



THE FIRST STATE PHILATELIST



The Official Newsletter of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club

Next Meeting: 10/11

The next meeting for the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:30pm**. The October 11th Meeting will be held at *The Stamp Center* (at 4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware, in the Talleyville Shopping Center). This meeting will include an exciting tour of the Stamp Center facility and a discussion of its services and operations.

Sept. Meeting Notes

Minutes. These are the minutes of the September 13, 2023 meeting of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club at Summit Retirement Community, Hockessin, Delaware.

Call to Order. The Brandywine Valley Stamp Club Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bill Matalavage. There were 18 members of the club present.

Upcoming Shows. The following upcoming stamp shows were noted to members:

- September 30, 2023 - Capital City Philatelic Society Stamp Show at the Lower Swatara Fire Hall, in Middletown, Pennsylvania.
- October 14, 2023 - Southern Delaware Stamp Show will be held in Dover, Capital City (see article elsewhere in this issue)
- UNPEX at APS.

Report on BalPEX. It was reported that the BALPEX show had less dealers this year than in previous years but was still a good show.

Go South Young Man Southern Delaware Stamp Show in Dover, October 14

The Dover and Sussex County stamp clubs are jointly hosting the show that used to be known as the Dover Stamp Show, but has now been re-cast as the Southern Delaware Stamp Show. The show is scheduled to be held at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church located at 425 North DuPont Highway (Rt. 13), Dover, Delaware on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The show's hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The show will have good numbers of stamp dealers, a United States Postal Service station, a silent auction, and hourly door prizes. There will be free admission for this show, refreshments, and free parking.



Reign, Reign – Go Away 75th Anniversary of Exile of Romania's Michael I, Who was Twice King

Last year marked the 75th anniversary of the forced abdication of King Michael I of Romania, this year marks the 75th anniversary of his exile. His story is a wild won, with much postal representation regarding his kingship. Here's the story:

Born in 1893, Crown Prince Carol of Romania was heir to the throne of Romania. But he was certainly not any model for a future king: He deserted the nation's army during the heady times of World War I, expressed a lack of zeal for royal duty, and had scandalous relationships. In March of 1921, Prince Carol married Princess Helen of Greece, and soon thereafter was born Prince Michael in October 1921. In 1925 Prince Carol was found having an affair, causing a scandal forcing him to renounce his claim to the throne and leave the country.



(left) First stamp of King Michael first reign (1927-30) issued on March 26, 1928, Scott #320; (right) First stamp of King Michael's second reign (1940-1947) issued on October 20, 1940, Scott #506)



(top) Last stamp of Michael I reign was this postage due issue of late 1947, featuring King and Crown (Scott #J98D); (middle) Gheorghe Bibescu, a 19th century Romanian prince with King Michael I; (bottom) Romania stamp honors the nation's last king with this memorial issue in 2017 (Scott #6037).

In 1927, when Romania's King Ferdinand died, young Prince Michael became King Michael I at age five. Michael's ascension to the throne was noted with a nine-stamp definitive series (Romania, Scott #320-328). As he was a minor, he was guided by a group of Regents (advisors).

Seeing this situation as an opening for resuming the throne, Prince Carol returned to Romania, dethroned his son, and became King Carol II, which was noted by an 11-stamp Romanian series in 1930 (Scott #369-379). As King he suspended the constitution, created a dictatorship, and, later, aligned Romania with Nazi Germany with an expectation of Nazi victory (he wanted to be on the winning side of the war). However, Germany's dictator Adolph Hitler had, unbeknownst to King Carol, made a pact with Russia allowing it to seize Romania territory. By late 1940, Romania had been dismembered by Russia; it lost most of its territory. King Carol II was, rightly, blamed for this turn of events and forced to abdicate the throne.

Re-enter: King Michael I, for a second reign. Romania observed this second reigns beginning by issuing an 11-stamp definitive series (Scott #506-516). As Michael I resumed the throne, he was saddled with a government

firmly committed to Hitler's Germany. But by 1944, He was able to overthrow the Nazi collaborators in his government, and committed Romania to supporting the allies. Sadly, for King Michael one of the groups that rose up to push out the Nazis was the Communists. This effectively welcomed in the Red Army of Russia, which didn't leave. Soon, Russian Communists took control of Romania.

