



Strait Stamp Talk



Mar-Apr 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 Mar-Apr Newsletter



Photo by Karen Mckee

Wes Falor

Hope everyone has survived the wet Jan-Feb weather and looking forward to Spring. For the month of march, the letter to be looking out for is "I" as in India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Iceland, Ionian Islands, Indore, Inini, Italy, Inhambane, and Indians, etc.

Hopefully you can come up with better options. Always remember that you can share other things with us as well.

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Mar 5th MEETING

After the general meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "I." Bring any questions you have about stamps or stamp collecting.

Apr 2nd MEETING

After the general meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "J." This will be followed by a Silent Auction. Forms can be downloaded from our website straitstamp.org

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STAMPS BECOME ART another path to stamp collecting

Grace Easterbrook
as told to Dick McCammon

As the saying goes, stamp collecting is in the eye of the collector. There are no rules in stamp collecting. What is important is what matters. The beauty of stamp collecting is that it takes many forms. Take Grace Easterbrook. She has her own way of collecting and displaying stamps she finds interesting.

Consider, for example, a simple matchbox using old papers. What better way to decorate than using postage stamps and Christmas seals (Figure 1).



Fig. 1. Matchbox using postage stamps and christmas seals.

To take another example, consider making a cuff bracelet using vintage paper and decorating it using postage stamps (Figure 2). Something that not too many would think of doing. Stamp art has its own ways.

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Fig. 2. Decorating a cuff bracelet using a postage stamp

Finally, what better way to decorate a Christmas tree display using old thread spools with some postage stamps (Figure 3).



Fig. 3. Decorating a Christmas tree using old thread spools and postage stamps

As you might suspect, Grace has an affinity for cinderellas (stamp-like objects that are not real postage stamps), promotional labels, poster stamps or souvenir stamps created for a special event or location. While each collector has their own way of collecting and displaying their stamps, stamp collecting is not a solo hobby. According to Grace, “sharing is part of the fun.” A reminder of the joys this hobby brings us.



Secretary Notes



Cathie Osborne

January 2nd Meeting

The Strait Stamp Society meeting of Jan. 2 was attended by 17 eager collectors, some of whom had already perused the treasures Wes had brought and had enjoyed the story of his latest collection appraisal.. The first order of business was to decide on our cover/cancel theme for our show this year. After much discussion, it was decided to choose the 60th anniversary of the M.V. Coho. Cathie will get a committee together to work on this. She reported also that we already have three dealers signed up. We next proceeded with the letter 'G'.

Don McIntyre told about the collector he met at the Gathering Place, a day-care place for disabled adults. Cathie had 19th century advertising mail from Great Britain, sent by a bell founder—who also made bathtubs. Jim H. said he is 'gathering' stamps to use with kids at two libraries this summer. Judy showed Gibraltar lighthouses. Bruce H. had some nice Great Britain presentation packs, one including lighthouses—even Bell Rock lighthouse. Dick McC. Showed embroidered stamps from Grenada and Gambia. Phil showed a postcard from Georgetown, Guyana, with a meter cancelation. Angela had mail from the Lotz ghetto in 1941, with some interesting history background. She also had some beautiful stamps from Greenland with info we didn't know before. Roger showed examples through the years of the Guller cancels, the first to introduce rotating dates. The more recent ones, K cancels, showed small town interest points.

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Bill told us about the General Grant National Park (and showed us a cancel from there), with some background about the California National Park system. Jim K. showed civil war patriotic and campaign covers with U.S. (Hiram) Grant cachets, from 1868 and 1872. Rick brought German Railway post office cancels and stamps; and Great Britain items, a prestige booklet and stamps with TPOs; and some cigarette cards from GB showing railway postal work.

February 6th Meeting

A happy group of 21 collectors were at the meeting. Cathie made a plea for one-page exhibits for our club frame for VICTOPICAL March 14-15. The mid-monthly meeting is February 12th at Burger King at 9:30 am. There was a short report on our show progress; and an announcement about the passing of our Canadian mentor, Don Shorting (**See Good Friend, next page**). The show and tell was the letter "H.". Mark W. showed Czech 'gutter stamps.' Rick K showed post marks and a postal card from Hungary. Bill H. talked about his 'Hawaii' career. Roger H. had it easy with 'Helvetia' as his choice. Bruce H. drew us in with a reference to the Pony Express as a transition to 'horses.' Judy N.'s contribution was Light Ships, with names starting with the letter H. Cathie, of course, brought 'handbells'. A break for bidding in the silent auction and coffee ended the evening of learning and good company.



A Good Friend Bids Farewell



Don Shorting
1935 - 2020

Don Shorting, a retired physician, stamp collector, and hockey player in Victoria, passed away in January. He was a Northwest Federation Distinguished Philatelist, a stamp judge qualified by the APS and in Canada, and the organizer of the Victoria stamp shows and bourses for more than 35 years. For the last ten years or so, he ran stamp clubs in several Victoria elementary schools.

In the 1990's, Don encouraged the Strait Stamp Society to start their own stamp show, and arranged for our club to purchase Victoria's old frames. Over the years, his encouragement was steadfast as we shared our hobby with local collectors. He was one of the organizers on the Victoria side, of the contingent that attends our show.

Though you may not have known him, those of us who did, will remember him for his generosity, kindness, friendship and stamp knowledge he was always willing to share.

Cathie Osborne



Cakes and Cookies



photo by Dick McCammon

At one of our Mid-monthly meetings, Vera Felts brought along a Christmas sheet featuring cakes and cookies from the Faroe Islands for her show and tell for the letter "F."



Pres. Message (continued from Page 5)

For the April meeting, the letter is "J," so you may have to be creative to come up with something as there are very few "J" countries out there. Some examples could be Japan, Jehou, Johore, etc.. We will also have a silent auction this month so dig out those goodies you want to get rid of and put them up to be bid upon.

I am sure there will be other business for us to share as well.



Editor's Note

Just to let you I know, I am going in for knee replacement surgery February 25th. I will do my best to keep the newsletter up to date and on schedule.