



STAMP & TONGS



APRIL 1, 2019 | VOLUME 66

We welcome members with all levels of experience, from beginners to advanced membership is open to all persons of good character who are interested in philately.

IN THIS ISSUE:



THE 11 MOST CONTROVERSIAL STAMPS IN U.S. HISTORY

Stamps have often invited debate—usually for reasons the post office never anticipated.

For an inanimate object weighing just a tiny fraction of an ounce, the postage stamp can sometimes stir up a whole lot of trouble. Throughout U.S. history, stamps have often caused controversy, usually for reasons the post office never anticipated. Here are 11 of the most famous examples:



1934 Whistler's Mother stamp.

(Credit: Public Domain)

1. Whistler's Mother stamp, released 1934

Many artists objected to the way James McNeill Whistler's famous 1873 painting was cropped to fit the horizontal stamp format. Others complained about the vase of flowers that had been added to its lower-left corner—possibly a bit of early product placement for Mother's Day, which the stamp was meant to honor. In a telegram to the postmaster general, a group called the American Artists Professional League charged that the stamp represented a "mutilation of the artist's original picture, thereby robbing

it of much of its charm." The director of New York's Museum of Modern Art, which had recently borrowed the painting (officially titled *Arrangement in Grey and Black, No. 1*) from the Louvre, said that if Whistler "were alive today he would be enraged."



1936 Susan B. Anthony stamp.

(Credit: Public Domain)

2. Susan B. Anthony stamp, released 1936

Some imaginative critics thought they saw a cigarette sticking out from the lips of the famous women's rights advocate. It

THE 11 MOST CONTROVERSIAL STAMPS IN U.S. HISTORY-CONTINUED

was actually an unfortunately positioned line of white cross-hatching in the background. (The next time Anthony got a stamp, in 1955, there seem to have been few complaints.) Anthony's U.S. dollar coin, released in 1979, was no less controversial. Critics charged that the Anthony dollar was too close in size to a quarter and therefore easily confused with one, and the coin proved a dud with the public, as well.



1937 Union Civil War generals stamp.
(Credit: Public Domain)

3. Union Civil War generals stamp, released 1937

Many Southerners were outraged by this stamp featuring three Northern generals: William Tecumseh Sherman, Ulysses S. Grant, and Philip Sheridan. Grant and Sheridan most could live with, but Sherman was still despised for his harsh tactics and his famously destructive March to the Sea in 1864. State legislatures in South Carolina and Georgia took up the matter, the latter suggesting that the stamp not be issued until the federal government reimbursed Georgians for Sherman's destruction and that it also be engraved with a lengthy list of his misdeeds. The postal department attempted to mollify critics by assuring them that a stamp featuring Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson was coming soon. But...



1937 Confederate Civil War generals.
(Credit: Public Domain)

4. Confederate Civil War generals stamp, released 1937

Although postal authorities hoped this stamp honoring Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson would placate Southerners offended by an earlier one with the reviled Union general William Tecumseh Sherman, it proved controversial in its own right. Trouble was, the portrait of Lee showed just two stars on his collar, even though he was a three-star general, making it appear that he'd been demoted. The post office variously claimed that the stamp had been based on an older photo or that the third star was actually hidden by his collar. Nonetheless, when Lee was next honored on a stamp, in 1949, he wore civilian clothes.



1940 80th Anniversary Pony Express stamp.
(Credit: Public Domain)

5. Pony Express stamp, released 1940

Horse lovers and historians found no end of faults in this stamp issued to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the pioneering mail delivery service. The horse's mouth was open (unlikely at a gallop, some said) and daylight was visible through its nostrils, making it appear as if it had been shot through the head. The rider, meanwhile, was holding the reins too loosely and the saddle he was riding on was allegedly 50 years ahead of its time. As if all that weren't enough, the rider didn't appear to be carrying any mail. A later Pony Express stamp, issued on the 100th anniversary in 1960, seems to have come and gone without controversy, though the galloping horse still has its mouth open.



1962 Christmas stamp. (Credit: Public Domain)

6. Christmas stamp, released 1962

No kind of stamp seems to have been as consistently controversial as the ones issued to mark Christmas. That includes the first U.S. Christmas stamp, issued in 1962. Featuring a pair of white candles and a wreath with a red bow, it was attacked for crossing the line between church and state as well as for slighting other faiths. Some Christians objected to it, too, saying the government had no business intruding into their religion. Time magazine even faulted it on aesthetic grounds, calling it "calculated blah." The post office fared no better in 1963 with a design involving a lit-up Christmas tree in front of the White House. Though perhaps an improvement artistically, it was lambasted for injecting politics into Christmas.