King Michael I, who was popular, was left in place. But this created the awkward scenario of a pro-western Romanian King having to work with a Russian-based Communist government. King Michael I engaged in political brinksmanship with the Communist Government, refusing to sign bills and demanding the its resignation.

In 1947, while visiting the United Kingdom, Michael was advised by the British Ambassador not to return to Romania, and to take asylum in Britain. He rejected the advice, and returned to Romania. It was during this period thru the end of 1947 that Romania's final stamps of King Michael I's reign were issued. The stamps were a series of four Postage Due issues (Scott #98A-98D).



Erst: 160 Years Ago Small Wonder: World's Smallest Stamp issued in 1863

In 1952, Colombia issued a stamp (Scott #601, shown below) picturing the government communications building. That stamp was $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ " — it was small. It was assumed by many collectors that this stamp was the world's smallest stamp. It turns out it is not. It turns out that the smallest stamp in the world comes from... well... Colombia (kind of) but from way back in the year 1863.

The Colombian state of Bolivar used to issue its own postage stamps. In 1863, it issued a tiny 10-centavo stamp (Scott #2). How small was it? It was 0.35 x 0.37 " — so, that image of the stamp you see above is nearly five times larger than the actual stamp! That's how small it is. It is really, really small.

And of note, there is a diagonally bisected version of this stamp (Scott #2a), worth 5-centavos. This means that postal authorities cut the tiny stamp from the State of Bolivar in half to create a different effective face value (half-value) for postal use.



Club Business.

Silent Auction. Items for the Silent auction will be auctioned after the business meeting.

Meeting Space. The Summit Retirement Community changed our meeting space due to a change in their calendar for a movie night for residents. Discussions were held regarding changing our meeting night but Bob Ruff spoke to management. There will be no change at this time.

DelPEX. A decision was made to go forward with plans for the next show on May 4, 2024. Bob Swed will confirm that date with the Nur Shrine Center and pay a \$500 deposit.

Additionally Bob provided an update on his discussions regarding storage of the display frames. Our preference would be to continue to store these at Nur, but we also have an alternative offer of storage facilities from a club member, if Nur insists on our moving them, as seems likely.

This discussion prompted a question as to whether it continues to make sense for the club to continue to host display exhibits at DELPEX, given the seeming lack of interest of most club members in contributing exhibits, and the ongoing challenges involved in storing/transporting/assembling the large number of frames. There seemed to be a general consensus at the meeting that we should, at a minimum, continue with our Members' Showcase frames (which have been positioned at the front of the room, and have elicited much positive feedback). There was definitely no consensus at the meeting regarding whether to continue the much larger display exhibits (on the stage, at the back of the room).

It would definitely be helpful if all members would take the time to share their views on this topic with Bob Swed, or any of the other club officers, either at the next meeting, or by email/phone contact, so that we can make a decision in the best interests of the club.

On December 30, 1947, in his palace in Bucharest, Communist officials presented him a pre-written letter of abdication, which he was forced to signed. He was then exiled from Romania on January 3, 1948. Epilogue: In 1997, his Romanian citizenship was restored by the new government of Romania in the wake of the fall of communism, and many Royal properties were returned to his family. In 2017, the king with two reigns, who opposed both the Nazis and the Communists died while in Switzerland.

Ice-Melt?

After Discontinuing Stamps in 2020, Iceland Unveils New Issues for 2023

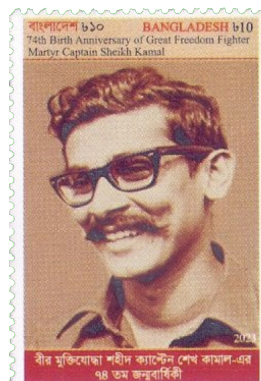
The north Atlantic nation of Iceland — a once Norwegian, then Danish, and briefly Anglo-American outpost — independent since 1944, made news in 2020 when its postal service announced it was ending the issuance of any new postage stamps. It was the first country (and still the only) in the world to do so. But, in 2023 there may be a course change!



This new four-stamp set from Iceland marks the 150th anniversary of Icelandic postage stamps and also marks Iceland's returns to producing postal stamps for the first time since becoming the first country in the world to discontinue them in 2020.

