

Knoxville Philatelic Society News

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APS Chapter 1189-119261

www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm
www.virtualstampclub.com/apschapknoxville.html

Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs

It's All About Paper!

Philately is a paper-based hobby, and despite the fact that we can use the internet to view images and make purchases, we're all about paper. In the September 2009 issue of *The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle*, <http://stampclubs.com/news/chattanooga/NLSEPT09.pdf>, editor and publisher Willis Monk writes that he can no longer afford the cost of printing the club's newsletter and suggests that the only alternative is to go entirely electronic. He raises important points about rising costs, but I'm sad to think that this very attractive and informative newsletter will no longer be available to members by mail.

Newsletters are acts of love from those who write, edit, and produce them. I feel fortunate to have KPS members who send me articles for KPS News, and the attractive format and the cachet each month would just not be possible without Ralph Dinwiddie's talent, interest and commitment. When we were preparing the November newsletter to make the October 20 special postmark date, Ralph e-mailed me that he had started the printer one morning before work to print one side of the sheet and then drove home over his lunch hour to start printing the reverse side. Designing and printing the cachets is another enormous task that Ralph does for our benefit. For the last few months, I have collected the newsletter materials from Ralph to assemble for mailing – it's a 7-step process that takes about 3 hours.

My hat is off to Willis Monk in Chattanooga and to the many stamp club newsletter editors and publishers around the world. I hope that their societies will step up with the financial support that KPS has generously shown in order to provide members with one of the things that we all crave and collect – *PAPER!*

Tom Broadhead

President's Column

About a year ago I had the opportunity to visit the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History located on the campus of Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts, about 30 minutes from downtown Boston. The museum brings together the Cardinal Spellman Collection and the collection of the National Philatelic Museum previously located in Philadelphia. It is also home to an outstanding philatelic library housing thousands of handbooks, pamphlets, postal service publications, trade catalogues, philatelic exhibition catalogues, auction catalogues, and philatelic periodicals.

The local stamp club also meets there, and I was lucky enough to meet with its president. We talked about ways to increase membership in our clubs and attendance at our meetings. He said that many of their members were unable to come to club meetings because they had other business to attend to or were unable to drive at night. So, to give these members the chance to attend meetings they began to hold Saturday meetings in addition to their regular evening meetings.

I thought this was a good idea for KPS to try. So we will start with quarterly Saturday meetings and see how they go. The current plan is to hold these meetings at different locations around the Knoxville area to give those who can't drive far, a chance to attend a meeting. **Our first Saturday meeting will be held at the Frank H. McClung Museum on the UT campus on January 9th.** This meeting will have a full program and opportunities to buy stamps for your collection. Feel free to bring a show-and-tell item to discuss with fellow members. We plan to start the meeting at 1:00 and adjourn by 3:00.

See you there!

Ralph Dinwiddie

Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – November 3, 2009

The KPS met at the TVUUC for its regular monthly meeting. Bruce Roberts conducted another exhibiting class at 6:30, and members shopped some more from the lots that KPS purchased at the Regency Auction earlier in the fall. The meeting was called to order by President Ralph Dinwiddie at 7:30 p.m. There were 18 members and visitors present. Special best wishes for good health are offered to Tom Copas and Bill Muenzer.

Not all members had received their November newsletters, which were delivered to the post office on October 20, and one member received a large envelope with at least 5 other members' newsletters! The club authorized \$50 for software needed by newsletter publisher Ralph Dinwiddie. Jim Pettway has the contract with Holiday Inn for Knoxpex 2010. Roy Row will be the Show Chair, but we still need an auction chair.

Treasurer Thomas Lane announced that the club earned \$163.25 from donated lots and other club lots at the October live auction. Sales of stamps and covers from the Regency Auction purchase have surpassed \$700, so far covering 50% of the cost. Unsold items from that purchase will be offered in the Knoxpex 2010 auction.

