

# STAMPS AND TONGS

The E-mail Newsletter  
of the Dallas-Park  
Cities Philatelic  
Society

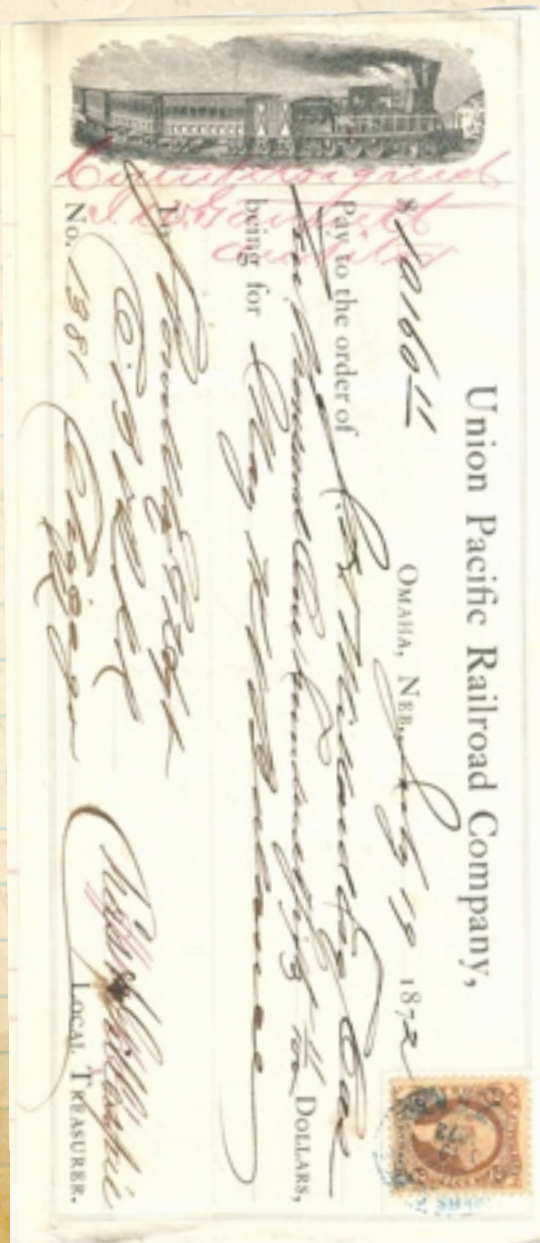
<http://dpcps2010.webs.com/>

December 2010

## REVENUE STAMPS

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☞ The Dallas Park-Cities Philatelic Society is a chapter member of the Texas Philatelic Association (TPA Chapter #40) and the American Philatelic Society (APS# 0835-068806).

The purpose of the club is to provide social interaction with local philatelist, from the newest collector to those who have been collecting for a lifetime. The club members interest run the entire spectrum of philately. We meet the second and fourth wednesday of the month. Our meetings officially start at 7:30 pm but many member arrive at 7:00 pm to trade or buy duplicates. The first meeting of the month is normally a 30-40

minute presentation of some aspect of philately. The second meeting of the month is usually a short business meeting and a 15 min presentation by a member on his or her collecting interests. This is usually followed by a short mini-auction. Once a quarter there is larger auction of about 70 items

Benefits of membership includes access to the most current Scott Volumes free of charge to borrow, ability to auction your duplicates in our mini-auctions, or in our larger quarterly auctions, as well a wealth of collecting knowledge in our membership's diverse collecting interests.

A membership application can be located on our website or directly here: ([application](#)). Dues are \$12.00/year.

## Current Officers

President: Harry H. Pedersen  
Vice-President: Perry Denton  
Secretary: Samuel Phillippi  
Treasure: Jack Urish  
Past President: Rod Gabel

## Current Board of Directors:

Scott Hunter  
Jerold Plumb  
Tom Cunningham

## Website:

<http://dpcps2010.webs.com/>

## EDITOR'S NOTES

If you are like me and belong to several stamp organizations December can be stressful with all the notifications for renewal of membership. I think I have them all renewed and another one comes in....sigh.

