



STAMP & TONGS



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020 DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY VOL. 59, NO. 5

USPS KILLS PERSONALIZED POSTAGE STAMPS

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Citing declining sales and lawsuits over religious imagery on them, the U.S. Postal Service has ended the custom postage program that had been offered since 2004.

The stamps were particularly popular in the wedding industry, for save the dates, wedding invitations, and more. The program officially ended on June 16th, 2020.

At one time, there were a number of authorized vendors participating in the program such as Minted, Zazzle, and PhotoStamps.com, the latter being a product of Stamps.com. They are no longer allowed to print custom postage, so it is no longer possible to buy or create custom postage stamps.

On May 1, the USPS notified Stamps.com, the only remaining custom postage printer, that the program was being ended. Stamps.com responded 16 days later with a comment with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) arguing its business for customized postage was increasing, and that the declining sales were due to a competitor ceasing participation in the program. "We strongly disagree with USPS' assertion that the elimination of the Program would only minimally impact consumers and small businesses,"

the company said.

Among other things, the company claimed the USPS was violating its own rules by continuing its Picture Permit Imprint Program, that allows commercial users to add images such as logos, band images and trademarks to first class and standard (bulk-rate) mailings.

Stamps.com offered two customized products: PhotoStamps had a image and the denomination printed on the sheets of stamps and were ready for customer to use; Custom.NetStamps were labels with the images printed on them, but the customer needed a computer and printer to



Within certain bounds most any image could be printed on custom postage stamps, but they were most heavily used within the wedding industry.

add the denomination and QR codes.

The company asked the PRC to postpone discontinuance of the customized stamp program for two years and to remove the prohibition on religious imagery that was implemented in 2017. The company noted it would have to refund money on orders received for weddings that were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

While acknowledging the arguments of Stamps.com and several others, in its Order 5550 the PRC nonetheless approved the USPS request, saying "The Commission does not question the comments reflecting the popularity of the program among a loyal segment of postal customers. However, the Commission does not substitute its judgment for that of the Postal Service's when balancing the risks and rewards of the value to its own brand."

Unused custom postage stamps will always be valid postage for the amount written on the front even though the custom postage program has ended.

FOR FURTHER READING:

<https://weddingstamps.us/custom-postage-stamps-discontinued>

<https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/stamps-com-challenges-usps-decision-to-end-customized-postage>

<https://faq.usps.com/s/article/What-is-Picture-Permit-Imprint-Indicia>



A variation of custom postage stamps offered by Stamps.com were labels with images printed on them. Unlike its photo stamps, customers could add whatever denomination was required.

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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. Meetings will be held instead on the internet. In the event meetings at the Edgemere resume before the November-December edition of *Stamp and Tongs*, members will receive either an email or postcard notice. As of this bulletin's publication date, the listed the Mid-Cities Stamp Expo is scheduled to be held. Check our club's DallasStamps.org website or the organizer's website for updated information.

- September 9** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, Program: *Philatelic Quiz* by Art von Reyn.
- September 18-20** **GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW**. This event has been canceled.
- September 23** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, Program: *Lovely Ladies*, presented by Don Wolman.
- October 14** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, Program: Quarterly Auction.
- October 28** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, Program: *Postmaster General John Wanamaker*, presented by Bill Laupus.
- November 11** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING**, Program: *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter M* presented by various members.
- November 13-14** **MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB EXPO**, Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051. (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4). <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com/index.htm>
- December 4-5** **DALLAS TSDA**. 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

Will this pandemic ever end? My wife and I rarely leave the house. Our groceries and a few other items are ordered online and delivered at home. My only ventures from the home are to the post office (since I use discount postage, and the parcels over 13 ounces must be brought there), to my nephew's fruit and vegetable stand in Fate and occasionally inside the drug store—all wearing a mask. We do occasionally order carry-out or delivered food.

The other trip outside my home is to Jack Urish's house to borrow and return club albums as well as look through his personal duplicates. I have spent quite a bit of time sorting through this material, and found quite a few cancels of interest, as well as items for my world-wide collection. I highly recommend you contact him at (214) 349-6372 to pick up a couple of albums at a mutually convenient time using his driveway/backyard.

