of river water also impacts the volume of water traveling downstream.

And what about the four dams which impound the much of the Snake River and fuel controversy over their impact on salmon stocks on which Pacific Ocean orcas gorge?

I spent my first seven years in Diablo, then a company town for the powerhouses in town, where my father worked, and another one just below Ross Dam. We lived in the westernmost part of Diablo, a neighborhood known as Hollywood, a woman named Clara Bow having lived there in the 1930s. I bet you didn't know I am a former Hollywood brat.

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Hey, guys. During your adolescence, did any winsome schoolmate try to kindle puppy love by feigning interest in your stamp collection? If so, she probably was acting on advice she read in "For Girls Only." Workmen toiling in a church building uncovered copies of "For Girls Only" and "For Boys Only," written by Frank Howard Richardson, M.D. These targeted tomes dished up dating advice to pubescents of the 1950s and 1960s. They were published in 1952 and revised in 1964.

Both books preached against teen-aged petting. "For Girls Only" counseled bobbysoxers against being overly aggressive. Be subtle, the doctor advised, and "look your prettiest." Once the girl is smitten by a boy, she should find a way to show her interest in him and his hobby.

"Suppose there is a boy you like a lot, but you can't stand his hobby, stamp collecting," Dr. Richardson wrote. "He is simply wrapped up in it. You can fool him." Maybe, you have a friend who has an overseas pen pal. Have the friend give you some stamps, which you can give to the boy. Then, maybe another friend will give you a rare stamp, which will endear you to him even more.

"Before you know it, you are as excited over stamps as your boyfriend is, and you are having the best time together after school going over his album with him," the book exults.

Evidently, none of the neighborhood girls my age read "For Girls Only," because none ever tried that approach on me.

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According to the February issue of the Monthly Grading Newsletter, a one-cent and a two-cent stamp, both mint, from the Trans-Mississippi issue have been graded 100J. This is the highest grading possible, the J standing for "jumbo" and signifying that the stamp's margins are larger than those of the typical stamp, while being equal on all four sides. This makes for three 100J gradings for that 1898 set, the third being a used one-dollar stamp.

All three have sold at auction within the past seven years. Prices realized, including the 15-percent buyers premium, were one cent, \$9,775, two cent, \$11,500, and one dollar, \$23,000.

You can read current and past issues of the Monthly Grading Newsletter by logging on to the publication's website. I suggest you include "stamps" in your search terms. Otherwise, you might find yourself slogging through entries for some Oklahoma school district.

USPS New Stamps to be Issued in May 2019

May 10 Forever
Transcontinental Railroad
 PROMONTORY SUMMIT, UT



May 21 Forever **Wild and Scenic Rivers**
 BEND, OR



May 31 Forever **Ellsworth Kelly**
 SPENCERTOWN, NY

