

STAMP & TONGS



MAY-JUNE 2020

DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VOL. 59, NO. 3

COVID-19 STAMPS APPEAR

By Arthur P. von Reyn

It didn't take long for some postal administrations to issue stamps related to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Four issues have already made an appearance and more appear to be on the way.

The first stamp came from Iran on March 17. The design prominently features health care workers plus what appears to be a soldier wearing a gas mask.

Control and prevention is the theme of a pair of stamps issued by Vietnam on March 31. Once again, health care workers are depicted, a theme that will appar-

ently play out frequently as other countries issue such stamps. A press release announcing the Vietnamese stamps mentioned upcoming issues from the Peoples Republic of China and Sri Lanka. Neither has panned out so far. The Sri Lanka Post said it had no such plans. A design that appeared on the internet in mid-March, concocted by a stamp dealer, apparently fooled the Vietnamese postal officials.

The Chinese stamp was due

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Vietnam released on March 31 a pair of stamps honoring medical professionals in the battle against coronavirus. The red inscription near the bottom reads "Join hands in Covid 19 prevention and control."



Iran was apparently the first country out of the gate with a coronavirus related stamp. Issued March 17, the stamp honors medical workers as national heroes. Those who die fighting the disease will be designated coronavirus "martyrs."

CORONAVIRUS STRIKES PHILATELITY

By Arthur P. von Reyn

There's seemingly not much of anything in our daily life that hasn't been impacted in some way by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, with philately being no exception.

Since the middle of March, countless stamp club meetings across the nation have been canceled, including those of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society. The stamp show circuit has been obliterated, with nothing currently scheduled until

mid- to late June at the earliest.

The American Philatelic Society so far remains committed to holding the 2020 Great American Stamp Show, formerly known as Stampshow. The exhibition, slated for August 20-23 in Hartford, Con-

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DPCPS TO MEET ON INTERNET

Due to restrictions on physical meetings, The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society will temporarily gather on the internet beginning May 13.

Members will be able to participate with a desktop computer, tablet, smart phone or a landline using an audio/video conference application. An invitation to attend will be sent by email or written notice, along with instructions on how to access this user-friendly technology.

Since conferencing has been popular for a number of years now, many members may already be familiar with it.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, all DPCPS meetings at the Edgemere Retirement Community have been canceled until further notice. In May and June, and possibly longer, meetings will be held instead on the internet.

In the event meetings at the Edgemere can resume before the July-August edition of *Stamp and Tongs*, members will receive either an email or postcard notice to that effect.

As of this bulletin's publication date, the TSDA bourse had not been canceled. Check with the sponsors' websites for updated information.

- May 13** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, Program: *The 1937 Pan-American Exposition* presented by Arthur von Reyn.
- May 27** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, *The story behind the stamps, Letter J*, presented by Stan Bartnikowski, Stuart Barzune, Jack Urish, George Clayton, Bill Laupus and others.
- June 10** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, Program: *Stamps and History of Poland* by Stan Bartnikowski.
- June 19-20** **DALLAS TSDA**, Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX 75080 (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4). <https://www.tsdstamps.com/stamp-show-schedule/>
- June 24** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, *The story behind the stamps, Letter K*. Volunteers are needed!
- June 26-27** **OKPEX 2020**. This event has been canceled.

STAMP & TONGS

Newsletter of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society

Arthur von Reyn, Editor (apvr@msn.com)

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Membership in the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society is available to all persons of good character who are interested in philately. Dues are \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, contact: (972) 956-6840 or: apvr@msn.com. For a membership application, write to: Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, c/o Joseph E. Baker, 1623 Lake Travis Dr., Allen, TX 75002.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY STAN BARTNIKOWSKI



I hope you are all safe and healthy. I know it has been difficult to stay at home. Hopefully, we will be able to meet again at the Edgemere in the near future.

Until then, arrangements have been made to hold our meetings on the internet. Our first such meeting will be held on May 13 beginning at 7:30 p.m., which is the time for our normal second Wednesday meeting. You will receive details on how to participate with this newsletter. I look forward to what should prove to be an engaging experience.

