



STAMP & TONGS



JULY-AUGUST 2021

DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VOL. 60, NO. 4

USPS ASKS FOR END-OF-SUMMER RATE HIKE

By Arthur P. von Reyn

The U.S. Postal Service plans to implement on August 29 its second rate increase of the year, one that would raise the cost of a first-class stamp from 55¢ to 58¢ and a postcard from 36¢ to 40¢.

The increases are for what the mail agency terms “market dominant” products, meaning first-class matter and mailing services. In November 2020, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) announced new rules allowing market dominant prices to increase faster than the rate of inflation.

It is a part of the USPS’ 10-year plan to reverse a projected \$160 billion in operating losses over the next 10 years.

The first ounce of metered mail would increase from 51¢ to 53¢, flats \$1.00 to

\$1.16 and international letters from \$1.20 to \$1.30. The 20¢ additional ounce rate for domestic letters would not change.

The average price increases for market-

Continued on Page 3

BALL COVER BRINGS \$12.0 MILLION



Including buyer's premium and the exchange rate, this Mauritius cover sold for a record \$12 million.

By Arthur P. von Reyn

A German-speaking European buyer paid almost \$12.0 million on June 26 for the only copy of the 1847 Mauritius One

Penny Red Ball cover available to the public. The hammer price for the cover was €8.1 million, twice the estimate of €4.0 million. With a 23.8 percent buyer's premium and the 1.1938 exchange rate on the sale date, the total cost computes to \$11.97 million. There were three telephone bidders for the rarity.

The cover originally contained an invitation to a costume ball hosted by Lady Gomm, the wife of the governor of the Indian Ocean island. The ball was held to foster better relations between the French and English residents. The island had been invaded by Britain in 1810, and was formally ceded in the 1814 Treaty of Paris. Unique among British colonies, French

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CLUB RETURNS TO EDGEMERE

After 15 months, the DPCPS has returned to the Edgemere for its bimonthly meetings. The first session was held on June 9 with 19 members present.

Everyone of any age is welcome to attend, but unvaccinated attendees or those who have not completed the two week wait after their final shot, must wear a mask. Those who are sick or have a temperature must stay home.

The meetings are being simulcast on the internet for those who are out-of-town or cannot otherwise attend.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DPCPS meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays January through October and on the second Wednesday in November and December, at the Edgemere Retirement Community, 8523 Thackery Street in Dallas, Texas. Regular meetings are called to order at 7:30 p.m., but most members arrive by 7:00 p.m. for socializing and trading. Meetings are also simulcast on the internet beginning at 7:25 p.m.

- July 14** **DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *Joint Issues of Poland-Part I*, presented by Stan Barnikowski.
- July 24-25** **ARK-LA-TEX COIN, STAMP & CARD EXPO**. 620 Benton Rd, Bossier City, LA 71111. (Saturday 9-6 and Sunday 9-3)
- July 28** **DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter R*, presented by various members.
- August 11** **DPCPS MEETING**, Program: Quarterly Auction.
- August 25** **DPCPS MEETING**, Program: report on Great American Stamp Show by Art von Reyn.
- August 27-28** **DALLAS TSDA**, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 North Central Expy, Richardson, TX 75081. (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4).
- September 8** **DPCPS MEETING**, Program: *to be announced*.
- September 17-19** **GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW**, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Rd., Humble, TX 76051 (Friday and Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4). <http://houstonstampclub.org>.

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 Rick Hosler, 4601 S. Versailles Ave., Dallas, TX 75209.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY STAN BARTNIKOWSKI



At last, we are back at the Edgemere! Many thanks to George Clayton for negotiating our return. It was great to see you all in person again.

At our final club “Zoom only” meeting, we had the pleasure of having APS Chief Executive Officer Scott English in attendance. He gave some interesting remarks on the status of our hobby, the APS and stamp clubs throughout the country—he belongs to over 50 of them!

Mr. English described the Great American Stamp Show to be held August 12-15 near Chicago’s O’Hare Airport. With Covid-19 restrictions being lifted, this should be an exciting show. Expected are over 75 dealers and more than 800 frames of exhibits. Also, there are three first day ceremonies: USPS’ Backyard Games topicals; a joint issue among Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark commemorating famed stamp engraver Czesław Słania; and a U.N. Mother Teresa issue. Looks like an exciting show, but yours truly is not ready to travel that far yet.

Thanks to Chris Titus for designing a DPCPS flyer for the July 24 Moon Day event at the Frontiers of Flight Air and Space Museum. His artwork appears on the opposite page

From Jack’s Albums, I recently acquired a mint set of the “Ostland” Hitler Head overprints, prepared for the Reichskommissariat Ostland, the occupation regime for the current Baltic states and western Belarus. Prior to World War II, several Polish cities were located there, including Vilno (now in Lithuania) and Nowogródek (now in Belarus). For my Polish collection, my challenge now is to find ones cancelled in the former Polish cities.

Stay happy, safe, and healthy. Enjoy your stamps!

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

BY ARTHUR VON REYN



The U.S. Postal Service has finally come through with philatelic recognition of the mail agency’s 50th anniversary. In the last issue, I authored in this publication the article “Worker Strike Spurred Creation Of USPS,” showing covers with the USPS inauguration stamp that were created 50 years ago and noting that no special stamp would be issued for the golden anniversary. The USPS did finally come through with the special cancel shown here, which was scheduled to be published in the July 1 issue of the biweekly *Postal Bulletin*. It is up to local post offices to request this pictorial postmark



once it is announced, so it will probably be July 15 at the earliest before any city listings start appearing in the *Postal Bulletin*.

The APS is reviving two chapter competitions it discontinued in 2018. Now named the Star Route Awards, the judges’ goal being to “provide editors and webmasters with helpful feedback to improve your [chapter’s] reach.” The results will be announced in October during National Stamp Collecting Month. I hope to submit entries for both our newsletter and website.

Find us online at:

DALLASSTAMPS.ORG



Instagram **DALLAS STAMP**



@**DALLASSTAMP**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DPCPS Publicity Offer

This is Ray Cartier from the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. On July 24, 2021, I will have a table at the Frontiers of Flight Air and Space Museum which is adjacent to Love Field. They will be celebrating Moon Day once again. Due to COVID they didn't have this event last year, but the year before that I had a table showing Astrophilatic and Aerophilatic material and I'm pretty sure that the majority of their 2,200 visitors came by my table.

This year I will have handouts for those who express a philatelic interest and do not know about local clubs. I have flyers for the three branches of The Mid-Cities Clubs and promote our upcoming Expo. But I figured that most of the guests would be from Dallas, so I made up the attached flyer about the Dallas- Park Cities Philatelic Society to pass out to those in the Greater Dallas area.

