



Strait Stamp Talk



Sep-Oct 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 Sep-Oct Newsletter



Photo by Karen Mckee

Wes Falor

Hope all of you are doing well under these unusual circumstances! We are still doing Zoom meetings for the next two months. For the month of Sept. the letter is "O" as in Orange Free State, Ohio, Oregon, Official, Oil Rivers, Occupation Issues, Obock, Offset printings, Olympic Games, and many others that I am sure you can come up with. As I am sure your aware of, most of the stamp shows in the Pacific Northwest have been cancelled, other parts of the country are still doing some shows. I just hope they are all doing the social ditancing and wearing face masks to reduce the spread of this ugly virus.

September 3rd MEETING

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

October 1st MEETING

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

Contents

Presidents's Message	Page 19,23
Club meetings Sep-Oct	Page 19
The PhilateliKid	Page 20-21
First Crypto Stamp	Page 22-23

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

July 1, 2020

Stay Safe Indoors! Collect Stamps!

Bechuanaland

Stamp collectors are invited into the world of strange sounding countries like Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Sometimes the country name has been long gone, but stamps still exist, and the country is now still there, but using a different name. Great Britain established the Bechuanaland Protectorate in March, 1885. In September that year, the Tswana country south of the Molopo River was proclaimed the Crown colony of British Bechuanaland. Bechuanaland meant the country of the Tswana and for administrative purposes was divided into two political entities.

The northern part was administered as the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the southern part was administered as the crown colony of British Bechuanaland. British Bechuanaland was incorporated into the Cape Colony in 1895 and now forms part of South Africa.

The northern part, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, had an area of 225,000 square miles, and a population of 120,776. It is located in Africa in the southern hemisphere, and was 222,000 square miles, which is about 83% of the size of the State of Texas.

The British government originally expected to turn over administration of the protectorate to Rhodesia or South Africa, but Tswana opposition left the protectorate under British rule until its independence in 1966.

When independence was granted, the country changed its name to Republic of Botswana. A person from Botswana is called a Motswana. The main language spoken in Botswana is Setswana (a Bantu language), but the official language is English. The population of Botswana is 23 million, with about one-tenth of the population living in the capitol, Gaborone, the largest city.

The currency in Botswana is the pula. One pula is worth about 8¢ US dollars. Euros and British pounds are also widely accepted in Botswana. In the world of stamp collectors, a country that no longer issues stamps is called a "dead" country. The people are still there, the country is still there, but the name is different, so Bechuanaland Protectorate is a "dead" country. Once a country is a dead country, it is possible to create a complete collection of stamps ever issued. According to Scott Standard Postage Stamp Album, Bechuanaland Protectorate issued 162 different stamps, beginning with Scott #51. (The first 50 stamps are British Bechuanaland, not Bechuanaland Protectorate.)

Continue on Page 21



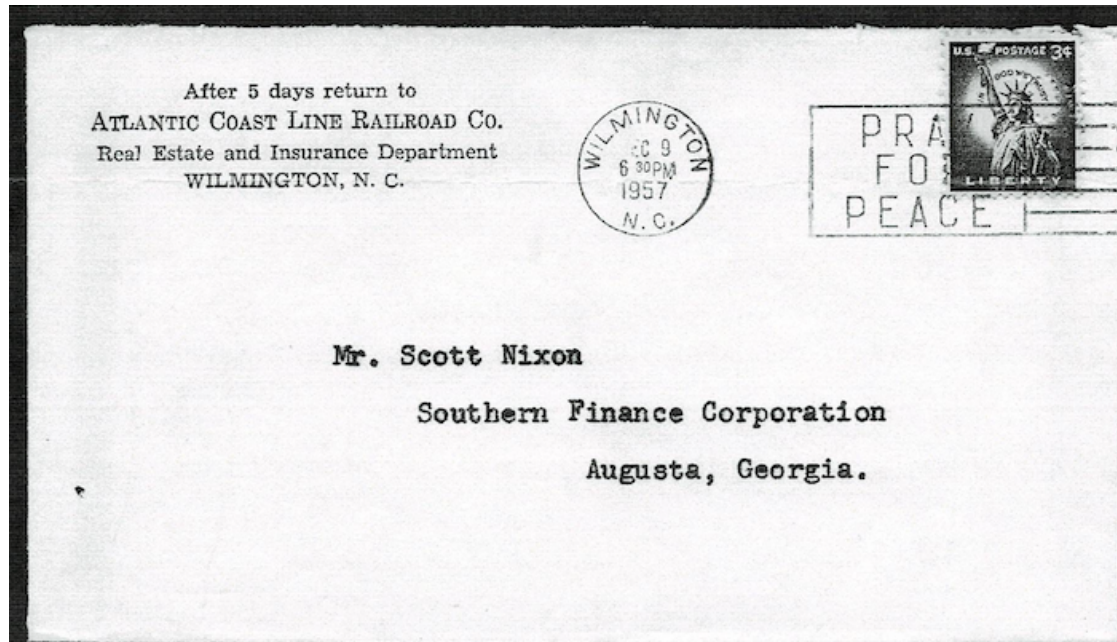
Of the 162 stamps issued, all but 15 are moderately priced under \$100.00, and, of the non-overprinted stamps, only 2 have a catalog value over \$100.00.