Meanwhile, this has been an opportunity for me to organize my stock books and albums, and mount my many loose stamps into albums, or at least organize them in stock books.

At what turned out to be our last Edgemere meeting for a while, Ben Schkolne gave a wonderful presentation on the Cape of Good Hope – its history and stamps. I encourage each of you to think about making a similar presentation from your own collection. No need for a PowerPoint presentation (but would be nice); simply select pages from a country or topic to present to the club.

Also, please consider writing a brief article for this bulletin—not necessarily APS journal material—but a brief discussion of topic you believe may be of interest to the club.

Happy stamp collecting!

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

BY ARTHUR VON REYN



"Post modern: why millennials have fallen in love with stamp collecting" is an article that appeared April 11 on the website of the British newspaper *The Guardian*.

After hearing so many proclamations in recent years that philately is a dying hobby, it's nice to read something that's contrary to that notion, even if it pertains to a European nation where collecting remains considerably more popular than on this side of the Atlantic.

Most of the quotes in the article are attributed to millennials who started collecting and then became involved in the stamp trade.

Suzanne Rae, the second female chairman of the 91 year old Philatelic Traders Society—a British stamp dealer's group—says of the organization's twice annual Stampex show, "There are lots of younger people there." "It's [stamp collecting] not fuddy duddy; it's engaging. You can ... spend a lot of money but it's a hobby you can enjoy inexpensively too."

With people having to stay at home during this coronavirus pandemic, it would be wonderful if we could communicate to the younger generation there is much better way to spend time instead of streaming shows on a TV or playing on a computer or smartphone.

FOR FURTHER READING:

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/apr/11/post-modern-why-millennials-have-fallen-in-love-with-stamp-collecting>.

Find us online at:

STAMPS.ORG/DALLAS



Instagram **DALLASSTAMP**



@DALLASSTAMP

CORONAVIRUS PUTS POSTAL SERVICE IN DIRE STRAITS

By Arthur P. von Reyn

One might think that with the so many people staying at home during the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. Postal Service would benefit from a huge surge in shipments of online merchandise orders. That might be true, but the volume of mail that really generates profits—first-class and so-called “junk” mail—has dropped so dramatically that the agency is now in dire financial straits and at risk of becoming “financially illiquid” by September 30.

In an April 10 statement, Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan said, “We are at a critical juncture in the life of the Postal Service. At a time when America needs the Postal Service more than ever, the reason we are so needed is having a devastating effect on our business. The Postal Service relies on the sale of postal products and services to fund our operations, and these sales are plummeting as a result of the pandemic. The sudden drop in mail volumes, our most profitable revenue stream, is steep and may never fully recover.”

The Postal Service says its mail volume dropped 30 percent in the first week of March and expected it to be down 50 percent by the end of June. It forecasts a loss of \$13 billion in revenue for the fiscal year.

As part of the Cares Act, the \$2.0 trillion economic stimulus package signed into law on March 27, the Postal Service will receive a \$10 billion loan, but the U.S.

Treasury Department has been holding up disbursement. Originally, the bill contained a \$13 billion grant to the mail agency that wouldn’t have to be repaid. Officials within the Trump administration said the president wouldn’t sign a stimulus package having such a provision. Trump has long criticized the Postal Service for delivering Amazon packages at too cheap

rates, particularly to remote and rural areas. Administration critics counter that steep package price hikes by the Postal Service would prompt Amazon and other companies to find other delivery options, further exacerbating the agency’s slide into insolvency.

Postmaster General Brennan, who originally intended to retire in January,

expects the situation only get worse. “We now estimate that the COVID-19 pandemic will increase the Postal Service’s net operating loss by more than \$22 billion dollars over the next eighteen months, and by over \$54 billion dollars over the longer term, threatening our ability to operate.

“As Congress and the Administration take steps to support businesses and industries around the country, it is imperative that they also take action to shore up the finances of the Postal Service, and enable us to continue to fulfill our indispensable role during the pandemic, and to play an effective role in the nation’s economic recovery,” she added.

Additional assistance for the Postal Service will be up for debate as Congress considers other coronavirus aid bills.