Moon Day is a really interesting celebration and I think that your club may have members who might enjoy it, so I'm also enclosing a copy of the flyer for our clubs and the Expo to let your members know

about the event.

Ray E. Cartier
MCSC Expo Exhibits Chair

Editor's Note: DPCPS member Chris Titus volunteered to prepare a more detailed flyer for distribution at the July 24 Frontiers of Flight Air and Space Museum event. The result appears below. It would be great for distribution at other area events like the Dallas TSDA bourse.

Stamps For Youth

I want to introduce my son Yasser (9 years) to philately, he would be very happy to receive some gift stamps from you.

Thank you for your generosity.

Dr. Karim Boukerzaza
Cit  Benboulaid Bt D2 #5 Montpensier
Blida 09000, Algeria

May-June Newsletter

I enjoyed the May-June newsletter, especially World's Rarest Stamp and the piece on the Post Office. You obviously put a lot of work into this issue and I have nothing to add. Thank you!

Rick Hosler

USPS RATE HIKE

Continued From Page 1

ing mail are: 6.5% for letters and 8.8% for flats. Some of the steepest postage price increases are on flats and periodicals at a whopping 8.8%.

Package pricing for what the USPS terms "competitive" products, such as Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, parcel post and first-class packages, is not included in the requested hike. However, media mail prices would increase.

Fees for services such as certified mail, registered mail, signature confirmation are also affected by the rate hike.

The rate change requires a review by the PRC. Once the rates are finalized, a rate chart will be published in a future edition of *Stamp and Tongs*.

FOR FURTHER READING:

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2021/0528-usps-proceeds-with-request-for-postal-rate-change.htm>

<https://www.piworld.com/post/commentary-usps-requests-second-postage-rate-increase-in-2021>

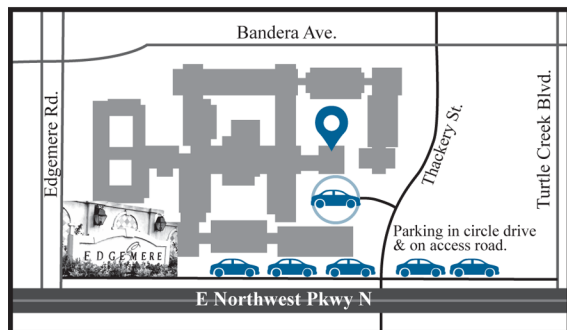
<https://blog.stamps.com/2021/06/04/usps-to-implement-second-postage-rate-increase-in-2021/>

DALLAS-PARK CITIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society is a great way to learn more about collecting, socialize with fellow collectors and provide more opportunities in acquiring new material. We welcome members of all collecting levels, whether you are starting out or have been collecting for decades. See dallasstamp.org for more details and info.

Our formal meeting activities include:

- Presentations by members and guest speakers.
- Show-and-tell.
- Door prize drawings.
- Annual member bourse
- Quarterly auctions of members' material.
- Club collections containing tens of thousands of mint and used foreign stamps sold individually at 20% to 25% of catalogue value.
- Quality U.S. Stamps and covers available
- Buying, selling and trading opportunities with fellow members.



Meetings are held starting at 7:30 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month except for November and December.

Edgemere Retirement Center
8523 Thackery Street.
Dallas, Texas 75225



[DALLASSTAMP.ORG](https://dallasstamp.org)

CREATING DO-IT-YOURSELF ALBUM PAGES

By Stan Barnikowski and
Arthur P. von Reyn

Printed albums are great for displaying your stamps, but sometimes a collector needs more flexibility for the following reasons:

The arrangement of stamps may not be to one's liking. For example, the U.S. Transportation coils are separated by the Scott catalogue among three different issues, so instead of being displayed in one place in order of face value, they are split in different areas of Scott albums.

Most album manufacturers only show major catalogue numbers. For example, several Polish stamps were also issued imperforate. Scott mentions these, but doesn't assign them a number; hence, there are no spaces for them in a Scott album.

Some collecting areas have no printed albums available: for example Polish locals, military, POW camps, joint issues with other countries, etc.

Before personal computers and printers, one created custom stamp album pages by carefully drawing boxes and writing text in ink or using a typewriter. One mistake, and the page was trash.

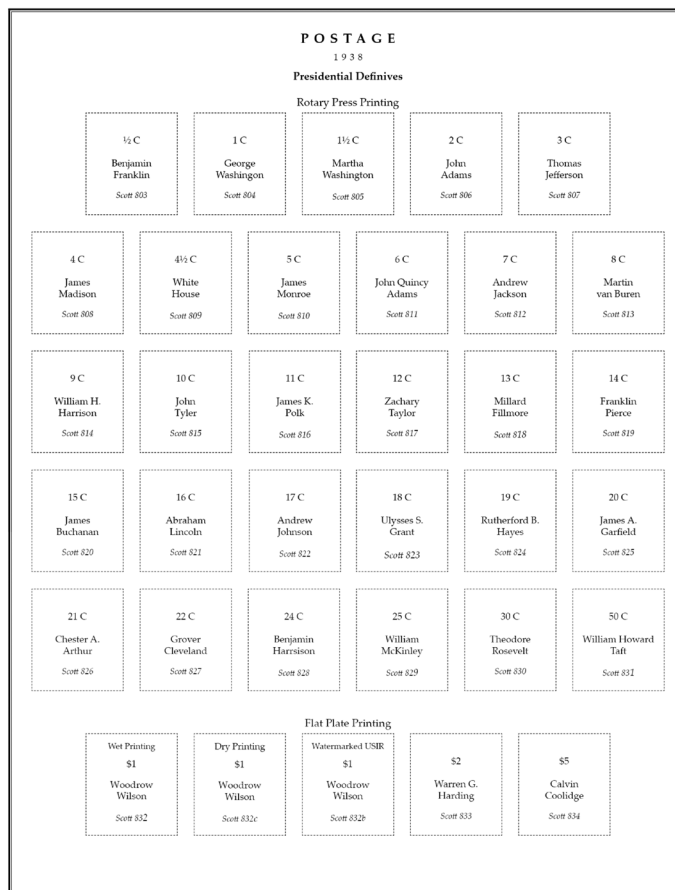
With a personal computer, a collector can create his or her own custom album pages, preview them, and then print them if acceptable. With a large format printer, one can even accommodate Scott, Minkus, Lighthouse, Davo and other blank pages.

Basic programs like Open Office Draw (free) or Microsoft Word can be used, but being not specifically designed for stamp album pages, careful arrangement of the boxes and text proper in proper alignment is necessary. A change or movement of stamp places and explanatory text can cause a nightmare.

