



Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



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

Edmonds, (on hold)

Volume 26

March, 2020

Number 3

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

Everett Meeting
Wednesday, March 11th, 7:30 PM

- **APS circuit books** - Another round of APS Circuit Books will be available for this month's meeting - see page 2 for full details.

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]

2020 Club Officers

President:	Steve LaVergne	206-361-3774;	stampingsteve42@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Terry Ferrell,	425-408-1043;	tbferrell@juno.com
Treasurer:	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	ktk.lange@frontier.com
Secretary:	Robin Leaden,	206-365-1794;	robinleaden@netscape.net
Program Chairman:	(available position)		
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor:	Kurt Lange,	425-357-0551;	http://sno-kingstampclub.freehostia.com/ ktk.lange@frontier.com

Dates for our 2020 meetings at the Everett PUD: 3/11 APS Pick Books, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8,
8/12-Summer Club BBQ, 9/9, 10/14,
11/18-NOTE: this one is the 3rd Wed in Nov, 12/9-Holiday Lunch/Dinner

*****IMPORTANT NOTE FOR MARCH / APRIL / ETC** - With the sudden advent of the local coronavirus outbreak it is important that members check the website before attending the monthly meeting. Go to the "Meetings" section of the webpage and hit F5 on your keyboard to refresh and load the NEWEST page information. All efforts will be made for phone calls to go out in case of sudden cancelation of the meeting. We will be following the lead of the political leadership of Snohomish County. If either the county or the City of Everett declares a state of emergency which involves cancellation of non-essential public meetings, then we cancel. Likewise, if the PUD restricts access to its building. If cancellation is necessary, we will make every effort to notify our members.

President's Column

Steve LaVergne

Members who attend the club's **March** meeting will have a chance to acquire certain US classics for one-third catalog value. There will be 20 American Philatelic Society circuit books available. Two books feature 19th Century US issues, many with good margins and no major faults. Our club will be the second party with the opportunity to shop one book assembled by a 95-year-old collector who is using the APS circuit to dispose of his collection.

For \$99, you can acquire a used pair of US 14 (10-cent green, type II). For \$50, you can buy US 72 used. The catalog value is \$600, but a perforation fault detracts from a stamp with four good margins. US 115 and 119 from the 1869 issue are fault-free, unless you object to the heavy cancellations. The owner priced these items at \$77 and \$39, respectively. The other book offers US 37 mint for \$200 and US 113, off-center and heavily cancelled, for \$10.

It probably would be unfair for the first person to review the first book to appropriate the choicest treasures. If more than one member expresses interest in these two books, I will propose a system which aims for fairness. Perhaps, we can auction certain items, with any surplus going into the club treasury. Or we can devise some round-robin scheme, where the first person picks one stamp and passes the book to the next in line. And so on.

I requested and received one book of US revenues. It's been picked over. Our club will be the tenth party to buy from it. Some \$215 in retail value remains. I requested it because I have noticed an increased interest in revenue stamps, many of which feature attractive classic designs. Moreover, unlike even early-on postal issues, they weren't printed with hopes of merchandising them to approval dealers.

There is a lot to like for Canada collectors. Some examples, with catalog value/price: Canada 40 used, 90/18; 46 used, 125/40; 56 mint 130/50; 70 mint, 175/45 and 71 mint, 140/40.

I typically request a book of Turkish stamps to accommodate one member with a special interest in this country. This month's current Turkey offerings are perhaps the best I've seen since we included Turkey in our circuit book requests.

Other circuit books: Albania/Bosnia/Bulgaria/Croatia; Channel Islands/British regionals; Middle East (heavily Qatar); Japan; Fiji; PRC; USSR mint; India; Czechoslovakia; used British Empire; US plate blocks dating to 1920s; Latin America; Italy/Vatican; Cameroun (colonial pictorials and independent airmails), and Iceland/Great Britain.

