



Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



Serving collectors in Snohomish County and north King County since 1960

Everett, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM – 9 PM

Snohomish County PUD
2320 California Street

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

Everett Meeting

Wednesday, **February 14th**, 7:30 PM

- **APS Pick Books** - We received 20 American Philatelic Society circuit books which you can browse and purchase at our February meeting
- **Buy / Sell / Trade** - bring 'em, sell 'em, trade 'em.

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

2024 Club Officers

President:	Steve LaVergne 206-361-3774;	stampingsteve@gmail.com
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Dates for our 2024 meetings (2nd Wednesday at the Everett PUD)

2/14, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14 BBQ, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11 dinner

Our Club's Annual Show in Kenmore: Saturday, March 2nd

**** Just a few weeks away now ****

SHOW NOTE: If you have **folding tables** (and you're able to easily bring with you) the club sales area, kids area, and general seating area can ALWAYS put them to use - Thank You!
(folding chairs, too - but the tables are much more useful)

President's Column

Steve LaVergne

Club members will be able to pick from 20 American Philatelic Society circuit books at our February meeting, which falls on Valentines Day. There are some tasty choices, although the overall quality falls short of our previous selection, which yielded \$700 in purchases by club members.

Three books feature US material. One contains 19th century stamps, another 19th century covers and a third back of the book. One highlight is a mint E7, offered at \$20.

Other books feature Iran, New Zealand, German pre-euro commems, Canada, Australia, Victoria, Cuba, Egypt, Russia, British Africa, Curacao, Turkey and Hungarian souvenir sheets. Saxony locals dominate a book devoted to East Germany.

One disappointment is a book devoted to India states. The book had an opening retail value of nearly \$600. Now, five buyers later, only \$27.50 remains. Why didn't APS simply retire this book?

I am hopeful club members' aggregate purchase will exceed \$200, thus avoiding the five-percent surcharge which APS levies.

I will provide slips, so members can record their purchases. For each stamp acquired, members should record the six-digit number of the booklet, found on a white sticker affixed to the front. In addition, members should enter the page number and the space number.

Once a member totals purchases, he or she should add a five-percent surcharge which defrays costs of insurance and mailing. Starting in 2024, APS added a \$5 fee to cover its mailing costs. This might render the club's five-percent surcharge inadequate and compel an increase.

As is standard, members will still be able to sell their duplicates and engage in other philatelic activities.

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Kurt Lange, this year's Show Chairman, along with Club Treasurer, Club Website Webmaster, & Newsletter Editor, reports that the show is full. Unlike last year with 0 dealers, there will be 8 dealers at our show this year! Check the website for full details. Also, there will be no need to arrive the day before for the tables as we have done in the past. He is bringing them in his truck on Saturday morning - so we can all unload them bright and early right when the doors open. Come early enough to help so we can all get the building set up right away. *(disclaimer - first paragraph actually written by newsletter editor)*

The show takes place from **10 a.m. through 4 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at the Kenmore Community Club, 7304 NE 175th St. in Kenmore**. Club members and the dealers will have access to the building at **8 a.m.** and will use the hour from **4 to 5 p.m.** for cleanup.

We will need volunteers to **staff the show** Saturday (entry table, club sales tables, dealer refreshments, general keeping an eye on the show). The Kenmore Community Club does have tables which we can use. There are not enough tables to accommodate all participating dealers, so we will be renting some.

We will also need many club members to **clean the building**, once the show ends. The community club waives a hefty cleaning fee for any renting party which completes a detailed checklist of cleaning chores. In past years, club members completed the cleaning to the satisfaction of the building owner.

The club will reserve some tables at which members can sell their material. The club will collect ten percent of any sales which take place at these tables. The club will also sell stamps which have been donated to the club.

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As you head out the door for the Valentines Day meeting, don't forget your special Valentine. I can't think of a Valentine's present more nifty than a swanky presentation book loaded with flowers on stamps.

Stamp Prices

...went up on January 21st.

Postage for a standard 1-ounce letter increased to **68 cents**, up from 66 cents.

