

Knoxville Philatelic Society News

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

Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs

Selecting a Show Theme

One of the challenges facing any stamp club that hosts an annual show is the selection of a theme. Decisions must be made that not only reflect on current or historical events, but also represent the goals and interests of the club and its members. For the last few years (Jonas Salk – 2005, Rock & Roll – 2006, and the 400th anniversary of Jamestown – 2007) the selections for *Knoxplex* have been made with a lot of interest and involvement by KPS members.

For 2007, there were many great suggestions. The most important philatelic event was the 150th anniversary of perforated US postage stamps, but would that theme appeal to the general public and attract new members? Another consideration was the 25th anniversary of the Knoxville World's Fair, but we had celebrated the 20th anniversary at *Knoxplex 2002*. Finalist ideas included the 100th international anniversary of Christmas Seals, the 200th birth anniversary of Robert E. Lee, and the Jamestown quadricentennial. In the final member vote, Christmas in March was deemed unseasonable, and there was little enthusiasm for Robert E. Lee.

The overwhelming consensus was Jamestown, but we like to use vintage stamps on our cachets! How much would cost just to purchase 39¢ of 1907 Jamestown commemoratives for one cachet? This year, we will follow the lead of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs and design a custom printed stamp to be purchased from *stamps.com* or *zazzle.com*. Your ideas for designs will be most welcome. Please share them with me and with our cachet designer, Ralph Dinwiddie.

Start thinking about *Knoxplex 2007* – March 3-4!

Tom Broadhead

Southeastern Stamp Show News

Knoxville Philatelic Society was well represented at September's Southeastern Stamp Show. Member dealers Mike Kauffman and Pat Goebel (Mike & Pat Collectibles) and Bill Muenzer (K-Town Stamps) were in the bourse of 28 dealers. Many other KPS members drove down to spend a day at the show.

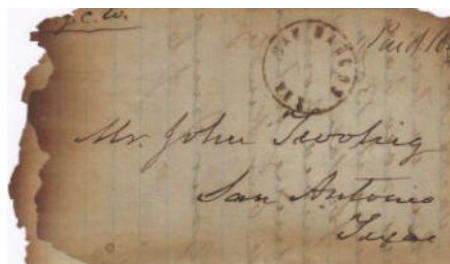
Both Bruce Roberts and Tom Broadhead won awards on their exhibits shown at the Southeastern Stamp Show in late September. Bruce's single frame exhibit of the "Pan American Air Mail Test – November 1, 1946" received a vermeil award in the show competition and also a vermeil award from the American Airmail Society, which was a guest organization. Tom won a gold award for "Balloon Post Cards of the Franco-German War, 1870-1871" and a vermeil award for "Subterranean Air Mail: French Pneumatic Post Card Usages 1879-1901." Look for articles on these exhibits in upcoming newsletters.

Holiday Party – December 5

Bruce Roberts has made arrangements for our annual holiday celebration at Ramsey's Cafeteria, located in the Days Inn motel at 5331 Central Avenue Pike – just north of Merchants Drive. The dinner will begin at 6:30. Stay tuned for updates on the program.

Ebay Treasure

In recognition of Barry Van Winkle's program on Texas postal history, here is a 1865 stampless cover from San Marcos to San Antonio. It sold on October 12 for \$138.36 with 11 bids.



Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – October 3, 2006

The October 2006 meeting of the Knoxville Philatelic Society was held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 231 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee. Nineteen (19) members were present.

Barry Van Winkle started the meeting with a presentation on Texas postal history. He included information about Texas as part of Mexico, as an independent republic, and finally statehood. Along the way he introduced such historical characters as Sam Huston and Santa Anna and showed his wonderful collection of prestamp covers. In January Barry will present the second part, the Texas-Tennessee connection.

Mike Kauffman called the business meeting together at 8:05. Members accepted minutes from last month. Treasurer Richard Ehrlich discussed the purchase of a 13 month \$2500 CD. He also said that the APS circuit books were a good opportunity for the members to purchase quality stamps, which only cost the club \$3.95 for the last shipment.

Next the stamp for *Knoxplex 2007* was discussed. Tom Broadhead said a computer printed special stamp could be designed and purchased for approximately two times face value. It would come in sheets of 20 with the club needing 80-100 cachets. It was also suggested to give the exhibitors and dealers a cachet.