The Zoom meetings have been quite popular, and we have been able to connect with distant members such as Harry Pederson in Colorado, John Lighthouse in New York, and Jim Colliton, recently moved to California. We have enjoyed excellent programs the past couple of months by Art von Reyn on U.S. Joint Issues and Geoff Owens on Straits Settlements, as well as the "Letter L" presentations. Those of you who have not brought a program to the club should consider doing so.

I encourage each of you to submit an item for the door prize with an approximate \$10 retail value. You can send me an image (stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com) and you would then be responsible for mailing the item to the winner. Thanks to Bill Laupus, Art von Reyn and yours truly for donating.

I look forward to our first auction in the Zoom environment in October. Be sure to gather some items to sell.



EDITOR'S MUSINGS

BY ARTHUR VON REYN

This year many countries are postally feting the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and the United Nation's birth. So far, the U.S. is not among them. Maybe a 75th anniversary of events is no longer worthy of U.S. postal recognition, which makes me wonder why the 80th anniversary of Bug Bunny's first screen appearance is. Of course, it's marketing! The HBO Max streaming service is offering new Looney Tunes shorts while there just happens to be an 80th anniversary collection of 60 old theatrical shorts that have gone on sale.

The U.S. Postal Service became a pre-election political hot potato in August thanks to new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's cost-saving measures that began to be instituted the month before. DeJoy said in a July 27 statement that said that the Postal Service "is in a financially unsustainable position" due to "substantial declines in mail volume, and a broken business model."

The situation has been temporarily resolved with DeJoy backing down from cuts in hours worked, removal of mail boxes, closing mail processing facilities and eliminating overtime worked until after the November 3 general election.

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DALLASSTAMPS.ORG



Instagram **DALLAS STAMP**



@**DALLASSTAMP**

BEETHOVEN'S BIRTH CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE

By Stan Bartnikowski

December marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig von Beethoven, arguably the most famous composer of classical music. Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany, in December of 1770, probably on the 16th, as his christening was recorded on the 17th. His birth anniversary was marked by a €0.80 German stamp issued on January 2 of this year. Beethoven spent many



Germany's Beethoven stamp, issued January 2, had a print quantity of 626 million, a record for a commemorative issue.

Mozart. This effort failed, with the young Beethoven not responding with signs of his true genius until adolescence. At age 21, he moved to Vienna and studied composition with Haydn. There, he won a reputation as a virtuoso pianist and began composing in earnest.

Beethoven's compositions fall into early, middle, and late periods. Compositions in the "early" period (until 1802) were largely influenced by the classical styles of Haydn and Mozart, but still exhibited much originality. His first two symphonies, a set of six string quartets and a dozen-plus piano sonatas, including the *Moonlight* were written in this period. The *Moonlight Sonata* differed from the traditional, classical piano sonatas with its slow (instead of fast) first movement. The opening notes of the *Moonlight Sonata* are depicted in the cancel on the ARIPEX cover shown on this page. The theme has been transposed from the original C sharp minor to A minor, resulting in a shallower tone. The cover is from the first day of issue of the U.S. 2020 Celebrate stamp. The portrait in the cachet is from an 1820 painting by Joseph Karl Stieler and is the

years in Vienna, Austria, where he died in 1827. Austria is also issuing Beethoven anniversary stamps; those will be discussed later.

His musical talent became obvious early on, and his father Johann van Beethoven harshly treated his son, trying to make him a child prodigy like



Beethoven's birthplace in Bonn and his house in Vienna were depicted on a 2003 German and a 1962 Austrian definitive stamp.



In February, the ARIPEX stamp show feted Beethoven's birthday with the cachet featuring an 1820 portrait by Bavarian court artist Joseph Karl Stieler. The portrait is the only known one of Beethoven to have been painted from life and appears on dozens of stamps honoring the composer currently as well as in past years.

basis of 250th Beethoven birthday stamps for Austria, Canada, Hungary, Lebanon, Netherlands, Portugal and others.