1965 Christmas stamp. (Credit: Public Domain)

7. Christmas stamp, released 1965

For 1965, the post office decided to try something different: a painting of the angel Gabriel based on an early New England weathervane. It didn't reckon

THE 11 MOST CONTROVERSIAL STAMPS IN U.S. HISTORY-CONTINUED

on critics who'd attack the stamp for portraying a bosomy angel, even though Gabriel was male. Gabriel would return for Christmas three years later, this time based on The Annunciation, a painting by the 15th century master Jan van Eyck in the collection of the National Gallery of Art. Perhaps because of the painting's prestigious provenance, the 1968 stamp did not invite any ire, although its Gabriel could also be mistaken for female—though a decidedly less bosomy one.

8. Dinosaur stamp, released 1989

Who could be offended by a block of four stamps honoring animals that had been dead for millions of years? In this case, paleontologists, who maintained that two of stamps contained errors. The dinosaurs labeled as brontosaurus were, in fact, apatosaurus, they said. And the pteranodons weren't technically dinosaurs at all, but flying lizards. Postal officials admitted the latter point but noted that the stamps were officially named the "prehistoric animal series" and that the term "dinosaur" had merely appeared in promotional materials. The other two stamps, honoring the stegosaurus and the tyrannosaurus, escaped any controversy.

1989 Dinosaur stamps.

(Credit: SunChan/Getty Images)



1993 Elvis stamp. (Credit: Chris Farina/Corbis/Getty Images)

9. Elvis Presley stamp, released 1993

Elvis fans had been pressing for a stamp ever since 1987, the 10th anniversary of the crooner's death (at the time, anybody but a president had to be dead for a decade). But Presley's drug abuse made him a controversial choice. Given the frequent Elvis "sightings" in the years since his death, there was also a facetious controversy over whether he had been gone for the required 10 years—or was even dead at all. Regardless, the stamp reportedly became the most successful commemorative release in post office history, with some 500 million copies in print.



1995 Richard Nixon 32-cent stamp. (Credit: USPS/AP Photo)

10. Richard M. Nixon stamp, released 1995

Although Nixon had resigned in disgrace in 1974, when threatened with impeachment, the former president was honored with a stamp after his death, as all presidents are by tradition. The stamp was predictably unpopular and the butt of endless jokes; as a newspaper columnist remarked, "this is one guy whose backside I do not care to lick" (self-adhesive stamps wouldn't become common until 2002). Sales picked up a bit, however, when a clever entrepreneur issued an envelope that made it look as if Nixon was behind bars.

THE 11 MOST CONTROVERSIAL STAMPS IN U.S. HISTORY-CONTINUED



The withdrawn 1995 atomic bomb stamp also inspired imitations, such as this one, signed by stamp designer Gary Newhouse and the Enola Gay crew.

(Image courtesy of LiveAuctioneers.com Archive and The Written Word Autographs)

11. The Atomic bomb stamp, released 1995

As part of a series commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the postal service designed a stamp with a painting of a mushroom cloud captioned "Atomic bombs hasten war's end, August 1945." Perhaps not surprisingly, the Japanese government, peace activists, and many others were offended by a stamp that appeared to celebrate a terrifying weapon that multiple countries now possessed and occasionally threatened to use. After the apparent intervention of then-President Bill Clinton, postal officials reconsidered the matter and the stamp was never released (although a prototype for it, showing "00" where the stamp's denomination would have appeared, is easily found online). In its place, the post office substituted an image of President Harry Truman announcing Japan's surrender on August 14, 1945.

GREG DAUGHERTY
APR 16, 2018

<https://www.history.com/news/11-most-controversial-stamps-in-u-s-history>

STAMP FRAUDSTERS ALL WASHED UP

An English couple who bought hundreds of used stamps in charity shops then washed them and sold them as new on eBay are each jailed for two years - after costing Royal Mail £400,000.

Wendy Baker, 55 and Dean Westwood, 56, from Birmingham, pleaded guilty to three charges of fraud after running the scam from their home for five years. They have been jailed for two years.

The total value of the stamps sold was £443,244 while the couple pocketed £149,344 in profit.

They pleaded guilty to possessing articles for use in fraud, adapting an article for fraud and supplying an article for fraud.

The couple first started buying used first and second class stamps in bulk from charities in July 2013.

