



Strait Stamp Talk



May-June 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 May-June Newsletter



Photo by Karen Mckee

Wes Falor

Hope this finds all of you enjoying the start of Spring, and the nice weather that has come with it. Unfortunately we now, as I am sure you are aware, have the very serious problem of the covid-19 pandemic to deal with. The cancellation of meetings and events and gatherings has had a profound effect on our hobby, the plus side is that with the sheltering at home aspect, at least we have a hobby that is very home oriented, and fun to do. I know that I have a lot of stamp projects I have neglected, that are now getting some additional attention. I hope you have all been enjoying the additional time to "play".

May 7th MEETING

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

June 4th MEETING

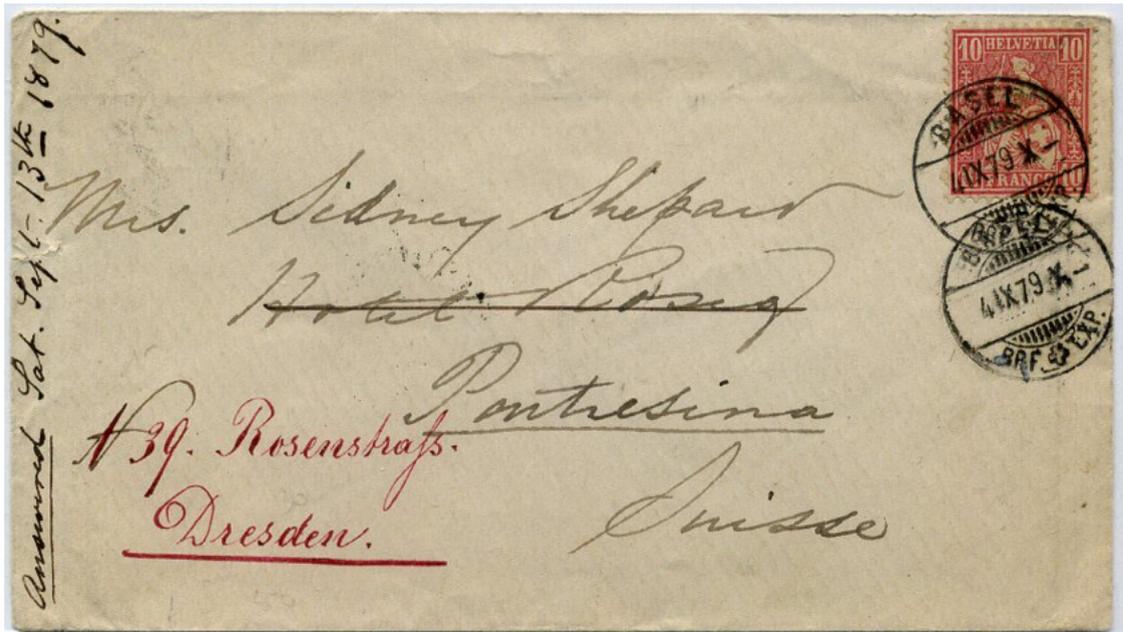
At the Zoom meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "L." No Silent Auction until further notice.

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Sometimes an item doesn't follow the normal procedures

Roger Heath



In this case a letter mailed from Basel 4 September 1879 to a hotel in Pontresina, Switzerland, was forwarded to Dresden, Germany, arriving 7 September. The domestic rate of 10 centimes was correct for the Basel to Pontresina leg, then it got murky. I had no idea why this letter had no postage due taxed and collected in Germany. So I wrote a letter to our society publication. My question was published and a reader in the UK responded very quickly. Below is his answer to my question -

"I am writing mainly in response to the short article about Roger Heath's interesting 1879 cover sent from Basel to Pontresina, then forwarded to Dresden. When forwarding the cover to Germany, under the provisions of the UPU Treaty of Bern (1874) the Swiss post office should have marked the cover with a 'T' (for 'taxe') to indicate that it was under-franked. However, any item not so marked by the originating postal authority was to be deemed fully paid "except in the case of an obvious error". Unfortunately the last two words were never defined so this did lead to some confusion and discrepancy. Hence, the Swiss made the initial mistake and the German post office had to obey the rules."

What should have happened, in line with the UPU Paris Convention of 1878 (effective 1st April 1879), is that as well as marking the cover with a 'T' the Swiss should have indicated the deficiency in francs/centimes next to the stamp. On arrival in Germany this was to be converted into the local currency, then doubled to arrive at the tax payable – except that the 1878 Convention provided additionally that if a letter was correctly addressed internally and then forwarded abroad then it was to be taxed only the amount of the deficiency. I hope you're still with me.