Members were reminded that our December meeting and holiday dinner will be at Mandarin House, and the cost will be \$10 per person. Discussion of Saturday meetings continued, with a possible date of January 9 for the first.

Charlie Wade gave a beautifully illustrated program about the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC. Founded in 1886 as the National Philatelic Collection, the museum now has more than 13 million items and has

The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets at 7:00 pm on the 1st and 5th Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919.

Annual dues are \$15.00.

KPS Officers:

President	Ralph Dinwiddie
Past President	Roy Row
Vice President	Stu Hanlein
Treasurer	Thomas Lane
Secretary	Jo Mynatt
Directors	Richard Ehrlich, Jim Pettway, Bruce Roberts, Tom Broadhead
APS Representative	Jim Pettway

Requests for information and submissions of articles and short notes of philatelic interest for the news-letter may be directed to Tom Broadhead, KPS, P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422 – or by e-mail to tomwb50@aol.com.

been located since 1993 in the old Washington City post office building. Learn more at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu>.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Broadhead, substitute Secretary

KPS Holiday Party – December 1

It's that time again to celebrate a great year for KPS and enjoy a good dinner with friends. This year, we will again meet at Mandarin House, 8111 Gleason Dr. at 6:00. The buffet will cost \$10 (cash only) per member and guest, and KPS will pick up the difference. Bring a philatelic or nonphilatelic gift – not more than \$5.00 – for the gift exchange.

Upcoming Events

For more events visit the calendar of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs - www.stampclubs.com/events.

December 1 – KPS monthly meeting and annual holiday dinner – Mandarin House, 8111 Gleason Dr. Gift exchange (bring a gift that costs not more than \$5.00).

December 29 – KPS 5th Tuesday meeting – trade and swap, APS Circuit Books, KPS Auction lot sales at 7:00; KPS Board Meeting at 6:00.

January 4 – KPS monthly meeting. Program will be by Tom Broadhead on French rarities and forgeries.

January 9 – KPS Saturday meeting at the McClung Museum at UT, 1:00-3:00. **NEW!**

February 2 – KPS monthly meeting. Program will be by Tom Ringenbach – stay tuned for the topic.

March 2 – KPS monthly meeting and final preparations for Knoxpex 2010.

March 6-7 – Knoxpex 2010. The KPS annual show will feature the theme of the Centennial of the Boy Scouts of America and will be held at the Holiday Inn on Cedar Bluff Rd.

Stamp of the Month

This month's stamp is a "what's-it" from Colombia. It looks like a stamp, but lacks the word "correos" – Spanish for "post." The inscription "Ley 128 de 1941 – Fondo de Catastro" refers to a legislative decree of December 13, which specified export controls on



coffee and strategic materials, including platinum following the outbreak of World War II. We'll try to find out if it was a war tax or revenue stamp – stay

tuned. These historical items are part of the Regency Auction lots purchased for KPS.

It's Time to Exhibit - What Do Judges Want in an Exhibit?

By Bruce Roberts

Who are philatelic judges? To be an American Philatelic Society accredited judge, a person must first win at least a National Vermeil Medal with an exhibit, but most judges have won gold medals and even Grand Awards. They have the experience as exhibitors to know exactly what an exhibitor has to go through to acquire material, put together an exhibit, spend hours worrying over the tiny details, editing and redoing pages.

Being a judge will not make you wealthy! Judges tend to absorb many of the costs of attending a show from their own pockets. They are paid an honorarium, which may cover their air fare or their hotel, but not all costs. And the money they spend on their judging is money they cannot spend on their collections and exhibits, but judges frequently are seen buying from dealers – after the judging is finished.

Finally, judges are overworked. At last count there were only about 125 nationally accredited APS judges!

When an exhibitor prepares an exhibit for competition, it must be prepared to be viewed and evaluated by people who are experienced exhibitors, knowledgeable philatelists, who are donating their own time and some of their own money, and who may be somewhat overworked.