USPS

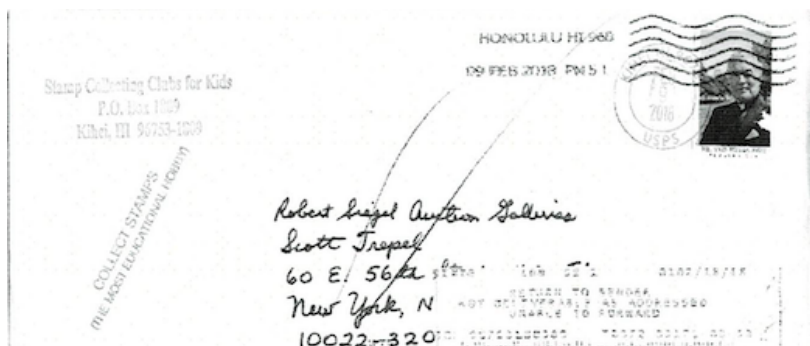
The United States Postal Service (USPS) was having serious financial problems prior to the covid-19 outbreak, because the USPS is allowed to increase rates only with the approval of Congress, and Congress has not given approval. Recently the USPS cancelled its contract to purchase a new fleet of trucks. The current fleet is over 30 years old. However, during Covid-19, people are ordering merchandise to be delivered much more frequently than before, so the package business for the USPS is way up. I heard (not verified) that] the last monthly package delivery by the USPS was up 80% from the previous month! That is a huge increase in business! So, if you have to wait in line a little longer at your local post office, now you know why.

What is wrong with this?

Note the position of the stamp. It was placed right against the upper edge of the envelop. That means that when opened, the stamp has a great chance to be damaged, but even worse, while being handled by the post office, there is a good chance that the stamp will be bent.



The best way to place a stamp on an envelope is to allow at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from any edge.



This envelope was mailed in Hawaii, went to NYC, rthen returned to Hawaii, with no damage to the stamp because the stamp was well away from the edge of the envelope. The stamp would have been damaged because the cancelling machine bent the right-hand edge of the envelope about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (not visible here, but believe me, it was badly folded over!)

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website - www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org which will redirect you to the same site.

The First Blockchain Stamp in the World and What it Means

as told by Swen Venzke-Caprarese

In June 2019, Austrian Post started selling the world's first blockchain stamp. The so-called Crypto stamps have been published with 150,000 of such stamps placed in circulation.. The stamps have a nominal value of 6.90 € which is (was) also the official selling price.

The Crypto stamp (Fig. 1) can be used as a normal stamp on postal items, with the digital counterpart stored on the decentralized data storage of a blockchain. It then lies in a digital wallet, which is exclusively owned by the owner.

The stamp is made of two parts The left part with the unicorn image is the actual postage stamp which can be detached and sent. The right part contains all credentials hidden under scratch layers as the digital version of the crypto stamp or a virtual collectible, which can be sold or transferred from one wallet to another, with the transactions fully documented on the blockchain. The digital counterpart of the physical stamp can be in five colors, each with a different degree of uniqueness: Red (1,500 pieces), Yellow (10,000 pieces), Blue (20,000 pieces), Green (40,000 pieces, and Black (78,500 pieces).



Fig. 1 Crypto Stamp.

The color of the digital counterpart to the physical stamp can be determined through the information printed on the stamp via a special section of the Austrian Post's website (<https://crypto.post.at/>). In order to do this, one must either scan an individual QR code located on each stamp or else enter the individual code visibly printed on each stamp on the Post website. The code in Fig. 1 is [1] yLiW8 . The color of the unicorn in Fig. 2 is shown as green.

