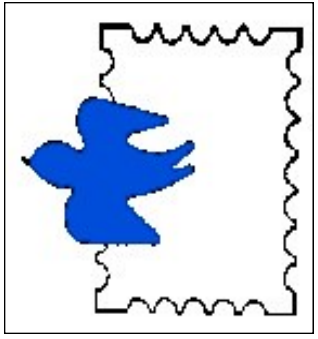


ROCKFORD STAMP NOTES

ROCKFORD STAMP CLUB

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 21, 1930 - APS CHAPTER #735
EDITOR: TIMOTHY G. WAIT EMAIL: T.WAIT@COMCAST.NET



February 2022

Volume 26 - Number 2

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

Wednesday, February 2

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

Tuesday, February 15

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

Wednesday, January 5th: only 6 members braved the cold windy night out. President Frank Schmitt, Treasurer Hank Fox, Secretary Tammy Copus, Directors Tim Copus and Steve Capone and Member Jeff Rieken. There were 41 lots and 29 sold! No meeting, no show and tell and the meeting ended at 7:15 so everyone could go home and have hot chocolate!

Tuesday, January 18th: eight members came to bid on 62 lots. Covid-19 is still keeping many members inside and staying safe.

Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo February 19-20

The Show WILL go on! Everything is in the works to have our first show since 2019.

Show hours are 10-5 Sat and 10-4 Sun. We will need help with setup Sat morning starting about 8am. During the show we'll need help welcoming our guests at the front table and with the silent auction. Please sign up at the Wednesday, Feb 3 meeting.

The USPS will have a table staffed by Josh Willbanks, Elkhorn, WI Postmaster. The silent auction ends at 2pm each day. We will have seven exhibits with 24 frames in the 2-3-4 competition.

We will be having the Awards banquet at Stockholm Inn Saturday night at 6pm. Everyone is welcome and you can sign up at the show.

See page 5 for a list of the nine dealers we have coming this year and bring your want lists and money!

Help us make YOUR show successful!

Member Health and Welfare

Reporting on our members...

Gerry Van Alstyne reports he is continuing to look for relief. Has more appointments to continue looking into his condition with his liver, gallbladder, diaphragm and bile ducts. We hope you can get some relief soon.

Global Pandemic Issue of the Month



Vietnam 2021

Living with
the Pandemic

Set of two stamps showing a syringe and vial of vaccine and five ways to avoid getting Covid-19.



Upcoming Area Stamp Shows

Sat Feb 12 Janesville Stamp Show

Janesville, WI. Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Place. Hours: 9:30-4. 12 dealers, exhibits, free admission. (Contact: Aimee Devine 608-758-1354, spanishmoss72@sbcglobal.net)

Sat-Sun Feb 19-20 Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo

Loves Park, IL. Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 West Lane Rd (Hwy 173). Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. 13 dealers, competitive exhibits, daily silent auction, free admission.

Spread the word if you are interested in going to one of these shows. Ride sharing with other members can be a big savings and fun!

Butterfly Garden Flowers
Nonprofit (5c)
 Coils of 3,000 & 10,000
 Feb 1 - Pine Mountain, GA



These stamps are intended for bulk mailings by authorized nonprofit organizations. Each stamp features one of two flowers that butterflies love to visit: scabiosas or cosmos. Inspired by block-printed textile and pattern design, the artist hand-carved the images into linoleum blocks. After inking the blocks, she pressed them onto paper, scanned the images and added color digitally. Mailers find that their mail is more likely to be opened if there is a stamp on the envelope rather than a printed non-stamp indicia, thus the use of these non-denominated stamps. The mailer purchases the stamps at 5¢ each, then make up the difference between that 5¢ and the going rate for their mail, which depends in part on how they prepare it.

Pine Mountain was selected as the FDOI site because it is the location of the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, where typically 1,000 or more butterflies flutter freely about in one of North America's largest tropical butterfly conservatories. The Day Butterfly Center is a living, dynamic, glass-enclosed environment in which a variety of tropical plants nourish the residents and new arrivals emerge from their chrysalides, dry their wings, and begin their very first wing-beats.



Palace of Fine Arts
Express Mail \$26.95
 Pane of 4
 Feb 14 - San Francisco, CA

An eye-catching sight in the Marina District of San Francisco, the Palace of Fine Arts has long been a source of pride for residents and an attraction for visitors from around the world. This stamp celebrates the iconic architectural landmark.

The stamp features a digital illustration showing the rotunda and part of the colonnades of the Palace of Fine Arts, with a small lagoon in the foreground. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dan Cosgrove.