Here are some important points that judges will expect and will be disappointed not to find:

- 1) **Perfect grammar.** No misspellings, no white out, no “grammar gremlins.” Anything less may cost you points in the judging.
- 2) **Truth.** Judges may know more than you do about the subject you are showing. Even if they don't, they know a great deal more than you might think, because they borrow references to learn more about your topic. Never put anything on the page as a fact unless you are sure it is true. You can speculate, and probably should to make your point, but you must let the viewer know that is what you are doing.
- 3) **Material in the best condition you can afford.** Of course there are unique items that exist only in damaged condition (such as the famous British Guiana 1 cent which is trimmed at the corners), but if you are showing anything remotely affordable, get the very best. This is critical for any common stamp.
- 4) **A title page that explains the purpose of the exhibit, defines a scope, and indicates the layout of the exhibit.** I have covered the title page in a previous seminar. Be sure that the title page indicates how to find the “gems” of your exhibit.
- 5) **Philatelic Knowledge.** Even if you are showing a topic and devote space for the stamps to illustrate the topic, you must know about and explain the stamps or covers you are showing. A beautiful exhibit explaining the life and range of honey bees would do poorly if the stamps were never mentioned in the text. And see 2 above for anything you say about the material.
- 6) **Completeness.** To win at the National level you should have all or nearly all the material that exists in your area. Cost may be your only constraint. If you leave out an item that is relatively common, the Judges will find fault with that part of your exhibit.
- 7) **Consistency of Style.** The paper you mount on, the font styles on the pages, the mounting material, the way you emphasize your best material, all must be absolutely uniform throughout the exhibit. Trust me, if you use paper from several different lots, when you stand back from your frames, the shades of white of different papers will stand out like beacons.



Bruce Roberts (center) talks with Paul Wennermark (left), Knoxpex 2009 exhibit winner and Forest Conklin (right) about Forest's developing exhibit on joint issues.

(continued on page 4)

This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, December 1

- 8) **Flow.** Pages and their contents should follow each other in a logical way that is easy to follow. If there are transitions in the exhibit, they need to be highlighted so that judges do not find themselves reading a page and wondering what just happened in the story.
- 9) **A beginning and an end.** Explain why the exhibit starts where it does and why it ends where it does. You may think this is self-evident, but it still needs to be explained.

APS Sales Circuit Books

By Jim Pettway

You just never know how things will turn out. I was not pleased with the selection of circuit books from the APS in September. Most of the books had been picked through three or more times before they got to the KPS, not leaving a lot from which to choose. But at least two members found plenty of stamps to add to their collections making the circuit a success. We had 8 members purchase nearly \$130.00 from 19 books. Not bad, and about 50% more sales than last month. And had there been more U.S. precancels the sales would have been even better. Stu Hanlein and Ralph Dinwiddie had only a small part of one book of precancels from which to make selections.



Stu Hanlein gave the APS circuit books of precancels a thorough going over in September.

Then there was Charlie Wade who added greatly to his Great Britain and British Commonwealth collection. Richard Erlich found a few U.S. stamps to add to his collection, and he is HARD to please

when it comes to purchasing very fine material. Add to this the conversations and storytelling and we had a really good evening. And that's what it's all about!

Mark your calendar a new set of sales books at the next Fifth Tuesday meeting, December 29.

There Will Be a New Boy Scout Stamp

In a November 5 press release, reported in Linn's Stamp News in its November 23 issue, the US Postal Service finally announced that there will be a scouting commemorative stamp next year. The Linn's article speculated that it will be a general scouting stamp showing both boy and girl scouts, but the actual USPS design unveiling November 12 shows images of male scouts. (image © USPS)



The new stamp will be issued in July during the Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, and it is reported that President Obama has signed legislation authorizing a Girl Scout centennial stamp for 2012.

Dues Are Due!

Don't forget to pay your annual KPS dues for 2010. A check or cash and the enclosed renewal form will be graciously accepted by treasurer, Thomas Lane.

Next month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, January 5