Much to the glee of philatelists around the world, Icelandic postal authorities announced the issuance, on August 23, 2023, of the nation's first new postage stamp issue since 2020. This new special issue is being produced to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first postage

stamps of Iceland (1873; Scott #1-7). The new issue is a set of four stamps on a souvenir sheet; images on the stamps (and sheet) feature rivers, volcanos, glaciers and the Northern Lights. The big question: Is this the start of a new series of Iceland stamps issues or just a one-off philatelic event? When questioned on this matter, an official of Iceland Post responded, "Nothing has been decided yet, but who knows?"



Sheikh Kamal is remembered on a new Bangladesh stamp authorized by his sister, the Prime Minister.

Sisterly Love in Bangladesh Prime Minister Honors Brother with Stamp

Sheikh Kamal (1949-1975) was the eldest son of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the former President of Bangladesh, and the younger brother of Sheikh Hasina, the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh. During a 1975 military coup d'etat in Bangladesh, Sheikh Kamal was brutally killed along with his mother, father (the then-President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman), uncle, and brothers. His sisters, Sheikh Hasina (the current Prime Minister) and Sheikh Rehana, were out of the country at the time and were spared.

On August 5, 2023, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina released a Tk10 denominated commemorative stamp (and souvenir sheet), marking the 74th anniversary of the birth of her brother, Sheikh Kamal, who had

been seen as the heir-apparent to the Presidency of Bangladesh, prior to and possibly leading to his assassination. The Prime Minister used a special cancellation for that stamp's first day of issue in a ceremony held at her official residence.

Topical Thunder

Puff-orated and Impuff-orated: Cigar Stamps of the World

While few people are cigar sommeliers (experts), many folks are likely familiar with key cigar facts. The country most associated with cigar production is Cuba. The man most associated with puffing a cigar is likely Winston Churchill. The two comedians most remembered for smoking cigars are Groucho Marx and George Burns. The detective most commonly chomping his cigar was Lieutenant Columbo.



The old TV commercial that declared that "Winston tastes good like a cigarette should" perhaps didn't know the most famous Winston — Churchill that is — tasted only cigars. He is show here on this Brunei stamps from 1974 (Scott #221) puffing away.

ground, but not obviously seen. For those stamps all I can say is: close, but no cigar! The following is the 30 stamp topical collection for cigars:

Belgium #2234d, 2801c; Brunei #221; Cuba #356-358, 421-422, 446-447, 1536, 2492, 4199, 4209, 4197, 4294, 4298-99, 4510, 4696, 5278a, 5493-97; Japan #4272a; Liberia #3077d; Paraguay #C315; Sierra Leone #2422; United States #2243..

You Send Me!

U.P.U. Holds Extraordinary Congress Ahead of 150th Anniversary Year

The Universal Postal Union, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2024 (meaning lots of U.P.U. themed postal issues) is holding an Extraordinary Congress from October 1-5, 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Among topics being discussed during the Extraordinary Congress is how the U.P.U. can better interact with private companies and partner organizations outside of its network (i.e., outside of government-based postal systems). Proposals that are bound up in this discussion try to put together a structure in which private postal-related companies, for example, could be connected to the U.P.U. in such a way that the organization would be in a position to oversee truly universal. This would be a major

The Hip 40

September Rankings

HipStamps, the top stamp sales website, has provided *First State Philatelist* with its sales listing data for the month of September 2023. Following the rank and country/area name are the of items selling in each. Items highlighted in yellow indicate an increased in rank.

1. Europe	2,143,717
2. United States	1,906,853
3. Africa	598,454
4. Asia	555,538
5. Germany & Colonies.....	406,615
6. Australia & Oceania.....	356,498
7. Worldwide	356,015
8. Canada.....	326,693
9. Central & S. America.....	325,914
10. Great Britain	295,561
11. Caribbean	278,294
12. Worldwide	272,953
13. Germany.....	270,998
14. France & Colonies	203,799
15. Middle East	193,545
16. Australia	156,807
17. Austria	107,909
18. Italy.....	103,702
19. Russia & Soviet Union	101,472
20. Switzerland	84,638
21. Japan.....	79,533
22. Sweden	71,602
23. Netherlands & Colonies	65,939
24. China	65,409
25. New Zealand	62,249
26. India.....	62,154
27. Poland.....	60,321
28. Belgium & Colonies	59,169
29. Malaysia.....	57,087
30. Hungary	56,507
31. Israel.....	55,272
32. Portugal & Colonies	54,128
33. United Nations	51,658
34. Germany DDR.....	50,669
35. Ireland.....	48,490
36. South Africa	47,966
37. Brazil.....	47,944
38. Denmark	46,603
39. Finland	44,129
40. Romania.....	41,844