So this comes with no great surprise....dues for The Dallas Park-Cities Philatelic Society will come due at the turning of the new year. Dues are still \$12.00/yr for regular membership and \$25.00/yr for dealer membership. Dues can be paid at our next meeting on Wed. Jan 12th.

This month's edition has a great article on page 4 by our President on Revenue Stamps. It is an overview of the category and the history of their use.

We also have an interesting article about 'Stamp Picking' by Tom Siegel on page 6.

Both Harry and Tom have my eternal gratitude for helping with articles to publish in this newsletter. Unfortunately I am out of articles and need submissions. They don't have to be long, or detailed, or even have any pictures. You can send me a picture of your favorite cover or your comments on what you found at the last bourse. I just need submissions. I can help you edit, and can find illustrations. This newsletter will only continue if you are willing to help me.

You can email me the text or if you have pictures at [SLOANFJ@MAC.COM](mailto:SLOANFJ@MAC.COM) or you can use the USPS and mail it to me at Frank Sloan 7115 Haverford Rd Dallas, TX 75214.

I hope you and your family have a safe and Happy Holidays.

-Frank

2011 Dues are coming up.

\$12.00 Regular members  
\$25.00 Dealer members

Payable at our next meeting- Jan 12th, 2011

## Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Minutes

NOVEMBER 10, 2010

- Meeting came to order at 7:30 PM – 30 people attending including 5 guests.
- Applications for membership were requested and given to 2 guests.
- No Secretary report – Secretary unable to attend
- Treasurers Report given
- Nominations for 2011 officer announced by President:

- \* President: Harry Pedersen
- \* Vice-President: Perry Denton
- \* Secretary: Sam Phillippi
- \* Treasurer: Jack Urish
- \* Board Members:
- \* Scott Hunter
- \* Jerold Plumb
- \* Tom Cunningham

- The floor was opened for addition nominations – None offered
- Motion to Close nominations given by Bob Johnson
- Seconded by Shenna Bosworth
- Motion passed

- Drawing for albums conducted
- Floor passed to Rod Gable to introduce speaker
- Rod Gable introduced Charles Shreve who spoke on “Questions that a Philatelic Auctioneer Hopes you Don’t Ask”
- Mr. Shreve was well received by all present and answered many questions.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:45

## Charles Shreve speaker at Deborah Kempston Lecture Series

Mr. Shreve has been in the rare stamp business for over 40 years. He has worked with Sotheby’s and Heritage auction houses. He is a member of the Board of Governors for the New York Collector’s Club, serves on the Board for the Philatelic foundation and holds a seat on the Council of Philatelists for the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum. Currently he is President of Spink Shreves Galleries, Inc.

His talk on “Questions a Philatelic Auctioneer Hope’s you Don’t Ask” was given in Oct 10th and well attended.

His talk focused on common questions he is asked by people wanting to sell their collections.

His first point was that as the auctioneer he has a fiduciary obligation to the seller not the buyer.

He then discussed the three most common questions he is asked when a client brings a collection.

- 1) How much is it worth? It shouldn’t based solely on what the auctioneer says it is. The auctioneer actually needs to know something about the topic of the collection.
- 2) How much are you going to charge me? Commission is a low concern if they are not going to sell. A commission rate less than everyone else should be concerning.



*Mr. Charles Shreve*

### 3) Will you give me a guarantee?

This is not always a good thing. A desperate Auctioneer may say anything to get your material, but that doesn’t mean he is the best for your collection. A good auctioneer knows what its worth and how to market it to sell. It is their job.

As with any other business do your homework. Ask around. And get more than one estimate. Remember if it sounds to good to be true it may be.



# Revenues

## A Primer

BY HARRY H. PEDERSEN

For many years revenue stamps were tucked way in the back-of-the-book and treated with disdain. Sometimes they were referred to as album weeds where a good collector must dutifully cleanse his collection of this vermin. You see, if it wasn't a "postage stamp" it was somehow sub-standard.