More sophisticated are graphic programs like Microsoft Publisher or Adobe InDesign. Most stamp album manufacturers use the latter for album pages due to the almost unlimited versatility, but there's a steep learning curve and it's now only available on an expensive subscription basis.

Fortunately, there is stamp album page software available from various sources that do not require a lot of effort to learn; tutorials for some exist on YouTube.

Some software is free, others are not. One major advantage of the paid software is easy importation of stamp images from a library. All four programs reviewed here are downloadable from the internet and have several commonalities: they all allow double-sided pages and printing on oversized paper. Also, boxes in basic stamp shapes such as rectangles, triangles, diamonds and ovals, are accommodated. In most of them, page size can be defined in inches or millimeters, but millimeters



Designing one's own album pages allows adding varieties not found on publisher's pages, such as the \$1 Warren Harding dry printing and "USIR" watermark varieties added to this Scott *National* style page that was created using Adobe InDesign, the same software used to prepare this newsletter. Most stamp album publishers use the program as well.

are required for other measurements, such as box size and positioning. Here's a discussion of the advantages and limitations of these programs.

Album Easy

Album Easy is a free program that uses a command language, vaguely similar to the scripting languages used for creating computer programs before the introduction of graphical interfaces. It works by applying the commands one enters in a provided text editor to output a PDF file. A free PDF viewer must be installed in the unlikely event the user doesn't already have one.

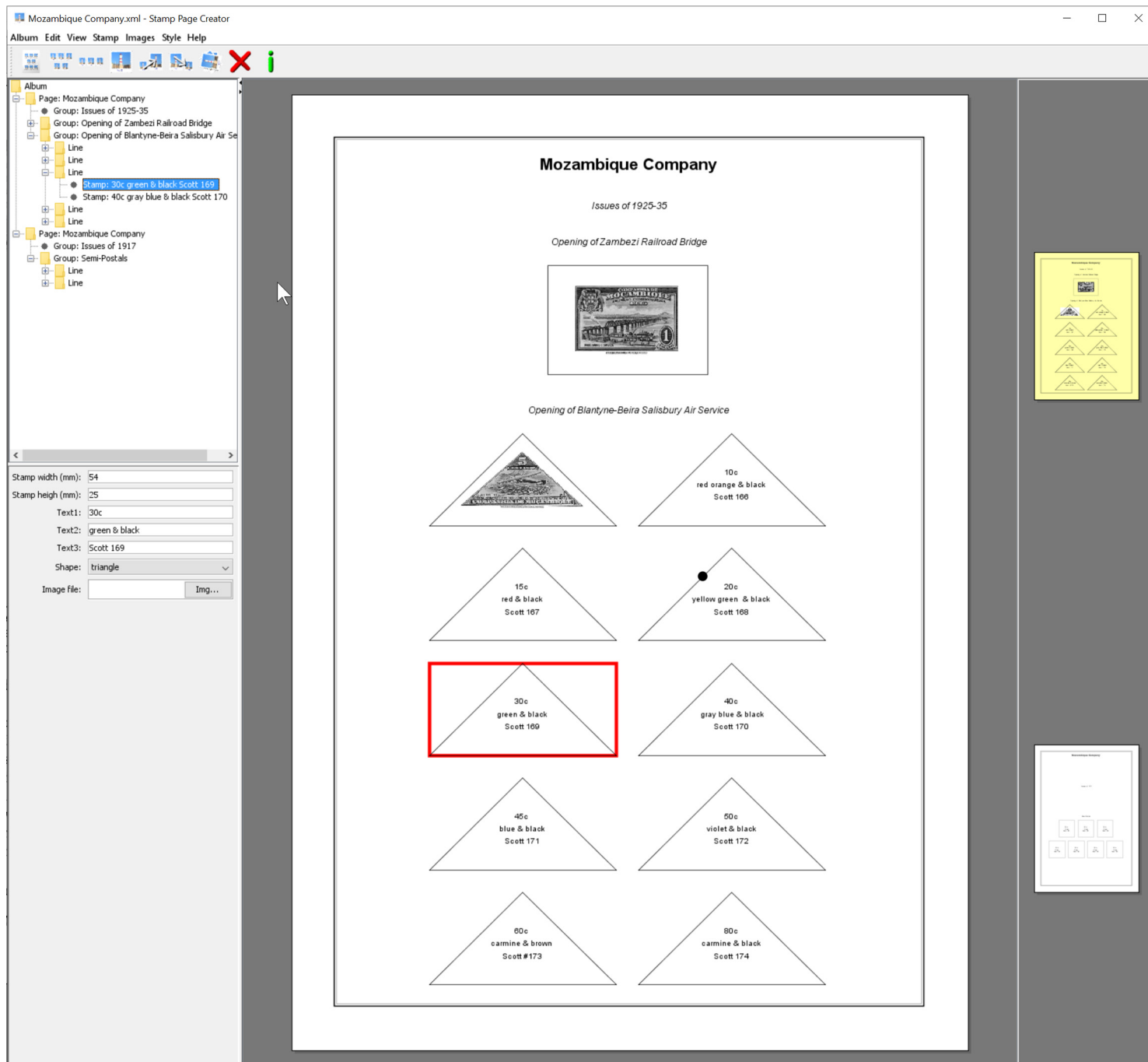
Aside from learning command editing, a major problem with this program is said editing is totally separate from the print preview output. To avoid toggling back and forth between the editing screen and PDF viewer, one needs a wide-screen monitor in order to have two side-by-side windows

open. Then one has to keep clicking on a "Generate" button and then a "View PDF" button to see the print preview. A programming error or failure to close the previous PDF window will cause an error prompt.

One can use the program's "Album Wizard" to create basic pages. Once a user gets acquainted with the commands and their structure, changes are relatively easy and the program prompts the user when an incorrect/incomplete command is entered. There is a considerable design flexibility once some of the more obscure commands are learned.

Paragraph text can be inserted in a variety of fonts, though additional steps are required to access fonts other than the three initially provided. Images can be added, provided they are in the JPEG and PNG formats. One drawback is all stamp boxes

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Stamp Page Creator users manipulate a vertical file explorer [at left] that works in conjunction with a set of nine icons horizontal icons above it. The icons light up as one progresses through the file explorer. In this example, under the third "Line" a box has been selected for entry of parameters for box size, text and shape. Images can be imported in lieu of the text, but they appear only in black and white. Other than the top title, the program builds pages from the center—if there is only one stamp, it will be almost in dead center of the page—unless one inserts numerous blank lines.

