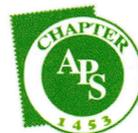




Strait Stamp Talk



Sep-Oct 2021

Your Stamp Collecting Newsletter

Volume 23 Issue

Strait Stamp Society meets the first Thursday of the month at the Sequim Bible Church, 847 North Sequim Avenue, 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 Sep-Oct Newsletter



Photo by Karen Mckee

Wes Falor

It was great to finally have a regular [face to face] meeting again and to see so many of your faces and smiles! Our next meeting will be Sept. 2nd at the same location and I am looking forward to seeing everyone after our Aug. show. Set up for our show is Friday evening at about 5:30ish. We open at 9:30 Saturday and run to about 5ish. We have a full slate of dealers and they should have a lot of new material we have not seen, since it has been 2 years since our last show.

At our September meeting we will have a show and tell where you can share what you found at our show and any other finds you would like to share. The letter of the month is "Z" as in zebra, Zanzibar, Zone Francaise, Zuidwest Africa, Zurich, and I am sure there are other towns that start with a "Z" that have

Sep 2nd MEETING

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

Oct 7th MEETING

At the meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "A." This will be followed by a silent auction.

Contents

President's Message	Page 20, 23
Club meetings Sep-Oct	Page 20
A New Generation . . .	Page 21
Heath takes Gold . . .	Page 22
Planning Meeting . . .	Page 22
Ver-what?	Page 23
Mystery Stamp	Page 23
SEAPEX 2021	Page 23

A New Generation of Stamps

Deutsche Post rolls out QR-style tracking codes *The Local de*

Starting February 2021, new issues of German stamps (Fig. 1) will feature a matrix code. On the one hand, it is intended to prevent counterfeits or fraudulent multiple use. Furthermore, use of the code will also allow shipment recording and control and tracking, as well as detailed background information about the stamp. The codes, which are similar to QR codes, will sit alongside the traditional images in what will be “a new generation of stamp.” The code allows for more than four billion numbers within to obtain a unique identifier for each stamp. For philatelists and interested customers, an additional benefit is that detailed background information about the respective stamp is available using the Post & DHL app of Deutsche Post via the matrix code (Fig. 2).



Fig 1. The new stamp reading 'digital change' and with a QR tracking code.

Photo: DPA



Fig 2. The Post & DHL app

Initially, only some stamps will bear the code, with a start date of February 2021. From 2022, all stamps will bear the code. The codes are included in the stamp at the printing stage. The code is made up of:

1. The letters DEA, with DE for Germany and A for Deutsche Post.
2. Customer Number.
3. If purchased from a Stamp machine, the exact machine identifier number.
4. Type of stamp, so internet stamp, machine stamp, PO bought commemorative stamp etc.
5. Date first scanned in PO, printed from machine etc.
6. Product number.
7. Consignment number.
8. Antifraud elements such as a crypto string.
9. Issue date and face value.

It is not clear yet about the impact on the number of new issues, how long traditional issues will still be usable etc. It does mean, however, that stamps will no longer be cancelled as it is "not necessary" allowing savings to be made. There will be a transition period where cancelling will continue, until traditional stamps are used up. How long this takes remains to be seen.

Heath takes Large Gold at WESTPEX 2021

Roger Heath took a **Large Gold** for his exhibit "*Swiss Flexible-Head Razor Cancelers*" at the Westpex 2021 Show



July 29-Aug 1, 2021. His exhibit also won the **Collectors Club of San Francisco - Reserve Grand Award** and the **AHPS - Felix Ganz Memorial Award**.

His other exhibit "*Reflecting the Rise of Tourism during La Belle Epogue – Hotel Schweizerhof, Luzern: 1871-1914*" won a **Gold**.

The exhibit on the Swiss Flexible-Head Razor Cancelers documents the story of the Swiss experimental flexible-head, rotating date-wheel cancelers invented by Frederic deCoppet in 1886.

The exhibit includes a timeline of the order in which the test cancelers were issued and retired. The items chosen represent the destinations, rates, and methods of Swiss mail handling during and after, the official test period of 1898-1903.

His other exhibit illustrates the social history of postal communication to and from the Hotel Schweizerhof, Lizern, Switzerland, during the period known as La Belle Epoque, 1871 to 1914. The examples in the exhibit are of personal and business communications that transited the mail room of this luxury Swiss hotel. This forty-three year period, free of European wars, and characterised by economic prosperity and optimism, saw a burst of cultural, scientific, and technological innovation, that led to a boom in tourism.



Planning Meeting May 18, 2021



photo by Dick McCammon

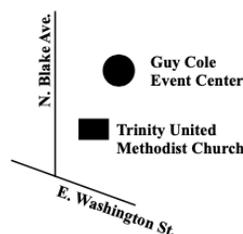
Members seated left to right, Judy Newblom, Bruce Halstead, Wes Falor, Cathie Osborne, Julie Tarbuck, Richard Tarbuck; standing Don McIntyre

Plans were underway to hold the **Twenty-Seventh Annual Strait Stamp Show**, August 21, 2021, 9:30 - 5:00 at the Guy Cole Event Center, 202 North Blake Avenue, Sequim, WA.

Free Admission, free stamps for Children, Door Prizes, Exhibits, Penny Table, Postal Service on Premises, Dealers: Buy, Sell; Snack Bar Sponsored by the Strait Stamp Society.

Due to the shortage of time, this year there was not a Show cancel. Exhibit forms were downloaded from our website straitstamp.org.

The general public was invited to attend and to bring along their stamps or collections for appraisal by our dealers who also had lots of items for sale.



Contact: 360-683-6373



Ver-what?

*Jim Stever
Corpus Christi, TX*

To the Editor;

Vermeil. The pronunciation should reside in the mind of the exhibitor. For instance, if you are a hopeful person and believe that at a future show you may get a gold, then you should think of it as a ver-MAY. On the other hand, if you believe it was the last controversial call by the judges before they went to dinner, you should think of it as a ver-MEAL. Of course, if you believe your collection is worth millions and this was the judges way of acknowledging its great worth, then you got a ver-MIL.

But, if you are convinced your gold medal exhibit just wasn't appreciated, you should hark back to the origin of the word. You see, it stems from the Latin "mermis," meaning worm, and you are perfectly justified in thinking, "Those worms on the judges' panel have downgraded me again."



Mystery Stamp



Can you decode the mystery message? Answer in the next issue

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"To you Herbert, your uncle leaves, as a hedge against inflation, a stash of U.S. Forever postage stamps."

SEAPEX 2021

10-12 SEPTEMBER 2021
seapexshow.org



Pres. Message (continued from Page 20)

some postal history connection.

At our October meeting on Oct.7th we are starting over with the alphabet so the letter of the month and show and tell will use the letter "A" as in Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Angola, and a whole host of other countries plus topicals. We will also be having a Silent Auction, so bring those extras and odds and end you would like to dispose of to be bid on.

Please keep well and remember to bring and wear a face mask at our show for your protection and everyone else as I am guessing it will be required the way things are moving lately.