

Knoxville Philatelic Society News

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Southeast Federation
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Happy New Year!

Last year was a great one for the Knoxville Philatelic Society: a highly successful *Knoxplex* 2005 and many orders for our cachet honoring Jonas Salk's polio vaccine, increases in our membership, members' success exhibiting, an APS award for our 2004 newsletter, outstanding programs at our monthly meetings, and our 25th anniversary! Let's see if we can top those accomplishments in 2006.

Here are some agenda items for all of us to consider in the new year. *Knoxplex* is on the way the first weekend in March, and show chair Gerald Schroedl needs many volunteers to ensure a successful show. One of the highlights of *Knoxplex* is the live auction – if you have philatelic items you don't want, get them ready and send the completed form (or two!) to Gerald. A top priority for *Knoxplex* is exhibits, and all KPS members should give this some consideration.

Membership is always important, and we should work hard again to interest people in our hobby and in joining the KPS. Don't forget 2006 dues!

Elections of officers are coming up in the late spring, and volunteers are always appreciated. Changes in our constitution related to officers are in order, and proposals can be found in this newsletter. We will discuss these in January and vote on them in February.

Let's all pitch in, come to the monthly meetings, and make 2006 a banner year for KPS!

Tom Broadhead

Is it Genuine?

Have you ever wondered about proof that a rare stamp or cover is the real thing? A scan through some of the big auction house catalogs almost always shows some items with a "certificate" from the American Philatelic Society's expertising service or from the Philatelic Foundation. There are many accredited philatelic experts around the world, and Russ Haese provides us with a web site for information about experts and expertising:

www.filatelia.fi/experts

If you have checked the web pages of some of the international experts and are having a tough time reading the information in their native languages, Russ recommends Altavista's "Babelfish" site:

<http://babelfish.altavista.com>

which lets you cut and paste or type in a word, phrase, or a few sentences in another language and translate it into English – or vice versa!

E-Bay Treasures

Here is an interesting item I saw on e-Bay. Postmarked January 1, 1935, it has a cachet showing "Baby New Year." The start bid was 99¢, and it sold for just that, plus \$1.00 shipping on December 9.



Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – December 5, 2005

KPS celebrated its annual holiday party at Ramsey's Cafeteria. President Bruce Roberts was master of ceremonies and Lillard Harvey played Santa during the gift exchange. (photos by Bruce Roberts, Jim Pettway)



The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets 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 \$10.00 for individuals, \$12.00 for families, and \$2.00 for youth 17 years of age and under. Requests for information and submissions for the newsletter may be directed to Tom Broadhead, KPS, P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422 – or by e-mail to tomwb50@aol.com.

KPS Officers:

President	Bruce Roberts
President-Elect	Ken Korp
Treasurer	Richard Ehrlich
Assistant Treasurer	Phil Ford
Secretary	Tom Broadhead
Directors	Norm Carlevato, Ralph Dinwiddie, Charles Klinstiver, Jim Pettway

Knoxville Philatelic Society Board Meeting – November 29, 2005

The KPS Board of Directors met November 29, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church. President Bruce Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Gerald Schroedl, Knoxpex Show Chair, reviewed the work needed in the immediate future. Top priorities are plans for publicity, awards for exhibits, and the banner and signage. Tom Broadhead has placed an ad with the American Philatelic Society and was directed to purchase as many weeks as possible in *Linn's*.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the consideration of proposals for changes to the KPS constitution. Changes approved at the Board Meeting appear in this newsletter. They will also be discussed at the January KPS membership meeting and will be voted upon at the February meeting. Richard Ehrlich will have complete copies of the KPS by-laws available at the January and February meetings.

Following the Board Meeting, members adjourned for an enjoyable 5th Tuesday swap. Several members brought albums and individual stamps to sell and trade.