CREATING DO-IT-YOURSELF ALBUM PAGES

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are automatically top rather than center-aligned even though stamps on a row may be of different heights—there is a work-around for that. Pages are built from the top down. The software is ever evolving, with hexagon and octagons added last year to the usual repertoire of for basic stamp box shapes.

Almost three dozen useful user-contributed albums are available from the <https://>

www.thestampweb.com/albumeasy website, including large countries like the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, India and Japan. Some are in PDF format, others in code that can be modified to one's own preferences.

Stamp Page Creator

Stamp Page Creator is another freebee. This software is quite elementary, not having been updated since 2011. It does

require installation of an executable Java file, which should be done before installing the program.

There are no instructions or a useful help menu, requiring one to explore in order to learn how everything operates. It does use a file explorer format that might be familiar, functions of which are activated as one clicks on file folders, which in turn light up a horizontal menu of icons. Clicking on the icons then allows insertion of groups, then lines that contain the actual boxes to enclose stamps. Text can be typed

in group headings or inside the boxes.

A great advantage over Album Easy is the print preview screen reflects continuously the additions, deletions and changes a user makes to items. Other than the top heading, the page is built from dead center—if there is only one stamp on the page, it will appear in the middle of the page. The page is filled as more groups and lines are added; blank lines can be inserted to make the layout more pleasing.

Images are rendered only in black-and-white and replace the text information inside the boxes. Like Album Easy, they must be in JPG or PNG formats.

All spacing is preset, meaning one cannot adjust either horizontal or vertical spacing between boxes. Other limitations are only one font, one stamp box border style and three page border styles are offered. Page size is determined by selecting from choices available on the user's printer, so if one owns a large format printer, then pages can be printed in the same size as album manufacturers. Once mastered, this software, available for download at <http://stamppageter.sourceforge.net/>, is very easy to use if one is not bothered by the substantial lack of design choices.

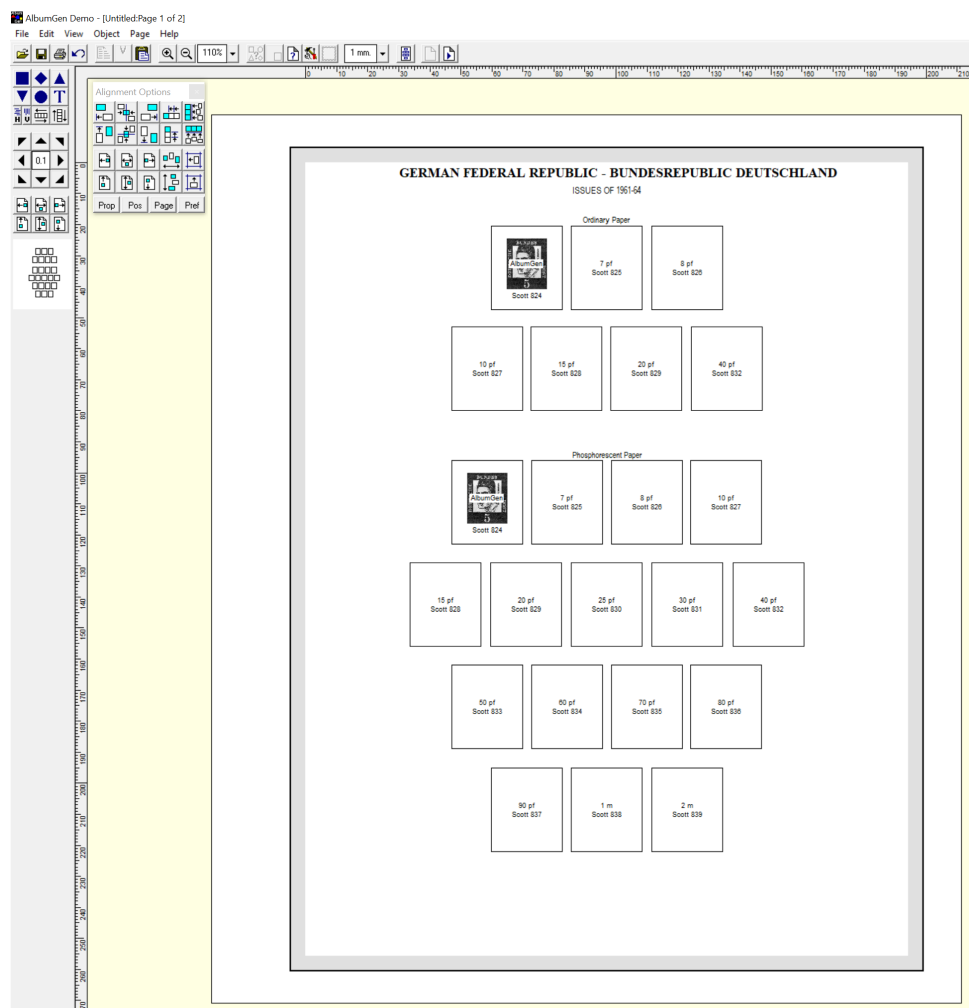
Album Gen \$89.99

The most widely promoted American page layout program is AlbumGen. It is a drag and drop, graphically oriented, with numerous icons displayed for creating text and boxes, and more for aligning them. Like Stamp Page Creator, as one makes changes to the layout, the results are immediately visible on the print preview screen.

The program has all sorts of icons the user manipulates to add text and boxes, and then align most anything on the page. A special "Alignment Options" palette provides even more options [note that items must be "grouped" to move whole rows and columns, etc. around the page]. A super feature are the nudge buttons that allow movement of boxes and text, or groups thereof, in increments beginning at 0.1 millimeters. In addition, there are grid options plus horizontal and vertical rulers for further layout flexibility.

Collectors used to right clicking on a mouse in word processing programs will see familiar "property" pop-up windows for entry of various options, be it sizes of boxes, text, page settings, and so forth.

Text lines can be placed anywhere on



This album page in a Minkus page size was created using a free demonstration version of the AlbumGen software. AlbumGen is a graphically oriented drag and drop program with icons at the upper left for inserting text and various stamp box shapes. Other icons are used for aligning and moving boxes and text boxes around the page, spacing, centering, etc. A major advantage is being able to continuously monitor progress as one designs a page.

the page. As for the boxes, text can be placed inside, above or below the box. Images in BMP [bitmap] format can be captured from the optional EzStamp inventory software, which also imports denomination, color, Scott catalogue number and most conveniently, the size of the stamp. Images from any other sources can also be imported, but they must likewise be in the BMP format.

All sorts of border options are available; there are even custom borders that mimic the Minkus and Scott borders.

In addition to the \$89.99 cost of the page layout program, the optional EzStamp inventory software costs anywhere from \$54.99 for a U.S. version to \$244.99 for a worldwide version.

