

# STAMP & TONGS



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021 DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY VOL. 60, NO. 1

## 2021 U.S. PROGRAM UNDERWHELMING SO FAR

By Arthur P. von Reyn

An underwhelming variety of topical issues dominates the preliminary list of 2021 stamp issues announced by the U.S. Postal Service. The topics include Western Wear, Backyard Games, Espresso Drinks, Garden Beauty, Heritage Breeds of farm animals and Mid-Atlantic Lighthouse, the latter being the last in the long-running Lighthouse series. In his CBS Radio "The Stamp Collecting Report," philatelic writer

### RICK HOSLER: NEW CLUB SECRETARY

As a result of the election at our December 9, 2020, meeting, Rick Hosler, one of our newest members, will assume the duties of club secretary. He replaces Joe Baker, who has served in that capacity for the past four years.



Rick Hosler

A native of Bethlehem, PA, Hosler graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Penn State and MS from George Washington.

University. He worked for the Central Intel-

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Lloyd de Vries termed the stamp program "...an uninspiring bunch of pop culture and playing to interest groups."

A stamp showcasing a visual riddle, and four Message Monster stamps with "dozens of self-adhesive accessories" are among what a USPS press release termed "fun issuances."

Only two of the 19 announced issues, commemorating Missouri statehood and Japanese Americans who fought in World War II, appear to have any historical significance. Chien-Shiung Wu, an influential American nuclear physicist, gets a stamp, as does the Black Heritage honoree, playwright August Wilson.

Stamps designed to appeal to ethnic and racial groups include a "Day of the Dead" quartet for Latinos, a "Raven Story" single

for native Native Americans, and the usual Lunar New Year for Asian Americans.

Stamps related to the anticipated January 24 rate increase are a Colorado Hair-streak butterfly single for the non-machine-

able rate, a Brush Rabbit single for the additional ounce rate and a Barns quartet for postcards. To date, there's been no announcement about a stamp for the proposed \$7.95 priority mail

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So far, there is no mention of a 2021 stamp feting the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Postal Service. This is the 1971 debut issue.

## TSDA SEEKING NEW BOURSE LOCATION

By Arthur P. von Reyn

The Texas Stamp Dealers Association is seeking a new home for its bourses after learning that the current location, the Richardson Civic Center (RCC), would not be available during the coming year.

"Because of social distancing needs and to assure that all vital employees are as safe as possible, it has been determined that no outside activities will be held at

RCC in 2021 and possibly forever," TSDA Dallas Bourse Chairman Tom Cunningham was told. "It also includes all events previously held in the Grand Ballroom and other meeting rooms."

The year 2020 would have been TSDA's 14th year at RCC had all the bourses not been canceled due to Covid-19. "Better hotels are reluctant to commit for four weekend dates in advance because they might miss wedding receptions that would have a food and bar tab of \$10,000 or more," Cunningham explained.

"I shall explore all alternatives and hope to be able to announce an alternative venue that we can afford soon," Cunningham continued. "I'm willing to consider any place north of the Trinity River and not further north than McKinney. The area must be safe and have adequate parking."

Suggestions as to reasonably priced locations meeting the above criteria would be appreciated. Cunningham can be contacted at [cunninghamstamps@aol.com](mailto:cunninghamstamps@aol.com).

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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 or somewhere else resume before the March-April edition of *Stamp and Tongs*, members will receive either an email or postcard notice. Regular DPCPS meetings are called to order at 7:30 p.m., but most members arrive by 7:00 p.m. for socializing and trading.

**January 6** **DPCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTERNET MEETING.** Call to order 7:00 p.m.

**January 13** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING,** Program: *Overview of Club Exhibit at Mid-Cities Stamp Expo*, presented by Paul Witthoeft.

**January 27** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING,** Program: Quarterly Auction.

**February 10** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING,** Program: *Dead Countries of Asia*, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

**February 24** **DPCPS INTERNET MEETING,** Program: *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter N*, presented by various members.

**November 12-13** **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>

**To Be Determined** **TSDA DALLAS** - The Texas Stamp Dealers Association holds four bourses annually. A search is underway for a new location. Check the DPCPS or the TSDA websites for updated information.

## STAMP & TONGS

Newsletter of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society

Arthur von Reyn, Editor ([apvr@msn.com](mailto:apvr@msn.com))

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### 2021 DPCPS OFFICERS

President – Stan Bartnikowski ([stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com](mailto:stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com))

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Secretary – Rick Hosler ([rhosler44@gmail.com](mailto:rhosler44@gmail.com))

Treasurer – Rod Gabel ([gabelassoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gabelassoc@sbcglobal.net))

Past President – Geoff Owens

### DPCPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Baker • Stuart Barzune • Ben Schkolne

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](mailto:apvr@msn.com). For a membership application, write to: Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, c/o Rick Hosler, 4601 S. Versailles Ave., Dallas, TX 75209-6017.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY STAN BARTNIKOWSKI

I would like to wish you all and your families the blessings of a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas!

I extend a warm welcome to our new club secretary and membership committee, Rick Hosler.

Thank you, Joe Baker, for years of service as club secretary, and welcome to your new role on the board. Thank you also to all the officers, board members and committee chairmen for their efforts!

I look forward to the year 2021; hopefully, the pandemic will be behind us and we will be able to meet in person sometime next year.

In my study of the joint issues of Poland, I have come across of very valuable book, *Catalogue des Emissions Conjointes (Catalog of Joint Issues)* by Richard Zimmermann. I am borrowing the 1997 version from the American Philatelic Research Library—the 2006 edition is listed in their catalog, but missing from their shelves. While it is in French, the introduction is also translated into English and German. One of the indexes provides references to the countries in alphabetical order, albeit by their French name. There are illustrations of many of the stamps, but in black and white. Zimmermann also maintains a website of joint issues around the world (<http://philarz.net/index.htm>), beginning in 1998, and in color.

I continue to encourage each of you to submit an item for the door prize – of approximately \$10 retail value. You can send me an image ([stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com](mailto:stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com)) and you would then be responsible for mailing the item to the winner.

Have a happy, safe and healthy New Year. Enjoy your stamps!



## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

BY ARTHUR VON REYN

About two weeks after the November-December newsletter was published, the USPS issued a revised price list for the January 24 rate increase that has yet to be approved by the Postal Rate Commission. It had higher prices for priority mail and first class packages, meaning APS members who receive sales circuits could pay 15¢ more to forward them. Rather than republish the rate chart therein, I simply revised that newsletter edition, which is available on the club website.

Thanks to member Peter Elias, we have 37 more digital issues of this publication available for your perusal on the DPCPS website. Peter had archived on his home computer selected issues dating back to 2003. The 60+ issues now on the website represent a very small percentage of the bulletins issued over the years for our club and our predecessors Dallas Philatelic Society and the Park Cities Philatelic Society. Before more issues are lost forever, once again I appeal to members to search for old club newsletters that are not on the website.

