

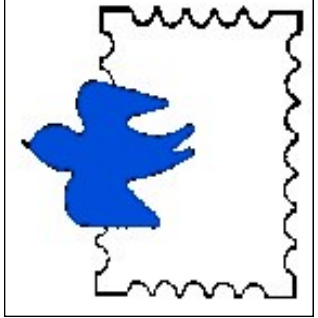
ROCKFORD STAMP NOTES

ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 21, 1930 - APS CHAPTER #735
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December 2022

Volume 26 - Number 11



Monthly meeting/auction at Ken-Rock Community Center, 625 Adams St., Rockford, IL

Wednesday, December 7

5:30 pm - Buy, sell and trade
View auction lots
7:00 pm - Meeting & auction

Tuesday, December 20

9:00 am - Buy, Sell and trade
View auction lots
10:00 am - Auction

Wednesday, November 2nd: We had 17 attendees at the meeting. This included Winston's driver, only one daughter necessary this month!, and past member **Steve Johnson** who was accompanied by his son, Steve Jr. He got back in the swing by participating in the auction, taking home a few lots. Welcome back Steve!

VP **Matt Mace** filled in for Frank who was celebrating his mothers 99th birthday!

Show & Tell.....

1. **Ruth Young** - showed off a bank tag from Ruth, MI, A gift from Tim W.
2. **Stanley Campbell** - shared two Special Tax Stamps from 1920 and 1940 for dispensing Opium!
3. **Tim Wait** - brought two 1929 round-the-world "poor mans" Zeppelin covers with regular postage instead of Zepp stamps, also were sent Special Delivery.

Steve capped off his return evening by winning the Mystery Box!

Annual Ken-Rock Kids Charity Auction December 7, 2022

For MANY years our club has held a charity auction at our Wednesday night meeting in December. **ALL lots are donated and ALL proceeds go to our meeting location's Ken-Rock Kids program. This is most of the funding available to give these kids a Holiday party.**

Please bring some decent lots for donation and remember to bid generously so we can continue supporting this excellent organization.

Don't forget to bring a treat so we can have some extra holiday cheer too!

On Tuesday, December 20th it is too late for donations but everybody likes cookies and treats so come prepared for an auction and some calories!

Tuesday, November 15th: continues to be a fun gathering and great auction. There are always many lots to bid on. YOU should bring some lots to sell next time! Sell off your duplicates or unneeded material (nothing is unwanted!) and acquire some new great items.

Dues Notice

We hope you can come to a meeting and pay in person, but since attendance has been so much lower we are giving you notice here. \$15 mail / \$8 email. Send your checks to:
Rockford Stamp Club
PO Box 242
Belvidere, IL 61008-0242

Member Health and Welfare

Ward Miller has returned to Wesley Willows and is on the mend.

There are a number of members we haven't heard from in quite some time. Please drop me an email or call to let your friends know how you are doing. Tim. Info on back cover.



Upcoming Area Stamp Shows

Sat Feb 11 Janesville Stamp Show

Janesville, WI. Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington PL. Janesville Stamp Club. Hours 9:30-4. 10 dealers, exhibits. Free admission. Aimee Devine 608-758-1354.

Ask other members if you are interested in going to a show. Ride sharing can be a big savings and fun!

President's Corner - Frank Schmitt

Greetings fellow Rockford Stamp Club members:

Here we are closing our albums on yet another year. Pandemic measures weren't quite as restrictive as the previous year/s but there were still some considerations to address and for good measure they threw monkey pox into the mix. Of course, now we have the influenza season to be concerned with and I am almost certain some variant of some other malady will rear its ugly head. We each need to determine the best course of action in addressing these concerns as an individual and for our families and communities, and hopefully we will all be safe.

Although stamps shows are coming back with greater frequency there are many that have not survived, some because of lack or loss of venues. Attendance varies at the shows and bourses due to numerous reasons but one of the largest being the impact of internet sales, COVID-19, and now inflation are also contributors. Traveling to and from shows has also become an issue for many due to location, weather, age, and cost of gasoline. Obviously, the internet solves those problems, except one, the face-to-face interaction between collectors and dealers and fellow collectors.