The vast majority of the sales were to businesses and traders and there were multiple and repeat purchases.

The couple used a chemical process to remove the cancellation marks on the stamps and white spirit to remove the glue from the back of the stamps, before drying them with talcum powder, putting them on drying racks and spraying them with hairspray 'to make them look better.'

Westwood and Baker then sold the stamps at a significant discount, establishing a company called Stampbusters as a vehicle for their illegal enterprise.

The prosecution stated the couple had advertised their business with disclaimers explaining what they do, in a bid to legitimise it.

Royal Mail investigators, who made test purchases from them, and other buyers identified the stamps as having previously been used.

A police raid on their home revealed large numbers of first and second class stamps 'in various states of process.'

In passing sentence, Recorder Rachel

Brand QC said the fraud had been 'persistent and planned'

She added: 'You placed into circulation a huge number of washed stamps over a number of years allowing others to use them to cheat the Royal Mail out of revenue they were entitled to.'

Reported at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=85050>



THE QUEEN PERSONALLY APPROVED THESE MARVEL-THEMED STAMPS FOR THE UK

The Queen Personally Approved These Marvel-Themed Stamps for the UK

To celebrate Marvel's 80th birthday this year, the UK's Royal Mail has unveiled 15 Marvel-themed stamps illustrated by legendary House of Ideas artist Alan Davis, who's worked with Marvel since the early 1980s. You've probably seen his eye-popping work in books like EXCALIBUR, CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THANOS: THE INFINITY CONFLICT, and more.

Marvel.com caught up with Mark Liversidge of the Royal Mail to learn more about how this special collection came to be.

"We knew of Alan Davis' reputation and long association with Marvel (having illustrated CAPTAIN BRITAIN for a number of years as well as many of the other heroes)," Liversidge tells Marvel.com. "We used the British design company Interabang to develop the overall design concept and investigate the best compositions for each character to work at the very small size of a stamp. Then Alan was briefed about each hero, to represent in a classic pose."

The initial collection includes the following Marvel Universe heroes: Spider-Man/Peter Parker, Captain Marvel/Carol Danvers, the Hulk, Doctor Stephen Strange, Captain Britain, Peggy Carter, Iron Man/Tony Stark, Union Jack, Black Panther, and Thor!

In addition to the singular hero stamps, Davis also did an entire comic strip (titled MARVEL HEROES UK) of five "panels" that have been converted into stamps. And naturally, the story has to do with the characters facing off against the Mad Titan himself, Thanos!

Most fascinatingly, Queen Elizabeth II had to personally sign-off on the new stamp designs—as she does with all new Royal Mail stamp releases.

<https://www.marvel.com/articles/culture-lifestyle/the-queen-personally-approved-these-marvel-themed-stamps-for-the-uk>

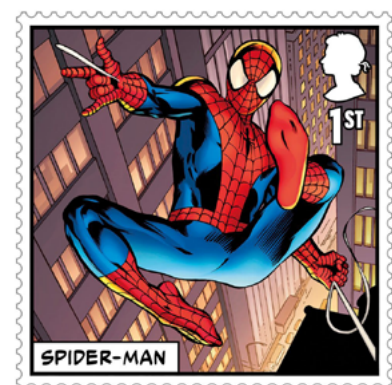
BY JOSH WEISS



Royal Mail Stamps 2019 - Marvel Comics

To many stamp collectors the appearance of this previously unannounced set will go alongside the similarly commercial issues of recent years, such as the extensive Star Wars series and last year's Game of Thrones set, which recreated photos of characters from the fantasy TV series.

This time we go into the world of comic books and there's no doubting the Marvel universe – eighty years old this year – is blockbuster material, with a seemingly continuous stream of movies telling the



pages of UK comics in the 1980s.

The fifteen-stamp set includes ten 1st class values, each showing a Marvel character, while an accompanying miniature sheet presents a specially created comic strip, entitled Avengers UK, made up of five more stamps. So what of the characters on the ten stamps?

