



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

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

Everett Meeting Wednesday, June 12th, 7:30 PM

- **I.D. Your Unknown Stamps night** - This meeting will need your participation by **bringing along some of those mystery items that we all have**. Put them in a stock card or hinge them to a small page where members can jot down comments about which country the stamp is from or what catalog it might be located, etc. Also, high computer magnification will be available to really get some close-up examination of any stamps/covers that you bring - curious about those tiny secret marks or modern “microprinting”? Bring them along to take an enlarged look.
Please also bring along catalogues that may be helpful. Already being brought are “US State Revenue”, “Springer”, and “US Scott Specialized”. Needed are Scott worldwide and **any other interesting catalogs** that you think may be of use.

For the Scott worldwide series - bring the country catalog for the letter of Your last name and then also bring along one or 2 others if possible. This way we might just end up with an entire world set!

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:

6/12, 7/10, (8/14? August BBQ at Ray & Dorothy Anderson's), 9/11 Dealer Night-Keth Ferris,
10/9 Dealer Night-Carol Edholm, 11/13 Dealer Night-Art VanBergeyk, (12/11? Dec Dinner)

President's Column

Our June meeting will give members a chance to view their most perplexing philatelic possession, magnified 41 times. Kurt Lange will bring his Monoprice digital microscope. This is a handheld egg-shaped magnifier which plugs into the USB port to magnify the enlarged image to a computer screen. According to Kurt, this will magnify a half-millimeter detail to nearly one inch in width. To visualize a half millimeter, think the width of a capital I.

This will enable the ardent philatelist to identify stamps whose details can't be perceived with the standard magnifier. In some cases, fine detail has become faint with age. In others, cancellations will obliterate key elements of a design. In many cases, it is simply a matter of presbyopia. That is the medical term for farsightedness which sets in after middle age, due to increasing inflexibility of the lens in your eyes.

In past issues, I encouraged members to bring stamps which might yield their secrets under 41x magnification. I cited some examples. Additional examples would include Chinese stamps issued with or without secret marks, stamps from the Chinese junk series which went through three printings. Another example might be early French issues, widely overprinted for use in French offices abroad, where identification depends on placement of the tiny "INF" imprint on the bottom. How about distinguishing those Machin heads which were lithographed?

Earlier, I wrote that this computerized magnifier might aid in identifying the printings of Greece's early Hermes head. I heard from a non-member who specializes in Hermes heads. He doubts that Kurt's egg would help with regard to Hermes heads. He told me he plans to attend our June meeting. Perhaps, he can help me identify my Hermes heads, even if Kurt's magnifier proves to be the wrong tool.

Longtime member Carol Edholm will speak on the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs and its importance to philatelic groups in this region. The federation consists of stamp clubs in Washington, Oregon and Canada. Our club is a member of the federation. One of the federation's challenges is making sure that it is of service to Canadian member clubs, as well as those in the United States. Carol will also bring unsold lots from the silent auction conducted at last year's Sea-Pex.

I will also bring collections, stock books and other materials donated to the club in recent months.

I shouldn't close this piece without a shout-out to Alex Hamling. When Alex receives his monthly copy of the American Philatelist, he scours the prospective member listing for collectors who live in the areas served by our club. He then obtains contact information on line and sends them messages, inviting them to join our club. The Hermes head specialist I mentioned contacted me, after receiving Alex's invitation.

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I am pleased to report that Ray and Dorothy Anderson offered their home for our annual club picnic. If we adhere to our customary scheduling, the picnic will take place Wednesday, August 14. However, we can be flexible, depending on the schedules of those members involved in making the picnic a success. Thanks to Ray and Dorothy, who appears to be recovering nicely from her recent injury.

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I have additional philatelic items which the club will make available for sale at the June meeting. Of the items mentioned in May's newsletter, "All About Stamps" found a buyer. The other items remain for sale. Rather than set a price, I prefer to have knowledgeable club members pick a fair price, especially if they see items they want to buy.

I have a philatelic atlas, printed in Prague in 1987 and featuring one buyer's dedication to an Aunt Betty, who took him sightseeing in Hungary. This atlas is packed with maps and information about stamp-issuing entities, obscure and familiar. You will find a thumbnail sketch of the tangled history of Dedeagach, now part of Greece, but formerly part of Bulgaria and Turkey. One map outlines the kingdoms, duchies and city-states that federated to form Germany. Another map identifies those Indian states which issued their own stamps. Need to know the dividing line between the Grenadines of St. Vincent and Grenada's Grenadines? That, too, is in this book.

Then, there is the puzzling pamphlet, "Dealers Guide to the Chemical Restoration of Postage Stamps." The title page informs us, "This guide is not intended for sale to the general collecting public." Turn the page and the preface tells us, "This guide's (purpose) is to provide stamp dealers (in fact the entire collecting body) with information on the basic, yet simplified techniques of philatelic chemistry. . ." This guide tells dealers what chemicals are useful in removing stains caused by india ink, tobacco, crayons, Scotch tape, candle wax, sealing wax and other besmirching agents. Shall our club dare defy the National Stamp Service, which published this guide in 1976, and sell this pamphlet to a member who is not a dealer?