FOR FURTHER READING:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/04/11/post-office-bailout-trump/>

<https://www.postaltimes.com/postal-news/postmaster-general-statement-on-u-s-postal-service-stimulus-needs/>

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/lamvo/save-us-postal-service-coronavirus-twitter>

STAMP-BUYING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED ON TWITTER

A Twitter campaign launched over the weekend of April 11 to buy stamps to support the U.S. Postal Service is at least having some effect on internet stamp sales. The USPS website was displaying the message “due to a high volume of orders at this time, please allow an additional 2-3 days for the delivery of your order.”

The hashtags #USPostalService and #saveUSPS were tweeted thousands of times after the *Washington Post* reported on President Donald Trump’s attempts to block emergency funding for the Postal Service.

What will really help the beleaguered mail agency, of course, is for the public to mail letters and packages. That is when most revenue is booked, not when stamps are sold.



USPS ADDS TO 2020 STAMP PROGRAM

Pioneering Japanese American artist Ruth Asawa (1926-2013) will be honored on August 13 in San Francisco with U.S. stamps depicting her wire sculptures. A pane of 20 stamps containing two each of 10 designs features photographs by Dan Bradica and Laurence Cuneo. The selvage features a photograph of Asawa taken by Nat Farbman in 1954 for *Life* magazine.

The U.S. Postal Service also confirmed it would be issuing the Flag stamped envelope that was postponed from release last year and depicted in the January-February issue of *Stamp and Tongs*. The delay was prompted by more than sufficient supplies of the Barn Swallow envelope now in use. No details have been given as to issue date for this item.

PART 1

AM POST SERVED DEVASTATED POST-WAR GERMANY

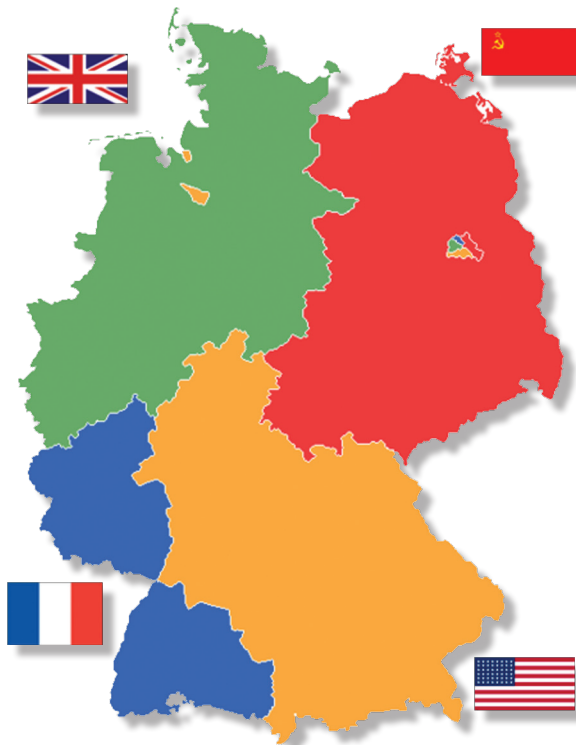
By Arthur P. von Reyn

Of the stamps printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) for areas the Allies occupied as World War II came to a close, the most intensively used were those destined for devastated Germany. Like the occupation stamps the BEP printed for Austria, France and Italy, the design is utilitarian, including the name of the country and its currency.

What sets the German version apart from the others is the large “M” inside an oval, a design element that was meant to remind German civilians they were under the rule of the Allied Military Government (AMG). The stamps, which have an “AM POST” inscription at top, are assigned “3N” numbers in the “German Occupation Stamps” section of the Germany listings in the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*.

ADVANCE PLANNING FOR POSTAL SERVICES

Planning for reestablishment of communications in post-war Germany was underway by August of 1944 when an Allied Command directive was issued, “It is the policy of the Supreme Commander



Germany was divided into four occupation zones after World War II. AMG stamps printed in the United States were intended for use in all the zones, but the Russians and the French objected, going their own separate ways.



