



# Sno-King Stamp Club Philatelic News



Serving collectors in Snohomish County and north King County since 1960

Everett, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, **April 10<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30 PM

- Program: **Rabbit Holes** - No, you're not experiencing Deja-Vu. We'll do it again this month: Each member should identify any topic which might qualify as their "rabbit hole." Just show or explain why it is unique or specialized or even just any area that you don't necessarily collect routinely, but devote some extra effort to on the side. Bring along visual examples for your talk for extra credit!
- **Buy / Sell / Trade** - bring some, buy some, sell some, trade some.

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

## 2024 Club Officers

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## Dates for our 2024 meetings (2nd Wednesday at the Everett PUD)

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

## President's Column

Steve LaVergne

It seemed to go over well in March, so let's try it in **April**. Let's invite members to share their philatelic "rabbit holes" with the club. Let's hope that those who shared a "rabbit hole" in March have another "rabbit hole" to feature in April. Perhaps, those who thought about sharing a "rabbit hole" in March will actually do so in April.

As one who shared my Norwegian bypost collection, I do have at least one more I can present.

As for **May**, we will take a break from "rabbit holes." I will arrange for another mailing of circuit books from the American Philatelic Society. So, if you have a new preference for a country or topic, let me know, and I can include that in my requests.

Our February meeting featured APS circuit books. When I first examined them, I was somewhat disappointed in the quality of the material sent to us. Nonetheless, club members lavished an aggregate of \$480 in those books.

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Dimitris Papitsis reports he is nearing publication of his long-awaited reference work on Greek Hermes heads. He may have copies to circulate by the date of our April meeting.

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At a meeting of another club, one member asked for opinions as to the shade varieties of France 47, The basic item is an imperforate 40-centime Ceres definitive, orange on yellowish paper. This collector had purchased three copies, which came in either two or three shades, depending on anyone's perception of shades. All bore catalog values of at least \$250 in used condition.

He displayed a photocopied page from a regular Scott catalog. This listed three minor shade varieties, which were yellow orange on yellowish paper, red orange on yellowish paper and scarlet on yellowish paper. Consensus was that two of the stamps were the red orange variety.

On arriving home, I consulted my Scott 1840-1940 catalog. This lists no less than seven minor shade varieties. Two of the additional shades are pale red and orange vermillion. None of the four additional shades were listed as being printed on yellowish paper.

As for the orange vermillion, isn't orange a component of vermillion?

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In an essay published posthumously, legendary stamp dealer and writer Herman Herst described the burst of enthusiasm which greeted the first issuance of postage stamps, in 1932, from a new country.

That country was Manchukuo. In 1931, Japan invaded several provinces in northeast China and created the puppet state of Manchukuo, installing a former Chinese emperor as the figurehead head of state. In July, 1932, it issued its first postage stamps.

The Depression, then three years along, had stifled the stamp issuing programs of many countries and colonial entities. So, collectors were hungry for new issues and flocked to dealers who stocked the postal paper of the Japanese puppet state.

Since the United States government balked at recognizing Manchukuo, many collectors expected that Scott catalogs would refrain from listing its postage stamps. Nonetheless, as Herst wrote, “collectors hastened to buy its Stamps.”

Herst operated a stamp business in rented office space at 116 Nassau Street, just one block removed from Wall Street, where he worked for a stock brokerage on arriving in New York City.

He met one Roy Agaki, evidently a Japanese diplomat who made the rounds of the dozens of stamp dealers at 116 Nassau, hawking Manchukuo stamps. Herst bought sparingly from Agaki, but did persuade a fellow dealer to place a large order.

One day, Agaki asked how could Manchukuo expand the sale of its stamps. Herst suggested if the puppet country could concoct a rarity, this would stimulate sales of its stamps. Noting the popularity of airmails, Herst suggested that Manchukuo raise its airmail rate by a fen and issue new stamps to replace the two existing airmails, which would be yanked from the market.

In 1937, Manchukuo did exactly that. It yanked its 18-fen and 38-fen airmails from its post offices and replaced them with 19-fen and 39-fen varieties. As Herst predicted, this boosted the catalog values of the discontinued airs, although nowhere near rarity-level.

Herst’s essay, “King Henry,” is one of 77 essays contained in a collection entitled, “Put a Stamp on It.’ Herst wrote these essays in 1994, but died in 1999 without publishing them. In 2016, his son discovered the essays and arranged for their publication.