Submitted by
Tom Broadhead, Secretary

In the News

Bruce Roberts recently published a paper, "An Ohio Cover Critical to an Arkansas Postal History Exhibit" in the *Ohio Postal History Journal* (No. 113, p. 10-12). The article describes a letter, mailed to Arkansas at the critical time after May 31, 1861, when the U.S. suspended mail service to the Confederacy. As a result, the letter was sent to the Dead Letter Office, marked 3 cents due, and probably returned to the sender. This envelope is important historically in Bruce's award winning exhibit of early Arkansas postal history.

Stamp of the Month

This month's stamp is an example of a United States revenue, Scott #R237, the 40c documentary stamp. This stamp was issued in 1917 and continued in use until 1940, when it was over-printed. Thanks go to Bruce Roberts for donating this month's stamp.



Knoxville Philatelic Society Constitution – Proposed Revisions

The following are changes proposed to KPS constitution, approved by the Executive Board November 29.

Article IV Section 1 (existing). The officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer. These officers, plus five Directors, one of whom shall be the immediate past president, shall constitute the Executive Board and shall perform the duties prescribed by this constitution and bylaws as by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

Motion 1. Eliminate the elected position of Assistant Treasurer. Moved – Pettway, Seconded – Dinwiddie, Passed 6-0.

Motion 2. Change the name of the office of President-elect to Vice President. Moved – Pettway, Seconded – Dinwiddie, Passed 5-1.

Section 1 (proposed). The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers, plus five Directors, one of whom shall be the immediate past president, shall constitute the Executive Board and shall perform the duties prescribed by this constitution and bylaws as by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

Summary Motion. Remove all references to Assistant Treasurer in the Constitution and change all references to President-elect to Vice President. Moved – Pettway, Seconded – Dinwiddie, Passed 6-0.

Section 9 (proposed). In the event of the resignation of the President, the Vice President shall succeed in office. A thirty day notice shall be given the Society, after which time a new Vice President shall be elected.

Section 10 (proposed). In the event of the resignation of both the President and Vice President, the Nominating Committee shall be advised and shall search for replacements. An election date shall be set after a thirty day notice has been given to the Society either by special notice or publication in the newsletter.

Article VI, Section 5 (proposed). In the unlikely event of the absence from a meeting of both the President and Vice President, the Secretary shall preside and call for the election of a chairperson pro tempore who shall conduct the meeting.

Article VIII, Section 1 (proposed). All checks shall be signed by the Treasurer, or, in his/her absence, by either the President or the Vice President.

Section 3 (proposed). All KPS expense bills or vouchers requiring payment greater than \$50.00, unless specifically budgeted, shall be approved by the President or, in the President's absence, the Vice President.

Section 6 (proposed). The Treasurer shall present an annual report for each calendar year at the regular, first Tuesday in January meeting, or at the next first Tuesday meeting if, for any reason, the January meeting is cancelled.

Article IV, Section 4 (existing). The officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, their term of office to begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. With the exception of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, no person shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Motion 3. Replace the first clause of the first sentence to read “An officer shall be elected by ballot to serve for a one year term.” Moved – Roberts, Seconded Dinwiddie, Passed 6-0.

Motion 4. Delete the phrase “or until their successors are elected.” Moved – Ehrlich, Seconded – Dinwiddie, Passed 6-0.

Section 4 (proposed). An officer shall be elected by ballot to serve for a one year term. An officer's term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which he/she is elected.

Article IV, Section 6 (existing). No member shall hold more than one elective office at a time.

Motion 5. Replace the existing section with “When a member of the Executive Board holds more than one position, his/her vote on issues brought before the Executive Board shall be counted only once, not for each office.” Moved – Pettway, Seconded – Ehrlich, Passed 6-0.

Section 6 (proposed). When a member of the Executive Board holds more than one elective office, his/her vote on issues brought before the Executive Board shall be counted only once, not for each office.

Please review these proposals, which will be discussed at the January KPS meeting.

A vote of the KPS membership on these proposals will take place at the February KPS meeting.