Other increases are:

Postcards sent domestically are **53 cents**, up from 51 cents.

International postcards and 1-ounce letters will be **\$1.55**, a 5-cent increase.

Just FYI:

Seen on the news - Edmonds has installed new automatic speed cameras for school zones, 20 mph when children are present. They were located around 4 schools in Edmonds.

Why is it that you should care -

Well, Edmonds-Woodway High School is one of those locations. That would be the school just south of Aurora Stamps. So, be aware and only go 20 MPH when the signage shows to do so when you take a drive to Art's store or you may get one of those automated speed tickets mailed to you via the USPS. (Hey, so there is a postal aspect to this, I suppose)

Smithsonian Magazine: First Known Piece of Mail Sent Using a Stamp Goes to Auction

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/first-piece-of-mail-sent-using-a-stamp-auction-180983619/>

The 183-year-old envelope is a rare example of two early forms of prepaid postage: Mulready envelopes and adhesive stamps

By Sarah Kuta - Daily Correspondent - January 18, 2024

The first known piece of mail sent with a prepaid, adhesive stamp could sell for as much as \$2.5 million. Sotheby's will offer up the 183-year-old envelope during a live auction in New York on February 2.



The envelope was sent twice: once on May 2, 1840, and again on May 4, 1840.

“We take for granted today the ease with which we can seamlessly connect with friends and loved ones instantaneously from nearly anywhere in the world,” says Richard Austin, Sotheby's global head of books and manuscripts, in a statement.

The upper right corner of the envelope features a “Penny Black” stamp—a small, black square featuring a profile of Queen Victoria in the middle, with the words “postage” above and “one penny” below. Invented by a social reformer and teacher named Rowland Hill, the Penny Black was the world's first adhesive stamp.

Invented by a social reformer and teacher named Rowland Hill, the Penny Black was the world's first adhesive stamp. Sotheby's

The envelope also still bears the two dates on which it was mailed: May 2, 1840, and May 4, 1840. On the first date, an unknown sender mailed the letter from London to William Blenkinsop Jr., who lived and worked in Bedlington, England, a town located roughly 300 miles north of the city. Blenkinsop managed the Bedlington Iron Works, which produced rail lines and locomotives, according to Sotheby's.

After receiving the mail, Blenkinsop removed the letter and turned the envelope inside out. He then sent the envelope to a man named "Mr. Blenkinsop"—probably his father—in Dalston, a village some 75 miles away.

The younger Blenkinsop was able to reuse the envelope because it was a "Mulready," an elaborately decorated wrapper that served as an early form of pre-payment for mailing letters.

The letters from both mailings have been lost, but Mr. Blenkinsop held onto the envelope.

Before Great Britain introduced prepaid postage in May 1840, sending mail was cumbersome and confusing. Recipients—not senders—paid for postage, and over time, people realized "they could avoid paying the postage by refusing to accept their mail," per the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.

"Since the post office had done all the work of getting a letter from point A to point B without getting paid, a significant loss of revenue ensued," according to the museum. "Complex postal rates resulted, and rates were set artificially high to compensate for the loss."

In addition to adhesive stamps, Mulready envelopes, designed by painter William Mulready, were another attempt to streamline mail service around the same time. But they "sadly were an object of ridicule from day one" and didn't catch on as stamps did, writes Sotheby's.

Both stamps and Mulready envelopes also helped reduce the risk of theft, since mail carriers no longer had to carry cash.

While prepaid stamps and Mulreadys were introduced on May 1, 1840, they weren't technically valid for use until May 6. The individual who sent the letter to the younger Blenkinsop decided to risk it and send both a few days early. The two new pre-payment methods were "met with mixed fortunes," according to Sotheby's.

"Some were accepted as payment, and some were not and charged double," adds the auction house.

New USPS issues for February 2024

February 6 Forever **Saul Bellow**
(3-ounce Literary Arts)
CHICAGO, IL 60607



February 19 **Radiant Star**
Presorted Standard Mail
STAR, ID 83669



February 24 Forever **John Wooden**
LOS ANGELES, CA