We can blame Covid-19 for making 2020 one year many of us want to forget. Let's look forward to 2021 as being the year we finally quit being constantly hounded to wear masks, wash our hands and maintain "social distancing."

Find us online at:

**DALLASSTAMPS.ORG**



Instagram **DALLAS STAMP**



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# AUSTRIA ISSUES TOILET PAPER SOUVENIR SHEET

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Austria's post office continued its tradition of releasing novelty stamps in 2020, with the last such issue of the year, unveiled on October 30, being a Covid-19 themed souvenir sheet printed on toilet paper. A press release for the sheet called it "an ironic allusion to the panic buying indulged in by many anxious people at the start of the lockdown."

The miniature sheet contains a single €2.75 + €2.75 semi-postal stamp, and is printed on real toilet paper. The size is approximately 6" x 3.8", the standard size for toilet paper used in Austria. A self-adhesive foil made from paper manufactured from natural fibres was bonded to the reverse side of the toilet paper to increase resistance to tearing and to make it possible to detach the stamp easily. Another original feature is the perforations of the stamp, which are typical for toilet paper.

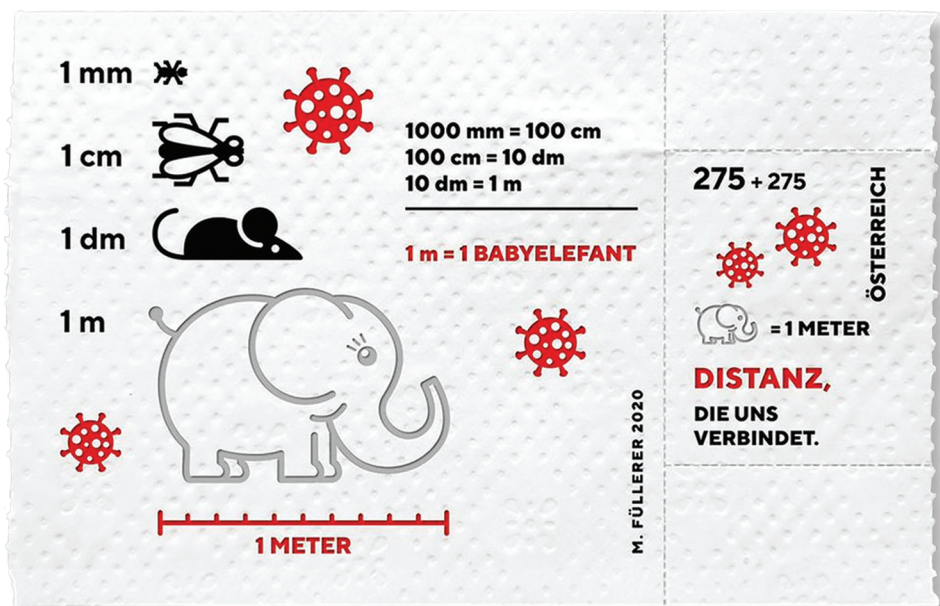
Appearing on the miniature sheet is a baby elephant, a symbol adopted by the Austrian government for the one-meter (3.28 feet) distance from others needed to help prevent transmission of the virus. Placing 10 of the miniature sheets end to end results in the length of the baby elephant.

A total of 300,000 copies were initially printed. Half the price of the stamp goes to a charity that was not mentioned in the news release.

Austria Post has a history of issuing stamps with unusual materials, such as lace, porcelain, leather and glass. Debuting two days before the toilet paper sheet was a skiing issue, for which a thin layer of aluminum-plastic composite was cut



Just two days before toilet paper stamp appeared, Austria Post released another novelty stamp. This "Ski Tip" release on October 28 was manufactured with some of the materials used to make skis.



Austria Post's self-adhesive toilet paper souvenir sheet contains one stamp with perforations that simulate that found on real toilet paper. Special paper was used as backing for the toilet paper on which the design was printed. The baby elephant represents one meter social distancing.

out to the shape of a ski tip using a milling machine and then brushed, followed by gluing over it a translucent yellow ski coating under which the stamp images had been printed.

Some of these unusual stamps were depicted in the article "Stuff on Stamps" by Chris Titus that appeared in the October-December 2018 edition of *Stamp and Tongs*.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It's not a QR Code!

Regarding the article [*USPS Kills Personalized Postage Stamps*, September-October 2020 *S&T*] on the PhotoStamps, you mention "QR" codes on the NetStamps. They're NOT "QR" (quick response) codes; those look different and always have a square in three of the four corners, such as:



The codes that is used on PhotoStamps, etc is a form of a 2-dimensional matrix code, but it's NOT a "QR" code. If it was, you'd be able to scan it with your smartphone.

That said, shown in this paragraph is a Zazzle Custom Postage stamp that I ordered a while back, that incorporates a QR code on the left side (it still works, I just tried it, even off my computer monitor), but my phone's QR reader does not

respond to the 2D dotmatrix code (which effectively is a serial number) on the right



side. I don't know of any software or scanner available to us consumers that could decode what is encoded in that dotmatrix.

I noticed that on the DPCPS website, there's a big gap in some of the newsletter from around 2004 to 2016. While I don't have all of them, I do have a bunch of them in that range if you're interested, and not have them yourself.

Peter C. Elias

### Stanley Sutkin Obituary

Thanks for the wonderful article [*Closed Album: Stanley Sutkin*, November-December 2020 *S&T*] on Stan! Love it.

Laurie Sutkin



# 2021 U.S. PROGRAM UNDERWHELMING SO FAR

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rate. A Happy Birthday stamp and a new Love issue are also due out.

Collectors can count on holiday stamps plus several dozen others to be added to the 64 depicted here. Next year also marks the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Postal Service and the 100th birthday of astronaut John Glenn. Time will tell whether those events merit stamps. Looking back at 1971 U.S. issues, stamps appeared for the 450th anniversary of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the birth centennial of painter John Sloan.

All stamp designs are preliminary and subject to change. Unless otherwise noted in the descriptions, all items are Forever stamps with a current value of 55¢ per stamp. Much of the commentary that follows is based on the USPS press release of November 17, 2020.

## Lunar New Year: Year of the Ox

The Year of the Ox stamp is the second in the latest series of 12 stamps. Calling to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in the dragon or lion dances often performed during Lunar New Year parades, these three-dimensional masks are a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk art crafts created during this auspicious time of year. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp with original art by Camille

## Love

The new Love stamp's art features a lighthearted and colorful digital illustration with the word "LOVE" and three large hearts shown in an

unconventional palette of color duos, strikingly set against a dark blue background. Greg Breeding was art director; Bailey Sullivan created the original art and designed the stamp

## August Wilson

Award-winning playwright August Wilson (1945-2002) is hailed as a trailblazer for helping to bring nonmusical African American drama to the forefront of American theater. Wilson collected innumerable accolades, including a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize for 1987's *Fences* and another Pulitzer for 1990's "The Piano Lesson." A Broadway the-

ater in New York is also named after him. Information on the photographer and stamp designer has not yet been made available.