In his middle period (1802-1812), Beethoven developed a more individual style. His compositions here include the Third (*Eroica*), Fifth, and Sixth (*Pastoral*) symphonies, the Rasumovsky quartets and the *Waldstein* and *Appassionata* piano sonatas. During this period, Beethoven began to lose his hearing.

Guernsey is releasing four commemoratives to celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday over a period of 10 months. The first stamp appeared in January and shows a statue of Beethoven plus the three opening notes of the composer's Fifth Symphony, the second stamp adds the next fourth note of the Fifth and includes a portion of the Stieler portrait. The third stamp, and the as of yet unissued fourth stamp feature Beethoven statues; the fourth stamp also has the fourth opening note of the Fifth symphony.

In the "late" period (1812 to his death in 1827) he extended his innovations in musical form and expression. Compositions in this period included the Symphony Number 9 which includes the choral "Ode to Joy," the last four of his 16 string quartets and the last five of his 32 piano sonatas. It's amazing that the greatest of these later compositions were written when Beethoven was completely deaf. A snippet from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is depicted in the lower right stamp of the souvenir sheet issued by Jersey to celebrate Beethoven's birth anniversary. Shown on page 8, the souvenir sheet also includes brief excerpts from Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1, Romance No. 2 for Violin and Orchestra, Coriolan and Egmont Overtures, and the Symphony No. 7.

Aside from two trips to Prague, Beethoven did not travel outside of what is now Germany and Austria. However, dozens of other countries, in addition to those whose stamps are illustrated or referenced above, plan to issue stamps this year noting the semiquincentennial of Beethoven's birth. These include Bosnia, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Macedonia, Spain, Togo, and Ukraine.

Continued on Page 8



Guernsey's tribute to Beethoven consists of four stamps being issued singly over a period of 10 months. Three stamps have already appeared, with the fourth, at right, due out in October. The well known opening notes of the Fifth Symphony appear on three of the four stamps.

PART 3

AM POST SERVED DEVASTATED POST-WAR GERMANY

By Arthur P. von Reyn

In Parts I and II of this article that appeared in the past two issues of *Stamp and Tongs*, an overview of the reestablishment of postal services in Germany after World War II was presented along with a look at “AM POST” stamps used primarily in the American and British occupation zones. The latter zones were two of the four into which the country was divided when the war ended, the others being the Russian and French. In addition to the stamps, the occupiers issued postal stationery, fiscal travel stamps and other official items. This last part deals only with the postal cards, the only form of postal stationery available in the immediate post war period due to censorship being in full force.

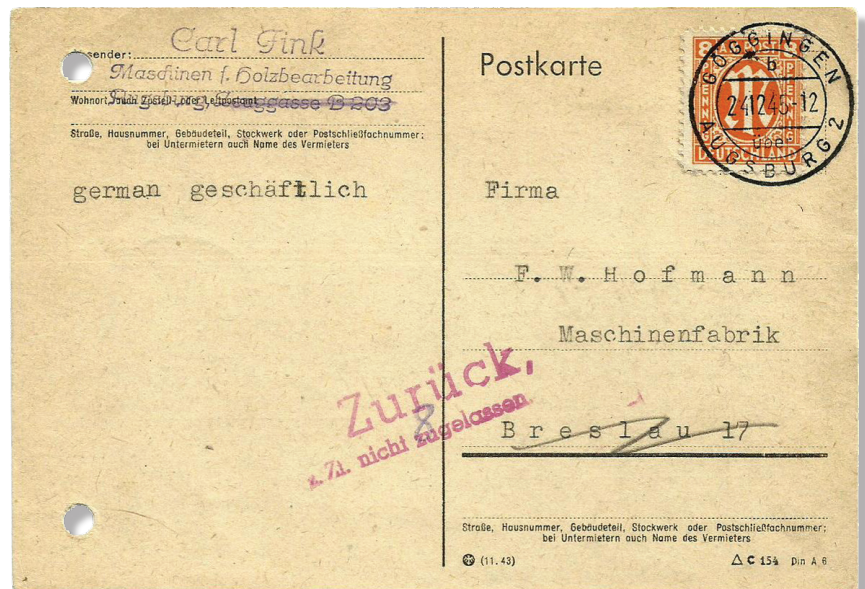
THE POSTAL CARDS

Unlike covers, postal cards can be far more interesting to collect because there’s a greater historical context. With covers, the enclosed letters are almost always missing. However, with postcards, the correspondence is still there!