Of the 1945-46 AMG stamps used in Germany, most common are those printed in Washington, D.C. by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. All nine values were used on this registered cover that is overpaid by 4 pfennig and is most likely philatelically contrived. The cover was posted October 7, 1946; the stamps became invalid at that month's end.

to see that civilian posts...are continued or restored to the extent required by the Military Government and the Allied Forces.” The directive further indicated civilian

use wouldn't be possible until methods of censoring mail had been developed. About the same time, printing of the AM POST stamps was getting underway at the BEP, the design having been approved several months before. The first shipment of 35.4 million copies arrived in Europe in November of that year and was stored in Brussels, Belgium.

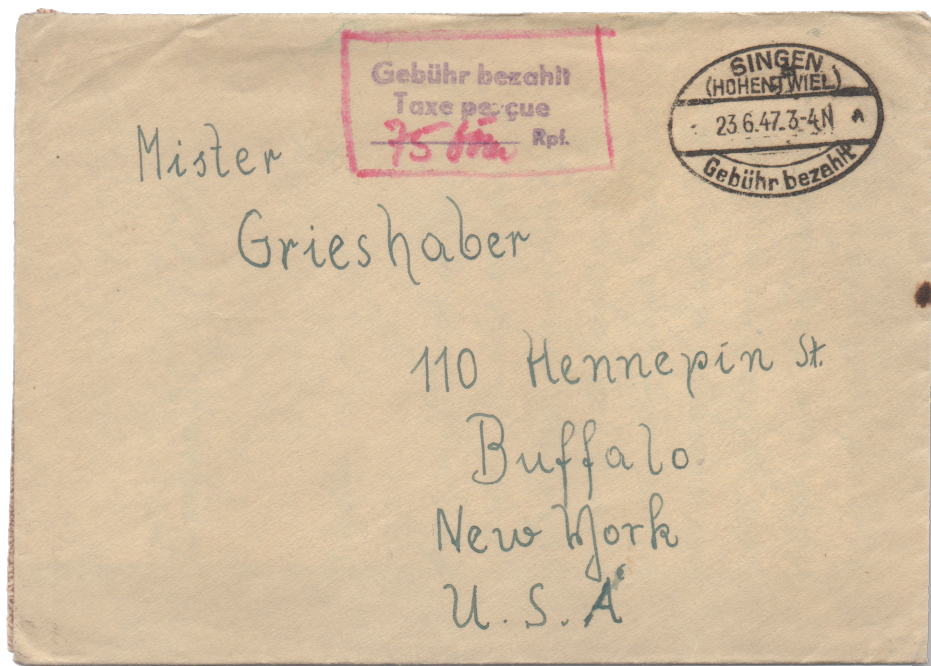
At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, the U.S., England and Russia agreed to divide Germany into four occupation zones, including France as one of the occupiers. When the stamps were conceived, it was thought the same stamps would be used in all the zones. The Russians declined, mainly objecting to the use of the word “Deutschland” on the AM POST stamps, as that indicated a unified country. The French wanted the AM POST stamps overprinted in the French language, perhaps because the “AM”

in the AM POST might be construed as “American Military.” Thus, the AM POST stamps wound up almost exclusively being sold in the American and British zones of Germany and for brief time in Berlin, the latter being divided into sectors like the rest of the country.

REESTABLISHMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES

By the fall of 1944, the Allies began advancing into Germany with Aachen, on the border with Belgium, becoming the first major Germany city to be captured. On November 1, 1944, a new postmaster was appointed for Aachen and the post office began operating on January 24, 1945, to coincide with the first edition of *Aachener Nachrichten*, a local newspaper. Postal services were limited to official use and delivery of newspapers.

Civilians gained access to the postal system on March 19, 1945. Deposited mail first went to the military government for censorship, then was returned to the post office for sorting and delivery. Initially, there were no markings to indicate censorship had occurred. Private citizens were limited to sending postcards, which could easily be read by the censors. Business people, industry and banks could send letters as well, which had to be left unsealed. Delivery was scheduled thrice weekly.



With stamps often being unavailable during the post WWII years, customers could present their mail to a postal clerk who would assess the applicable rate and rubber stamp such mail "Gebühr Bezahlt" and/or "Taxe Perçue", meaning postage rate paid. Covers so marked are quite common into 1948.