I have a date with a Revenue Stamp

by Bruce Roberts

For several years, I have had a not very secret “secret.” I have been dating revenue stamps. Lots and lots of them. Revenue stamps in the US all started in 1862 when funds were needed in a hurry to finance the War Between the States. There was no income tax so taxes were quickly levied on nearly all legal transactions, such as mortgage transfers, contracts, bank checks, and trade of all kinds. Stamps were issued to serve as receipts for the payment of the taxes. Stamps for taxes on documents are called Documentaries. Stamps for taxes on merchandise, such as perfume, matches, and medicine are called proprietaries.



This is a lovely example of a Bank Check documentary. To me the important thing is not the stamp, but the date on the stamp, March 20, 1863. You see, I am collecting the dates, with the stamps as a delivery vehicle. The documentary revenues were first used in late September 1862, and their use was discontinued on December 31, 1967. So I have chosen this period for my collection, and I am attempting to get all the different dates from this period – there are nearly 40,000!

It is ideal if the date is hand stamped and is legible without the use of a magnifier. Also a challenge is finding the complete date on the stamp. Many stamps have partial dates such as “9, 1925” with no way to know the month, or “MAR 13, 19” with no clue as to what the year is. More than half the stamps I see do not have any part of a day on them at all. So I comb through dealer’s boxes looking for cheap revenues with dates I need, and I occasionally buy mixed lots of revenues at auction.

At right is another of the documentaries. The Union finished the war deep in debt, so the wartime taxes continued for many years afterward. This is a \$2.50 used in 1871, with the date stamp “inverted.” The nice thing about the date is that when you hold it in your hand, you know when the stamp was used – similar to a date stamp on a postage stamp.



During the 11 years from June 30, 1883 to the summer of 1894 there were no documentary or proprietary taxes (a golden age for tax payers) so this period is very challenging for me to located dates on stamps. So I turn to another type of revenue; the “tax paid” stamp.



Shown at left is a Cigarette tax stamp, used to tax a specific number of cigarettes at the time they were packed. This type of stamp is often referred to as a “tax paid” because it has no inscribed monetary value. These were overprinted with the date they were released, not the day they were used. In this case the date is January 1, 1892, but that is fine with me as a collectible date.

As time went on, Federal tax stamps were printed for specific purposes. The stamp shown here is a Narcotics tax stamp used Sept 23, 1921. The tax was paid by druggists when they purchased narcotics for their stock.



The United States has issued a wide range of revenue stamps covering many uses and issued in many values. The lowest denomination was the 1/8 cent Proprietary issued during the Spanish American War in 1898 and the highest were the \$10,000 Stock Transfer stamps of 1944-1951.

At the top of the next page is a \$1000.00 Stock Transfer stamp used on August 10, 1925. Unlike postage stamps, Revenues can have very high values since the transactions, such as this stock transfer, often involved



large amounts of money, and the tax on the transaction was far beyond the charges to carry mail.

A more recent revenue issue is shown by the Boating tax stamp cancelled in Middlesboro, KY in 1960.



Not all dates on revenues are hand stamps. Indeed the majority of dates are hand written, such as the \$30.00 documentary stamp shown at right with the written date 1-13-22.

I also use state revenues for obtaining dates that I need. Below at left is a Florida Grapefruit Advertising stamp used April 22, 1936, and next to it is a Malt Liquor tax stamp from Ohio used Nov 23, 1936. Used across the country from each other, 8 months apart, they come together on adjacent pages in my collection.



And here is a part of a document with both US Documentary revenues and Commonwealth of Massachusetts state revenues collecting Federal and State taxes on the same document on May 18, 1916.



I mount these beauties and thousands of others in a set of stock books, reserving three rows of mounting pockets for each month, beginning with October 1862 and continuing through 7 large stock books to December 1967. I now have somewhere between 8,000 and 10,000 different dates. I have three Christmas uses (they are rare), and a stamp used the day I was born.