Postal cards sold at post offices for use in the American and British zones initially did not have a stamp-like indicia, and when they became available, there were acute shortages. Thus, as was done with leftover Nazi era stamps, the government-issued Nazi era postal cards were used with obliterated images of Hitler or even his predecessor, von Hindenburg. Locally issued provisional postal cards appeared as well. Cards with no indicia are also common, sometimes franked with the AM POST stamps discussed in the July-August *Stamp and Tongs* article or marked “Gebühr Bezahlt” (postage paid). All these are beyond the limited scope of this article.



Most postal cards of the AM Post era don’t seem to have been used much until the domestic postage rates were doubled on March 1, 1946. No new postal cards were issued, so either stamps were added or “Gebühr Bezahlt” was handstamped to indicate additional postage has paid. This postcard, addressed to a stamp dealer located in Kreiensen in the Harz, is written in the obsolete Kurrent script, which most Germans can no longer decipher.



The first AM POST style postal cards did not become available until September of 1945 and are rarely seen used until the following year. Instead, provisional postal cards were sold at post offices or AM POST stamps, if available could be used on blank post cards. This postcard, sent from the Göggingen district of Augsburg in Bavaria, was rejected because Breslau (now Wrocław in Poland) was no longer part of Germany. Most internationally bound mail was not permitted from Germany until the spring of 1946.

The imprinted stamp-like indicia postal cards issued for the American and British zones in the 1945-46 period, of which there are six major versions, have two denominations; 5-pfennigs for the intracity rate and 6-pfennigs for the intracountry rate. These were the rates carried over from the Nazi era. However, on March 1, 1946, domestic rates were doubled, and postal cards with the same design as the new Numeral stamps went on sale.

Proper usage of these six versions prior to the rate doubling are uncommon. Most used examples were posted thereafter, and have one or more stamps added to make up the correct rate, or might have the aforementioned “Gebühr Bezahlt” marking handstamped to indicate the additional postage amount had been paid.

The *Michel Ganzsachen Deutschland 2014* catalogue indicates that just like the stamps with the AM POST inscription, the postal card versions became obsolete on October 31, 1946. However, they were still usable if the indicia value was disregarded and the full postage amount was added instead. As with the AM POST stamps, large quantities of unused AM POST postal cards remain available to philatelists.

AMERICAN ZONE POSTAL CARDS

In the American zone, two distinct designs of postal cards were placed in use.

One design, printed at the order of the *Postdirektion München* (Munich) in Bavaria has indicia that mimics the AM POST stamps, but the colors don’t match the corresponding stamp denominations. There is only one major type of the 5-pfennig black olive green card, printed in October 1945. There are four major types of the 6-pfennig violet card that was printed August 1945; the shape and size of the nu-

meral “6” in the upper left and right corners determines the type.

A second issue in 5-pfennig and 6-pfennig denominations was placed on sale September 26, 1945 in Stuttgart; these had not only a totally different design than the AM POST stamps, but the indicia colors differed from both the AM POST stamps and the AM POST postal cards. These remained valid for use until February 28, 1947.