Not until July 22, 1945, was postal service restored to the entire Aachen administrative area.

Although Aachen saw limited resumption of postal services prior to Germany's surrender on May 7, 1945, other areas had to wait for a period after occupation forces arrived and the new AMG Postal Service could be established. Areas under Allied occupation for the longest period of time generally were the first to see post offices reopen.

As in Aachen, the AMG Postal Service utilized personnel and existing facilities of the Reichspost. One reason for prompt re-

sumption of postal services was to provide a means of communication for displaced persons and refugees. Another was to discourage movement of uncensored mail by private courier services that were springing up as the Reichspost ceased to operate. In addition, the post office provided postal

savings and check services that were needed by small businesses and professional people.

By early July 1945 civilian mail was accepted for local delivery in much of the British zone, which included Aachen. Over in the American Zone, local mail operations officially began in Frankfurt am Main on July 5 and had extended to other areas by early September. Although private citizens were at first limited to sending postcards, as censorship operations improved, the letters and even small parcels were accepted for local delivery.

Censoring mail was one reason expansion of postal service took time. By July 1945, 14,600 vetted German citizens had been hired to help censor civilian mail and other means of communication in the American and British zones.

In late October of 1945, postcard, letter and other basic services between the American, British and French zones became operational. This was even before mail deliveries within zones were fully operational.

The next step was opening the AMG Postal Service for international mailings. Beginning in November 1945, displaced persons in the U.S. zone were allowed to

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As postal services were reestablished in the British zone, civilians were first limited to using postcards, such as the recycled Feldpostkarte at left, addressed to a return migrant center. Cards could be easily examined, requiring no censor markings. Letters were initially allowed only if the correspondence involved government officials, banks, industry and businesses. The letter above was mailed to a Chief Post Inspector, so no censorship was required. Both items were for local delivery.

AM POST SERVED DEVASTATED POSTWAR GERMANY *Continued from page 5*

send a postcard to relatives in the United States. Upon receipt of the card, relatives were allowed to send letters and gift parcels back to Germany on a restricted basis. A few other baby steps were taken before limited international service was opened to German civilians in all the occupation zones on April 1, 1946. On that date, the AMG Postal Service became the German Civil Postal System. International parcel service for German civilians arrived several months later.

Before the AM POST and French occupation stamps became available, stopgap measures were used to indicate postage had been paid. For prepayment without stamps, correspondence was rubber stamped to indicate postage had been paid. This practice continued for several years even after stamps were available, as post offices would often run out of them, despite restrictions on how many could be purchased and who could buy them.

Over in the Soviet zone, various cities and communities restarted postal service in their localities, issuing all sorts of stamps, many of which ended up in the hands of collectors. For three months after the war's end, franking letters with the Hitler definitive series stamps was allowed in the Soviet zone, provided the image of Hitler was defaced. In addition,



This letter from a stamp dealer was mailed at the printed matter [Drucksache] rate that was doubled to 6 pfennig effective March 1, 1946. The letter may have contained a want list or a price list. Above the word "Drucksache" is a notice "Please cancel cleanly! Collector stamps!"

stamps were subsequently issued by the states in the Soviet zone.

Provisional stamp issues also appeared in the American, British and French zones

as well, but not to the extent in the Soviet zone.

PART II of this article will appear in the July-August issue of *Stamp & Tongs*.



Due to inflation, postage rates were doubled on March 1, 1946. The cover with a 42 pfennig stamp on it reflects the previous rate of 12 pfennig for a letter throughout Germany plus 30 pfennig for registration. The cover with multiple stamps reflects the doubled cost rate; there was no single 84 pfennig stamp available at that time. For a time, senders in the American and British zones were required to indicate whether the letter was written in German or English, and if the correspondence was personal or business related.



Issuance of a People's Republic of China stamp pair "Dedication to Fight the Pandemic" on April 7 was postponed due to complaints about the design. The left stamp was titled "The City of All Wills" [Wuhan] and the right, "Fighting the Epidemic."

