



Strait Stamp Talk



Nov-Dec 2020

Your Stamp Collecting Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue

Strait Stamp Society meets the first Thursday of the month at the Sequim Library 630 N. Ave., Sequim, Washington at 6:00-8:00 pm. No dues - Donations only. Strait Stamp Talk is a bi-monthly newsletter for the Strait Stamp Society. Send Philatelic news and articles to the editor Dick McCammon, 76 Roberson Rd., Sequim, WA 98382-7335.

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President's Message

Welcome to our Nov-Dec Newsletter



Photo by Karen Mckee

Wes Falor

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying the start of our fall season. Without stamp and coin shows it has been really slow for me and I am sure for most of you. The fun and connections made at shows and club meetings are some of the things we all look forward too. We will eventually get those venues back, hopefully by spring or summer of next year. The letter of the month for November is 'Q', one of the harder letters to come up with something for, Queensland pops into my mind as one of the easy ones and Qatar. After that you may have to use some imagination.

For the month of December the letter is 'R' as in Russia, Romania, etc. and many others, such as Rhodesia, a much easier letter on all counts. Please remember to practice appropriate safety measures during the holiday season to help protect family and loved ones from getting Covid-19, not to mention your self. Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas!

November 5th MEETING

At the Zoom meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "Q." Ask any questions you have about stamps or stamp collecting.

December 3rd MEETING

At the Zoom meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "R." No Silent Auction until further notice.

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Bold New World: Crypto Stamp

by John F. Dunn

In collaboration with Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp., the Marshall Islands has entered the emerging world of cryptocurrency and crypto stamps, with a limited edition sheetlet that is designed to highlight the novel Mi10 Crypto stamps.

The new set of 6 stamps features silver holographic images of Marshall Islands beaches, side by side with identical QR (Quick Response) codes that will automatically link to a crypto wallet and so that the user can collect new cryptocurrency coins/tokens after being scanned by a smartphone or tablet.

For a brief explanation of cryptocurrency, I can pass along this information from Wikipedia:

"A cryptocurrency is a digital asset designed to work as a medium of exchange wherein individual coin ownership records are stored in a digital ledger or computerized database using strong cryptography to secure transaction record entries, to control the creation of additional digital coin records, and to verify the transfer of coin ownership. Bitcoin, first released as open-source software in 2009, is the first decentralized cryptocurrency. Since the release of bitcoin, over 6,000 altcoins (alternative

variants of bitcoin, or other cryptocurrencies) have been created." Mi10 would be one of those.

The cryptocurrency world is still in its early growth stages and has its enthusiastic fans as well as observers who feel otherwise. It is based on blockchain technology that is less controversial and is seen as a method of transferring data. While there are claims that it is less susceptible to hacking, there have been rare instances in which hackers have been successful, more likely because the user was careless in securing information.

Be that as it may, this does not relate to the new Mi10 cryptostamps, it is just provided here to give you a bit of a background in this emerging cryptocurrency, and more specifically cryptostamps, world.

Austria issued a set of cryptostamps in 2019 and their value surged at that time—keeping in mind that volatile swings are not unusual in the cryptocurrency world. The new Marshall Islands cryptostamps were issued April 1, 2019, according to the Mi10 site, where we also learn; "There are only 100,000 blocks of six stamps being issued and only 100 Mi10 Crypto Stamps crypto coins per 6 stamp blocks will ever be minted. These 10,000,000 Tokens/Coins can be claimed in increments of 100

Mi10s per block [of 6].

While Mi10 refers to them as coins, IGPC describes them as being for "a cryptocurrency enthusiast, a philatelist, or both. Stamp collectors and cryptocurrency buffs around the world are eager to acquire these beautiful stamps to enrich their collection while simultaneously being a part of groundbreaking economic change."

These stamps are available in the local post offices of the Marshall Islands. They can also be purchased through the IGPC website at www.igpc.com. Each sheetlet of six costs \$115. While that may be a hefty new issue price for traditional stamp collectors, in the world of cryptocurrency, that is a relatively small outlay—and it can be paid for via your crypto wallet.

Again referring to Wikipedia, "A cryptocurrency wallet stores the public and



private 'keys' or 'addresses' which can be used to receive or spend the cryptocurrency. With the private key, it is possible to write in the public ledger, effectively spending the associated cryptocurrency. With the public key, it is possible for others to send currency to the wallet."