BRITISH ZONE POSTAL CARDS

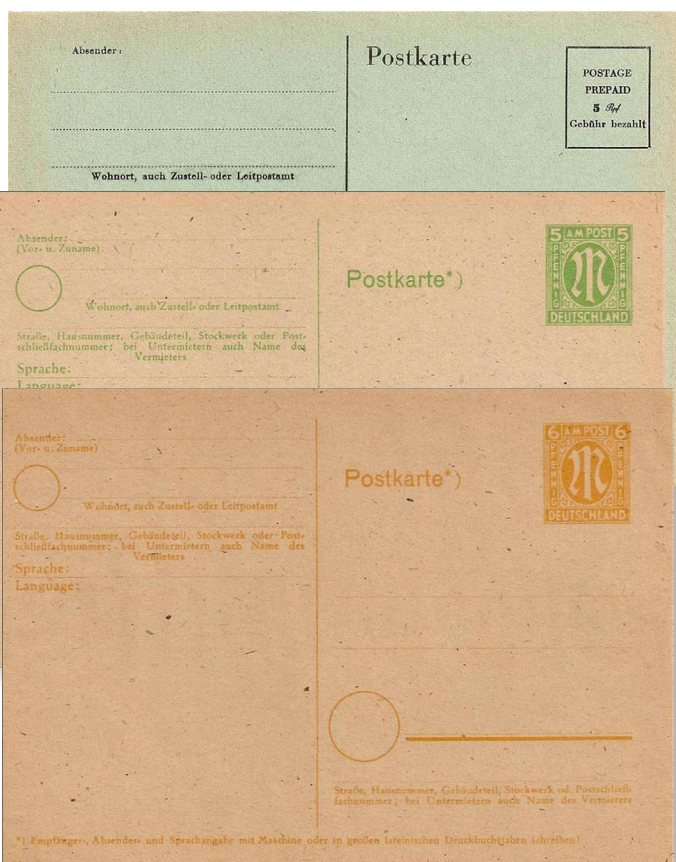
Over in the British zone, imprinted stamp-like indicia postal cards did not become available as quickly as in the American zone. Thus, there are tons of varieties of provisional postal cards created under the authority of the five *Reichspostdirektion* serving the British zone. The indicia usually consists of a rectangular box in the upper right corner with the words like “Postage Prepaid,” “Gebühr Bezahlt,” and “Freigebühr Bezahlt,” plus “5” or “6” pfennig denominations, all on two to five lines.

In early October of 1945, production of postal cards for the British Zone was approved with an indicia replicating the AM POST stamp design. These were manufactured by the Georg Westerman, the same firm that produced the German printing of the AM POST stamps. The 5-pfennig light green went on sale November 7, 1945, and the 6-pfennig yellow followed a week later. Unlike the postal cards used in the American Zone, the colors corresponded to the AM POST stamp denominations.

In addition to these items, in March of 1946 the just mentioned 5-pfennig postal card was surcharged with an additional 7-pfennigs to reflect the doubled intracountry rate that went into effect at the first of the month. It is not illustrated here.

CONCLUSION

Like the stamps, there are many postal card varieties to collect. The quality of printing was highly variable due to materials and equipment shortages of the times, thus postal cards reflect a wide range of variation in paper colors, printing flaws, paper types and thicknesses, making the postal cards an area ripe for intense specialization.



In the British Zone, numerous versions of provisional 5-pfennig and 6-pfennig “Postage Prepaid” and/or Gebühr/Freigebühr Bezahlt” postal cards were printed. Later, two postal cards were offered that replicated the indicia and colors that of the AM Post stamps; the big circles are for postal codes.