How about a 99-year-old price list from the Scott Stamp & Coin Company? You could buy all 16 Columbians, unused, for \$24. Scott's offered its 19th Century brown International album for \$32.50. The 1920 Scott catalog, "ready March 1920," cost \$1.50. For an extra 50 cents, you could buy a thumb-indexed version.

We have a battered copy of "Stamp Collecting," by British author E. B. Crooke, part of a hobby books series. There is no publication date in the book, but internal evidence suggests publication in 1914, just before the outbreak of World War I. I learned that a collector could buy, for a modest sum, a pencil-like tool for detecting chalky paper. One intriguing chapter is "Unnecessary Issues." In 1895, the short-lived Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps formed. It sought to condemn such issues as Greece's 1896 Olympics issue and Portugal's 1895 series celebrating the 700th anniversary of the birth of St.

Anthony of Padua, "doubtless a most exemplary man," but nonetheless the subject of needless postal paper.

In excoriating superfluous postal paper, Crooke indulges in then-extant upper-class British notions of racial superiority which justified colonial rule. He posited a lengthy set of stamps bearing the name of a hypothetical "inland" colony of 200 square miles. Of the few thousand inhabitants of this colonial outpost, "99 3/4ths percent are natives, untaught and unteachable." He described the remainder as a "handful of white men" engaged in trade, but who rarely send letters abroad. He concluded that without stamp collectors, this colony's "labels would have not been issued."

Finally, we have a U.S. Post Office Department publication, released in 1947, documenting 100 years of U.S. postage stamps.

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In the April issue of American Stamp Dealer & Collector, longtime philatelic writer John Hotchner offered his "secrets" for enhancing profits from selling at stamp shows. Many of his "secrets" aren't that secret. Be nice to irascible customers. Keep records of what areas sell so you can tailor your stock for the next show. Walk around and look at what other dealers are doing. While you are doing that, look at your own booth from the standpoint of a collector attending the show.

Hotchner lives in Falls Church, Va., just outside the nation's capital. He offered one bit of advice unlikely to play well west of the Appalachian mountains, where people dress more informally and neckties are falling out of fashion, even among men running for president.

"Dress thoughtfully," Hotchner wrote. "A suit says one thing about your stock and prices. Jeans say something else. Are you scaring away your targeted customers?"

I read this piece two days before I attended the annual PIPEX show in Portland. Out of curiosity, I walked around and took note of what dealers were wearing. I observed four or five dealers wearing jeans, which were presentable and free of tatters. The rest were wearing slacks with open collars. Only one dealer was attired in neckwear. He wore his trademark iridescent orange-yellow shirt without a suit. I observed no collectors recoiling from transacting business with any dealer decked out in levis.

I wonder what advice Hotchner would give dealers who bring dogs to shows. I can name two dealers who bring big dogs to shows. In April, I attended one show where one dealer's dog made the rounds, making friends at every table where there was a customer.

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APS circuit books did well at our May meeting. Thanks to members who cast aside budgetary constraints, we surpassed the \$200 threshold for avoiding the five-percent buyer's premium. While going through the books, I noticed something I do not recall encountering in any of the circuit books the club examined on prior occasions.

One APS member entered a book of Russian stamps. He calculated the total retail value at \$266. An APS examiner removed five stamps with retail value totaling \$93.40. The examiner did not disclose reasons for removing these stamps. Perhaps, they were fakes. Perhaps, they were misidentified.

The Scott numbers were 65 (one mint, one used), 66, 67 and 68. These are vertically laid versions of definitive designs commonly used in czarist Russia. The vertically laid copies carry hefty catalog values. A later issue of the same designs on wove paper are more common with catalog values to match. One possibility is that the member deluded himself into believing his wove-paper specimens were actually vertically laid.

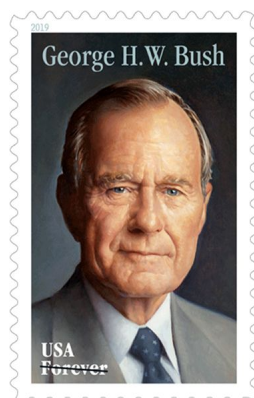
These Russian stamps were first issued horizontally laid. Then came the vertically laid set and finally, the same stamps on wove paper. My experience is that with normal eyesight, I can distinguish those three sets without even using watermark fluid. In any case, this book was the first from which stamps were removed by an APS examiner.

USPS New Stamps to be Issued in June 2019

June 11 Forever **USS Missouri**
HONOLULU, HI



June 12 Forever **George H.W. Bush**
COLLEGE STATION, TX



June 22 Forever **Sesame Street**
DETROIT, MI