It was around 1970 when I was visiting a favorite stamp shop in Denver where I obtained a nice Penny Black. The owner then bestowed upon me a cigar box full of revenue stamps, ostensibly because I was a good customer. I set it aside for a time. Then one day I discovered the revenue section of the catalog. At that time I really didn't understand exactly what they were but I was hooked.

Today revenue stamps have hit the mainstream with escalating prices to match. They have earned regular appearing articles in Linn's and other publications. No, they are not postage stamps which I still vigorously collect. But they are not Cinderella stamps either. By definition, Cinderella stamps are privately issued 'labels' that resemble stamps but have no postal or fiscal purpose. Revenue stamps by contrast are either issued by a government or authorized to be privately printed by that government for the purpose of collection of taxes. They are also important historically, especially on document. The Union Pacific Document pictured was issued three years

after the "Golden Spike" made the linkage with the Central Pacific.

Most nations have issued revenue stamps which are often found in mixtures, nickel boxes and other sources of stamps. Often collectors puzzle over them, especially if they are of foreign origin. Foreign revenue stamps generally do not appear in Scott's catalog but there are specialized publications that do cover them. For the purpose of this article I will limit my discussion to United States revenue stamps.

United States revenue stamps were first issued in 1862 to finance the Civil War. Yes, there was Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper issued in America by Great Britain as early as 1755. Some of it is affordable, if you can find it.

The First Issue revenue stamps each were inscribed with their intended use, Bank Check, Telegraph, Foreign Exchange, Proprietary, Playing Cards, etc. The law intended that they could only be used for their inscribed purpose. It didn't take long before this was changed. After December 25, 1862 all except the Proprietary stamps could be used on any document. The First Issue stamps are my personal favorite. The engraving is often quite nice as well as the designs. One of my favorites, R102c, is pictured. They are found fully perforated, part-perforated and imperforate. Some examples of these are pictured. The reason for this was that they couldn't be printed

*Continued on Page 6*



"United States revenue stamps were first issued in 1862 to finance the Civil War."



fast enough to fill the demand and were often taken out of production before the perforating was complete.

The Second and Third Issues were issued only as Documentary stamps and intended for use on documents. They were not inscribed for their intended use. The Third Issue was created because the Second Issue stamps were all the same color and caused confusion. Separate stamps were issued for Proprietary purposes such as taxes on matches, perfumes, playing cards and patent medicines, among others.

Documentary stamps were issued in various forms including what are known as the "reds". They pictured various officials who served as Secretary of the Treasury. An example is pictured. Documentary stamps



were finally discontinued at the end of 1967. The last Proprietary stamps were issued in 1914.

Other types of revenue stamps were also created. Stock Transfer stamps were first printed in 1918 and ended in 1952. The "greens" of the revenues are essentially identical in design to the Documentary "reds" and like them are popular. Wine stamps, Beer stamps, Silver Tax, Potato Tax, Narcotic Tax, Customs Fee and even Marihuana Tax stamps were issued among others.

Private Die Proprietary stamps were authorized by the federal government to be printed at the expense of the private firms with designs of their choosing when it became impossible to keep up with the demand for stamps during the Civil War. Many of these are heavily sought-after due



to their attractive engraving. They are difficult to find in nice condition if at all.

Scott Catalog also lists Duck Stamps as revenue stamps. Some die-in-the-wool revenue collectors don't consider Duck Stamps to be true revenue stamps although I disagree and do collect them.

I would recommend any collector seeking a new area to specialize in to consider Revenue stamps. You may find them fascinating.





# Stamp Picking

## FINDING TREASURE AMONG THE STAMPS YOU ALREADY OWN

BY THOMAS SIEGEL

There is a popular reality show seen Monday evenings on the History Channel. It's called "American Pickers"; about two guys who go to the barns, sheds and out buildings of hoarders in search of old items that they can sell to antique dealers and collectors. With a keen eye they can spot value in what others have dismissed as junk,

Most collectors are pickers. Stamp collectors pick over albums and through boxes of stamps and covers, looking for the elusive collectable philatelic nuggets; kinda like panning for gold. As prospectors we will travel near and far; we will buy items on spec at auctions, off of the internet, anywhere we can find them.