FOR FURTHER READING

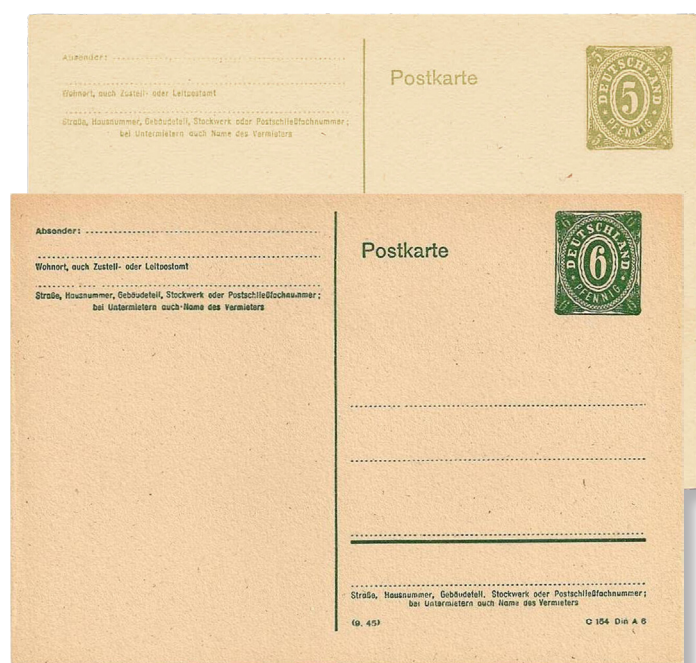
<http://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=75589>

<http://alphabetilately.org/AMG.html>

<http://www.rpastamps.org/ropexpast/a2012/ex-baker-s.pdf>



The indicia of these two postal cards printed in Munich for use in the American zone replicated the AM POST stamp design, but the colors differed, with the 5-pfennig coming closest, being a dark shade of green.



A pair of cards prepared for use in the Stuttgart area had an indicia design totally different from that of the AM POST stamps. The colors were not the same either.

NEW U.S. STAMP DESIGNS RELEASED

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Since the last issue of *Stamp and Tongs*, the U.S. Postal Service has released designs for all the remaining 2020 stamp issues, or at least those on the schedule thus far.

Designs for two issues, a 10-design Bugs Bunny 80th anniversary pane, and a 5-design Innovation quintet, appeared after the July/August edition of this newsletter was prepared. The designs were printed in the summer edition of *USA Philatelic* and were displayed at one of our club's virtual club meetings in July. The USPS kept under wraps both these new additions to the 2020 stamp program, with the release of the Bugs Bunny sheet not being officially announced until June 23 and the Innovation stamps on July 6.

Also unveiled in July were the designs of all the stamps for the holiday season. In addition to the previously announced Hanukkah and Kwanzaa stamps, there will be a new Madonna and Child single and two booklets, one being a 10-design Winter Scenes and the other a 4-design Winter Delights.

Unless the USPS decides to come up with a surprise Covid-19 related stamp, these issues might mark the end of additions to the 2020 U.S. stamp program.



Above and below are two belated additions to the 2020 U.S. stamp program. The innovation quintet debuted August 20 while the Bug Bunny stamps went on sale July 27.



The holiday stamps depicted at left and below will be issued on various dates in September and October.



CLUB MEETING MINUTES

BY JOE BAKER

Editor's Note: All meetings listed below are being held on the internet using the Zoom video conferencing application. Minutes are edited due to space considerations.

June 24th, 2020

This meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 13 members were present.

Officer Reports:

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

Treasurer – No report due.

Program VP – June & July meeting schedule:

July 8th - *Overview of Straits Settlement Stamps*, presented by Geoff Owens.

July 22nd - *U.S. Joint Issues, Part I*, presented by Art von Reyn.

August 12th - *Philatelic Subjects Related to the, Letter L*, presented by Don Wolman and others.

August 26th - *U.S. Joint Issues, Part I*, presented by Art von Reyn.

Upcoming stamp shows:

OKPEX, the **ARK-LA-TX Annual Show** and the **APS Show** have been canceled due to Covid-19.

TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show: Friday August 21st, 10-5 and Saturday August 22nd, 9-4.

Editor – The next club newsletter is due out July 1st.

Membership – The club membership dues are past due. 35 members have paid their club dues for 2020.

Exhibitor's Report – The next Club Single Page Frame Exhibit is scheduled for The Mid-Cities Show in November.

Old Business – Art provided an update on the club's website that goes live July 1st. The club still has Polo shirts for sale at \$8.00.

New Business – The club board meeting is changed from July 8th to July 1st.

Announcements – Geoff has received the club copy the *Journal of Texas Philately and Postal History*.

Trivia/Show & Tell – None

Door Prize/Album Drawing – No album or door prizes drawings were held. Jack Urish continues to make albums available from his home. Contact him at (214) 349-6372.