## Chien-Shiung Wu

Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997) was one of the most influential nuclear physicists of the 20th century. During a career that spanned more than 40 years in a field dominated by men, she established herself as the authority on conducting precise and accurate research to test fundamental theories of physics. Art Director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with original art by Kam Mak.

## Garden Beauty

Garden Beauty celebrates America's love of flowers and gardens with 10 new stamp designs in a booklet of 20. The stamps include a pink flowering dogwood; a rose-pink and white tulip; an allium, or ornamental onion; a pink and white Asiatic lily; a magenta dahlia; a yellow and pink American lotus; a pink moth orchid with mottled petals; a pink and white sacred lotus; an orange and yellow tulip; and a yellow moth orchid with a pink center. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with existing photographs by Allen Rokach.

## Mystery Message

The new Mystery Message stamp puts your sleuthing skills to the test. Featuring bright colors and interesting shapes, the stamp design is a visual riddle spelling out a message. Each colorful square contains a letter in an interesting pattern. The patterns, though seemingly random, were carefully placed so that when put all together, the message reads, "MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!" Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp.

## Colorado Hairstreak

The Colorado hairstreak graces the eighth non-machineable butterfly stamp for use on irregularly sized envelopes, such as square greeting cards, invitations or announcements.





The stamp art is a highly stylized, simplified image of a Colorado hairstreak (*Hypaurotis crysalus*). Artist Tom Engeman created the stamp art. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp.

### Barns

Four new postcard stamps celebrate the beauty and history of American barns. With differing qualities

of light and color, each piece reflects one of the four seasons: a round barn surrounded by the hazy light and warm colors of fall, a gambrel-roofed barn in summer, a forebay barn in an early spring countryside, and a Western barn on a winter's night. Ashley Walton designed the stamps with original artwork by Kim Johnson. Greg Breeding was the art director.

### Backyard Games

These stamps capture many of the games Americans play for outdoor fun. A pane of 16 stamps features eight unique designs including: badminton, bocce, cornhole, croquet, flying disc, horseshoes, tetherball and a variation on pick-up baseball. Greg Breeding was the art director. Mike Ryan designed the stamps with original artwork by Mick Wiggins.



### Heritage Breeds

These stamps pay tribute to heritage breeds, preindustrial farm animals that are enjoying renewed attention for their versatility, adaptability and unique genetic traits. This pane of 20 stamps includes photographs of 10 heritage breeds: the American Mammoth Jackstock donkey, the Narragansett turkey, the Cayuga duck, the San Clemente Island goat, the Mulefoot hog, the Cotton Patch goose, the American Cream draft horse, the Barbados Blackbelly sheep, the Milking Devon cow and the Wyandotte chicken. Zack Bryant designed the stamps with photographs by Aliza Eliazarov. Greg Breeding served as art director.

### Brush Rabbit

A brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) appears on a new additional-ounce stamp, available on a pane of 20 or in a coil of 100. The brush rabbit is a small brownish cottontail rabbit of the U.S. West Coast and Baja California, Mexico. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp.



### Go for Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII

This stamp recognizes the contributions of Japanese American soldiers, some 33,000 altogether, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II despite many of their families being forced to live in internment camps for the war's duration. The stamp, printed in the intaglio method, is based on a photograph. "Go for Broke" was the motto of the all-



### Day of the Dead

Day of the Dead is a Mexican celebration that takes place on November 2. Of rural origins, it become increasingly popular in



urban areas of Mexico in the 1980s and then spread to the United States. These are the first stamps to be issued by the U.S. Postal Service to mark this holiday. Luis Fitch designed and illustrated the stamps. Antonio Alcalá was the art director.

Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and came to represent all Japanese American units formed during World War II. The stamp was designed by art director Antonio Alcalá.

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# 2021 U.S. PROGRAM UNDERWHELMING SO FAR

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## Raven Story

Merging traditional artwork with modern design touches, this stamp depicts one of many stories about Raven, a figure of great significance to the Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast. Among

the cultures of the region, Raven plays an essential role in many traditional tales, including stories about the creation of the world.

Inspired by the traditional story of Raven setting free the sun, the moon and the stars, the Raven is depicted just as he escapes from his human family and begins to transform back into his bird form.

## Western Wear

The enduring legacy of Western wear is represented with four graphic illustrations of Western wear staples—a cowboy hat, a cowboy boot with a spur, a Western shirt, and a belt buckle featuring a longhorn head.

Each image is framed by elements common to the American West and iconography of the region, including cacti, snakes, roses and stars. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps with original art by Ryan Feerer.

## Mid-Atlantic Lighthouses

The American Lighthouse series concludes with mid-Atlantic lighthouses at Thomas Point Shoal, Maryland; Montauk Point, New York; Harbor of Refuge, Delaware; Navesink, New Jersey;



and Erie Harbor Pierhead, Pennsylvania. The late Howard Kosslow was the artist for these as well as all the previous stamps in the series. The art director was Greg Breeding.

## Missouri Statehood

Missouri became the 24th state in the Union on August 10, 1821. The stamp art is from an existing photograph of Bolinger Mill State Historic



Site by noted landscape photographer Charles Gurche. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.

## Message Monsters

The four fun designs on this new pane of 20 stamps invite interactivity with dozens of self-adhesive accessories that personalize cards, letters and envelopes for delighted recipients. Decorations include hearts, hats, voice balloons, flowers and thought bubbles. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the pane with new illustrations by Elise Gravel.

## Espresso Drinks



America's love of coffee is celebrated with four new stamps in a booklet of 20. Four digital illustrations feature cups of four different drinks: caffe latte, espresso, caffe mocha and cappuccino. The

names of the espresso drinks appear in art-deco-inspired lettering above or below each cup. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps with original artwork by Terry Allen.

## Happy Birthday

This Happy Birthday stamp conveys exuberant greetings by calling to mind the childhood excitement of a birthday party. Each of

the five letters in the word "HAPPY" is inspired by a different party decoration in the midst of a flurry of multi-colored ribbons and confetti.

This stamp was designed by Lisa Catalone Castro and Rodolfo Castro, featuring a digital illustration

by the latter. Ethel Kessler served as art director.

See page 13 for the 2021 U.S. new issues calendar.

## FOR FURTHER READING

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2020/1117-usps-announces-upcoming-stamps.htm>

<https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/day-of-the-dead>

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2020/1208-new-black-heritage-stamp-will-honor-playwright-august-wilson.htm>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August\\_Wilson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August_Wilson)





# SCOTT NUMBERS FOR 2020 U.S. ISSUES

Below are Scott™ catalogue numbers for the 2020 U.S. stamp and stationery issues.