Free demonstration versions of both AlbumGen and EzStamp are available at <https://ezstamp.com/software/>. Note that the demonstration version of AlbumGen is missing some features that a collector

might find useful, such as selection of custom borders, so such features could not be tested for this review.

Stamp Album Studio €59.95 [about \$72.00 U.S.]

This is an European program that comes with preconfigured pages for major European [Davo, Importa, KaBe, Leuchtturm and Schaubek] albums. Somewhat similar to Album Gen, it is drag and drop, so the designer can monitor progress as items are being added, deleted or changed.

Users of Microsoft Office programs such as Word and Excel will find the tab format at the top of the display quite familiar.

The most unique feature of this software is the ability to scan multiple stamps, the images of which are automatically aligned and then split up for insertion into boxes on the album pages. In addition to images imported by the user, the program uses the Coinect collector community data

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CREATING DO-IT-YOURSELF ALBUM PAGES

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base, which as of this year had more than 800,000 stamp images.

When the program is first initiated, the user is asked if inches or millimeters are preferred as the units of measure; the program was tested in the millimeter mode.

Unlike AlbumGen, there were only borders for European albums and it was quite time consuming to create even a simple border for a Scott *National Album* style page, though once created, it could be saved as a template for use over and over.

Changing settings such as distance between stamp boxes, groups of stamps, etc is cumbersome, as one must go into the "settings" section of the "align wizard" and make changes to default settings.

Like the free Stamp Page Creator, no tutorial exists as of yet on YouTube. A user can figure out most functions from all the icons on the tabs. There is no help function directly built into the program, so help must be accessed on the seller's internet

website, <http://stampalbumstudio.nl/>, where the demonstration version of the program can be downloaded.

Recommendations

For ease of use, the simplistic and very limited Stamp Album Creator is the clear winner. However, if a collector wants either a more sophisticated look to his album pages or to make pages similar to those in commercial albums, then the other three programs are better choices.

AlbumEasy isn't as easy to use as the software title indicates due to the command entry method and the lack of instantaneous feed back as page design progresses. But with no cost, Album Easy is a decent option for occasional use.

As for the pricey AlbumGen and Stamp Album Studio, the more expensive Album Gen is the better choice due to the versatility, such as the ease with which small adjustments can be made between stamp boxes, groups of stamps, and so forth.

Collectors who want to design complete albums should considering shelling out the bucks for one of the paid programs, as those offer the greatest ease of use and flexibility. The trade off is that one might end up spending hundreds of hours putting together an album, with the cost savings not being worth the time spent versus purchasing a ready-made album and adding blank pages for stamps that are not included by the manufacturer.

For a comparison of the features of the stamp album software reviewed in this article, see the chart on the opposite page.

One caveat when making album pages applies to the use of catalogue numbers. Catalogue numbers are copyrighted. If you are replacing album pages you bought with ones you like better, it's doubtful the copyright owner would mind. But if you are creating brand new pages, consider omitting numbers, particularly if you expect the pages to be shared with others. Otherwise, you risk copyright infringement.

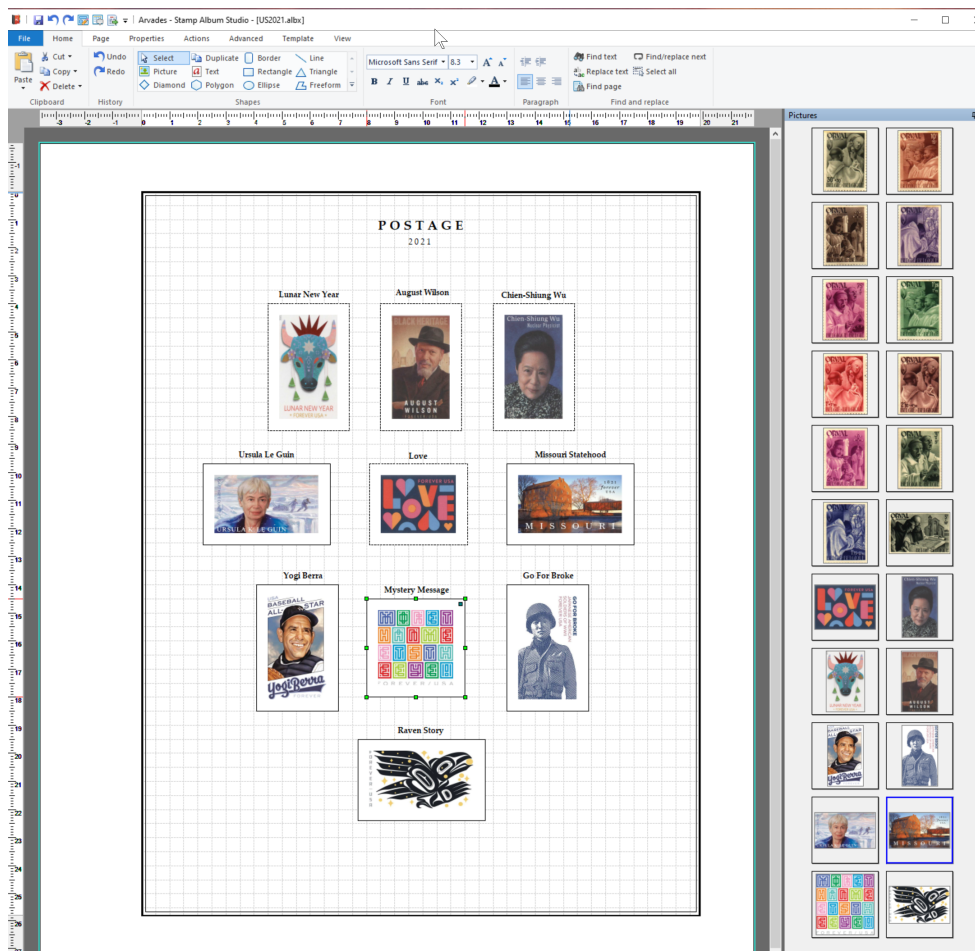
FOR FURTHER READING

<http://www.album.dweeb.org/albumguide.html>

2021 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. The complete 2021 U.S. stamp program can be found on the dallasstamps.org website.