The next shipment of APS circuit books will be available after the October 31st board meeting as well as at 6 pm before the November 7th regular meeting. Prior to that meeting Bruce Roberts will discuss the layout of material on exhibit pages. He informed members of the

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, \$12.50 for families, and \$2.00 for youth 17 years of age and under.

KPS Officers:

President	Mike Kauffman
Past President	Bruce Roberts
Vice President	Ralph Dinwiddie
Treasurer	Richard Ehrlich
Secretary	Pat Goebel
Directors	Norm Carlevato, Stu Hanlein, Jim Pettway, Charlie Wade
APS Representative	Jim Pettway

Requests for information and submissions of articles and short notes of philatelic interest 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.

need to have a regular progression of the material from the first page or frame to the end.

Mike Kauffman said Bill Muenser's son will again be night security for *Knoxplex*. Bruce Roberts suggested a donation bowl as was at the sign-in desk in Atlanta. Mike said it is not usual to charge a fee to a bourse at this time, and it might have a negative effect.

The provision for the change in the bylaws in the amount charged for dues was read and passed. There is now only one membership fee rate of \$10. There would be no discount other than prorating upon joining the club.

October is stamp collecting month. As part of that celebration, APS offered a special \$19 membership fee for 2006 and 2007, and at least three KPS members plan to join. A silent auction was held raising \$10 for the club from Disney postal card set.

Hans Ahlstedt sent club meeting information to *Metro Pulse* for its community activities section. Mike said there are 21 libraries in the Knoxville system, and we probably would not want to send a newsletter to each. It was discussed that the new Cedar Bluff library has a high attendance and may be a good choice for a newsletter as well as the downtown main library. Jim Pettway said we might be able to put a newsletter at the Weisgarber post office, and Stu Hanlein will inquire. Tom Broadhead said the club directory should be available at the next meeting.

Our newsletter on the web gets more hits than any other one on the Southeastern Federation web. Congratulations to Tom Broadhead and Ralph Dinwiddie on a job well done.

Stu Hanlein discussed efforts to start a precancel club in Knoxville, with the initial meeting set for *Knoxplex* in March. There are seven prospective members thus far. Dealers for *Knoxplex* will be informed that there are people interested in precancel material in a follow-up letter from bourse chair Mike Kauffman in January.

Submitted by,
Pat Goebel, Secretary

Stamp of the Month

This month's stamp is from the very large (37 different stamps) series of traditional costume designs issued by Austria from 1948 to 1952. This set was used as the country's definitive stamps until 1957. The 1.50 schilling value shows a woman in Viennese costume. Stamps are courtesy of Nicole Gamble.



An American Collector in Europe

By Charlie Wade

With the concerns about the decline or stagnation of stamp collecting as a pastime in America, it is refreshing to visit an area where the hobby is still in vogue. Over the past three years, I have spent ten weeks in Europe on a combination of pleasure and business, and during these visits I have visited 15 different stamp issuing countries. I always try to check out the local area for philatelic interest. From my observations, collecting is not only surviving, but flourishing in Europe.

While in England in June this year, I made a point to visit the Stanley Gibbons stamp store, one of the largest in the world. The shop is located just near Trafalgar Square in central London. Leaving my wife Jo in a street side café for her “cup of tea,” I stopped in for a visit. The store was about the size of an American chain drug store and was buzzing with activity. I counted 6 clerks on the main floor and 17 visitors at one time talking to clerks, browsing through albums, catalogs and packets, or at the back counter searching for specific countries or topics. The most amazing sight was a “proper English Lady” in her mid-fifties decked out in hat, gloves, dress, stockings, and high heels (in 90 degree temperatures during the European heat wave) sorting through country packets. Since I did not carry my UK want list, I only bought a few packets of European countries, just to say I’d shopped here.



Stanley Gibbons store in London



Inside the Gibbons store

Across the street was the Stamp Centre, which offered stamps, coins, post cards, covers and military memorabilia. They actually had a help wanted ad in the window seeking a full-time clerk with extensive knowledge of stamp collecting. Here I enjoyed browsing through covers, my only buy being a French cover mailed from the Admiralty in Paris to London in 1919. As I was at the counter, a lady brought in a collection to sell. The clerk directed her to another shop just 3-4 blocks down the street. I would have loved to visit that shop, but the free time Jo allowed me had expired.