COVID-19 STAMPS APPEAR

Continued from page 1

out on April 7, but was recalled apparently due to concerns over the design, one being that the official name of the virus, Covid-19, wasn't used. Authorities in Wuhan, where the virus originated, objected to depiction of a landmark in their city. Even worse, splitting a pair of stamps would mutilate two big red characters meaning "all people fight together," something that would be inauspicious or unlucky.

Switzerland issued an unorthodox charity stamp on April 6 that included free postage. The "Covid-19 Solidarity" stamp is denominated one Swiss franc postage plus five Swiss francs for charity, the latter being split evenly between the Swiss Red Cross and the Swiss Solidarity Fund. The sale price is five Swiss francs [about \$5.25], meaning the Swiss Post is fronting the postage. Some stamp collectors complained in a blog that they were unfairly targeted for having to pay for such an expensive stamp to add to their collections. The Swiss Post is tabulating the money raised, which at the time of this newsletter's publication date on April 30 totaled 1,095,800 francs or 219,160 stamps.



The Swiss Post is charging five francs for this charity stamp issued April 6.

From Isle of Man on May 4 came a set of eight stamps, according to the IOM website, "highlighting the message that Love, Faith, Care, Compassion, Work, Community, Words and Science will Carry Us Through these unprecedented times."



This Covid-19 stamp design concocted by a stamp dealer in Sri Lanka looked legitimate enough for the Vietnamese post to mention it in the news release for its own stamps. The Sri Lanka post said it had no plans currently for a Covid-19 stamp.

tries' postal agency websites have confirmed whether any of these stamps have been actually issued.

Numerous cancels relating to coronavirus have appeared from various countries. In addition, there are personalized stamps with a Covid-19 theme, some of which look like official stamp issues.

Much of the information on these issues is from the website of Mark Joseph Jochim, an ex-pat new stamp issue enthusiast who lives in Thailand. The link to his website appears below.

FOR FURTHER READING

<https://www.philateliecpursuits.com/2020/04/12/the-philately-of-covid-19-truths-lies-and-rumors/#more-10665countries>



Isle of Man released on May 4 eight coronavirus themed stamps.

CORONAVIRUS STRIKES PHILATELY

Continued from page 1

necticut, now includes the American First Day Cover Society in addition to the previous partner, the American Topical Association. According to the show website, "In light of the current challenges with COVID-19, the American Philatelic Society is monitoring developments through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Health for the Great American Stamp Show." In a May 4 "Town Hall" meeting on the internet, APS Executive Director Scott English noted that a determination as to the fate of the show may come by the middle of May.

The APS closed its Bellefonte facility to the public effective March 23 and almost the entire APS staff has been working from home since then. Much of the staff is expected to return to their offices on May 11 and the APS may reopen to the public June 1.

The APS Expertizing Service was suspended when the Bellefonte headquarters closed, but resumed operations on April 24. Sales circuit mail outs were also stopped, but resumed in early May, except to stamp clubs. Save for two days, the APS Stamp-Store operated throughout the period, but order shipments were taking longer than usual. The society expects to get caught up with activities ranging from payments to sellers to library research requests by the end of May.

For the first time since it was started 40 years ago, the APS Summer Seminar program was canceled; an internet version is planned for the month of June.

Although there are very few stamp shops left, they are considered "non-essential" business and the majority haven't reopened to the public. Some auction houses canceled their sales as well.

Mail order and internet sales remain the best avenue remain for collectors to obtain new acquisitions for their collections.

The U.S. Postal Service is still issuing new stamps per its announced schedule; it just isn't holding first day ceremonies.

MEETING MINUTES

BY JOE BAKER

February 26nd, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 22 members and one guest were present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer – None.

Program VP – March & April meeting schedule [Editor's note: all the events listed after the March 11 meeting were canceled due to coronavirus pandemic.]:

March 11th - Ben is presenting the *Stamps and History of The Cape of Good Hope*.

March 25th - *The Story Behind the Stamps, Letter J* - Stan, Stuart, Jack, George, Bill and others will be presenting.

April 8th - Stan is presenting the stamps and history of Poland.

April 22nd - *The Story Behind the Stamps, Letter K*. We will need volunteers to present.