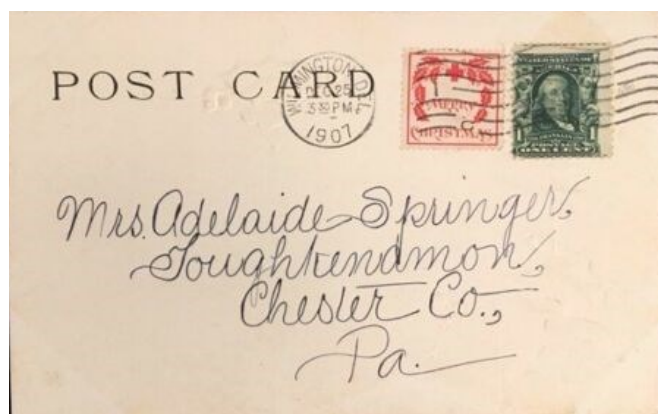
Therein lies the reason to maintain membership and attendance in one or more stamp clubs to enhance your experiences within the hobby. The interaction and sharing of knowledge through regular attendance is healthy for the hobby as well as the individual. Please join us at our Wednesday evening meetings and Tuesday morning auctions and be an active member of our club.

Reportedly, many clubs have had significant decreases in attendance since this turmoil began in spring of 2020. Unfortunately, some of the reasons are "aging-out", health issues, driving restrictions, weather conditions, accessibility issues and so on. All are understandable, but some may be overcome. Should we as a club possibly look at meeting times and days, location, ride share, and any other solutions you may have to offer. We should attempt to make our meetings accessible to the greatest number of members throughout the year not by season or time of day.

I would personally like to see us incorporate more programs on our meeting night. I attended the November meeting of the Janesville Stamp Club, and they incorporate a program into each of their meetings. It was approximately an hour in length showing beautifully illustrated covers of Milwaukee business in the early 1900's. I know our auctions are the highlight of our meetings, but I feel we are missing the boat by not having a program or presentation of some type. The auctions are important to most of the members and the income realized does oftentimes cover our meeting space rent, so I am not proposing we eliminate them. Comments and suggestions are most welcome.

Just a reminder, our December auction is a benefit charity auction for the Ken-Rock kids with the proceeds most often used to fund a Christmas party for them. Sort through your accumulations and assemble some auction lots for this good cause. While you are at it remember to assemble your larger and/or more valuable lots for the silent auction at the **Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo** (notice how I snuck that in again). Remember, the dealers oftentimes bid on these lots, so it is a good time to clear out your larger or more valuable items.

First U.S. Christmas Seal - Tim Wait



Scott WX1 & WX2 both on December 25th Washington, DC post cards.
Yours for only \$1,950 each on eBay!

Issued by the Delaware Chapter of the American National Red Cross. Stamps were only sold in Wilmington, DE, Philadelphia, PA and Washington, DC. The first printing just had "Merry Christmas". The second printing moved the "Merry Christmas" further into the wreath and added "Happy New Year".

Gerald Van Alstyne

Correction. In Gerry's article last month I stated that his mother, Harriet, gave him a box of stamps...It was a neighbor, not his mother. Editor.

Welcome to the Rockford Illinois Stamp Club Website

www.rockfordstampclub.com

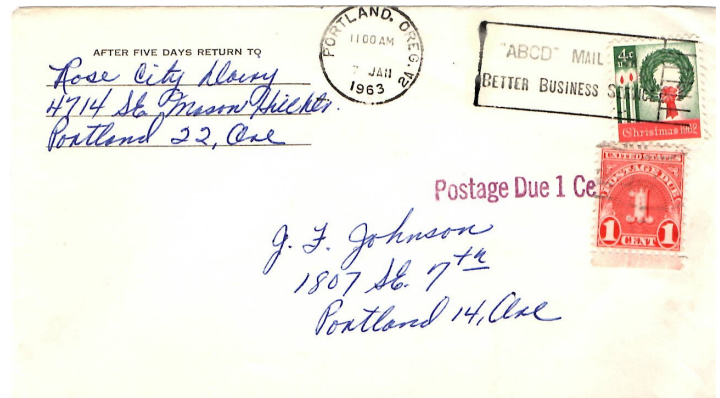
WEB SITE UPDATE - Please take a moment to go to our webpage listed above. We need to do some updates but what else would you like to see? Please tell us your comments.
Tim (t.wait@comcast.net) & Frank (prevent1@comcast.net) - webmasters.