After his death, Herman Herst was admitted to the Philatelic Hall of Fame, maintained by the American Philatelic Society. His claim to philatelic fame includes his critically-acclaimed book, “Nassau Street,” published in 1960.

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### Shows This Month...

OLYMPIA:

**APRIL 6, SATURDAY 9:30-4PM, Spring 2024 Roundup Stamp & Coin Show,**  
Columbian Hall, 6794 Martin Way E, Lacey, WA

KENT:

**APRIL 20th & 21st, SAT/SUN opens at 10AM each day, Evergreen Spring Stamp Show**  
Kent Commons, 525 4th Avenue North, Kent, WA

## New USPS issues for April 2024

April 5 Forever **Betty Ford**  
RANCHO MIRAGE, CA 92270

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April 26, 2024 \$1 **Floral Geometry**  
BURLINGAME, CA 94010 (Westpex Show)



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### File under “O” for Oops

Last month's **printed version** of the newsletter - Apologies to those who get the printed version for the March issue. Somewhere between when I concocted it, sent it to Steve, and it being printed... well,.. It got all kinds of screwed up. Titles, images, borders, graphics, you name it. It was like it got turned into a jigsaw puzzle. Not quite sure what happened but we'll try not to do that again. The emailed PDF versions turned out just fine, though!

## USPS issues alert over counterfeit stamps

American flag stamps are the most commonly counterfeited design



By [Caresse Jackman](#) Published: Mar. 27, 2024

(InvestigateTV) — The [United States Postal Inspection Service](#) (USPIS) has issued an [alert warning of the sale of counterfeit stamps](#).

According to the alert, there has been an increase in counterfeit stamps being sold on social media and third party websites, often at steep discounts.

“We’ve seen large discounts of up to 50 percent offered on some of these fraudulent listings,” U.S. Postal Inspector Michael Martel said. “That is a big red flag.”

“Counterfeit stamps come in a variety of colors and designs,” he continued. “And, these aren’t coming from the United States – the quality of these has increased drastically in the past few years. These are of course coming from overseas nations – where intellectual property laws aren’t enforced.”

Martel said with new changes to the domestic mail manual, items mailed with counterfeit postage will be considered abandoned and are subject to being opened and disposed of. Those selling the fake stamp could face jail time.

“You can actually face a penalty of up to five years imprisonment for those crimes,” Martel explained.

He said the loss of revenue from counterfeit stamps impacts the 600,000 postal employees who count on that money to operate and serve the American people.

## America's Most Valuable Postage Stamp to Auction with \$5 million Estimate

APRIL 2, 2024

SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES

### *The 1868 One-cent "Z" Grill*



Siegel Auction Galleries of New York City is to offer the William H. Gross Collection of United States Stamps with a \$4 to \$5 million estimate for the collection's rarest stamp, the 1868 One-cent 'Z' Grill.

The collection was built over the course of decades by William 'Bill' H. Gross who co-founded PIMCO in 1971. Charles Shreve, Director of Siegel International and Gross's philatelic advisor for more than 30 years, said: "This is, without question, the most significant and most valuable collection of United States stamps formed this past half century."

There are only two copies of the 1868 One-cent 'Z' Grill known to survive. One was donated to The New York Public Library in 1925, leaving the example owned by Gross as the only One-cent 'Z' Grill available to collectors.

The top 100 stamps from the collection will be auctioned at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel in Manhattan on June 14 when the star will be the 1868 One-cent 'Z' Grill, which returns to the auction block for the first time in 26 years. The remaining stamps will be sold the next day at the Collectors Club of New York in its new location overlooking Bryant Park.

Gross was introduced to philately as a child when his mother gave him a stamp album full of mint postage that she believed would help him pay for college. When he went to sell the stamps, he learned they were essentially worthless. Nevertheless, he wanted to prove his mother right, that stamps could be a good investment. In 2005, Gross became the second person in history to form a complete collection of United States postage stamps, and began selling his stamp collections in 2007. So far, he has sold over \$24 million in stamps through Siegel Auctions to raise money for various charities.

His collection of United States stamps in a simple album will be the last to be sold at the auction. Siegel expects it to bring \$15 to \$20 million.