#5428	(55¢) <b>LUNAR NEW YEAR: RAT</b> single	#5473
#5429	\$7.35 <b>BIG BEND</b> single	#5474
#5430	\$26.35 <b>GRAND ISLAND ICE CAVES</b> single	#5474a
#5431	(55¢) <b>MADE OF HEARTS</b> single	#5475
#5432	(55¢) <b>GWEN IFILL</b> single	#5476
#5433	(55¢) <b>PRESORTED STAR</b> single	#5477
#5434	(55¢) <b>LET'S CELEBRATE</b> single	#5478
	(55¢) <b>WILD ORCHIDS</b> coil, 10 designs	#5479
#5435	Platanthera Grandiflora	#5479a
#5436	Cyrtopodium Polyphyllum	#5480
#5437	Calopogon Tuberosus	#5481
#5438	Spiranthes Odorata	#5482
#5439	Triphora Trianthophoros	#5483
#5440	Cypripedium Caliofornicum	#5483a
#5441	Hexalectris Spicata	
#5442	Cypripedium Reginae	#5484
#5443	Platanthera Leucophaea	#5485
#5444	Triphora Trianthophoros	#5486
#5444a	horiz. strip of 10. #5435-44	#5487
	(55¢) <b>WILD ORCHIDS</b> booklet, 10 designs	#5488
#5445	Triphora Trianthophoros	#5489
#5446	Cypripedium Caliofornicum	#5490
#5447	Hexalectris Spicata	#5491
#5448	Cypripedium Reginae	#5492
#5449	Spiranthes Odorata	#5493
#5450	Platanthera Leucophaea	#5493a
#5451	Triphora Trianthophoros	#5493b
#5452	Platanthera Grandiflora	
#5453	Cyrtopodium Polyphyllum	#5494
#5454	Calopogon Tuberosus	#5495
#5454a	block of 10, #5445-54	
#5454b	double-sided booklet pane of 20, 2 each #5445-54	#5496
#5455	(55¢) <b>ARNOLD PALMER</b> single	#5497
#5456	(55¢) <b>MAINE STATEHOOD</b> single	#5498
#5457	(55¢) <b>BOUTONNIERE</b> single	#5499
#5458	(70¢) <b>CORSAGE</b> single	
#5459	(55¢) <b>EARTH DAY</b> single	#5500
#5460	(\$1.15) <b>CHRYSANTHEMUM</b> single.	#5501
	(55¢) <b>AMERICAN GARDENS</b> , 10 designs	#5502
#5461	Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York	#5503
#5462	Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, Ohio	#5503a
#5463	Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.	
#5464	Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Maine	#5504
#5465	Chicago Botanic Garden, Illinois	#5505
#5466	Winterthur Garden, Delaware	#5506
#5467	Biltmore Estate Garden, North Carolina	#5507
#5468	Alfred B. Macclay Gardens State Park, Florida	#5508
#5469	The Huntington Botanical Gardens, California	#5509
#5470	Norfolk Botanical Garden, Virginia	#5510
#5470a	block of 10, #5461-70	#5511
	(55¢) <b>VOICES OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE</b> , 4 designs	#5512
#5471	Nella Larson (1891-1964), Novelist	
#5472	Arturo Schomburg (1874-1938), Histo-	

rian

Anne Spencer (1882-1975), Poet  
Alain Locke (1885-1954), Writer  
horiz. or vert. strip of 4, #5471-74

**ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS**, 5 designs

Child Building Sandcastle

Canoeing

Hiking

Bicycling

Cross-country Skiing

vert. strip of 5, #5475-79

**HIP HOP**, 4 designs

MC With Microphone Rapping

B-Boy Dancing

Graffiti Art

Hip Hop DJ

block or vert. strip of 4, #5480-83

(55¢) **FRUITS AND VEGETABLE** booklet, 10 designs

Red and Black Plums

Heirloom and Cherry Tomatoes

Carrots

Lemons

Blueberries

Red and Green Grapes

Lettuce

Strawberries

Eggplants

Figs

block of 10, #5484-93

double-sided booklet pane of 20, 2 each of #5484-93

(55¢) **BUGS BUNNY**, 10 designs

Bugs as Barber, From *Rabbit of Seville* (1950)

Bugs as Basketball Player, From *Space Jam* (1996)

Bugs as Hollywood Celebrity, From *A Hare Grows in Manhattan* (1947)

Bugs as Court Jester, From *Knighty Knight Bugs* (1958)

Bugs as Brunhilde, From *What's Opera, Doc?* (1957)

Bugs as Mermaid, From *Hare Ribbin'* (1944)

Bugs as Piano Player, From *Rhapsody Rabbit* (1946)

Bugs as Super Rabbit, From *Super Rabbit* (1943)

Bugs as Baseball Player, From *Baseball Bugs* (1946)

Bugs as Soldier, From World War II Poster

block of 10. #5494-5503

(55¢) **RUTH ASAWA WIRE SCULPTURES**, 10 designs

Three Untitled Sculptures from 1958, 1978 and 1959.

Untitled Sculpture from 1959

Untitled Sculpture from 1958

Untitled Sculpture from 1955

Untitled Sculpture from 1955

Untitled Sculpture from 1980

Untitled Sculpture from 1978

Untitled Sculpture from 1952

Untitled Sculpture from 1954



The 2020 holiday vending machine label (Scott #CVP #110) is similar to Scott #5528.

#5513	Six Untitled Sculpture from various years.
#5513a	block of 10, #5504-13
#5514	(55¢) <b>INNOVATION</b> , 5 designs
#5515	Computing
#5516	Biomedicine
#5517	Genome Sequencing
#5518	Robotics
#5518a	Solar Technology
	horiz. strip of 5, #5514-18
	(55¢) <b>THANK YOU</b> , 4 designs
#5519	rose brown and gold
#5520	olive and gold
#5521	slate blue and gold
#5522	voilet and gold
#5522a	block of 4, #5519-22
#5523	(55¢) <b>WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE</b> single
#5524	(55¢) <b>MAYFLOWER</b> single
	(55¢) <b>OUR LADY OF GUÁPULO (MADONNA AND CHILD)</b> single
#5525	double-sided booklet pane of 20
#5525a	(55¢) <b>HOLIDAY DELIGHTS</b> booklet, 4 designs
#5526	Ornament
#5527	Christmas tree
#5528	Stocking
#5529	Reindeer
#5529a	block of 4, #5526-29
#5529b	double-sided booklet pane of 20, 5 each #5526-29
#5530	(55¢) <b>HANUKKAH</b>
#5531	(55¢) <b>KAWANZAA</b>
	(55¢) <b>WINTER SCENES</b> booklet, 10 designs
#5532	Two deer
#5533	Northern cardinal
#5534	Trees and gold sky
#5535	Red barn With Wreath on Door
#5536	Barred owl
#5537	Blue jay
#5538	Red Barn With Snowy Roof
#5539	Cottontail rabbit
#5540	Snowy paty in woods
#5541	Two horses
#5541a	block of 10, #5532-41
#5541b	double-sided booklet pane of 20, 2 each of #5532-41
#5542	(55¢) <b>DRUG FREE USA</b> single
#U699	\$7.35 <b>BIG BEND</b>
#U700	(55¢) <b>FLAG AND STARS</b>
#RW87	\$25 <b>BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS</b> single
#RW87A	\$25 <b>BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS</b> sheetlet with stamp

# NEWSLETTERS NARRATE DPCPS HISTORY

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Reading minutes is one way to research our club's history, but the most rewarding method is to peruse old newsletters. These gems from the past not only mention meeting happenings, but also include interesting articles illustrated with stamp images, plus photographs of member activities. Most rewarding of all is rekindling memories of gatherings attended over the years and recalling the good times we had with those who are no longer with us.