The first edition of Crypto stamps contained a limited number of items that could not be purchased in normal retail stores or the online shop of Austrian Post. Instead, 500 crypto stamps were sold exclusively via the Austrian Post OnChain shop, which was based on a relatively innovative technology (namely smart contracts within the Ethereum blockchain). The first 401 Crypto stamps could be purchased in the OnChain-Shop (<https://crypto.post.at/onchainshop>) at a sales price of 6.90 €. However, the last 99 Crypto stamps of the OnChain shop were sold according to a different price model by the Austrian Post. Their selling price increased by 8% after each sale. This meant that the last stamp of the OnChain shop would change hands for a retail price of 13,012.99 €.

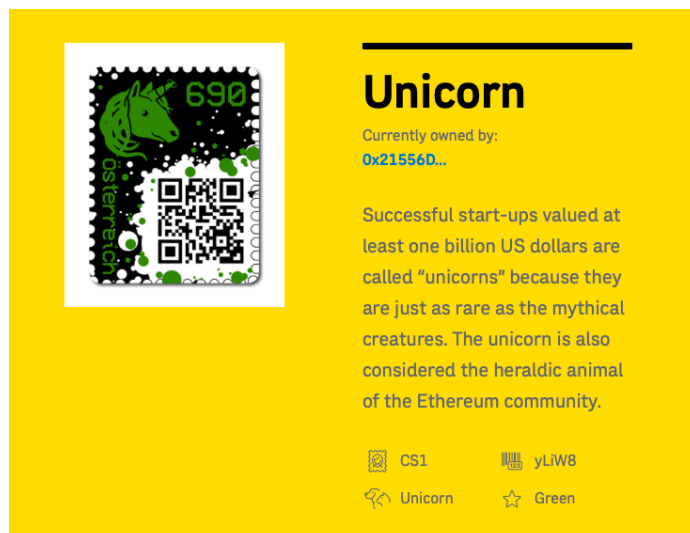


Fig. 2 Location of stamp in the Ethereum blockchain

As a collector, you might wonder where this is going. Austria's national postal service has unveiled its digital "crypto" stamp powered by the Ethereum blockchain, a decentralized open-source platform that generates digital "Ether" tokens, a form of non-fungible token (NFT) or cryptographic token (hence the "crypto" name).

Continued on page 23

Crypto Continued from page 22

This is the principle mirrored in the recent issue from Austria: the stamp can be used as postage, but according to the postal service, it's also "a virtual collector's item." The landscape-format issue is split directly down the center, with the postage on the left and the crypto credentials—the so-called "virtual collector's item" on the right, beneath a scratch ticket-style covering. Se-tenant in nature, the two sides can be separated, with the stamp going on a letter (or parcel) and the opposite side going in your collection.

Is it Philatelic?

Why should you, the collector, care about any of this? Of the 150,000 stamps issued beginning June 11, there were five different colors with varying degrees of scarcity — 78,500 black, 40,000 green, 20,000 blue, 10,000 yellow and only 1,500 red. Because they were government-issued, but especially because they were tied to a government-issued postage stamp—these crypto-collectibles would be welcome in any complete Austrian collection.

Not only is it true to philatelic form, but it's also the first time an NFT has been launched by a government or a government entity.

Unfortunately for collectors, the stamps sold out quickly; however, they can be traded using the "All About Stamps (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.StampManager.AllAboutStamps.App&hl=de_AT)" app, which is a digital collector's album for stamps of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein. Using the app, users can find and contact other collectors with which they can trade the crypto stamp. The physical stamp can change hands only by trading the digital token (as long as the post office is obliged to deliver and there is no statute of limitations).

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Pres. Message (continued from Page 19)

For the month of October the letter of importance is "P" as in Papua, Pak-hoi, Pahang, Postage Due, Pacchi Postal, Poland, Peru, Perak, and of course the all inclusive term "Postage", and there are many more that your creative minds will surely come up with. We will be doing some planning meetings, in possible preparation, of having a show in the middle of this month, if things allow.

Please take care to practice the required safety procedures to remain healthy and protect your self and others.

Late Breaking News

Plans are going forward for our upcoming show on October 17th. No show cancel this year. Exhibit forms can be downloaded from our website. All of our dealers are onboard,

The next planning meeting will be September 16 at 9:30 am at Cathie's (284 W. Maple).