- 6/25/2021 **SINGLE LESSER SCAUP DRAKE** \$25.00 duck hunting stamp. Spanish Fort, AL 36527.
- 7/10/2021 **TAP DANCE** (55¢) commemorative stamp, five designs. New York, NY 10199.
- 7/14/2021 **MYSTERY MESSAGE** (55¢) commemorative stamp. Washington, DC 20066.
- 07/23/2021 **WESTERN WEAR** (55¢) commemorative stamp, four designs, Abilene, TX 79601.
- 07/27/2021 **URSULA LE GUIN** (95¢) commemorative stamp for three-ounce rate. Portland, OR 97208.
- 07/30/2021 **RAVEN STORY** (55¢) commemorative stamp. Juneau, AK 99801.
- 8/6/2021 **MID-ATLANTIC LIGHTHOUSES** (55¢) commemorative stamps, five designs. Highland, NJ 07732.
- 08/10/2021 **MISSOURI STATEHOOD** (55¢) commemorative stamp. Jefferson City, MO 65101.
- 8/12/2021 **BACKYARD GAMES** (55¢) commemorative stamps, eight designs. Rosemont, IL 60018.



Stamp Album Studio is another drag and drop style program. It has a tabbed menu bar at top similar to that used by Microsoft Office programs, think Word and Excel. Stamp images can be imported from a free user contribution type data base or from the collector's computer.

STAMP ALBUM PAGE DESIGN SOFTWARE COMPARISON

Function	Album Easy	Stamp Page Creator	AlbumGen	Stamp Album Studio	Adobe InDesign
Basic Design Methodology	Command	Graphic	Graphic	Graphic	Graphic
Default Page Size	8½" x 11"	A4	8½" x 11"	A4	8½" x 11"
Large Page Format Available? *	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Layout Wizard for Initial Setup	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Image Import Formats	JPG, PNG	JPG, PNG	Bitmap	Bitmap	Many
Units of Measure	Millimeter***	Millimeter***	Millimeter ***	Inch / Millimeter	Multiple
Dedicated Data Base Stamp Images	No	No	Yes **	Yes	No
Drag and Drop Objects	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Save Design Templates for Multiple Use	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to all Fonts Installed on Computer	No	Only one	Yes	Yes	Yes
Page Frame Choices	Very Limited	Only three	Limited	Limited	Unlimited
Box Frame Choices	Very Limited	Only one	Limited	Limited	Many
Design/Print Preview	Generated	Simultaneous	Simultaneous	Simultaneous	Simultaneous
Overflow Protection for Boxes/Text	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Detailed Operating Instructions	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	N/A
Tutorial on YouTube	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A
*Large format printer required for printing **Requires subscription to EzStamp ***Inches allowed for page size setup only					

USPS UNVEILS HOLIDAY STAMPS

By Arthur P. von Reyn

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled on May 14 two booklet stamp issues for this year's holidays, one titled Saint Nicholas' visit and the other depicting Otters in snow and ice. The respective issue dates are October 7 in Santa Claus, Indiana, and October 12 in Otter, Montana.

Apparently there will be no new Madonna and Child, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa stamps this year, new versions of which appeared in 2020. According to U.S. Postal Service USPS senior public relations representative Roy Betts, he is unaware of any further holiday issues for 2021. In the past few years, the USPS has been offering at post office counters older holiday issues that failed to sell in sufficient quantities. That will no doubt be the case this year.

Based on past precedents, the pair may be also the last U.S. issues announced for 2021.

The following information is from the news releases announcing this year's holiday stamps.

Saint Nicholas Visit

Four new designs in this booklet of 20 stamps tell the story of Santa's visit on Christmas Eve.

In the first stamp, Santa stands on a snowy rooftop, sack slung across his back, with one leg inside the red-brick chimney; the second stamp shows Santa as he descends through the chimney, his legs dangling over the hearth; the third stamp is a close-up of a winking Santa; and the fourth stamp shows Santa in his sleigh, with four reindeer visible as they fly across the face of the full moon and into a starlit sky.

Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps with original art by Brad Woodard.

Otters

This booklet of 20 stamps features four scenes of the alert and playful North American river otter reveling in winter's white landscape.

The original illustrations were rendered in pen and ink, with watercolor in shades of brown for the otters, using black for facial features and crosshatching. The wintry background is white, with blue water, light blue and violet shadows, and black crosshatching.

Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps with artwork from illustrator John Burgoyne.



On May 14, the U.S. Postal Service announced what might be the last issues for 2021. Both the Otter and the Saint Nicholas Visit stamps will appear in 20 stamp booklets.



NEW DUCK STAMP



The design for the 2021-22 duck stamp was finally unveiled shortly before its release on June 25 in Spanish Fort, Alabama. It depicts a Lesser Scaup. The self-adhesive stamp is available in a mini-sheet and in panes of 20.

RARE STAMP AUCTION RESULTS DISAPPOINT

By Arthur P. von Reyn

Neither of the philatelic items in Sotheby's June 8 "Three Treasures – Collected by Stuart Weitzman" auction, the 1855 1¢ British Guiana Magenta and a U.S. 1918 Inverted Jenny plate block, set record prices. However, a U.S. 1933 Double Eagle coin fetched \$18.87 million, twice the previous world record for a rare coin.

The star philatelic attraction in the Sotheby's sale, the British Guiana Magenta, often referred to as the "world's rarest stamp," was hammered down for \$8.31 million, about \$1.2 million less than Weitzman paid for it back in 2014. It was bought by British rare stamp firm Stanley Gibbons, which will display it in its London store and plans to offer fractional own-



The unique 1856 British Guiana 1¢ Magenta sold on June 8 for \$8.48 million, about \$1.2 million less than former owner paid for it back in 2014.

ership shares to investors. Judging from the selling price in this auction compared to seven years ago, such an investment might be wise only for those who need a tax write-off.

Weitzman may have taken a loss on a 24¢ Inverted Jenny plate block he also bought in 2014. According to Donald J. Sundman, the owner of Mystic Stamp Company, he sold it to Weitzman for "around \$5 million." Sotheby's sold the block for \$4.86 million to David M. Rubenstein, a cofounder of the private-equity firm the Carlyle Group. Rubenstein bought a copy of Magna Carta in 2007, and sent it to the National Archives on a permanent loan. He has also bought copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Weitzman's numismatic item, a U.S. 1933 Double Eagle coin that he acquired in 2002, is the only one in private hands. The buyer of the coin is remaining anonymous.

Sotheby's anticipated all three items would garner \$25-\$37 million, but the total was about \$32 million, largely due to the price of the \$20 Double Eagle coin.

Stuart Weitzman, a shoe designer and founder of the shoe company Stuart Weitzman, previously said all proceeds would



The 1918 Inverted Jenny plate block buyer apparently picked up a bargain, with a sale price less than in 2014.

benefit charities including the Weitzman Family Foundation and the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania.