Brandywine Valley Stamp Club

Affiliations

APS Chapter #268

ATA Chapter #134

2022-23 Officers

PresidentBill Matalavage
 Vice PresidentChris Baron
 TreasurerJohn Howker
 SecretaryRich Carter
 Board of Directors.....Greg Ajamian,
 Tom Pesikay,
Bill Clark
 Newsletter EditorFr. James Lentini
 Program ChairBob Swed
 DELPEX Chairman.....TBA

Meetings

The club usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meeting location information will be provided, with details, in this newsletter.

Dues

Annual dues are \$15.00 (or 3 years for \$35) and are due in January. Send a check made out to BVSC to: John Howker, 513 Ridgeview Drive, Hockessin, DE 19707.

Newsletter

The First State Philatelist is the official publication of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club and is published 10 times annually. All opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and/or editor. We welcome submissions of articles for publication.

Correspondence

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Website

www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com



Two of the hundreds of stamps issued in 1949 to celebrate the UPU's 75th anniversary: Top: Monaco, Scott #C33; bottom: Great Britain #276.

most nations of the world again produced U.P.U. stamps — commemorating its 100th anniversary. One can expect that 2024's 150th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union will likely, once again, produce a plethora of stamps.

That's Not His Bailiwick Why is Frenchman Victor Hugo Seen on So Many Stamps of Guernsey?

Victor Hugo was a noted French poet, novelist, and not-to-successful politician. But he is found frequently on stamps — not from France but from Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands off the coast of England. Why is that?

Here's the story: Hugo openly deplored the restoration of the French Emperor in 1852. In 1855, exiled, he moved himself to Guernsey. He took an immediate liking to this tiny British island. He could see his native France from the island's shore. Hugo made a home in Guernsey. From there he wrote *Les Misérables*, *Toilers of the Sea*, and several other works.

When the French Emperor was deposed in 1870, Hugo returned to France to re-engage in politics but with little success. In 1872, he returned to Guernsey again, this time for only two years, and then returned to France, where he died in 1885.

But, the people of Guernsey never forgot the expatriate poet and author who made his home on their island. This is why he appears on so many stamps of Guernsey (to date, on some 30 stamps).



This 1975 stamp from the Bailiwick of Guernsey (Scott #124) is one of many issues featuring Victor Hugo

Get with the Program!

One Justice and Four Animals

Highlight USPS Oct. Stamp Program

Two new issues will highlight the United States Postal Service's new issue offerings for October 2023, as follows: Ruth Bader Ginsburg (single stamp) — it will be a 66¢ forever definitive stamps; and Woodland Animals (set of four) forever special stamps. Here are details on these new issues:



On Monday, October 2, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The Ruth Bader Ginsburg stamp — single (66¢) forever commemorative stamp — features an oil painting of her in her black judicial robe and iconic white collar. The stamp captures her enduring spirit and tireless dedication to upholding the principles of the Constitution. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp with a portrait by Michael J. Deas based on a photograph by Philip Bermingham. The Ruth Bader Ginsburg stamp is being issued as a Forever stamp in panes of 20.

•**Ordering Information.** Single (66¢) forever commemorative, issued in a stamp, pane of 20. 483304 Pane of 20, \$13.20; 483306 Press Sheet with die cuts, \$118.80; 483308 Press Sheet without die cuts, \$118.80; 483316 First Day Cover, \$1.21; 483321 Digital Color Postmark FDC, \$2.06; 483325 Stamp Portfolio, \$23.95; 483326 Stamp Pin/Cancellation Card, \$14.95; 483333 Commemorative Panel, \$11.95; 483334 Stamp Ceremony Memento, \$30.95; 483360 Matted Stamp, \$9.95; 483366 Notecards, \$20.95; 483399 Field Notes, \$14.95.

- **First Day of Issue Ceremony:** Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at National Portrait Gallery, Eighth and G streets NW, Washington, D.C. 2001. A keynote address on the unveiling will be given by the Hon. Roman Martinez IV, chairman of the USPS Board of Governors



On Tuesday, October 10, Winter Woodland Animals.

