



Strait Stamp Talk



May-Jun 2021

Your Stamp Collecting Newsletter

Volume 23 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-Jun Newsletter



Photo by Karen Mckee

Wes Falor

Hopefully now that spring has officially started we can look forward to more opportunities to do things outside and enjoy how nice the spring can be in our neck of the woods. We just need mother nature to step up to the plate, so to speak, and bestow some sunshine our way. I would have to guess that most of you have had at least started on your vaccines.

For the month of May, the letter is 'V' as in Vatican, Venezia, Viet Nam, Victoria, Virgin Islands, Vancouver Island, and I am sure you will come up with many other possibilities.

May 6th MEETING

At the ZOOM meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "V." There will be time for any other questions you have about stamps or stamp collecting.

June 3rd MEETING

At the meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "W." This will be followed by a Silent Auction.

Contents

Presidents's Message	Page 11,14
Club meetings May-Jun	Page 11
Coronavirus . . .	Page 12
New nonmachinable . . .	Page 13
New additional . . .	Page 13
Winner of Clallam	Page 14
Late breaking news	Page 14

(continued on page 14)

Coronavirus commemorative stamp

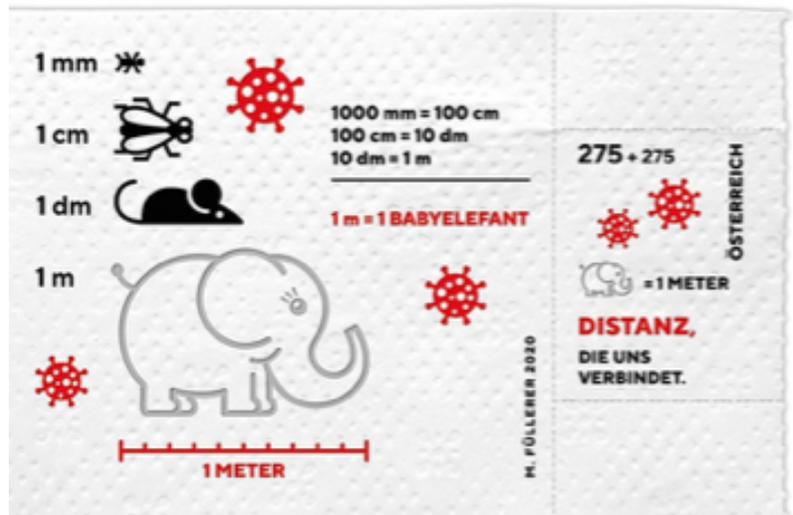
Following past issues made from porcelain, glass, meteorite, lederhosen-shaped and — most recently — skis, the Austrian postal service on October 30, 2020, issued another innovative stamp, this time, printed on toilet paper.

Distance that brings us together

The coronavirus pandemic has been a key concern for many months now. An original miniature sheet reminds us how the associated measures have changed our daily lives. One of the slogans that has become a constant companion is "Distance that brings us together." Keeping a distance of at least one meter between ourselves and other people should help to reduce the spread of the disease. The "baby elephant" is meant to help us judge and maintain this distance correctly and that is why it is also included as a symbol on the miniature sheet.

Illustrations of other animals are shown in Fig.1 for comparison, all representing different sizes. However, what is particularly innovative about this stamp is the material used is an ironic allusion to the panic buying indulged in by many anxious people at the start of the pandemic, using an elaborate process, namely, the mini sheet is printed on real toilet paper and made in the same size as a piece of toilet paper. In a collaboration with an Austrian toilet paper manufacturer, a self-adhesive foil made from paper manufactured from natural fibres was bonded to the reverse side of the toilet paper in order to make it more resistant to tearing, thus making it possible to detach the stamp more easily. Another feature are the perforations of the stamp, which are typical of toilet paper. Nonetheless, the seriousness of the situation has not been forgotten: the surcharge of 2.75 Euro is to be used for a charitable cause.

Austria's €2.75 + €2.75 Distance that Brings Us Together semipostal souvenir sheet was issued on October 30, 2020 and printed by Variuscard Productions and Handels GmbH in a quantity of 300,000 sheets.