It was originally constructed for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition, which was previewed on a set of 1913 U.S. stamps. Completely renovated between 1964 and 1974, it is now a commercially operated venue that is available for weddings, corporate, and other events.

The Monument Valley, is located on the Utah-Arizona state line and is officially a large area that includes much of the surrounding Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, a Navajo Nation equivalent to a national park.

For hundreds of millions of years, materials that eroded from the early Rock Mountains deposited layer upon layer of sediment. Natural forces of wind and water that eroded the land spent the last 50 million years cutting into and peeling away at the surface of the plateau. The simple wearing down of altering layers of soft and hard rock slowly revealed the natural wonders of Monument Valley today.

The digital illustration is based on photographs of Monument Valley, including a view facing northwest at sunrise. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dan Cosgrove.



Monument Valley
Priority Mail \$8.95
 Pane of 4
 Feb 14 - Monument Valley



In June we will have two more high value stamps replacing the 2018 Statue of Freedom on the U.S. Capitol Dome. 2021 will be much more expensive for stamp collectors. And, yet another historical design that has been turned into a flora design.



President's Corner - Frank Schmitt

Greetings fellow Rockford Stamp Club members:

A new year has begun and unfortunately for the most part, happy has been left out. That is a generalized statement because I am sure that we as individuals all have things to be happy about. At least as stamp collectors we have a very pleasant distraction to keep our minds (and hands) busy in this turmoil of virus variants and foul weather.

With these challenges comes the question if we should be meeting or not and it was decided that we would meet, and it would be an individual decision for each member as to their attendance status. Our Wednesday, January 5th meeting was very well attended, 6 members. We made the most of it. We started a few minutes early, short to non-existent meeting, auction, and adjournment by 7:15 PM. There was 47 lots submitted by 4 members and 31 of the lots sold with purchases by all 6 attendees. There was even some spirited bidding. We were few, but we were fun. Our Tuesday, January 18th meeting had a huge growth in attendance, 8 members and 2 young guests. We had a few more lots, with all members bidding (some spirited) and purchasing again. There was some very nice lots in both auctions which accounted for the high percentage of sales. A big thanks to Tammy for being the auctioneer for both auctions and to Tim for stepping up and recording sales/purchases. Thanks to Hank also for handling all the money transactions.

For those of you that have been choosing not to attend for whatever reason, we understand, but you are missed. Hopefully, there is an end, or reasonable control, of the current pandemic and weather conditions become more tolerable and we will see your smiling faces again. You can always shoot us an email or give us a call just to check-in, say Hi, and let us know you are well. If transportation is a problem, let us know, we may be able to find a ride for you.

For those of you wondering, as of today, our **Rockford 2-3-4 Stamp Expo is a go**. February 19th and 20th. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending and even better plan on volunteering with set up and tear down and everything in between. If you are unable to volunteer, please come and join us and support our dealers. In the meantime, pray for appropriate weather for a stamp show, not too bad, not too nice, but just right. Tim will discuss the show in a little more detail in another section of the newsletter.

I have attended a couple of shows recently and it is kind of a mixed bag. Many shows have had to change venues and it appears the number of dealers in attendance is down. Collectors can be a little sparse at times, but again there are numerous people coming in with inherited collections to sell, at times outnumbering the collectors. Some dealers are busy and some not so much. I was informed that the recent MSDA show in Milwaukee had 110 attendees by noon on Saturday, a number we would be very happy with at our show. Remember to support our dealers as much as possible, purchases can certainly be made online, but nothing beats the face-to-face interaction and being able to look at the stamps in person.

We have our regular Wednesday meeting and 3rd Tuesday auction before our show. Please attend, if possible, to keep up with the latest happenings. Silent auction sheets for the show will be available at both. Start assembling your lots for the silent auction now (remember \$5.00 minimum starting bid). This is a good way to get rid of larger volumes and more expensive items you may no longer need or collect. The dealers generally participate in both selling and buying as well. This is a good source of income for the club from the 10% commission and will help make the show a success. Please put the word out about the show, mailings our on the way.