Four (66¢) Forever special stamps, double-sided pane of 20; deer, rabbit, owl and fox. This set of four connects one to the natural beauty of the winter season to celebrate four species that make their homes in the woodlands of North America. Among the most familiar of wildlife, deer, rabbits, owls and foxes are found across much of the American landscape. This booklet of 20 stamps features graphic illustrations of these four animals in different woodland settings in winter. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamps with Katie Kirk, who illustrated the stamps.

•**Ordering Information.** 684604 Booklet of 20, \$13.20; 684616 First Day Covers (set of 4), \$4.84; 684621 Digital Color Postmark FDCs (set of 4), \$8.24; 684624 Framed Stamp - Fox, \$29.95; 684625 Framed Stamp - Owl, \$29.95; 684626 Framed Stamp - Deer, \$29.95; 684627 Framed Stamp - Rabbit, \$29.95; 684699 Field Notes, \$19.95.

- **First Day of Issue Ceremony:** The first day of issue location for this set will be at Woodland, Michigan 48897. There will be no formal ceremony for the first day of issue of this set.

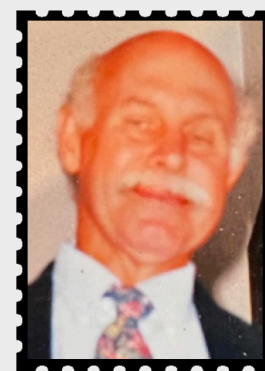
Education Program. The education program for the evening was postponed due to our meeting room change. The topic *The American Revolution: A Glorious Undertaking* was postponed to a future date.

Next Meeting. Next month's meeting will be held at Dutch County Auction at 7 P.M. November meeting will be silent auction; December will be Trivia Quiz night.

Adjournment. The September meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Closed Album

Robert DeGazelle



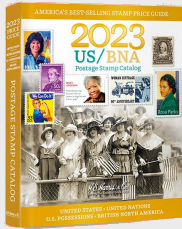
It has been reported to us that Club Member Robert DeGazelle, age 76, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, passed away on Nov. 22, 2022. Born in Coatsville, Pennsylvania on July 30, 1946.

Mr. DeGazelle served our country in the Army Reserves. He worked for many years for the Reading Railroad, as well as a home contractor for many years.

He enjoyed stamp collecting and was a member of our Brandywine Valley Stamp Club. His collecting interests centered around Canadian stamps and Pennsylvania Postal History.

Mr. DeGazelle is survived by his wife, Catherine; his sons David and Christopher; and his daughters, Debra and Melanie.

Philatelic Books Top 15



Based on the [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) sales chart for last week of September 2023.

Sep	Aug	Title (Author/Publisher)
#1	1	US/BNA Postage Stamp Catalog 2023 (H.E.Harris)
#2	3	The World Encyclopedia of Stamps & Stamp Collecting (James McKay)
#3	2	Collecting Stamps (Jerry Haydock)
#4	—	Philatelic Book of Even More Secrets (Scott Murphy)
#5	—	2023 Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps (Scott Publ. Inc.)
#6	12	Warman's U.S. Stamp Field Guide (Maurice Wozniak)
#7	10	US/BNA Postage Stamp Catalog 2022 (H.E.Harris)
#8	11	Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue 1840-1940 (Scott Pub Inc)
#9	11	Political Campaign Stamps (Mark Warda)
#10	6	2024 Scott Postage Stamp Catalogue (Scott Publ. Inc.)
#11	—	2023 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United Nations Stamps (Scott Publ. Inc.)
#12	9	Encyclopedia of Stamps and Stamp Collecting (Rodney Juell)
#13	—	Rare Stamps Expert Official Investment Buyer's Training Guide (Bill Spanko)
#14	—	Scott United States Pocket Stamp Catalogue (Scott Publ. Inc.)
#15	—	My Stamp Collection: Stamp Collecting Album for Stamp Collectors (Atlas NoteBooks)

Shop 'til You Drop: Upcoming Stamp Shows

There are many stamp shows this October — six other shows not too far from the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club's home turf in Wilmington, Delaware:

October 7, 2023 (Saturday)

What: Merchantville Stamp Club Monthly Bourse
When: 9:00am-3:00pm
Where: Martin Luther Chapel School Gym
 4100 Terrace Ave., Pennsauken, New Jersey
Who: Merchantville Stamp Club
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 40 miles (40 mins.)