FOR FURTHER READING

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/08/arts/design/stuart-weitzman-sothebys-stamps-coin-auction.html>

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2021/three-treasures-collected-by-stuart-weitzman>

<https://news.justcollecting.com/sothebys-three-treasures-coin-stamp-auction-result/>

COUNTERFEIT POLISH KRAKOW OVERPRINTS

By Stan Bartnikowski

In 1919, Austrian stamps of 1916-1918 were overprinted "POCZTA POLSKA" with a rhombus symbol for use in the southern part of the new republic of Poland where the Austro-Hungarian currency was still in use.

Known as the Krakow issues, there are 20 definitive, 12 postage due and five newspaper stamps.

The total catalogue value for all these stamps is in the mid-five figures, not including inverted and double overprint varieties. Thus, genuine stamps with counterfeit overprints are rampant and difficult to distinguish from the those with genuine overprints, particularly for mint stamps.

However, for used stamps, one can check to see if the overprint appears to be added over the cancel—which would indicate the overprint has been faked.

I found two examples of obvious counterfeits in a recent auction. In the first, an overprinted 10 heller magenta, has a postmark date that reads "27 VIII 18", or August 27, 1918. Poland did not become a republic until November 11, 1918, and the genuine variety of this stamp (Scott #44) was issued on January 17, 1919. So, the stamp has a fake overprint; a genuine one catalogues at \$500.

In a second example, an overprinted 20 heller dark green, the town postmark begins with "Brün," which does not designate any town or city in Poland. Most likely, the cancel refers to Brünn, the German form of the Czech city Brno, also formerly in the Austro-Hungarian Em-



Paying for expertization is not even necessary to determine the overprints on these two 1919 Polish Krakow stamps are counterfeit. Read the accompanying article to find out why.

pire. Obviously, this is another counterfeit overprint. The genuine version (Scott #57) catalogs at \$160.

FOR FURTHER READING

https://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/polishstamps_1918d.html

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

BY RICK HOSLER

Editor's Note: The May meetings listed below were held on the internet. Meetings at the Edgemere resumed on June 9. Minutes are edited due to space considerations.

May 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 19 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 – May through July meeting schedule:

May 26 - Philatelic Quiz, by Arthur von Reyn.

June 9 - Postal History of Hawaii, by Rick Hosler.

June 23 - Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter P, by various presenters.

July 14 - Joint Issues of Poland, by Stan Bartnikowski

July 28 - Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter R, by various presenters.

Editor/Website – For the next newsletter, Stan Bartnikowski and Art von Reyn are writing an article on designing stamp album pages. Frequent website updates continue.

Membership – There are 37 members. One who hasn't paid dues will be contacted.

Exhibitor's Report – no club exhibits until the Mid-Cities show in November.

Old Business – George Clayton reported the Edgemere still isn't allowing visitors in the facility's common areas.

New Business – Ed Ulbricht agreed to see if a hotel seminar room was available for an "in person" meeting in June.

Announcements – In addition to the usual club shirt and door prize donation announcements, a request for donating stamps to an Algerian youth was read; Art von Reyn said Scott English, the executive director of the APS would be a guest at the club's next internet meeting on May 28.

Trivia/Show & Tell – none.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing – Mark Soloman won the brown circulating approval book to pick stamps from.

Program – *Quarterly Auction*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

MAY 12, 2021 AUCTION RESULTS

Description	Cat.	Min.	Sale
	Value	Bid	Price
USA #647-648 used	16.50	3.00	3.00
USA #211, 215 used	50.00	9.00	9.00
USA #304-308 used	23.75	4.50	8.00
Philippines #E2 used	8.00	2.00	3.50
USA #Q1-Q6 used	17.10	3.00	4.00
Canal Z. #C11-2, 160-61 mh	10.00	3.00	3.00
Germany #530-556 mh	7.00	1.50	unsold
Grand Comoro #16, 18 used	24.00	5.00	unsold

Netherlands #1047-48 mn	10.00	3.00	3.00
USA #803-831 mh	33.65	8.00	8.00
USA #3472-3473 used	12.00	3.00	3.00
USA #4511 used	5.00	1.25	1.25
USA #4738 used	6.25	1.60	2.50
USA #4927 used	6.50	1.75	1.75
USA #5257 used	7.75	2.00	2.00
Paraguay #565-568 mn	2.75	0.50	unsold
Great Britain #249A used	1.75	0.50	unsold
Cook Islands #85b mn	17.00	4.00	4.00
Great Britain #114 used	2.50	0.75	unsold
Great Britain #129 used	10.00	2.50	unsold
Canada #268-73 used	6.00	2.00	unsold
U.S. #C20 mn, C21-22 used	6.00	2.00	2.00
Canada #C1, C3, C5 used	7.00	1.00	unsold
Tannu Tuva #74a//86a used	3.65	1.00	unsold
Dubai #118 used	1.00	1.00	1.00
Hawaii. #34 unused, no gum	95.00	5.00	10.00
U.S. #1947 used EFO	N/A	1.00	unsold
U.S. #4273-82 mn strip	10.00	4.00	4.00
U.S. #RW80, 80b mn	85.00	50.00	unsold
Germany #883-90 mlh ss	6.00	1.50	1.50
Total Sales			\$74.50

May 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 11 members and membership applicant Scott English of Bellefonte, PA, were present.

Officer Reports:

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

Treasurer – No report due.

Program VP – June and July meeting schedule:

June 9 - Postal History of Hawaii presented by Rick Hosler.

June 23 - Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter P, by various presenters.

July 14 - Joint Issues of Poland, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

July 28 - Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter R, by various presenters.

Upcoming stamp shows:

TSDA Richardson/Dallas Show:

April 9-10 at the DoubleTree hotel in Richardson, TX.

Great American Stamp Show: August 12-15 at the Donald E. Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.

Membership – Currently 37 members and one applicant have paid their 2021 dues.

Exhibitor's Report – None.

Old Business – There is a possibility of returning to Edgemere in June. No discussion regarding an alternate meeting site.

New Business – Scott English, the executive director of the American Philatelic Society, was accepted as a new member.

Announcements – Club polo shirts for sale and door prize needs were publicized.

Trivia/Show & Tell – Art von Reyn displayed

images of two U.S. booklets planned for the end of the year holidays. Don Wolman mentioned upcoming Faroe Island issues for the birth centenary of Czeslaw Slania, the famous stamp engraver.

Door Prize/Album Drawing – George Clayton won a \$10 gift certificate good for purchases from Jack Urish's albums.

Program – Art von Reyn presented a challenging 20 question Philatelic Quiz; Scott English won a U.S. Star Wars Droid pane for having 13 answers correct. He later discussed activities at the APS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

June 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Stan Bartnikowski, President, and presiding. 21 members were present, including one joining on the Zoom simulcast.