Program – *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter K*. Stan Bartnikowski discussed Polish officer and statesman Tadeusz Kościuszko, who gained fame both for his role in the American Revolution and leading a national insurrection in his homeland. George Clayton has two albums of John F. Kennedy stamps issued within two years of his death. Rod Gabel showed the four stamps from Kionga, a part of German East Africa ceded to Portugal in 1916. Bill Laupus had a 1949 FDC canceled in Ottawa, Canada, for King

George VI's birthday. Jack Urish displayed a German Feldpost stamp overprinted Kurland. Art von Reyn showed a commercial cover from Katanga, a province that broke away from former Belgian Congo in 1960.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

July 8th, 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 report made and sent under separate cover.

Program VP – July & August meeting schedule:

July 22nd - *U.S. Joint Issues, Part I*, presented by Art von Reyn.

August 12th - *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter L*, presented by Don Wolman and others.

August 26th - *U.S. Joint Issues, Part II*, presented by Art von Reyn.

Upcoming stamp shows:

The **ARK-LA-TX Annual Show** and the **APS Show** have been canceled due to Covid-19.

TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show: Friday August 21st, 10-5 and Saturday August 22nd, 9-4.

Editor – The new website is up and running. Everyone is encouraged to visit. Members can download the newsletter there to get better quality images.

Membership – Dues are still owed by 10 members. Stuart Barzune has contacted them to determine their status. Waiting for members' response.

Exhibitor's Report – No change in status.

Old Business – The club still has Polo shirts for sale at \$8.00.

New Business – The membership will be able to place ads in the newsletter and sell items at our meetings.

Announcements – There will now be door prizes at meetings awarded using a random number generator to identify the winner.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Ben Schkolne was able to identify a stamp as an Ottoman Empire revenue.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – The door prize this evening was donated by Stan Bartnikowski and won by Stan Sutkin. Stamp album drawings not being held but Jack Urish continues to make albums available from his home; contact him at (214) 349-6372.

Program – *An Overview of Straits Settlement*

Stamps was presented by Geoff Owens. Postage stamps of India were used for prior to the establishment of The Straits Settlements, a group of British territories located in Southeast Asia. They originally consisted of the four individual settlements of Penang, Singapore, Malacca, and Dinding.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

July 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 17 members and one guest were present.

Officer Reports:

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

Treasurer – No report due.

Program VP – July & August meeting schedule:

August 12th - *Philatelic Subjects related to the Letter L*, presented by Don Wolman and others.

August 26nd - *U.S. Joint Issues, Part I*, presented by Art von Reyn.

Upcoming stamp shows:

The July **ARK-LA-TEX** show, the August **TSDA Richardson/Dallas** bourse, and the **GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW** have all been canceled due to Covid-19.

Editor – The next club newsletter will appear around the first of September.

Membership – There were two renewals and one member dropped, leaving 43 active members.

Exhibiting – No change from last report.

Old Business – The club still has Polo shirts for sale at \$8.00.

New Business – Richard Hosler's application was approved.

Announcements – Bill Laupus will provide a door prize for the next meeting.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Art von Reyn showed newly announced Bugs Bunny and Innovation stamps. Paul Witthoeft shared upcoming U.N. Covid 19 stamps. Jack Urish displayed an 1838 stampless cover from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – No stamp album drawings were held. Jack Urish makes them available from his home. Contact him at (214) 349-6372. The door prize, Australia 163-65, was donated by Stan Bartnikowski and won by Steven McRae.

Program – Art von Reyn presented *U.S. Joint Issues, Part I*, defining what was an official joint issue and what was an accidental joint issue according to the now defunct Joint Stamp Issues Society. He noted that so far there have been 43 joint issues involving the U.S., of which the first 24, issued from 1959 to 1991, were depicted during the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Continued on Page 8

BEETHOVEN'S BIRTH CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE

Continued from Page 3

Austria Post honored Beethoven with a se-tenant eight-stamp souvenir sheet released on August 5. It costs €12.50 and contains four 85¢ and four €1 stamps. A separate €1.80 sheet stamp with the Steiler portrait was due out on September 4.