Thanks to Peter Elias' diligence in saving selected digital copies of DPCPS newsletters he has received over the many years of his club membership, there are now 37 additional newsletters archived on the club website. Includ-

ing Peter's contribution, one can choose to view any of the more than 60 back issues of *Stamp and Tongs* (also known as *Stamps and*

*Tongs*) available, including the oldest, dated December 2003!

It is difficult to know how regularly the newsletter has been published. After reading many of



## 1946 Viet Minh Overprints, Japan Occupation of Indochina

Figure 1 is a mint group of Viet Minh North Vietnam locals (without gum as issued). These were stamps issued by the Japan occupation government in French Indochina during WWII. They were overprinted by the

ute stamp of 1944. Most Olympics collectors include this stamp stamps issued in 1944, the year a second Olympics games had ludes a MNH pair of surcharged French Indochina from before

Minh [League for the Independence of Vietnam], was a coalition of the French and the Japanese during World War II. The French rule in the French Indochina War (1946-54). The or and in 1951 its Communist elements were absorbed by the China comprised the French colony of Cochinchina and the Cambodia (Cochin China, Tonkin, and Annam were later

Figure 1



the growth and decline of the Khmer Empire in Cambodia of Annam. European penetration began in the 16th pire, the French took (1862, 1867) Cochinchina as a ), Annam (1884), and Tonkin (1884). In 1887 they governor-general at its head; Laos was added to the ept Japanese intervention in N Indochina in 1940; the 941) was viewed by the United States as a threat to ssets in the United States and precipitated the diplo Harbor.

## ry & Postmarks"

Northway Christian Church

▲ The late Richard D. "Rick" Houghland edited the club newsletter twice. His first run lasted for about 10 years, ending in 2006. He published very regularly and seldom missed getting out a monthly issue.

◀ The ink on Dr. Frank J. Sloan's membership application was barely dry before he became the newsletter editor. An article in this November issue, his first, indicates no newsletter had been sent out since Rick Houghland ceased editing the year before. Being the first bulletin of 2007, it should have been labeled Volume 46, Number 1.



## STAMP AND TONGS

November 2007 Volume 46 No 11

DALLAS-PARK CITIES  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY:

## The Rebirth Of A Newsletter and New Proposals

### NEWS OF THE CLUB

#### A NEW LOOK FOR AN OLD NEWSLETTER

The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society is pleased to announce the rebirth of the Stamp and Tongs Newsletter. The newsletter has been going since 1961. Last year Rick Houghland stepped down as the as the editor of the *Stamps*  
*Continued on Page 2*

#### TEXAS NAVAL COVERS

Doug Moss gave a talk on Oct 10th about his collection of naval covers of two Texas ships, the U.S.S. Texas and the U.S.S. Houston. His collection started after a trip to San Jacinto to  
*Continued on Page 3*

#### NEW PROPOSALS

With changes to occur with *The Texas Philatelist* starting in January, two proposals were brought to the floor of the membership. They are proposed as a way of continuing the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society's presence in the publication.  
*Continued on Page 7*

Dallas- Park Cities  
Philatelic Society meets  
ever 2nd and 4th  
Wednesday of the  
month at 730pm at the  
Edgemere Retirement  
Center at:  
8523 Thackery Dallas,  
TX 75225



Republic of Madagascar Scott #309 MNH



Central African Republic Scott #5 MNH



Malawi Scott# #712 Used

These are just some of the stamps I picked up at this weeks meeting. (Scott catalog value ~\$2.40) I paid \$.27 Come to a meeting to sell your duplicates

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society | [www.geocities.com/dpcps2002/](http://www.geocities.com/dpcps2002/)



This may be due to “editor fatigue,”

publication deadlines.

At this time, the oldest newsletter on the website is December 2003, back during Richard D. “Rick” Houghland’s first reign as editor. There are no samples of anything older, such as printed copies that used to be mailed out to members in the years beginning with the founding of the Dallas Philatelic Society (DPS) in 1961. It’s not known whether the Park Cities Philatelic Society, with which the DPS merged, had its own bulletin.

It's possible copies of older newsletters have been stashed somewhere, being that collectors tend to be packrats. Perhaps these treasures will eventually surface so they can be scanned and added to the website. Anyone who happens to come across copies of our publication that aren't

*Continued on Page 10*



DPCPS Sponsors Texas Philatelic Association Contest

DPCPS Sponsors Texas Philatelic Society (DPCPS) will sponsor the

The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society (DPCPS) and the 2008 Texas Philatelic Association (TPA) Youth Hobby Show will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 Marilla Street, Dallas, Texas 75202. The purpose of the contest is to encourage the youth hobby of stamp collecting through art.

Youth ages 4 through 18 are encouraged to design featuring a winter holiday they celebrate. The artwork country name and a denomination.

Every youth that enters the contest will receive a prize from the TPA and DPCPS. The overall winner of the contest will receive a certificate and artwork.



The artwork of 11-year old Alyssa Vargas, of Winter Park, Florida, was featured on the cover of the 2007 Texas Philatelist.

Every youth who enters the contest will have a special PDF document which will be available TPA website. **Entries to the contest need October 1, 2008.** The official entry form is a site, [www.texasphilatelic.org](http://www.texasphilatelic.org). A copy of the entry form is available on the website. The judging of the entries will be by the members of the DPCPS. All members of the DPCPS are encouraged to know about the contest and ask them to participate.

The DPCPS meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of

▲ Dr. Frank J. Sloan wasn't able to get the newsletter out regularly, so Douglas C. Moss of Richardson became the newsletter editor in September 2008. He pluralized the word "Stamp" in the bulletin's title.

After two years of editorship, Douglas C. Moss passed newsletter editing back to Dr. Frank Sloan, who continued using the pluralized “Stamp” in the publication’s title. ►





# NEWSLETTERS NARRATE DPCPS HISTORY

Continued from Page 9

already on the website can contact me at apvr@msn.com or (214) 956-6840. All contributions will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Besides Rick Houghland, who died in 2018, it appears there have been three other newsletter editors this century besides yours truly. They are Dr. Frank J. Sloan, Douglas C. Moss and Christopher "Chris" Titus. A few examples of their efforts are illustrated throughout these pages.

