WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

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Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293

Philately - is the study of stamps and postal history and other related items.

It also refers to collecting, enjoyment, and research of stamps and other philatelic products.

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Encased postage stamps Fractional Curency

Widespread hoarding of coins during the Civil War created a shortage, thus prompting the use of stamps for currency. By mid-1862, it was estimated that $25 million in coinage was no longer in circulation in the United States.
But people still needed to purchase a 3¢ loaf of bread, a 1¢ newspaper, a 5¢ quart of milk and countless other goods that required coins. And vendors had to make change when an item's price was less than a nickel, a dime or a quarter. How was this to be done?
To be sure, the fragility of stamps made them unsuitable to circulate hand-to-hand , and to solve this problem, John Gault, in 1862, invented the encased postage stamp . A normal U. S. stamp was wrapped around a circular cardboard disc and then placed inside a coin-like circular brass jacket. A transparent mica window allowed the face of the stamp to be seen. All eight denominations of stamps that were available in 1861-62, ranging from 1 cent to 90 cents, were also offered in encased versions. Raised lettering on the metal backs of the jackets often advertised the goods or services of business firms; these included the

Aerated Bread Company
Ayers Sarsaparilla and Cathartic Pills
Burnett's Cocoaine
Sands Ale
Drake's Plantation Bitters
Buhl & Co. Hats and Furs
Lord & Taylor
Tremont House, Chicago
Joseph L. Bates Fancy Goods
White the Hatter, NYC
and Ellis McAlpin & Co. Dry Goods, Cincinnati.

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Notable People on Stamps:

Gordon of Khartoum

Sudan set of 9 stamps for the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Gen. Charles George "Chinese" Gordon (Scott 51-59) stamps, issued Jan. 1,1935. General Gordon was an eccentric but brilliant military commander. Gordon served in the British Army in the Crimean War, but he won lasting fame in brilliantly commanding the Ever Victorious Army of the Emperor of China, which earned him the sobriquet "Chinese" Gordon. After China, in 1873 Gordon entered the service of the Khedive of Egypt as the governor-general of Sudan. In Sudan, he was a tireless foe of the slave trade, eradicating it during his tenure. Exhausted by his efforts, he resigned in 1880 and returned to Great Britain. After his departure, Muhammad Ahmad, an Islamic holy man, proclaimed himself to be The Mahdi (an apocalyptic ruler at the end of time) and led the tribes of Sudan in revolt against the Egyptian government. Gordon was sent to Sudan to evacuate the Europeans from Khartoum, but he refused to leave the Egyptians and loyal Sudanese to their fates. Staying on to defend Khartoum, he conducted a brilliant defense but was eventually overwhelmed by superior numbers. A British relief column arrived two days after the city fell. In 1966 United Artists' film *Khartoum*, starring Charlton Heston as Gordon and Laurence Olivier as The Mahdi dramatized the story .

October Meeting Moments

Attend a meeting... see what you are missing!

Lots happened last month, if you didn't make it to the meetings, here's a bit of what you missed…

Plans for the **Holiday Party** started. It will be the second Sunday in December. If you are planning to attend, please sign up to bring a side dish. If you are not attending a meeting but will make it to the party, please contact Danielle to RSVP dmm742000@yahoo.com phone 724-492-1192 Non members are welcome at a cost of $5 each, the WSC club provides the Chicken. We are adding a Chinese auction this year with some great items for all attending, proceeds go to the club. Plans for **WILKPEX** are in full swing, we now have 8 dealers committed to the show. Gene is looking into using "Connie" Hawkins, for the Show cachet. Hawkins was a member of the Pittsburgh Pipers in the inaugural 1967–68 season of the ABA, he lead the team to a 54 – 24 regular season record and the 1968 ABA championship. Hawkins led the ABA in scoring that year and won both the ABA's regular season and playoff MVP awards.

It was decided in order to prevent tampering, we would purchase security papers for the printing of the 2018 Satirical Souvenir Sheets. If you are exhibiting at the show this year, contact Andy to let him know how many frames you will need.

Members took some time to discuss popular places to get collecting supplies, some of those included were Amos, Subway, Brooklyn, and Geezers Tweezers.