A good place to prospect; a hoard that is guaranteed to produce a find or two, and for which there is no cost, is found in the back of your closet, or where ever you have stashed all those duplicates. All you need is: patience, a catalog, a magnifying glass, water marking tray and fluid, and a perforation gage.

Often the collector will miss an item when first going through a collection or accumulation. Recently, I purchased a small collection and

dismissed the stamp as being a cinderella.

After stripping out what I needed, I set the remainders aside to be offered for the usual 20% of catalog or \$0.05. A Regency auction catalog arrived and there was the "cinderella" BUT, it is not a cinderella, it is a 1943 German Feldpost for use in Tunisia. Oh, and did I mention it has a catalog value of \$550.00! (Michel #5.)



The stamp that you dismiss as already being in your collection, may in fact be a variation. You may not have inspected it against the list of variations in small print beneath the catalog number; the sideways watermark; perforation variation, and, right under your nose, the value of used condition being greater than mint. Worse yet, you may have assumed that

all copies of the stamp are the same. Consider the following postage due (D1) issued by Great Britain. There are eight different printings; used copies range in value between \$0.30 and \$12.50. The stamp shown below has a catalog value of \$5.25 used.



It is a task to go through all of your duplicates. It takes time and above all patience. Don't rush. Do a little at a time. Check for postmarks and perfins.

One thing is certain - you'll find what you have overlooked, or dismissed and you'll find some stamps which are in the wrong place. Are you certain that among your early Russian stamps there is not a misplaced stamp from Finland?

## HOLIDAY PARTY

The club dinner was an enjoyable event and all seemed to have a nice time.

The wine was again provided by Mark Solomon and was greatly appreciated.

Special thanks were given to Dr. Boehning (*right*) for arranging the dinner but also for his years of service to the club. This year marks his retirement from the Board of Directors.

The election of officers was held. The following slate was approved by the membership for 2011:

President: Harry H. Pedersen

Vice-President: Perry Denton

Secretary: Sam Phillippi

Treasurer: Jack Urish

Board Members:

Scott Hunter

Jerold Plumb

Tom Cunningham



*Dr. Boehning*

## Obituary Taken from the Edmond Sun, OK

EDMOND — Earle Frederick Plyler was born in New Kensington, Pa. on November 3, 1924, to Frederick Lee and Verda Joyner Plyler. He departed this life on November 7, 2010 in Oklahoma City, Okla., surrounded by his family.

Earle graduated from New Kensington High School in 1942, prior to entering the U.S. Army. He served in the Army's Western Pacific Base Command on Saipan from 1943 to 1945. In 1946, he entered Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. At SMU, he was a member of the Mustang Men choral group, Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, ROTC, Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and the Advertising League in which he served as President. Earle was a Mason, a member of the Scottish Rite, a Shriner and a member of First Presbyterian Church in Edmond. Stamp collecting was his lifelong passion and he received many

national and international awards for his exhibits. He was a member of the American Philatelic Society and other



*Earle Frederick Plyler 1924-2010*

philatelic organizations including the Oklahoma City Stamp Club. In 1981, he became an accredited judge in the APS.

Earle was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Anne Plyler and his

daughters, Laura Anne Silkwood and her husband, Blake, of Milan, Ohio and Leigh Allyson Mikkelsen, and her husband Scott, of Edmond, Okla. Also surviving are his grandchildren Colin Edward Silkwood, Derek Oliver Silkwood, Robert Earle Mikkelsen, and Annaleigh Jane Mikkelsen.

Earle Plyler had been an early member of the Park Cities Philatelic Society. Earle received the 'Diamond Award' from the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, presented at the AmeriStamp/Texpex in Arlington, Tx. in February 2009, recognizing his exhibit United States Domestic Two-Cent rate 1775-1979 which he received gold medal at OKPEX 2008.