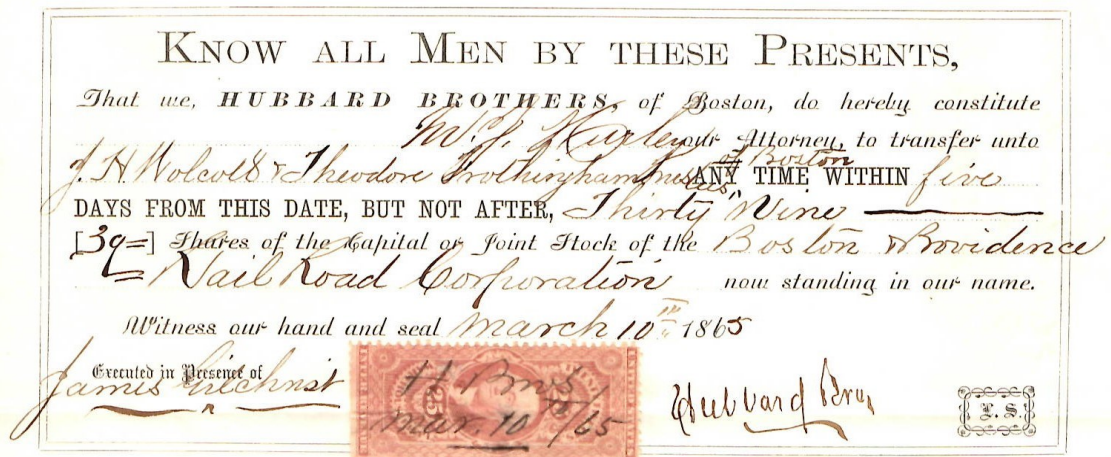
Be safe, be healthy and happy stamp collecting.

Civil War Revenue Tax 1862-1872 - Tim Wait

The act of appointing an attorney (POA) was taxed at 25c. Hubbard Brothers of Boston, a stock brokerage company had form printed for this transaction.

In this case they were transferring 39 shares of stock in the Boston & Providence Railroad Corporation.

Other POA's were taxed at different rates.



March 10, 1865. Power of Attorney to Sell Stock. Tax 25 cents.

A Story of Counterfeit Stamps—Frank Schmitt

Lately, as reported in *Linn's Stamp News* and social media sources, there has been a proliferation of counterfeit stamps of recent issues. These stamps are available through internet sources at a reduced price of as much as 50% of face value.

I must give a bit of a backstory before I can get to the subject of this article. I use a lot of older discount postage for almost all the mail I personally generate. Some of this postage ends up on parcels which requires interaction with a window clerk at the post office (Harrison Ave.). This brings up several questions about the stamps which I take time to answer and share any knowledge that I may have about them. This led to a clerk asking if I had any stamps of MLK and Harriett Tubman. I found some and the next visit to the post office I presented her with those stamps and several others from the Black Heritage series and she was overwhelmed that I would do that for her. As time progressed, we discussed more and more about the stamps I was using on my mail and all the other clerks were becoming very interested. Essentially it became a show and tell every time I would show up as they would all gather to peek at the “cool” stamps.

Somewhere along the line I brought up the subject of counterfeit stamps and surprisingly they had no knowledge of such a thing. I explained a bit about them and some of the identifying characteristics and lack of tagging. Tagging was a foreign subject as well and trying to explain it was a bit difficult for them to understand.

A couple of weeks ago, I made a trip to the post office, and I was met with excitement. I was informed an older woman had come in a couple of days earlier and turned in a pane of counterfeit “LOVE” stamps of the 2021 issue. She had purchased them online for 44 cents each for 58 cent forever stamps. She said she turned them in because she realized they were not from the USPS Stamp Fulfillment Center like she usually gets. There was also an article in the AARP magazine about counterfeit stamps and I personally suspect she may have read that as well.

I asked if I would be able to see the pane of stamps and they were more than eager to show them to me. It was obvious upon comparison that they were counterfeit; paper, quality of printing, and the die cut perforations. I wanted to verify the lack of tagging so I returned home and picked up my UV light. I also picked up a selection of stamps (old and new) to show the different types of tagging. This was like showing them a magic trick. They were not aware of tagging or the purpose of it. Another abbreviated lesson to pique their interest. Obviously, the counterfeit stamps were not tagged.

I was also allowed to photograph the counterfeit pane and a genuine pane of the stamps. Unfortunately, I only had my cell phone so I did the best I could. I am sharing these photographs with you so you can see some of the differences. The genuine pane is on the left the counterfeit pane is on the right.



Some of the differences I noted were; the paper of the counterfeit seemed to a bit thinner and lighter, almost a bit plasticized like the ATM panes were and it creased or dented very easily. There is a very marked difference in the die cutting of the perforations, look at the corners of the stamps and the peaks and valleys. If you look closely at the letter L in love, there is a black line between the two colors on the genuine stamp and not on the counterfeit. The large heart to the upper right of the L has a very thin black line separating the two colors on the genuine stamp. The counterfeit stamp has a very thin white line separating the two colors. The colors were also a bit brighter on the counterfeit stamp, but this may have been due to the fact the paper was a bit brighter as well. No tagging on the counterfeit stamp.