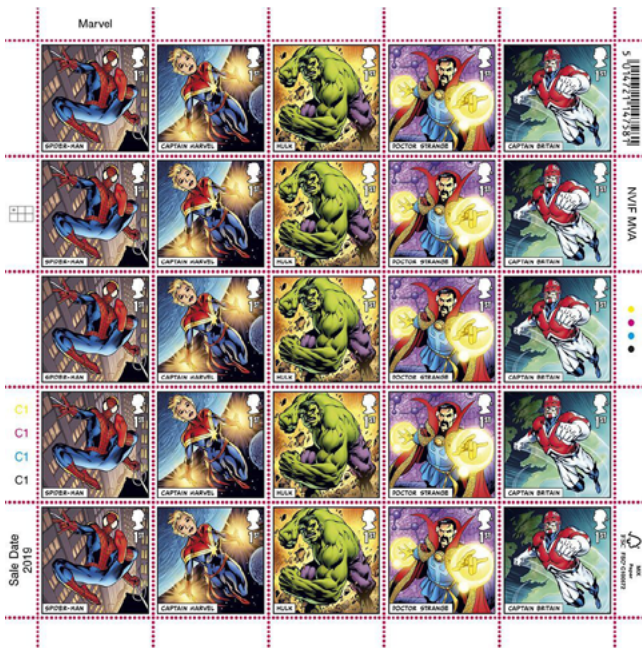
Many will be familiar to us all, and have their roots in the USA versions of the Marvel comics. We see Spider-Man, Hulk, Thor, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and Black Panther, all stars of their own films in recent years, and the first two have previously appeared on a variety of stamps. But then there's the more unfamiliar names Peggy Carter, Captain Britain and Union Jack.

Peggy Carter seems like a rather



intertwined tales of these super-heroes. However Royal Mail are also touching upon the British links with comic book empire Marvel, not least the intriguing British characters that appeared on the

MARVEL-THEMED STAMPS FOR THE UK-CONTINUED



pedestrian name for a super-hero, according to her biography, she was working for the French Resistance in the Second World War when she met and fell in love with Captain America. The two fought the Axis powers together before they were separated by the war. Peggy went on to become a leading agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division).

Captain Britain first appeared in 1976 in Captain Britain Weekly, a comic exclusively available for the UK market featuring the first character created by the imprint Marvel UK. The character was drawn by Alan David, amongst others, who is responsible for the artwork across the stamp set, while writers included Alan Moore, perhaps most famous for The Watchmen graphic novel.

Also known as Brian Braddock, Captain Britain was chosen by magician Merlyn to be Britain's greatest protector. Granted amazing powers, Brian became Captain Britain and soon learned he was part of a multidimensional Captain Britain Corps and has fought alongside Excalibur and the Avengers to keep his country – and the world – safe from harm. One wonders what the character's take on Brexit would be, but perhaps such a divisive storyline would even trouble the strongest willed super-hero.

Union Jack is the third comic-book character whose name is unfamiliar to most. The story goes, the original Union Jack was Lord James Falsworth, who fought in the First World War. When his descendant refused to take on the role, the mantle was passed to Joey Chapman, a working class hero from Manchester, who has gone on to fight alongside the Knights of Pendragon and the Invaders. The character first appeared in 1976 and returned in 2011 for a new story.

As with other more commercial British stamp sets, there is a huge range of related collectables available, with one eye squarely on the non-stamp-collector market. Take a visit to the dedicated website (www.royalmail.com/marvel) and you'll see the full range on offer.

The presentation pack (£12.99) is worth mentioning – and you can win a copy on our website – as it includes all fifteen stamps alongside a set of stickers including sound effects, logos and comic book narratives to 'help you create your own Super Hero adventure'. All ten original Super Hero pencil sketches are printed behind each stamp, a separate protective carrier for the stamp miniature sheet features a striking image of Thanos, and a n original specially commissioned fold-out illustration by Marvel comic book artist Neil Edwards, featuring each of the ten Super Heroes pitted against their nemeses.

A stamp set (£6.99) features the ten 1st class stamps, and a separate miniature sheet (£4.99) is also available.

A 24-page prestige stamp book (PSB) retails for £17.45 and features four special panes which include all fifteen Marvel stamps as well as a pane of definitive

stamps with the iconic Comics Code Authority seal of approval (which used to be appear prominently on comic book covers) at the centre. A limited edition version (priced at £64.99) is limited to 4,995 copies and also features a 'selectively colour printed' Spider-Man tin presentation case, a special edition retro Spider-Man PSB front cover, and an individually numbered laminate certificate featuring a classic comic book scene from The Amazing Spider-Man.

There are six different first day covers, two for the ten stamps (£8.60), two for the mini-sheet (£6.20) and two featuring the pane of definitives from the PSB (£6). Meanwhile, medal covers are available at £24.99 and, for the silver medals, £99.99.