Check out the all the club bulletins currently available on the DPCPS website: <http://www.dallasstamps.org/pages/newsletters.html>.

SINCE 1961  
**Stamp**



and  
**Tongs**

**Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> (7:30pm) Wednesday's  
Edgemere Retirement Center  
8523 Thackrey  
Dallas, TX

August 2012

Volume 51

## Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II



designs taken from:  
portrait, Harry Eccleston Banknote portrait, Mary Gillick Coinage

by the Queen is brought together in six new stamps to  
raits of the Queen taken from stamps, coinage and  
new 1st Class diamond blue Definitive which will re-

ibilee Year, and will also be available in counter sheets,  
versions will be issued in March or April when the new  
mold Machin's iconic image on a blue background that  
nt ink. Since it first appeared in 1967 this timeless image  
tish Definitive stamps. As well as the Machin image, the  
on of the first stamp of Her Majesty's reign, featuring the  
in 1952.

o creates another philatelic first: bringing together the most  
coins and banknotes, as well as stamps. Since the Penny  
red an image of the monarch facing to our left. Royal Mint  
ch's alternate the direction in which they face. Her Majesty  
hy the two Definitive stamps featuring the coin imagery will  
rch faces this direction. It's probably also the only occasion  
ared in the same miniature sheet.

Continued on Page 3



## STAMP & TONGS



OCTOBER 1, 2016 | VOLUME 56

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.



### Malta Post Shares Joint Issue With San Marino.

MaltaPost will release a miniature sheet containing 2 different stamps as part of a joint issue with the postal administration of San Marino on 18 October 2016. The sheet, designed by Cedric Galea Pirotta Design and Sean Cini, depicts aerial views of the Prima Torre in San Marino and The Gozo which overlooks the city of Victoria on Gozo. The sheet is perforated 14.

More on page 3.

Three days earlier, on 15 October 2016, MaltaPost will also issue a set of 3 stamps on the subject of "Balconies", important features of the Maltese urban landscapes. It is an attractive little set and anyone who has visited Malta will recognize the significance of their philatelic depiction. The issue was designed by Cedric Galea Pirotta and perforated.



### BUYING & APPRAISING STAMPS: THE DEALER PERSPECTIVE

By Tom Cunningham

Here are some of what I have learned regarding buying & appraising stamp collections over the past 19 years as a stamp dealer and that many other dealers still haven't learned yet.

Many NON-dealers believe they know something about appraising collections (which they really don't). The NON-dealer will not have the experience of buying collection lots wholesale to understand the significance of all of the answers. Also, the NON-dealer will not have personally inspected and bought hundreds of large collection lots from HR Harmer, formerly Greg Manning, Siegel, Schuler Rumsey, Regency, Harmer Schau and other auctions houses to know what collection lots sell for as an alternative and as a comparison to the seller's holdings. For example, MCSC discussed having a collector sit at an appraisal table and "advise sellers" about their holdings. In my humble opinion, that would be a disaster to both every dealer there, the prospective seller, and MCSC. A key piece of advice:

**"IF YOU GIVE ADVICE TO A PROSPECTIVE SELLER ABOUT THE REALIZABLE VALUE OF THEIR HOLDINGS, BACK IT UP WITH AN OFFER FROM YOUR OWN CHECKBOOK.....OR SAVE YOUR COMMENTS FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL".**

▲ After a hiatus of six years, Rick Houghland resumed editing the club bulletin in the spring or summer of 2012. He continued to do so for four years. Rick passed away in 2018. The "Stamp" in the publication's title reverted to singular instead of plural. There have apparently been no gaps in publication dates since then, though examples of many issues up to 2016 remain missing from the newsletter archive on the club's website.

◀ Christopher "Chris" Titus succeeded Rick Houghland as the newsletter editor, turning it into a quarterly publication in October of 2016. After his retirement at the end of 2019, the publication became bimonthly.

<http://www.stampboards.com/>  
<http://commonwealthstampsopinion.blogspot.com.au/> #832



# 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.*

## October 28th, 2020

The 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** – November & December meeting schedule:

**November 11th** - John Wanamaker presented by Bill Laupus.

**December 9th** - *Holiday stamps*, presenters to be announced.

**There will be no 4th Wednesdays meetings in November and December.**

Upcoming stamp shows:

**Mid-Cities Stamp Expo**, November 13-14, Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 760562

**TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show:** December show has been canceled.

**Editor** – The next club newsletter is due out November 1st and will have a write-up about the late Stan Sutkin and his collecting interests.

**Membership** – No change in membership status.

**Exhibitor's Report** – Material is still being collected for the Richardson Symphony frame in December.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – None.

**Announcements** – The club still has Polo shirts for sale at \$8.00. Donations of door prizes with a suggested retail value of \$10 or catalogue value of \$25 are requested.

**Trivia/Show & Tell** – Jack Urish had a French stamp canceled in Monaco prior to the introduction of Monaco stamps in 1895. Art von Reyn showed fakes of Azerbaijan bogus stamps and a *Texas Post Offices by County* CD that covered all 254 counties in Texas.

**Door Prize/Album Drawing** – No door prize drawing was held. Jack Urish can be contacted at (214) 349-6372 for pickup of albums from his home.

**Program** – John Wanamaker was presented by Bill Laupus. The 35th Postmaster General, 1889 – 1893, Wanamaker introduced the first U.S. commemorative stamps and started planning for Rural Free Delivery, introduced in 1896. A retail genius, he established the first department store in Philadelphia and is credited for his innovations in retail merchandising and advertising.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

## November 11th, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 16 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** – December meeting schedule:

**December 9th** - *Holiday stamps*, presenters to be announced.

**There will be no 4th Wednesdays meetings in November and December.**

Upcoming stamp shows:

**Mid-Cities Stamp Expo**, November 13-14, Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 76052.

**TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show:** December show has been canceled.

**Editor/Website** – The next newsletter will be published in mid-December. A password will be sent out for the "members only" section of the website.

**Membership** – No change.

**Exhibitor's Report** – The Mid-Cities Expo club frame will be set up Thursday. Covers are still needed for the Richardson Symphony frame in December.

**Old Business** – Door prizes are still needed.

**New Business** – None.

**Announcements** – The club still has Polo shirts for sale at \$8.00.

**Trivia/Show & Tell** – Art von Reyn showed a Wounded Warriors Project envelope franked with multiple stamps, a cancel and a return label to make it look like personal mail. Mark Soloman displayed a page depicting stamps from *The Pioneer Woman Magazine*, a cooking publication. Don Wolman had an exterior picture of the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC.