There is a bit of a moral to the story here. Had I not “befriended” the window clerks and shared some of the hobby of stamp collecting with them you would have never had this story to read. Maybe that would have been a good thing. The clerk that I shared the Black Heritage stamps with told me she went home and researched the person on every stamp I had given her. She also told me that she shows them to all her family members as they come to visit. All the window clerks now want to wait on me when I show up at the post office. If they are busy, the clerk will hold my mail at their station until all the others have an opportunity to look at the stamps.

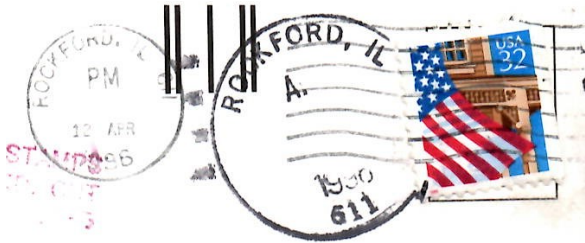
Am I nurturing new or future stamp collectors? I don't know, but I have piqued their interest a bit. If nothing else, they are getting a little better understanding about stamp collectors, and what we are looking for in new issues if that is our interest. They are even getting upset now if they don't have new issues on the day of release. They will also promote the new commemoratives rather than the definite booklets so the used inventory will have a chance to grow. Again, the counterfeit stamps would have never been mentioned, or shared, had I not invested a little time and shared a little information about our hobby. Try it, you'll like it!

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.

Fun At the Rockford Post Office - Tim Wait



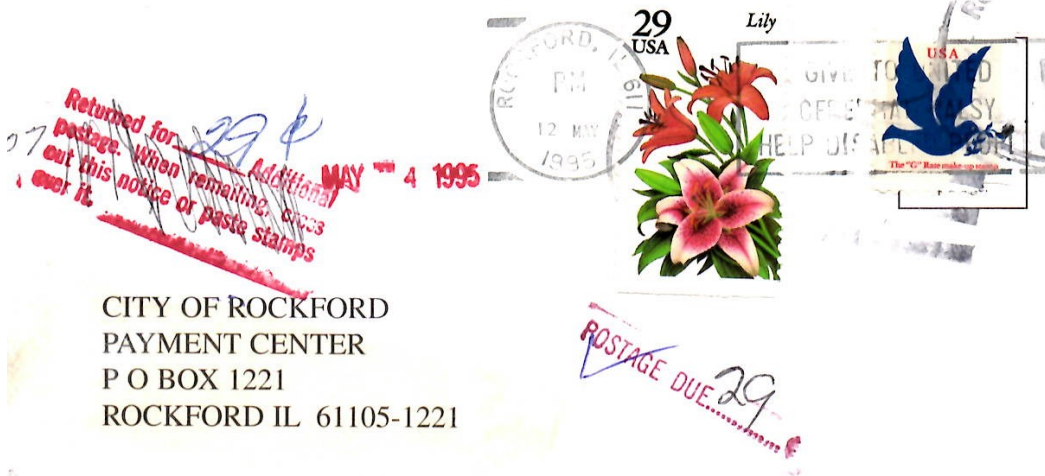
Make up stamp plus half an Indian Headdress stamp equals ??

RETURN FOR POSTAGE. STAMPS ARE VOID WHEN MUTILATED, CUT OUT, COATED, COVERED OR REUSED PER EMM 142.02

Tried and got caught. You can see where stamp removed



Forgot the stamp! Whoops!



Makeup did get through. Postage due 29c. Returned and stamp added, then the notice was crossed out and the Postage Due 29c checked off.

Thank you to Frank Schmitt for rescuing these from the City of Rockford.

CITY OF ROCKFORD
PAYMENT CENTER
P O BOX 1221
ROCKFORD IL 61105-1221

ROCKFORD 2-3-4 2022 Dealers

So far we have **eight dealers** coming to the show! It will be 23 months since Rockford 2019 so we're sure they will have lots of new material for you to consider adding to your collection! Contact them before the show for your special needs! **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

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

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

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.

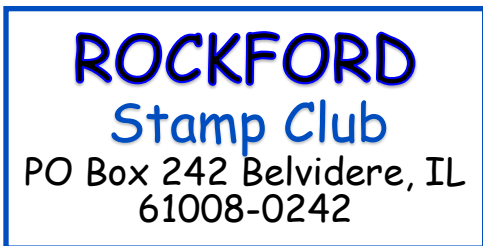
The 2022-2023 Club Officers

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, February 2 at 5:30/7pm

Tuesday, February 15 at 9/10am

Our NEW location is 625 Adams St.