Add in signed and framed stamps and mini-sheets, and individual enlargements of the stamp designs; press sheets, stamp cards, a retail stamp book, and first day envelopes and there's something for every comic-book fan, though even GB collectors with super-powers will surely struggle to add an example of every offering to their albums.

<https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/royal-mail-stamps-2019/marvel-comics/>



THE “ONE PENNY” OVERPRINT OF TASMANIA

In the latter part of 1912 it appeared obvious that there would be insufficient 1d stamps on hand to cover normal demand until the Australian Commonwealth stamps were released at the beginning of 1913. The method chosen by the Government Printer, Mr. J. B. Cooke, to overcome such a shortage was to overprint some of the 2d value stereotypes, which were more abundant.

Accordingly two overprinting plates of 60 units each were produced. The former were complied [sic] with a sloping (italic) type lettering which was set up individually from available type. The horizontal row alignments were fairly

accurate but vertically there was variation, more noticeably on Plate 1. Evidently the printed 2d stereo sheets were still

intact and unseparated from each other; otherwise the two plates for overprinting would not have been required.

The pale red colour chosen for overprinting did not stand out prominently from the violet used for the stamp design as may be generally expected with overprinting. Clarity of impression has also made it difficult to verify conclusively constant abnormalities found in the type impressions, both from the initial strikes and from development during the printing.

Excerpted from The Pictorial Stamps of Tasmania 1899-1912 by K. E. Lancaster, ©1986. Fair use for non-commercial, educational purposes.



aThey're Only In RED!

This hand drawn fake overprint was found in one of Jack's Albums several months ago. Why anyone would attempt such a fake in black, when the genuine overprints are in red, is a complete mystery. It is amusing though!

IRISH KING OF STAINED GLASS AND STAMPS

Richard King was a man of diverse talents: a gifted stained glass artist who also excelled in oil paintings as well as designing Irish stamps.

Richard King was born in Castlebar, Ireland, in 1907 and studies art & design at the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art in 1927.

His tutor recognised King's artistic ability and that he would be highly suited to stained glass work. King joined the Harry Clarke Stained Glass Studios the next year becoming chief designer shortly afterwards.

He was instrumental in creating stained glass windows and religious oil paintings for Ireland, Britain, Canada, United States and Australia.

He also designed 12 stamps for the Irish government, beginning in 1933 for 'The Holy Year', and a stamp to commemorate the golden jubilee of the GAA in 1924, Constitution and St. Patrick in 1937, Four Masters in 1944, Thomas Davis in 1945, Davitt and Parnell stamps in 1946, four airmail issues in 1948/49 and James Clarence Mangan in 1949.

Richard King died on St. Patrick's Day, 1974.

*Reported at <http://www.con-telegraph.ie>
<http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=85643>*



A PRICKLY ISSUE FOR MALAYSIA POST

Pos Malaysia recently announced that they will be releasing their first exotic themed postage stamps. Three exotic dishes are featured in this series: Sea Cucumber Salad, Turmeric Fried Grasshoppers and Porcupine Rendang.

The announcement has led to huge condemnation from conservationists concerned that the stamps promote the consumption of threatened porcupines.

There are three species of native porcupines: the Malayan porcupine, the Brush-tailed porcupine and the Long-tailed porcupine.

According to the IUCN Red List Assessment 2017 for mammals conducted by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN), the first two species (Malayan and Brush-tailed) are Near Threatened (NT) while the Long-tailed is Vulnerable (VU).

The Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 lists the first two species as Protected, which means hunting is allowed with a permit from PERHILITAN while the Long-tailed is Totally Protected and hunting is banned altogether. The former two are also on Sixth Schedule of the Act which permits

Aborigine communities to hunt and consume without a permit.

Aside from Aborigine communities, there is a demand for porcupine among other communities in Malaysia. As the stamp shows, the Malay community has been using porcupine meat as a substitute for beef in rendang. The Chinese community are more interested in porcupine bezoar (mass of fibres trapped in its digestive tract) for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Practitioners have claimed that bezoars can treat serious illnesses like cancer, diabetes and dengue."

Critics have stressed that the stamp production will have a negative impact on the tourism sector, as it will send a message to other countries that Malaysia is ecologically insensitive.

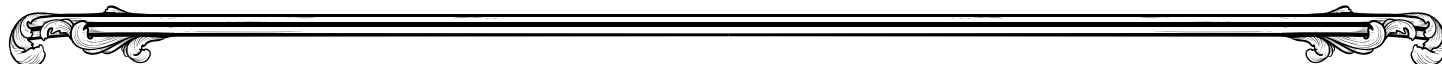
They have urged the Wildlife Department to step in and prevent the stamps from being launched.