**Door Prizes/Album Drawing** – Mark Soloman won a Philatelic Stamp Book provided by Bill Laupus. After some discussion, it was decided to create a travelling door prize, wherein members could pick out stamps they wanted. Jack Urish can be contacted at (214) 349-6372 for pickup of albums from his home.

**Program** – Stan Bartnikowski initiated the program *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter M* with a brief look at land-locked Moldova. Rick Hosler had several FDCs related to the U.N.'s 1962 World United Against Malaria campaign. Bill Laupus discussed Douglas McArthur's career. Art von Reyn brought a short presentation on the stamps of Mozam-

bique Company. Jack Urish displayed an Austrian stamp used in Montenegro, a Turkish stamp used in Macedonia and a French Colonies stamp canceled in Mayotte.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

## December 9th, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 16 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** – January and February meeting schedule:

**January 13th** - *Overview of Club Exhibit at Mid-Cities Stamp Expo*, presented by Paul Witthoeft.

**January 27th** - Quarterly Auction.

**February 10th** - *Dead Countries of Asia*, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

**February 24th** - *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter N*, by various presenters.

**Editor/Website** – The next club newsletter is due out the weekend after this meeting. The website has 37 more old newsletters available to view, donated by Peter Elias.

**Membership** – An emailed notice for 2021 dues will be sent out this month. The amount is \$12.

**Exhibiting** – The Mid-Cities show was a good one considering the pandemic. The club has been invited to exhibit at OKPEX in June. Not enough material was submitted for a Richardson Symphony exhibit.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – The slate of club officers and directors for 2021 were elected by acclamation.

**Announcements** – None.

**Trivia/Show & Tell** – Stan Bartnikowski showed the 2020 vending machine Christmas stamp available in some post office lobbies.

**Door Prize** – Steven McRae won Volume 10 of *Billig's Philatelic Handbook*. Jack Urish can be contacted at (214) 349-6372 for pickup of albums from his home.

**Program** – The *Holiday Stamps* program began with Ben Schkolne illustrating Hanukkah custom and traditions with stamps and covers from not only from the U.S. and Israel, but also Canada and India. Stan Bartnikowski covered how Christmas was celebrated in Poland, which didn't start issuing Christmas stamps several years after the demise of the atheist Communist regime in 1989. Art von Reyn was the last of the three presenters, providing a quick overview of the world's and America's earliest Christmas cards, seals and stamps.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



# MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB EXPO PERSEVERES

By Paul Witthoeft

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club Expo, held November 13-14 at the Grapevine Convention Center, was reduced somewhat in scope, and attendance was around a third lower than normal, but the organizers did manage to persevere and carry on as scheduled despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many larger shows across America and Texas had been canceled due to Covid-19 concerns, including OKPEX in June and the Greater Houston Stamp Show in September. The Expo was one of a handful of collector-organized events to take place in the entire nation since March 2020.

The facility did require all persons to be masked, took forehead temperatures at entry, and logged every visitor's name and phone/email in case there was a later need for contact tracing. Two weeks after the event was held, there were still no reports of any attendees suffering from Covid-19 infections due to visiting the Expo.

For 2020's 33rd annual show, the silent auction and the awards banquet were eliminated, nor did the U.S. Postal Service participate. However, the mixture pick, chance board and exhibits returned. The 21 dealers present were apparently not too disappointed at the reduced attendance, as many collectors did come to buy stamps. Some dealers were happy to just be able



Masks were mandatory for those attending the 2020 edition of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club Expo. Despite "social distancing" there were often empty chairs at dealer tables due to the pandemic-reduced attendance.  
(Photo by MCSC member Bob Wiedman)

to attend a show, whether they made a profit or not. The organizers did manage to make break even, with change leftover.

Instead of last year's 60 exhibit frames, the 2020 show was down to 48, most of which were filled by loyal friends of Mid-Cities Stamp Club bringing familiar exhibits seen at previous shows.

Our club participated with a single "club frame" of members' varied interests; we received thanks from exhibits chairman

Ray Cartier for our support of the Expo and exhibiting.

All exhibits were considered non-competitive this year, although an APS-certified judge was available to advise exhibitors on how to improve their exhibits, if desired, and a TSDA Most Popular Exhibit Award was handed out.

Instead of a stand-alone frame, as in past several years, our club exhibit was displayed among all the regular ones, between a study of "Philippine TB Seals" and a topical on "Monsters."

Our club frame included a title page that mentioned DPCPS meetings—by Zoom at this time—and listed the 15 pages provided by 13 members, as follows:

**Stan Bartnikowski** – Poland: General Haller's Blue Army

**Bill Laupus** – Railroad 'First Trip' Cover: Memphis (1947) and Texas Sesqui-centennial Cover: Fredericksburg

**Joe Baker** – Constantinople Cancellations (1904, 1910) and Bavarian Water-wheel Cancellations

**Ben Schkolne** – Cape of Good Hope Triangles (1853, 1858)

**Geoff Owens** – Pierre Gandon: Graveur Extraordinaire

**Rick Hosler** – Canal Zone: First Issues (1904)

**Don Wolman** – Provinz Laibach: Occupied Slovenia (1945)

**Jack Urish** – (1940) British Somaliland Camel Corps cover



The mixture pick was moved outside of the Expo's main hall, apparently to maintain social distancing requirements. The silent auction, normal awards and banquet for exhibits and a USPS presence were eliminated.  
(Photo by MCSC member Bob Wiedman)







# THE U.S. MILLENNIUM CANCELS OF 1999-2001

By Arthur P. von Reyn

For me, it doesn't seem that long ago there was fear the world as we knew it was destined to meet its demise. The cause would be neither plague, massive flooding, an errant comet, nor fire and brimstone, but a computer programming flaw. Yes, I'm writing about the year 2000.

The angst was that computer programs running government, business, industry and seemingly everything else would suddenly freeze once the date advanced to January 1, 2000. This was due to early software designers trying to save what was then precious computer memory space by using the last two digits of a year date instead of four. Of course, when the clock ticked midnight on December 31, 1999, nothing much happened; by then, almost all the deficient code had been fixed.

Towards the end of 1999, the U.S. Postal

Service announced it would be issuing a special stamp to commemorate the year 2000. The issue, the first and only U.S. stamp specifically for a New Year, had a



in conjunction with the issuance of the Baby 2000 stamps, more than 800 post offices requested generic digital date special cancels that were available for New Year's Eve 1999 and New Year's Day 2000. Only the city, state and ZIP inscription varied from city to city.

Service announced it would be issuing a special stamp to commemorate the year 2000. The issue, the first and only U.S. stamp specifically for a New Year, had a

first day on December 27, 1999 in Washington, DC, and featured J.C. Leyendecker's illustration from the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1937; a baby tooting a horn and carrying a bell to ring in the New Year.