Show and Tell
Some members came up with some very interesting items. Postcards of the Germans moving wounded troops from WWI, Stamped post card like items with "Receipt for Handling Charge" were shown and a stamped and canceled dried leaf from the Pitcairn Islands.

Upcoming Elections
Nominations are being accepted for the position of President and Secretary. Interested parties for these two year term offices, should submit their intent or one may nominate someone for the positions at a regular meeting between now and election day, Election will be in February.

WELCOME
We have accepted two new members into the club,
Lois Grey - enjoys collecting Sea Shells along with stamp collecting.
Doug Spence, is just getting started in the hobby, after his mother recently took interest in stamps, he also collects glassware.

The Universal Postal Union

Initially, countries made a random choice of colors for denominations of stamps. In 1896, the members of the Universal Postal Union agreed standard colors for international postage ;
Green– single printed matter
Red- postcards
Blue- letter rates

The Universal Postal Union (UPU, was established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874, at first under the name "General Postal Union". Four years later, the name was changed to "Universal Postal Union". It is a specialized agency of the UN that coordinates postal policies for member nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system. The UPU's headquarters are in located in Bern, Switzerland.

The official language of the UPU is French but English was added as the working language in 1994. Most of the UPU's documents, including its flagship magazine, *Union Postale* – are available in the UN's six official languages; Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, & Spanish).

Prior to the establishment of the UPU, each country had to prepare a separate postal treaty with other nations if it wished to carry international mail to or from them. In some cases, senders would have to calculate postage for each leg of a journey, and find mail forwarders in a third country if there was no direct delivery. To end this complexity, the United States called for an International Postal Congress in 1863. This led Heinrich von Stephan, Royal Prussian and later German Minister for Posts, to found the Universal Postal Union. It is currently the third oldest international organization.

The UPU established that:
1. There should be a uniform flat rate to mail a letter any where in the world
2. Postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail
3. Each country should retain all money it has collected for international postage.

One of the most important outcomes of the UPU Treaty removed the need to affix the stamps of any or all countries through which one's letter or package would pass in transit. The UPU ensures that stamps of its member nations are accepted for the entire international route. Toward the end of the 19th century, the UPU issued rules which concerned stamp design, they intended to ensure maximum efficiency for international mail. One rule specified that stamp values be given in numerals, since the denominations spelled out in letters might not be comprehended universally; another, that member nations all use the same colors on stamps for international mail a system that remained in use for several decades
The induction of sorting mail by color coding enabled gainful employment by illiterate persons in some countries.

Upcoming Shows

Pittplex Stamp Show

Nov 4-5 2017
Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3
South Fayette Fire Hall
661 Millers Run Rd
Cuddy, PA 15031

Annual Johnstown Stamp Club Show

Nov 11, 2017
Saturday 10-4
St. John Gualbert Activity Center
110 Adams St.
Johnstown, PA 15901

Tri-State Monthly Coin & Stamp Show

Nov 26th, 2017
Sun 10-4
Sheraton Bucks County
400 Oxford Valley
Langhorne, PA 19047

WSC Meetings

Visitors are always welcome! We meet on the 2nd & 4th Sunday (no holidays), except summer months of May, June, July and August when we meet once a month, on the 2nd Sunday. Doors open at 12:30 P.M. until ?, with the business meeting at 2 P.M. at the Churchill Borough Building,
2300 William Penn Hwy
Churchill, PA 15235.

Coffee and free light lunch is up for grabs.

DUES ARE ONLY $8.00 PER FISCAL YEAR (JULY-JUNE)

Members if you haven't paid your dues yet you can send payment made out to the

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club
and sent to:

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WSC Newsletter

It's your newsletter. Original articles for the newsletter may be submitted by any of the membership to Deb Foltyn at a meeting or emailed to Quest4moos@msn.com
Snail mail:
Deb Foltyn
1023 Brintell Street
Pittsburgh, PA15201-1637
Ideas or content suggestions are welcome.
Note articles submitted may be edited for content or to fit the Format.*
Club members get a free hard copy of the newsletter.

Note, there was an error in the October Newsletter, the summer meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of the months!