As a gift to all of you, and perhaps to stir your interest in this method of revenue collecting, I gathered copies of the 40 cent Documentary revenue, Scott #R237 with complete, legible dates and gave them to the club to use as the January "Stamp of the Month." This stamp was part of an issue first printed in 1917 and was in continuous use until remainders were overprinted "Series 1940" that year. So this stamp and its siblings, are important for collecting dates during this period. Your copy may have a hand stamp or a manuscript cancel. It may require magnification to see it. Once you know your "date," try finding out what was happening in the world that day. Your interest may be stirred. If anyone wants a starter collection of revenues with dates, I have plenty of duplicates!

Now you have a "date" with a revenue stamp, but I am going steady with all of them!

This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, January 3

Dues are Due!

KPS dues remain the same for 2006 - \$10.00 for individuals, \$12.50 for a family membership, and \$2.00 for youth members. Don't forget to fill out the membership form included in this newsletter and send it along with your payment to KPS. Better yet, save 37¢ or even 39¢ and bring your form and dues payment to the January KPS meeting.

What do you receive for your dues as a KPS member? To start with, you get the KPS Newsletter, mailed to you in one of the beautiful cachets that Ralph Dinwiddie creates each month. That alone is worth it. But, there's more. You can share in the enjoyment of our hobby and learn more about stamps at the monthly meetings. As a KPS member, you also have the privilege of putting lots up for sale in the annual Knoxpex live auction. You can exercise your creativity as a program presenter, article writer for the newsletter, or through your ideas, suggestions, and help at meetings and at Knoxpex. Don't wait until February, pay your dues now!

The World's Ugliest Stamp?

What do you think? Is this stamp, issued by France in 1925, the ugliest stamp in the world? Even if you don't think so, many collectors and writers at that time thought that it was. Come to the January KPS meeting to hear the real story in Tom Broadhead's program. You might want to bring an example of a stamp that you think is especially unattractive.



5th Tuesday Meeting – January 31

The KPS Board will meet at 6:00 pm, followed by a trade and swap at 7:00. Board meeting topics will focus on preparations for Knoxpex 2006. All KPS members may attend Board meetings.

How I got started.

Like most philatelists, Gerald Schroedl started stamp collecting as a youngster. His older brother gave him an album, and he got stamps from his uncle's business, bought approvals through the mail, kiloware at Woolworth's, traded stamps with friends, and was in the junior high stamp club. He liked stamps from British colonies and enjoyed figuring out where in the world different countries were located.

In 7th grade his interest turned to US stamps and he gave his worldwide collection to his younger sister. Some of his paper route earnings bought mint unhinged US stamps, and he rode the bus to Portland, Oregon to go to stamp stores. Particularly memorable were a 5¢ Norse-American and a 5¢ Huguenot-Walloon, that he still has. But, his mother was upset with him for spending so much money on them (the Huguenot Walloon cost \$7.50). He met a man from Squaw Valley California, who for several years sent worldwide stamps. When the winter Olympics were held in Squaw Valley in 1960, he sent first day covers of the Winter Olympics stamp.

Through 10th grade he would bicycle 3 miles to the post office to purchase new issues and plate blocks. Attending his first national stamp show in Portland in 1960, he bought his first piece of postal history, a 2 cent Columbian embossed envelope.

Completing high school, college and graduate school, as so many collectors do, Gerald stopped collecting. When he moved to Tennessee he re-summed collecting, purchasing stamps from the Brookshiers, from advertisements, and at Knoxpex. It didn't take too long to discover that the stamps he needed were expensive, and he became disillusioned with 19th century US stamps, once he realized how many had been altered or repaired.

About that time he met Paul Phillips (former club member), who introduced him to postal history, and exhibiting. Gerald began to collect the British Caribbean, especially covers sent from one island to another in the Lesser Antilles. He had always liked British Colonies stamps, and now had the opportunity to travel and work on several Caribbean islands. Later he added stamps and postal history from French West Africa. Gerald continues to enjoy philately, and what attracted him to it as a youngster still appeals to him today—stamps and covers are a never-ending source of information and fascination about history, geography, and culture.

Next KPS monthly meeting – Tuesday, February 7.