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 – June to August meeting schedule:

June 23 - Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter P, by various presenters.

July 14 - Joint Issues of Poland, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

July 28 - Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter R, by various presenters.

August 8 - Quarterly Auction.

August 23 - Undetermined.

Editor/Website – No report.

Membership – There are now 40 members.

Exhibitor's Report – No report.

Old Business/New Business – None

Program – *The Postal History of Hawaii* was discussed by Rick Hosler, who noted that stamp issues were closely tied to the U.S. The first issue was the Missionaries, among the world's rarest stamps. Members of the Hawaiian monarch were portrayed on stamps until 1893, when U.S. residents orchestrated an overthrow the native rule and established the Republic of Hawaii. After annexation to the U.S. in 1900, U.S. stamps were used.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. after the distribution of Jack's Albums.

June 23, 2021

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

Officer Reports:

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

Treasurer – No report due.

Program VP – July and August meeting schedule:

July 14 - Joint Issues of Poland, presented by Stan Bartnikowski.

July 28 - Philatelic Subjects Related to

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Mauritius' first stamps are among the world's greatest rarities, selling for over \$1.0 million each.

BALL COVER BRINGS \$12.0 MILLION

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customs, laws, and language remained in place.

Only two other covers of the one penny stamp exist, one in the Royal Philatelic Collection owned by Queen Elizabeth II and the other in the Thomas Keay Tapling Collection at the British Library.

This cover was addressed to H. Adam Esq. Junr. Apparently, the post office knew every literate person by name, so there is no address. It has a "Paid" cancellation obliterating the stamp, and a "Penny Post" marking at the upper left.

Reputedly, the one penny stamp (Scott #1) on the cover, along with a two penny (Scott #2) value, was created especially for the costume ball mailing. Mauritius' first postage stamps, both were inscribed "Post Office" on the left side rather than the "Post Paid" found on later issues. Even better known is the even scarcer two penny value, usually referred to as the Blue Mauritius.

Most of these "Post Office" stamps, whether singles or covers, have wound up in museums, so the few publicly available copies sell for over \$1 million anytime they change hands.

FOR FURTHER READING:

<https://www.linns.com/news/auctions/mauritius-1847-ball-cover-unique-in-private-hands-in-june-26-gaertner-auction>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Mauritius/The-arts-and-cultural-institutions>
https://auktionen-gaertner.de/Index_EN.html

<https://netherlandsnewslive.com/one-of-the-three-most-expensive-stamps-in-the-world-auctioned-for-more-than-8-million-euros-abroad/185234/>

<https://thisis.net/one-penny-red-mauritius-postage-stamp/>

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BY RICK HOSLER

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

June 2, 2021

The special virtual meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Stan Bartnikowski presiding. Nine members present: Stan Bartnikowski, Joe Baker, Stuart Barzune, Rod Gabel, Rick Hosler, Bill Laupus, Geoff Owens, Ben Schkolne and Art von Reyn.

New Business: The discussion was directed towards the structure of the June 8, 2021, regular meeting. For that gathering, the board approving eliminating the door prize drawing and trivia/show-and-tell. The Jack's Album drawing will follow Rick Hosler's program.

The board also approved reinstating recently lapsed memberships with no new application required.

The board agreed to continue holding its meetings on Zoom instead of in-person ones on the first Monday of each quarter. Another special gathering is slated on June 16 to discuss any format changes for the regular meeting on June 23rd at the Edgemere. An effort will be made to simulcast in-person meetings on Zoom as well.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

June 16, 2021

The special virtual meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Stan Bartnikowski presiding. Seven members present: Stan Bartnikowski, Joe Baker, Stuart Barzune, Rod Gabel, Bill Laupus, Art von Reyn and Paul Witthoeft.

New Business: The board discussed the agenda format for the June 23 and all future Edgemere meetings, agreeing to continue having programs before Jack's Album distributions, to resume door prize drawings with just one item with a minimum \$10 retail value and limiting trivia/show-and-tell activities to one item per member. Members having items for sale or trade will conduct their business before or after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY RICK HOSLER

NEW MEMBER

#450 Scott English, Bellefonte, PA

REINSTATEMENTS

#427 Christopher Titus

#432 William Wallace

Membership April 15, 2021

New Member

Reinstated

Membership, June 23, 2021

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Continued from Page 11

the Letter R, by various presenters.

August 11 - Quarterly Auction.

August 25 - Undetermined.

Editor/Website - The July-August newsletter is being prepared.

Membership - There are currently 40 members.

Exhibitor's Report - none.

Point of Order - A point of order was raised by a member about the board changing the agenda sequence (i.e. Jack's Album drawings after the program) without a general membership vote; a review of the bylaws indicated such a board action was permissible.

Announcements - National Moon Day is July 20. The TSDA Dallas bourse is June 25-26.

Old Business/New Business - none

Trivia/Show & Tell - None

Door Prize - Bob Westphal won a credit for a choice of items or item from Stuart Barzune's U.S. stamps.

Program - Don Wolman initiated *Philatelic Subjects Related to the Letter P* with a look at the U.S. Potato Tax stamps of 1935, had a brief Zoom talk with his son stationed at a USAF base in Qatar about stamps issued there, ending with a look at Quebec, Canada. Next was Paul Witthoeft, showing 1930 Polish stamps related to the unsuccessful insurrection of 1830-31. Stan Bartnikowski covered for the absent Bill Laupus in displaying poster stamps from the U.S. philatelic exhibitions held in the mid-1930s.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. after the distribution of Jack's Albums.

CLASSIFIED ADS

One classified ad of up to 50 words, not counting name and address information, is available to members per issue on a space available basis. Submissions should arrive no later than the fifth of the month preceding the issue date. Ads run for two consecutive issues, unless canceled before then. Submissions can be emailed to apvr@msn.com or mailed to 10512 Countess Dr., Dallas, TX 75229-5103.

FOR SALE

U.S. 2021 COIL STAMPS at face: (20¢) Brush Rabbit, (36¢) Barns—strip of 4 (\$1.44). PNC strips (5 or 9) at twice face. Add 55¢ postage to overall order. I accept checks or usable U.S. postage. Stan Bartnikowski, stan.bartnikowski@gmail.com, (972) 365-2704.

COMPLETE SET of 2010 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue (six volumes). Price \$30.00. Pick up at my home in Dallas, at a club meeting when they resume or make other arrangements. Arthur P. von Reyn, apvr@msn.com, (214) 956-6840.

WANTED

POSTALLY USED GERMAN SEMI-POSTAL singles [without favor and first day cancels] from 1938 to present. Let me know what you have. Arthur P. von Reyn, apvr@msn.com, (214) 956-6840.