March Stamp shows:

TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show: Friday March 13th 10-5 and Saturday March 14th 9-4.

TSDA Houston Show: Friday March 20th 10-5 and Saturday March 21st 9-4.

Editor – Need a replacement to publish newsletter. Bill Laupus suggested a committee approach to publishing the newsletter. This is going to be a problem going forward due to lack of publishing skills needed. A suggestion was made to ask Chris Titus if he would continue publishing the newsletter for payment by the club.

Membership – The club membership are due. 32 members have paid their club dues for 2020.

Old Business – Paul Witthoeft needs one page exhibits for June OKPEX show..

New Business – None.

Announcements – None.

Trivia/Show & Tell – None.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – The album drawings were held.

Program – The club quarterly auction was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

March 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 20 members were present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Treasurer – Treasurer's made and sent under separate cover.

Program VP – March & April meeting schedule [Editor's note: all the events listed below were canceled due to coronavirus pandemic.]:

March 25th - *The Story Behind the Stamps, Letter J* - Stan, Stuart, Jack, George, Bill and others will be presenting.

April 8th - Stan is presenting the stamps and history of Poland.

April 22nd - *The Story Behind the Stamps, Letter K*. We will need volunteers to present.

March Stamp shows:

TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show: Friday March 13th 10-5 and Saturday March 14th 9-4.

TSDA Houston Show: Friday March 20th 10-5 and Saturday March 21st 9-4.

Editor – Art von Reyn has taken over the publishing of the club's newsletter.

Membership – The club membership are due. 33 members have paid their club dues for 2020.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Art von Reyn proposed that the club obtain a domain name and create a website for the club's newsletter. This item is to be discussed at the next board meeting.

Announcements – George Clayton asked for and received a Harris Stamp Album binder. Paul Witthoeft informed members there wouldn't be a club exhibit at OKPEX. Stuart Barzune has stamps for sale.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Jack Urish let the club members know that Great Britain #33 has 80 plate numbers.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – The album drawings were held.

Program – Ben Schkolne gave an impressive talk about his Cape of Good Hope collection. He explained the differences between the early Cape issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

APS PREMIERES "STAMP CHATS"

In late March, the American Philatelic Society began holding internet "Stamp Chats" on weekdays at 2:00 p.m. (CST) and occasionally at 6:00 p.m. in the evening.

A variety of topics have been explored thus far, ranging from ones related to various APS services, such as "Adventures in Expertizing" and "Ask the Librarian," to quite specific topics like "The 1935 Silver Jubilees of the Caribbean," and "Subjects and Art History of the 1898" Trans-Mississippi Issue."

APS Executive Director Scott English presents a monthly "Town Hall" in which he review activities and challenges at the APS.

The internet chats have been running anywhere between 20-minutes to over an hour, depending upon the content. A weekly list of future chats is accessible from the APS home page on the internet; recordings of past ones are available on YouTube.

2020 U.S. NEW ISSUES CALENDAR

This is a list of U.S. new issues expected to debut in the next few months. Items are forever stamps with the current value in parenthesis, unless otherwise noted.

5/13/2020 AMERICAN GARDENS (55¢) commemorative stamps, 10 designs. Winterthur, DE.

5/21/2020 VOICES OF HARLEM RENAISSANCE (55¢) commemorative stamps, four designs. New York, NY.

6/13/2020 ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS (55¢) commemorative stamps, five designs. Incline Village, NV.

7/1/2020 HIP HOP (55¢) commemorative stamps, four designs. New York, NY.

7/17/2020 FRUITS & VEGETABLES (55¢) special booklet stamps, 10 designs. Charleston, WV.

8/13/2020 RUTH ASAWA (55¢) commemorative stamps, 10 designs. San Francisco, CA.

8/21/2020 THANK YOU (55¢) special booklet stamps, four designs. Hartford, CT.

8/26/2020 19TH AMENDMENT: WOMEN VOTE (55¢) commemorative stamp, Seneca Falls, NY.

9/17/2020 MAYFLOWER IN PLYMOUTH HARBOR (55¢) commemorative stamp, Plymouth, MA.