Stamp Centre of London

In the UK I found a variety of stamp collecting books and magazines, such as *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, readily available in book stores and news stands. I also got my usual gift from my mother-in-law, who has bought me new issues of the UK for the last 25 years. Now in her 80's she can't make it to the post office that often, but still saves me commemoratives from letters, foreign stamps and special issues covering the royal family, and special events. Every time I visit, she gives me a cigar box with all the items saved from the past year.

During the same trip, we took a Mediterranean cruise. In Italy while walking the alleys, canals, and bridges in Venice we happened upon a small open-air market. At one of the stalls, I found a stock book full of Italian stamps priced in Euros but about \$6.00 in US money. Most of these stamps were modern, and since I only collect pre-1940 Italian, I passed on this opportunity. But after an hour or so, I thought what a good item to bring home from our trip and I decided to go back. Alas, when we tried to find the market again amongst the Italian maze, we never could! My wife told me I should have bought it on the spot, and I took that as license to buy what I saw in the future. During our stay in Rome, I did find a treasure, again in a stall along a busy park. Here there must have been 10,000+ covers, post cards, and packets from all over Europe. I spent an hour rummaging through boxes of stamps and covers. Not needing to spend a fortune to have fun, I bought a packet of older Italian issues, plus a nice cover from the Vatican from the early 60's.

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This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, November 7



Street side stall in Rome

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In Spain, our one stop was in Barcelona. While walking to the Gaudi Cathedral I passed a nice looking stamp shop. But it was siesta time, and the shop was closed. It had many nice items displayed in the window but from the prices, I guess it was best that the shop was not open. Not giving up, I found an open-air market selling everything imaginable. One shop-keeper had a large box of assorted stamps at ten for a Euro, and I bought about 30 Spanish stamps.

Another stop was Cannes, France along with Monaco and Monte Carlo. It was Sunday and I could not find any stamp shops. In Monaco I did see a large poster in a parking garage with illustrations of stamps but, not reading French, had no idea

what it said. While passing the royal palace in Monaco, the flag was flying indicating Prince Albert was in residence. I joked with my wife that I could have e-mailed him that we were visiting and he would have invited us up to view his collection. (I believe this was during the time the royal collection was in Washington at the 2006 World Exposition).

Probably the biggest surprise was when our cruise ship docked in Dubrovnik, Croatia. I looked out our cabin window and right before my eyes was a stand with a big banner stating “*Philately, Numismatics, Post Cards and Souvenirs.*” There were no specialties, but a large assortment of packets from Croatia and Yugoslavia which made a nice addition to my collection.



Charlie in Monaco

Our final after the cruise was in Finland, which was business for both Jo and me. We were in a small city, Tempere, 75 miles north of Helsinki. I did not find any stamp shops, but did buy some packets of Scandinavian stamps at a souvenir shop.

The evidence of the popularity of our hobby in Europe reminded me of a business trip I took a couple of years ago. In Budapest, I saw a small stamp shop in a subway station with hundreds of items crammed in the small window. I saw a similar shop on the street in Prague. Both times I thought, how wonderful to have stamp dealers right there amongst all the public traffic. In Glasgow, I visited a large stamp shop where eight other gentlemen doing the same all wanted to talk to me about collecting and my area of interest.

On our trip this summer, I picked up something from all seven countries we visited and probably spent less than \$25.00 – a great bargain for the fun I had. Stamp collecting truly is an international pastime with no language or cultural barriers.

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October 31 – 5th Tuesday Meeting

A lot of great philatelic activities are scheduled for the last 5th Tuesday of the year. The KPS Executive Board will meet at 6:00 to continue planning for *KnoxpeX 2007*. All KPS members are welcome to attend board meetings and participate in discussions.

Following the board meeting at 7:00, Jim Pettway will have the latest Circuit Sales books from the American Philatelic Society for KPS members to view and purchase stamps. U.S., Canadian, European, South American, and some great topical stamps are among the offerings. A repeat showing will take place at the regular November 7 meeting.

KPS holiday dinner – Tuesday, December 5