Collecting Topicals

Wikipedia - Topical or **by theme** stamp collecting is the collecting of postage stamps relating to a particular subject or concept. Topics can be almost anything, from stamps on stamps, birds, trains and poets on stamps, to famous physicians and scientists. In addition Some collect activities, such as sports or dance, specific species of animals or plants, and the list goes on and on… Many collect stamps that show personal interests of the collector, like golfing, or cars and other forms of transportation.
You can keep them any way you like but one of the best ways that you can easily keep them, accumulate them and display them is in a stock book. That is a book specifically designed to hold and display a variety of stamps in an aesthetically pleasing way.

A very popular subject with early topicalists was 'Beards', since so many 19th century stamps depicted the fashion in facial adornment.

Knights and King Arthur along

with castles and medieval themes are available.

Animals, Archaeology, Architecture, Automobiles, Baseball, Birds, Butterflies, Cats Chess , Children, Christmas, Dinosaurs, Disney, Dogs, Elvis, Fairy Tales, Fish and Fishing, Flags, Flowers,Geology, Lighthouses, Military, Music, Olympics, Penguins, Presidents, Religion, Roses, Sports, Stamps on Stamps, Technology, Whales, Women, World Wars
There is an association dedicated to the collection of Topicals The American Topical Association, they can be found at www.americantopicalassn.com various membership levels available online or hard copies of the membership form will be available at the November meetings.
The ATA also has printable youth pages online under the youth link for a wide variety of subjects.

Insects

Trains

Stamps on Stamps

Junior Corner

"Hey, hand me that Gismo" … for the next few months we will cover those Gismos…

The Tools of the Philatelists or Stamp Collector;

This month we will discuss **Magnifying Glass**: a magnifying glass, or loupe, is used to make the stamp look bigger and helps to see the details and to find differences. A magnifying glass should be clear and it should not distort the image. An adequate magnification would be 5x to 10 x, one with a pouch or that folds will help keep the lens free from scratches, if it has a light, that too can be advantageous

Magnification can help in detecting minor, small differences that can help to identify a rare Many postage stamps went through a number of die and plate alterations during their printing history, and as a result, the small printing detail changes that identify the stamp can only be seen with magnification, these changes, can make the difference between a common stamp and a rare one.

There are many types and styles, ranging in price from a couple dollars to a couple hundred dollars. It is up to the tastes and needs of the buyer.

The Slobbo Gazette

The Democratic Peoples Republic of Upper Slobbovia was formed when the inhabitants of water covered Lower Slobbovia were turned upside down in a rather unorthodox earthquake. (Lil Abner Comic Strip) They now live in a snow incrusted land where the average temperature is well below freezing. The folks there have adapted over time and now don't even mind the icicles hanging from their noses.

Postal service delivers snail mail when it feels like it or when it can find a snail in the tundra, that is still alive and willing to take the job, since payment an insulated cave, most snails are willing to attempt the job. Many last for years, as mail delivery snails, and their families are grateful for the insulated cave. Postage is the Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Satirical Souvenir Sheet at a cost of one thousand robonik each. Mail is mostly sent at the beginning of the long dark winter when few folks desire to travel.

In spring everyone wants to get out and about again, and to celebrate the end of the long dark winter season, Upper Slobbovia prepares for it's annual games (Aiming & Throwing) first leg to the Olympic games.

President Fargo N. Dagotta will be tossing out the first javelin to the lucky entrants in the javelin catching phase of the summer games.

Emperor Nozebik officially declares the winter season over, by tapping a keg of the national drink, Grugna, a fermented linoleum ale, brewed from the hoppity-hops grown on the banks of the Debunk Sea in Lower Slobbovia

We're on the Web! Wilkinsburgstampclub.com

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Home of the Famous Satirical Souvenir

50 Years ago - November 1967

Great Britain Nov. 27, 1967 Christmas Issues

'The Adoration of the Shepherds' (School of Seville) 3d Scott #522

'Madonna and Child' (Murillo) 4d Scott #523

'The Adoration of the Shepherds' (Loius Le Nain) 1s 6d Scott #524

Madagascar Nov. 25, 1967 Dancer Series

Dance of the Bilo Sakalavas 2 f Scott #405

Atandroy dancers 30 f Scott # 406

Tourbillon Dance 100 f Scott #C86 Airmail

Male dancer Airmail 200 f Scott #C87

United Nations Nov. 17 , 1967

The Kiss of Peace, by Chagall 6c Scott # 179 180