In response to the outcry, Pos Malaysia has apologised.

"Pos Malaysia would like to apologise over the uneasiness it has caused to nature and animal lovers over the production of our exotic food stamp series," the statement read. "It was never our intention to promote or encourage activities such as hunting or consuming exotic animals."

Reported at <http://www.malaymail.com>

<http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=86109>



USPS TO RELEASE SESAME STREET STAMPS FOR SERIES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 50 years of the beloved educational children's series, the new stamps feature several familiar faces like Big Bird, Cookie Monster and Elmo

Mail carriers' days are about to get a little bit sunnier.

The U.S. Postal Service announced in a press release Tuesday that they are introducing a colorful line of stamps inspired by Sesame Street characters, designed by Art Director Derry Noyes.

Celebrating 50 years of the beloved educational children's series, the 16 new stamps feature several familiar

faces from the show like Big Bird, Bert, Ernie, Cookie Monster, Oscar the Grouch, Snuffleupagus, Grover, Abby Cadabby, The Count, Rosita, Zoe — and of course, Elmo.

"For the last 50 years, [Sesame Street] has provided educational programming and entertainment for generations of children throughout the country and around the world," USPS said in the press release of their inspiration behind the new stamp series.

By JEN JUNEAU
March 14, 2019 12:55 PM

<https://people.com/parents/sesame-street-stamps-50th-anniversary/>



To The Membership,

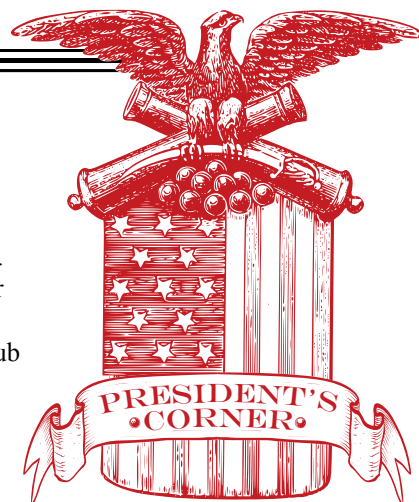
I trust you all have had another successful quarter of adding to your collections.

I'm pleased to let you know that the club has placed an order for a set of 2020 Scott catalogues. In addition to the standard set of volumes we have ordered a U.S. Specialized catalogue and for the first time (at least as long as I've been a member) a Scott Classic. The first volumes will be released in April and as we receive them throughout the year they will be available to you at club meetings.

Also, as approved at the last meeting, we are making a change to our regular meeting agenda and will only have one formal program each month instead of a program at each meeting. The alternate meetings will be devoted to "just stamps." This is mainly to accommodate the disposition of the Keith Bell collection once probate is completed. However, we hope that this additional time will foster additional trading and buying and selling between members.

Until next time, keep counting those perfs!

Geoff Owens
President



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone of good character who is interested in stamps and learning more about them. Annual dues for membership are \$12.00

CLUB MEETINGS SCHEDULE.

Meetings are held second and fourth Wednesday of each month. 7:30 pm
Edgemere Retirement Center
8523 Thackery Dallas, TX

April 10

Board Meeting at the Edgemere on Northwest Highway and Thackery
Program: "Just stamps/spring cleanup", speaker: Entire membership

April 24

Program: "DVD – TBD", speaker: Entire Membership

May 8

Program: "Just stamps/quarterly auction", speaker: Entire membership

May 23

Program: "The Story Behind the Stamp", Five volunteers

June 12

Program: "Just stamps", speaker: Entire membership

June 21-22

TSDA Richardson Stamp Show at Richardson Civic Center, W. Arapaho and Central (75)
Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4

UPCOMING SHOWS

May 17-18

SAN ANTONIO TSDA, Norris Conference Center, 618 Northwest Freeway Loop 410, Suite 207 (across San Pedro from NorthStar Mall), San Antonio, TX 78216 (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4).

May 31 – June 1

HOUSTON TSDA, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (IH-10 West), Houston, TX 77024.
(Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)

June 21-22

DALLAS TSDA, Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX 75080-4551
(Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)

June 28-29

OKPEX 2019, Reed Conference Center, I-40@Sooner Road, Oklahoma City, OK
(Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-4)

July 27-28

ARK-LA-TX Annual Show, Bossier City Civic Center, 620 Benton Road, Bossier City, LA (Saturday 9-6, Sunday 9-3)

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Geoff Owens

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