Exemplifying the investment/speculative aspect of cryptocurrencies and these cryptostamps, Mi10 tell us, "in order to make this QR code and unique concept a reality, this site has been created to permit first owners of these limited-edition blocks to redeem 100 Mi10 Cryptocurrency tokens/coins for each block of these stamps, one time only per unique serial number." As I read that, I would add, "at the value of those coins at the time of redemption."

Over 3,000 recycled plastic bottles used to create Liechtenstein stamp issue

by Denise McCarty

A new stamp from Liechtenstein was indirectly made from recycled plastic bottles. This 6.30-franc stamp was scheduled to be issued Sept. 7. It was embroidered, and 3,100 plastic bottles were used to create the yarn, according to information from Philately Liechtenstein, the stamp department of Liechtensteinische Post.

The press release from Philately Liechtenstein said: "The stamp was produced by embroidery manufacturer Hammerle & Vogel in Lustenau, Austria. For this purpose, 3100 PET [polyethylene terephthalate, a form of polyester] bottles with a volume of 600 ml [milliliters] each were processed to make cleaned flakes before producing a new high-quality polyester yarn from them."

The stamp (Fig. 1) is large, almost 2 inches in diameter, and according to the press release, almost 250 feet (75 meters) of the polyester yarn

were used per stamp and more than 1,860 miles (3 million meters) for the entire print run of 40,000.

Philately Liechtenstein added that "This length is sufficient to border the outer border of the Principality of Liechtenstein forty times."

The blue and green stamp shows a map of Western Europe on a circular, globelike background. The stamp is cut to shape around two of the three leaves on the left side of the design, forming an irregular circle.

The purpose of the stamp is to promote environmental protection and the recovery of recyclable materials from waste. And Philately Liechtenstein doesn't want the stamp to go to waste, suggesting that if it isn't on mail or saved as a collectible that "it can also decorate your own clothes or other accessories to show your personal commitment to environmental protection and sustainability." Liechtensteinische Post issued five other stamps on Sept. 7.

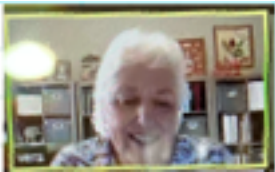
A 6.30fr stamp in a souvenir sheet of one commemorates the 500th death anniversary of Raphael, 1.50fr and 2.20fr stamps in the Princely Treasures series show hunting scenes by Peter Palu Rubens, and 1fr and 1.80fr stamps in the Village Views series feature Balzers.

For more information, visit the website www.philatelie.li, or write to Philately Liechtenstein, Alte Zollstrasse 11, 9494 Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein.

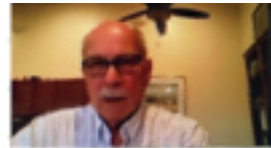


Fig. 1 Embroidered patchlike stamp made from recycled plastic bottles

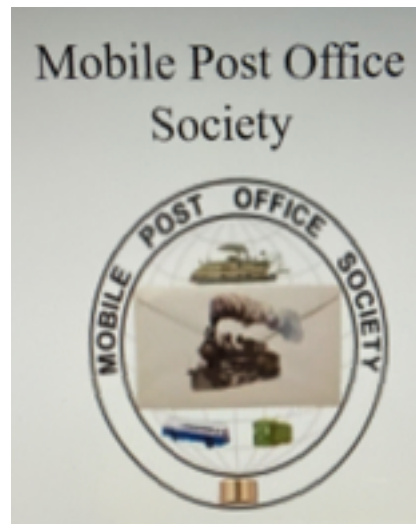
Felts and Kunz Offer Presentations at SEAPEX Virtual Stamp Show 2020



Vera Felts

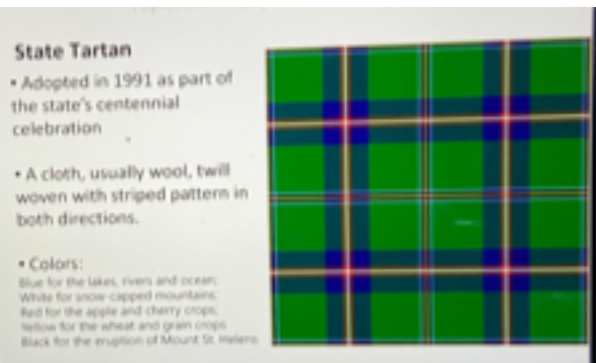


Rick Kunz



Examples

The rarest streetcar RPO postmark



Mini-Meeting

By Cathie Osborne



photo by Cliff Ayres

Seated: Don McIntyre and Vera Felts; Standing: Cathie Osborne and Richard Tarbuck; Not shown: Wes Falor and Cliff Ayres