Over the years, Germany has issued numerous stamps featuring Beethoven, beginning with two values in the 1926-27 Famous Germans set. Austria's first Beethoven stamp appeared in a 1922 Musicians semipostal set.



This souvenir sheet from Jersey draws attention to popular compositions by Beethoven other than his famous Fifth Symphony. Portraits and statues of the composer at various stages in his life plus notes from the featured works are shown on each stamp.

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

BY JOE BAKER

Continued from Page 7

August 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 17 members were present.

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Secretary not present.

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

Program VP – August & September meeting schedule:

August 26nd - *U.S. Joint Issues, Part I*, presented by Art von Reyn.

September 9th - Quarterly Auction.
[Editor's Note: This program was later changed to October 14.]

September 23rd - *Lovely Ladies*, presented by Don Wolman.

Upcoming stamp shows:

The August **TSDA Richardson/Dallas** bourse, and the **GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW** have all been canceled due to Covid-19.

Editor – Newsletter around September 1.

Membership – Secretary not present.

Exhibiting – No change from last report.

Old Business – The club still has Polo shirts for sale at \$8.00.

New Business – no new business.

Announcements – Need door prize donations.

Club dues are due.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Art von Reyn provided images of the U.S. Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa stamps that would probably be released in October.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – No stamp album drawings were held. Jack Urish makes them available from his home. Contact him at (214) 349-6372. The door prize, Australia 163-65, was donated by Stan Bartnikowski and won by Steven McRae.

Program – *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter L*. George Clayton said he had a two-volume Abe Lincoln collection. Bill Laupus discussed King Leopold II of Belgium, who reigned 44 years and had private ownership of what became Belgian Congo. Art von Reyn showed a large number of postally used Liberian stamps that were collected by Radio ELWA, a mission group that founded the first Christian radio station in Africa. Don Wolman and Jack Urish discussed Liechtenstein, a country that is 62 square miles in size with 39,000 residents; it has only nine post offices and used Austrian stamps until 1912.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BY JOE BAKER

Editor's Note: Minutes are edited due to space considerations.

July 1st, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Stan Bartnikowski presiding. 10 members present: Stan Bartnikowski, Joe Baker, Bill Laupus, Art von Reyn, Rod Gabel, George Clayton, Paul Witthoef, Ben Schkolne, Geoff Owens, and Stuart Barzone.

Old Business:

Art secured domain name for the club. The name is good for five years at a cost of \$99.50.

How do we limit background noise during virtual meetings?

New Business:

Discussed moving the club to a new meeting location; however, action is deferred on this item until a later date.

Do door prize drawings at virtual meetings using a random number generator.

Stuart will call delinquent dues members to determine their interest in staying a member.

Art will explore incorporating member ads in the newsletter and the members' only portion of website.

Next meeting is October 7, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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.

9/17/2020 MAYFLOWER IN PLYMOUTH HARBOR (55¢) commemorative stamp, Plymouth, MA 02360.

9/24/2020 HOLIDAY DELIGHTS (55¢) special stamps, four designs. Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

10/6/2020 HANUKKAH (55¢) special stamp. New Rochelle, NY 10801.

10/13/2020 KWANZAA (55¢) special stamp. Nashville, TN 37202.

10/16/2020 WINTER SCENES (55¢) special stamps, 10 designs. Winter Park, FL 32789.

10/20/2020 OUR LADY OF GUAPULO (Madonna and child) (55¢) special stamp. New York, NY 10199

10/27/2020 DRUG FREE USA (55¢) commemorative stamp. Arlington, VA 22201.

The following items were released with insufficient advance notice to be included in previous editions of *Stamp and Tongs*.

6/15/2020 U.S. FLAG (55¢) stamped envelope. Liberty, MO 64068.

8/20/2020 INNOVATION (55¢) special stamp, five designs. Bellefonte, PA 16823.