Austria Post

Fig 1. Austria 2020 Distance that Brings Us Together Semi-Postal Toilet Paper Stamp



Vienna (Reuters)

Fig 2. Affixing an Austria 2020 Distance that Brings Us Together Semi-Postal Stamp to a Letter

New nonmachineable stamp features hairstreak butterfly

Michael Baadke/Linn's Stamp News



Fig. 1 The nondenominated (75¢) Colorado Hairstreak Butterfly Stamp issued March 9 in a pane of 20

Like the more familiar forever stamp, the nonmachineable surcharge rate stamp (Fig. 1) continues to fulfill the designated rate even if the nonmachineable rate increases in the future.

The state of Colorado named the Colorado hairstreak butterfly as its state insect in 1996.

The intended use of the stamp is to pay postage on any first-class domestic mailpiece that fails to meet designated sizing standards for first-class letters. A frequently cited example is the square greeting card envelope.

Another example when the surcharge is applied is when the envelope "contains items such as pens, pencils, keys, or coins that cause the thickness of the mailpiece to be uneven."

New stamps in the series are commonly issued when the nonmachineable surcharge rate changes, as it did in January this year.

The new stamp is the eighth issue in the Butterfly series since the first, a 64¢ Monarch Butterfly stamp.



New additional ounce stamp features Brush rabbit

Jeff Stage/New U.S. Issues/APS



Fig. 1 The additional ounce (20¢) Brush Rabbit Stamp issued January 24 in a pane of 20

The Brush Rabbit stamp (Fig. 1) covers the new additional ounce postage for first-class mail, which rose from 15 cents to 20 cents on January 24, the day the stamp was issued.

Though sold for 20 cents at time of issue, this Forever stamp will always meet the rate for an additional ounce of weight on first-class mail.

The brush rabbit — also known as the western brush rabbit or Californian brush rabbit — is a small species of cotton-tail rabbit found in western coastal regions of North America, from the Columbia River in Oregon to the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula. The postal rabbit on the stamp appears so real that you can almost see it hop off your envelope and scurry off among a scrubby landscape.

New stamps in the series are commonly issued when the surcharge rate changes, as it did in January this year.

Finally, if you are mailing a square greeting card that weighs two ounces, you will need 1 nonmachinable stamp and 1 additional ounce stamp making a total of 95 cents.



Winner of Clallam Community Service Award

Peninsula Daily News



Donald McIntyre looks the part he has played for 50 years

Don McIntyre was one of six 2020 recipients of the Clallam Community Service Awards. Better known on the North Olympic Peninsula as Santa Claus, Don has volunteered for the role for some 50 years, 15 of them as a Toys for Tots good will ambassador.

McIntyre, once a foster child himself, has delighted in bringing the joy of Christmas to children for all these 50 years. He got his start as the jolly man in the white beard in the Marines, continued it in Federal Way after his military service, and kept at it after he and his wife, Sharlene, moved to Diamond point in 2005. He has volunteered with the Toys for Tots program in Federal Way since 1970.

For the past 15 years, Don has worked on the Clallam County Toys for Tots campaign. As such, Don has made personal appearances at business meetings, social functions, sporting events and even military exercises. He has seen to it that no child goes forgotten at Christmas.

The members of the Strait Stamp Society congratulate their fellow club member for all his years of service to the community.



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Late Breaking News

Michael Baadke

A new set of four United States forever stamps highlighting popular espresso drinks will be issued nationwide April 9.

The designated city of issue is Seattle, Wash. Seattle has a long history as home to independent coffeehouses.



Pres. Message (continued from Page 11)

For the June meeting, the magic is "W" as in Western Samoa, Wurttemberg, Wallis and Futuna, West Indies, Wenden, White Russia, U.S.S.R., water mark, wooden boat, Western Australia, and again I am sure you will find many others to share.

Please stay safe and enjoy the spring weather and keep your fingers crossed that we only have a few more months to go before we will be able to meet together again.