First U.S. Christmas Stamp - Frank Schmitt

Sixty years ago, was a first for the United States Post Office Department. After much demand, spanning many years, for a Christmas stamp, it finally happened. November 1, 1962 was the first day of issue for the 4-cent "Candles and Wreath" Christmas stamp Scott #1205. Expecting many complaints and lawsuits for issuing a stamp for a religious holiday the stamp was very basic and avoided the religious aspect as much as possible. It wasn't until 1966 that the USPOD issued a stamp showing the Madonna and Child on a Christmas stamp. In the 1970's it was determined that both a traditional and non-religious Christmas stamp should be issued, which continues to be the practice today. I believe the beauty of this stamp lies in the simplicity and detail.



Numerous Christmas stamps, as well as other secular or ethnically related holiday stamps, have been issued since this first issue. Many have been or are surrounded by controversy, likes, and dislikes due to any number of reasons, including content, design (or lack of), and so on. Not unlike several other stamp issues!



Nov 1, 1962 Pittsburgh, PA. The USPOD anticipated huge demand and printed 350 million stamps. Eventually, over 1 billion stamps were sold!

This Artmaster FDC has two Tuberculosis Christmas seals tied by the cancel making it a nice FDC.

Best laid plans. On January 7, 1963, the USPOD raised the first class letter rate to 5¢. Normally a stamp with only a two month rate window would be a fairly rare usage. Since so many stamps were used on Christmas cards, this is not rare. **This letter was mailed on the first day of the new rate and charged "Postage Due 1 Cent"**.

ROCKFORD 2-3-4 2022 Dealers

We had ten dealers signed up for the show. Unfortunately Bill Burdick had to cancel at the last minute due to his wife's illness. The dealers were all busy Saturday and making good sales. Sunday was slower but still some nice business being made. **Remember to support our dealers throughout the year for all your philatelic needs.**

Terry Kurzinski
Cherry Valley, IL
815-262-9117

David Alex
Glenview, IL
847-291-7826

WYstamps.com
Wayne Youngblood
Prairie Du Sac, WI
608-370-9098

Steve Capone
Rockford, IL
815-394-0537

Bardo Stamps
Jim Bardo
Buffalo Grove, IL
847-634-2676

W. H. Burdick
Mtn. Home, AR
870-425-7799

Fox River Stamps
Michael Mules
Salem, WI
414-234-9867

Gold Path Covers
Xian (Shawn) Xu
Carmel, IN
415-519-7805

Double J Stamps
Jeff
Arlington Heights, IL
847-843-8700

Riverbank Treasurers
Jerry Wessler
New Lisbon, WI
608-515-6150

Thank you to Josh and Amy from the Elkhorn, WI, Post Office for bringing a great selection of stamps.

ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

We invite all area collectors to join us at a future meeting of the Rockford Stamp Club. Meeting and an auction are held the first Wednesday beginning at 6:00pm, every month except July. An auction takes place the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 9:00am. Both are held at the Ken-Rock Community Center, 625 Adams St., Rockford, Illinois. We start with a buy/sell/trade session followed by a lively, unreserved stamp auction. Come discover the fun of stamp collecting. All ages and collecting levels from beginner to advanced are welcome.

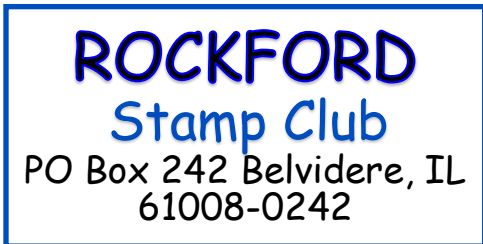
The 2022-2023 Club Officers

President.....Frank Schmitt
815-226-4391
Vice-President.....Ward Miller
Secretary.....Tammy Copus
Treasurer.....Hank Fox
Director.....Tim Copus
Director.....Steve Capone
Director.....Ted Gifford
Show Chairman.....Tim Wait
815-670-5869 / t.wait@comcast.net

Perry Arnquist Award Recipients

1991 Perry Arnquist Emeritus	1999 Dwane Kaplenk*
1992 Evert Thelene *	2000 Thomas Johnston
1993 Donald Arnquist *	2001 Mike Peters
1994 Otto Ehlers *	2002 Craig Edgington
1995 Dick Wibom *	2003 Earl Button
1996 Dan Hammell *	2004 Timothy Wait
1997 Robert Rosell *	2012 Tim Gallagher *
1998 Matt Mace	

* Closed album



IN-PERSON Meetings are BACK!

Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30/7pm

Tuesday, December 20 at 9/10am

Our NEW location is 625 Adams St.