There is one big disappointment in the British Empire book. Its owner included a stamp identified as Gibraltar 31. His price is \$50. Some APS member correctly pointed out that this stamp is actually 31A, which is worth considerably less. Both stamps are 20-centimos (Spanish currency) depictions of Queen Victoria. Gibraltar 31 is olive green entirely. The offered stamp is olive green, with the denomination in brown. That makes it 31A.

Now, the member who spotted the incorrect listing disregarded APS instructions. He noted the correction on the page housing the stamp. APS instructs members not to write on the actual page.

Instead, members should attach a separate note regarding identification errors. This was unfortunate. If correctly priced, Gibraltar 31A is an eminently salable stamp.

Even though the APS circuit books will be the centerpiece of the March meeting, members should feel welcome to bring material they hope to sell.

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Overall, the club's 2020 stamp show was a success. The weather was sunny, but chilly enough to deter philatelists from garden work. We had an excellent turnout, which made for cramped conditions at times. The location was easy to find, although there were exceptions. When we meet in March, we should discuss what went well and what didn't. Ultimately, we will need to decide whether to hold the 2021 show at the Kenmore Community Club.

Financially, this year's show worked well. Hall rental cost us about half of what it cost to rent a church gymnasium in 2019. Moreover, there was no charge for one hour of set-up time the day of the show nor for the one hour it took to clean the building at show's end. It could have, but deigned to, charge us for access to the building the day before the show. There were other cost savings. Since the Kenmore location housed 22 six-foot tables, we didn't need to rent as many tables as we did in years past. Unlike the church in the three years we rented its gym floor, we were not required to provide liability coverage for a six-hour event. That cost us more than \$100 each year.

There are some matters I would like to address in years to come. Some, especially disabled collectors relying on assistive devices, found it hard to navigate the aisles. The room was cramped, to be sure. Now, dealers like cramped, especially when bearing rolls of crisp twenty-dollar bills. I hope we can reconfigure the table layout to enable a more fluid movement from dealer to dealer. A starting point might involve the stage area at the far end of the building. The stage has the same height as the club's tables. Can dealers at that end of the building use the stage as their back-up table?

There were complaints about parking. The building has 40 parking spaces. In fact, the parking lot serves as a park-and-ride lot on workdays. Perhaps, we can ask club members and dealers, once their vehicles are unloaded, to move them out on Northeast 175th Street.

Then, there is a space at the west end of the building. Any dealer assigned there will get awfully lonely. We explored using that space for exhibits in the future. The community club tells me it hopes to convert that space into a children's play area. Even so, we can hope it will accommodate exhibits in years to come.

Our show benefited not only from the throngs who attended, but also from the absence of certain parties. One dealer told me he scans the crowd, looking for certain individuals suspected of mixing philately with kleptomania. He saw none of these eminences. One, he said, brings a woman companion, who reportedly creates abets thievery by creating diversions.

This being the club's first year in the Kenmore location, we made an earnest effort to provide clear and usable directions. One out-of-town dealer made the unhappy choice of relying on MapQuest. He received directions to turn off Bothell Way onto 175th Street. Sadly for him, Bothell Way does not intersect with 175th Street. Those unclear directions launched him on a quest which took him all over the Kenmore map.

Our club should decide quickly whether to rent the Kenmore Community Club building for next year's show. Word is spreading quickly that this building is an inexpensive alternative to church and civic venues which make space available for rental. Weekend time at the Kenmore building fills up months in advance. I learned that a weekend theater group rents four consecutive Saturdays in February and March. For this year's show, I was able to reserve the one Saturday this group didn't want. Sundays are not available. Some religious group rents the hall every Sunday morning.

If any member opposes using the Kenmore building for next year's show, he or she should propose an alternative. Lately, when attending events in rented quarters, I evaluate the location's potential for our club's shows. I attended a wedding anniversary in a Mountlake Terrace civic structure. I found the cost prohibitive. Then, there was Brightwater along Highway 9. Brightwater tells brides-to-be its sewage treatment plant is the perfect setting for their special day. What about stamp shows? Nope. Brightwater's guidelines prohibit merchandising.