October 14, 2023 (Saturday)

What: Southern Delaware Stamp Show
When: 10:00am-4:00pm
Where: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
 425 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware
Who: Dover Stamp Club and Sussex County Stamp Club
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 51 miles (47 mins.)

October 14, 2023 (Saturday)

What: Colts Neck Coin Stamp and Card Exposition
When: 9:00am-3:00pm
Where: Colts Neck Triple Crown Room
 50 Conover Rd, Colts Neck, New Jersey
Who: stampand.com
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 96 miles (1 hr. 43 mins.)

October 14-15, 2023 (Saturday-Sunday)

What: Wilkes Barre Coin Club Show
When: 9:00am-3:00pm
Where: St. Joseph Oblates
 1880 Rte 315, Pittston, Pennsylvania
Who: stampand.com
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 96 miles (1 hr. 43 mins.)

October 15, 2023 (Sunday)

What: Third Sunday Monthly Stamp Bourse
When: 8:00am-4:00pm
Where: DoubleTree by Hilton
 690 Route 46 East, Fairfield, New Jersey
Who: Stampman / Sugarplum Philatelics
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 129 miles (2 hrs., 9 mins.)

October 21-22, 2023 (Saturday-Sunday)

What: The Fairfax Stamp Festival
When: 9:30am-5:00pm (Sat.); 10:00am-4:00pm (Sun.)
Where: Elk's Lodge
 8421 Arlington Blvd., Rte. 50, Fairfax, Virginia
Who: Big Licks Stamps
How Far? Distance from Wilmington: 122 miles (1 hr. 50 mins.)

Stag-nation

Hunor, Magor and the Stag that Help Found the Nation of Hungary

Legend says that way-back-when, Hunor and Magor were out hunting when a beautiful white deer, a stag, was seen leaping across a field. The creature was stunning. They pursued it but ultimately lost his trail by evening and found themselves lost. The next morning, in the light of day, they realized that they had entered a land of which they had never heard. It was an amazing land endowed with good soil, beautiful forests, fruit, game and fish.



The mythic deer on this stamp (Hungary, Scott #484) and many others are part of history of Hungary.

Hunor and Magor took their wives to see it and decide to make this land their new home. Their descendants prospered and became the Huns (from Hunor's clan) and Magyars (from Magor's class) forming a new nation: Hungary (known officially as the Magyar Republic). Hungary, the land of Hunor and Magor, has produced many stamps honoring the white stag that started it all. The white deer symbol was associated with Scouting in Hungary until the scouts were suppressed in 1948.

Video Pick:

Key Collector Question: How Do I Get Self-Adhesive Stamps Off Paper?

It's retro-month for the *First State Philatelist's* "Video Pick" for October? Time to step into the Wayback Machine and set the controls for the year 1955... and watch this documentary video called "The Stamp Story." To view the video: click below, or go to the following link: stampaware.weebly.com/videos.



Editor's Corner:



Words and Reflections on Philately...

This month, let's take some time to reflect on some great quotes about stamps and stamp collecting:

Consider the postage stamp: Its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.

- *Josh Billings, Humorist*

All science is either physics or stamp collecting.

- *Ernest Rutherford, Physicist*

[The stamp collector's aim is] to re-assemble the whole of the stamps issued in one country, in a certain part of the world, or if possible, of the whole universe, and not to estimate the value of stamps according to their beauty of engraving or design.

- *Maurice Burrus, Swiss Politician*

Another value of stamp collecting is its relationship to geography and history, its current gossip of the globe we live on and its political changes.

- *Alvin Fay Harlow, American Writer*

The official designs of the Government, especially its designs in connection with postage stamps and coinage may be described, I think, as the silent ambassadors of national taste.

- *W.B. Yeats, Poet*

Not philosophers, but fret-sawyers and stamp collectors compose the backbone of society.

- *Aldous Huxley, Author*

No real collector ever sells his stamps in his lifetime--unless it is to buy more stamps.

- *Claude Staunish, Essayist, Journalist*

The President of today is the postage stamp of tomorrow.

- *Gracie Allen, Comedienne*

In their stamp collecting, boys ... played within the discourse of commerce and nationalism and learned its language, learning to put the rest of the world literally under their thumbs.

- *Leah Dikworth, Author, Professor*

Philatelically yours,
Fr. James Lentini
Newsletter Editor