To encourage use of the stamp, the Postal Service also announced there would be two generic special cancellations made available to any post office requesting them. One was inscribed 12-31-1999 / New Year's Eve Station / [name of city, state, ZIP] / Postmark of the Century." The other read "1-1-2000 / Celebrate 2000 Station / [name of city, state, ZIP] / Postmark of the Century."

Over four issues of the *Postal Bulletin*, the USPS house organ, 829 post offices were listed as intending to use both cancels. Another dozen requested only the New Year's Eve cancel, while 13 wanted just the New Year's day version.

With first-class post-



The generic USPS cancellation was not always used to ring in the year 2000. Dozens of post offices offered unique cancellations, with a few like these being modifications of the generic cancel.



age costing 33¢ at that time and assuming a collector ordered by mail one each of the cancels to be returned under cover, it would have cost a collector well north of \$1000.00 to obtain all those listed in the *Postal Bulletin*. There may have been even more post offices participating, as the *Postal Bulletin* does not list requests that arrive past publication deadlines.

I doubt few, if any collectors, accepted the monumental challenge of obtaining all these cancels. I settled upon obtaining just a few, such as the ones for Dallas, using the Baby 2000 stamp.

However, the *Postal Bulletin* lists in every issue special cancels of all types, such as those commonly used at stamp shows and local events. It turned out dozens of localities spurned the USPS generic cancels and designed their own.

Therefore, I set out to obtain every one of these non-generic cancels, making a unique cachet design specific to each post office. What resulted was a collection of more than 70 covers, a few of which are shown accompanying this article. Some cancels appeared in conjunction with annual New Year's celebrations but most were prompted by the issuance of the Baby 2000 stamp. The cancel designs were quite eclectic, two were even modifications of the USPS generic design.

With a few exceptions, most of my cachets were returned without a hitch. Where post offices had two cancel dates, I attached sticky notes to indicate which cancel date should be applied to which cover. Only in the case of Lubec, Maine were the cancels reversed from what they should have been.

Some of the cancellations commemorated the beginning of a new millennium or the 21st century. As most of us around 21 years ago learned, the new millennium did not begin in 2000 because the year zero does not exist in the Anno Domini (AD) system usually used to number years in the Gregorian calendar and in its predecessor, the Julian calendar. In this system, the year 1 BC is followed by AD 1. Therefore, 2001 was the first year of the new millennium, as well as the 21st century.

This gave rise the following year to a new collecting opportunity: to prepare cachets for special cancels noting the *real* millennium. But as 2000 ended, there was

*Continued on Page 16*



For good reason, the Baby 2000 stamp had no mention of the Millennium's end. That would not occur until last day of 2000 because there was no year "0" in the Anno Domini system of calendars, making the first day of the new millennium January 1, 2001. Nonetheless, numerous locally designed special cancels indicated the millennium change occurred on the last day of 1999 and first day of 2000. The northernmost town in America, Barrow, Alaska, experiences a 65-day night beginning in mid-November, thus its cancel date is January 23, 2000.



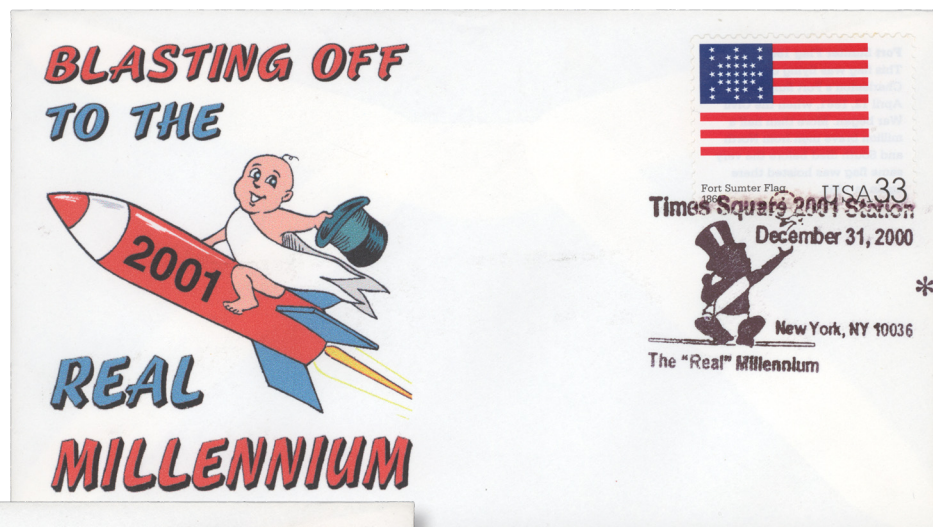
# THE U.S. MILLENNIUM CANCELS OF 1999-2001

Continued from Page 15

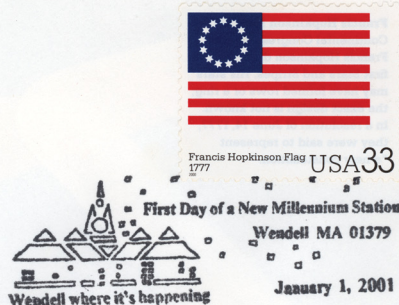
no special U.S. stamp issued to celebrate the beginning of the third millennium, so it was necessary to make due with what was available. Not wanting a common flag definitive, I chose the Stars and Stripes pane of 20 different se-tenent stamps that had been issued six months earlier.

As 2001 was not a nice round number like the year before, it should surprise no one that far fewer special cancels were announced to mark the event. The USPS didn't even bother with a generic cancel.

There wound up being 32 locally designed offerings listed in the *Postal*



FIRST DAY OF A NEW MILLENNIUM



First Night  
2001

Saratoga Springs  
New York



January 1, 2001

Colton, South Dakota



A NEW MILLENNIUM



▲ The sponsors of New York's Times Square New Year's Celebration correctly noted that 2001 would be the beginning of the new millennium. Unlike some other cancels of the prior year, the 1999 version, shown at right, lacked any mention of "millennium."



*Bulletin*, of which 24 were common designs from mostly tiny towns in South Dakota—a map of the state with the notation "1-1-2001," town name and ZIP, plus an asterisk on the map that indicated the town's location. All 32 cachets came back in good shape.

Did I accomplish obtaining every locally designed cancel marking the end of the 1900s and the beginning of a new millennium? I have my doubts for the aforementioned reason of not every special cancellation being mentioned in the *Postal Bulletin*. But I certainly enjoyed the challenge of obtaining all these covers. If you made a similar quest two decades ago, I hope you will share your experiences with me!

## FOR FURTHER READING:

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/long-dark-night-alaskan-town-sees-last-sunset-of-the-year-65-days-of-darkness-ahead.html>

◀ These covers were canceled on the first day of the new millennium, January 1, 2001. Only the upper one indicated a new millennium had started. Saratoga Springs had a First Night Celebration annually. Two dozen towns in South Dakota had look-alike cancels for 1-1-2001, with an example from Colton shown at bottom.