On September 23, six happy collectors met at Cathie's house for a 'farewell to 2020 Stamp Show' get-together. There were donuts and coffee, good conversation, some show and tell. Richard brought his book of Hawaii material. Vera announced she will be doing a program of 'stamping in Sequim' for the American Topical Association, to be aired October 17. Don said he's been 'Santa' for 50 years now. Wes talked about his latest 'almost' acquisition. The club had been given some early stamp albums as a donation, and some of us looked through those. We were diligent with the masks, as the meeting was moved indoors because of dampness. And there were free publications for the taking. (If anyone would like some, Cathie is willing to share with anyone who stops by, but the donuts are gone.)

Late Breaking News

The Stamp Show scheduled for October 17th at the Masonic Lodge has been canceled.



New ATA Handbook



A new ATA handbook, *Topical Adventures*, explores the spectrum of topical and thematic stamp collecting and exhibiting. It is a convenient reference you'll want to have as you acquire, store, display and exhibit your collection. It has received rave reviews from many philatelic leaders--even those who aren't topical collectors. *Topical Adventures* is printed in full color in 8 1/2 x 11" format, soft cover. Cost is \$49.50 plus postage (\$5 less if you are an ATA member). Go to the ATA Store at americantopical.org or call 618-985-5100.

USPS Publication 100



The United States Postal Service: *An American History* tells the story of an ever-changing and improving institution. It introduces us to the people and events that have shaped our story, and most importantly, how and why the Postal Service continues to play an indispensable role in every American community. From connecting people to each other, to businesses, and to their government, one doorstep and one mailbox at a time, the Postal Service continues to bind the nation together. U.S. residents can purchase a copy of Publication 100 by contacting the USPS Material Distribution Center at 1-800-332-0317. Publications are provided at cost, plus the cost of shipping and handling..



Donation and a Challenge



photo by Dick McCammon

Recently, Strait Stamp member Mark Wilson dropped off a large number of stamps that he wished to donate to the Club to do with what we wished. They consist of 19th and 20th century US stamps as well as many, many Czechoslovak stamps. Most are mounted on album pages and some are in plastic bags.

As a consequence, Mark has put up a challenge for the members of the Strait Stamp Society. He is asking if anyone would like to put together a topical display of these stamps (or any Czech or Slovak stamps) as the basis for an article in the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB) journal *Czechout*.

Mark was recently re-appointed as the editor of *Czechout* and would be happy to help if the person needs help with the preparation of an article. His latest monograph published this year in *Czechout* received a Large Vermeil at Prtaga Piccola (in Prague, Czech Republic) entitled: *Czechoslovak Letter Mail 1918-1939: Single and Multiple Stamp Franking*.

If someone is interested in undertaking such a task, the next step would be to let Cathie know so that a closer look could be made of the material and then go from there. The material is in a box at Cathie's house.



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19th Amendment 1st Day of Issue

Toby Falor

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation".

From 1787, when the U.S. Constitution was ratified, it took 133 years before women could fully participate as U.S. Citizens by voting. The 15th Amendment passed in 1870 guaranteeing "the right to vote regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude." but did not include women.

In 1878, a Constitutional Amendment was introduced to grant Women's Right to Vote, and it did not pass. The Amendment was reintroduced in every Congress thereafter.

On May 21, 1919 the 19th Amendment passed the House and on June 4, 1919 it passed the Senate. In order to become part of the Constitution, 36 States needed to ratify the Amendment.

On March 29, 1920 the State of Washington became the 35th state to ratify the Amendment, so now only 1 more State was needed to ratify. But, by August, only Tennessee was left to vote. The Tennessee Legislature had voted with a result of 48 yes and 47 no. One legislator still had not voted. Representative Harry Burns previously had been against the bill and if he voted no, the 48 to 48 tie would defeat the bill. Rep. Burns voted "Yes." and the bill passed. When asked why he changed his mind he said, "My Mother told me to vote Yes." Never underestimate the power of 1 woman.

The Oct. 2020 edition of *The American Philatelist* has 2 excellent articles on the 19th Amendment and the stamps and covers associated with Women's Rights and How to Collect Women's Suffrage stamps and Covers. Great reading and maybe a new topic to collect.