The story of the club's use of the Kenmore building starts with "three silver rings," the opening line of a song which aired on local radio stations in 1967. When that vocalist died two years ago, his musical friends rented the Kenmore building for a combination wake and concert. As a fan of his group, I attended that event. When I overheard one organizer mention the hourly rate, I knew I needed to check it out.

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Thanks to Jim Siscel, who entertained members attending our February meeting with his slide show of the American Philatelic Society headquarters in Bellefonte, Pa. His slide show closed with letter A of the APS presentation, "Alphabetilately from A to Z." By request of members, Jim will present letters B through Z at future meetings. He believes this will require two meetings.

Jim confessed difficulty in pronouncing the APS portmanteau word, "Alphabetilately." Jim, just sing a few lines of "Have I Told You Alphabetilately That I Love You." Then, that word will just roll off your lips.

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Collectors eagerly await local distribution of a documentary by a private filmmaker--provided they can abide the film's apparent theme that philately is just another variant of psychoses. Filmmaker Mark Cwiakala writes that his production, "Freaks and Errors: A Rare Connection," is about "obsession, money, love and postage." It explores the "rarely seen, expectedly eccentric and the surprisingly large world of stamp collecting."

The 95-minute film features soliloquies by philatelists and scenes from philatelic marketplaces, such as an auction of the one-cent magenta. You can view a 2 1/2-minute trailer on the film's website. You can also critique four reviews, three by non-collectors. Judging by what I viewed on-line, the title's mention of "freaks" refers not to philatelic oddities, but to the quirky oddities who populate the world of philately.

One non-collecting reviewer wrote, "I liked the way the movie portrayed philately as more than a hobby--it is actually a subculture and lifestyle." The fourth review was scathing. Written by someone familiar with the hobby, he wrote, "The movie missed its mark completely--except for the interview with Cheryl Ganz. It seems to say the hobby is for those who can do nothing else--who are freaks, socially deficient." You get the idea all this film needed was a summation by Dr. Phil.

The website also lists the collectors who appeared in the film. Cheryl Ganz was the only name I recognized, that from my perusals of the philatelic press. Cwiakala completed the film in November, 2017. He partnered with a distributor in August, 2018. You can view the film, for fees as low as \$3, on several on-line platforms. You can also buy a "Philately Will Get You Everywhere" t-shirt on the website. Cwiakala stated he has submitted his work to film festivals, but has not reported any acceptances. It appears doubtful this film will be on a movie screen in your neighborhood.

Cwiakala evidently mailed posters to stamp shops around the country. Hang this poster on your wall, he pleaded. So, check out the walls on your next visit to your favorite stamp store.

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DUES update for March

Out of our entire roster of members, only 13 remaining members still have to pay for 2020! Keep it going!

- **Dues** for 2020 are now due
- Just **\$10** to the treasurer: Kurt Lange 11409 28 Dr. S.E. Everett, WA 98208
- Make checks payable to "Sno-King Stamp Club"
- Or, as usual, paying at a club meeting works just fine.
- Your dues make the club possible - postage and other newsletter costs, rental fees for monthly club meeting, APS dues, NW Fed of Stamp Clubs Dues, SEAPEX expenses, etc...

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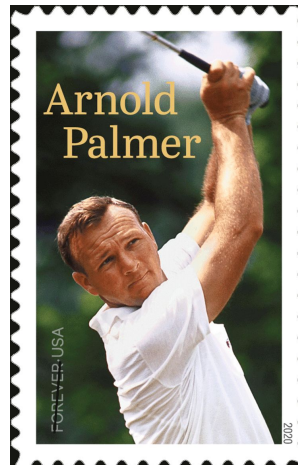
A note from Marcella McMurtrie:

" When Doug was at the Kenmore stamp sale, he came home without his Reese, old canvas coat. Did anyone find one? "

Have info? drop a note to - marcelladoug@yahoo.com

USPS - New Stamps for March 2020

March 4 Forever Arnold Palmer
ORLANDO, FL 32862



March 15 Forever Maine Statehood
AUGUSTA, ME 04330



repeated from page one:

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Candid Snapshots from the Stamp Show!



...and even more photos!