So the Swiss should have struck the cover with a 'T' and noted '15' to show the deficiency: this was normally done by the exchange office in Basel. If they had done so, then in Germany it would have been taxed single-deficiency, then reduced proportionately to reflect the ratio of the Swiss and German foreign letter rates of 25centimes: 20pfennig. The calculation would therefore have been $15 / 1.25 = 12$, rounded up to the next 5 = 15pf tax. I don't have a correctly treated example of this system from Switzerland to Germany but here are two from the same era going in the opposite direction. - Bob Medland

Secretary Notes



Cathie Osborne

March 5th Meeting

Nine intrepid stamp collectors met at the library for another good meeting. Perhaps it was the virus scare, the dark and stormy night, or ust normal surgeries and responsibilities, but the nine made the best of the low attendance. Like two cookies each of Vera's "shamrock" cookies.

Cathie gave a report about the upcoming show in Victoria and the symposium in Moses Lake. Also, an update on our show cancel.

We had our letter "I" show and and tell. Bruce showed a plethora of "imprinted margin" information; on a comic strip, on silent screen stars, on a postal museum, and other issues. Vera brought a beautiful selection of older to modern Iceland stamps. Judy told us about Ireland's "Ghost Ship" stamp —artwork featuring an old light ship. Cathie brought covers sent to Ward Island Insane Asylum in the 1890's.

A short auction ended the evening, except for having the rest of the coffee and cookies.

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April 2nd Zoom Meeting

A new experiment by the Strait Stamp Society was a Zoom video conference meeting (**SEE "A First"**) attended by Dave, Rick, Judy, Dick, Vera, Roger, Phil, and Cathie. Once everyone got used to the format, Cathie started by showing this year's finished show cancel, and also informed us about her winning "best of show" at VICTOPICAL in March. Congratulations, Cathie.

Rick shared with us his bidding at the recent Kelleher auction of RPOs that depleted his stamp budget. Roger found a German auction site with razor cancels that did the same for his stamp budget!

There was discussion of customs practices from Canada and the US. Vera told us about her next moving adventure (a move across the street from Phil's brother-in-law!); a Wuhan cruise not taken, and a Mexican archaeology tour cut short—and a new knee.

Letter J goodies included Number Ones from Jaipur, Jamaica and Jammu (Phil). Interlaken and Grinderwald/Interlaken cancels (Roger) . India, Ireland, Israeli and Italy Traveling Post Offices and cancels, including cachets showing the catch apparatus on several covers on Japan and Yugoslavia stamps, postcard and cancels of those TPOs (Rick). Dick chose Just for Fun, and showed an embroidered facsimile of a Department of the Interior Duck/Hunting stamp.

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Secretary Notes Continued from page 11

Judy found a series with Jersey lighthouses for us. Cathie showed jesters—with bells on.

Everyone is encouraged to attend our next zoom meeting, May 7th, featuring the letter "K" There will not be a mid-month meeting, as 'mid-monthlies' will be able to access zoom. But no cookies.



Loss of Friend of Philately

We are sad to report the death of Jack R. Congrove who died April 8, 2020. A full account of Jack's contributions can be found at <http://www.americantopicalassn.org/home.shtml>



Pres. Message (continued from Page 9)

Rick Kunz suggested we do a zoom video conference in April that apparently went well, so we will be using that format until we can resume our regular meetings. I would like to give Rick a big thank you for doing that and hosting it. A link will be sent out shortly before each meeting to explain how to join in. My computer at this time is being a pain in the 'you know what' and preventing me from joining in.

For the May meeting the letter of the month is "K" like in Korea, Kuwait, Kangaroo, etc..I am sure you will come up with many other ideas. I want to congratulate Cathie for " Best of Show ", at the Victopical in Victoria in March!! For the June meeting the letter of the month is "L" like in Latvia, Liquor, License, Liberia, Labrador etc.. Please remember to protect your selves and others by practicing the best science data supported ways to fight this virus.We have a considerable ways to go before we are in the clear and people stop dying from this virus.

Sorry if I carried on, most of our members are in the higher risk groups, please be safe, but do enjoy the nice weather.



A First for the Strait Stamp Society



View of the screen for our first Zoom video conference meeting held April 2nd, 2020. Present were Dick McCammon, Judy Newblom, Cathie Osborne, Rick Kunz (host), Roger Heath, Phil Castell, David Fuller, and Vera Felts. Until we win the battle against coronavirus, meetings will be conducted in this manner. Prior to each meeting, a link to the meeting site will be sent to each member. See you there.