

Knoxville Philatelic Society News

February 2006

Volume 2006, Number 2

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APS Chapter 1189-119261

www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm

www.virtualstampclub.com/apschapknoxville.html

Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs

It's Time to Rock and Roll!

Yes, friends Knoxpex 2006 – a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Rock & Roll is coming up in little more than a month. *Don't Be Cruel* – pitch in as a volunteer and help make our show a success. Right now, I am looking for something to *Be My Little Good Luck Charm*, so that my auction lots will all sell. We will need many volunteers at the live auction on Saturday night, March 4 so that we don't have to *Rock Around the Clock* to collect payments and give lots to the winning bidders.

We have a great bourse with 12 dealers, but if you don't find what you want, don't get *All Shook Up*. Keep looking around and you are sure to find some treasures if you are willing to be *The Wanderer* in the bourse. A top priority for *Knoxpex* is exhibits, and all KPS members should consider showing what they collect.

Membership is always important, and we should work hard again to interest people in our hobby and in joining the KPS. Don't forget 2006 dues!

Elections of officers are coming up in the late spring, and volunteers are always appreciated. Changes in our constitution related to officers are in order, and proposals can be found in this newsletter. We will discuss these in January and vote on them in February.

Let's all pitch in, come to the monthly meetings, and make 2006 a banner year for KPS!

Tom Broadhead

New Postal Rates

On January 8, US postal rates went up – again. Notice that it took a 39¢ stamp to mail you this newsletter, a little more than a 5% increase. And it's still a number that will confound us when we are trying to do “mental math” purchasing odd numbers of stamps.

Although 5% seems a little steep, don't forget that most postal rate increases have been at a higher percentage than that. On July 6, 1932, the US domestic letter rate jumped a whopping 50% from



2¢ to 3¢. The next increase, on August 1, 1958 from 3¢ to 4¢ was a huge 33% and the January 7, 1963 increase from 4¢ to 5¢ was 25%.

Here is the new 39¢ non-denominated stamp.

E-Bay Treasures

Here is an interesting item I saw on e-Bay. It's an Elvis souvenir sheet from Zaire. The start bid was 99¢,



and it sold for just that, plus \$1.00 shipping on December 9. We will use U.S. Elvis stamps on our Knoxpex cachet this year!

Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – January 3, 2006

The January 2006 meeting of the Knoxville Philatelic Society met at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church on Kingston Pike in Knoxville. Fourteen (14) members attended.

President Bruce Roberts opened the meeting at 7:40 pm, and Tom Broadhead presented a program about a French commemorative stamp from 1925 that had been criticized in the philatelic press as being particularly ugly. Several KPS members offered their choices of unattractive US stamps, and some of these will appear in a future newsletter.

The business meeting opened at 8:00 pm. Treasurer Richard Ehrlich made a preliminary report of 2005 finances, and president Bruce Roberts thanked Richard for his outstanding efforts as treasurer. The principal new business was the revision of the constitution and bylaws. A copy of changes approved by the Board was included in the January newsletter, and a vote of the membership will take place at the February regular meeting. Richard Ehrlich summarized the changes, and Dave Tower suggested that an additional revision is necessary to exclude the persons occupying the offices of president and treasurer from holding additional elected positions in the Society.

Old business focused on preparations for Knoxpex, and Russ Haese proposed that the youth program focus on topical collecting to draw interest to subjects in which potential young collectors already are interested. Russ and Randy Haese offered to provide exhibit pages, mounts, and commemorative sets for this purpose. Mike Kauffman also offered stamps and volunteered to underwrite the cost of gift certificates at dealer

The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets the 1st and 5th Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals, \$12.00 for families, and \$2.00 for youth 17 years of age and under. Requests for information and submissions for the newsletter may be directed to Tom Broadhead, KPS, P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422 – or by e-mail to tomwb50@aol.com.

KPS Officers:

President	Bruce Roberts
President-Elect	Ken Korp
Treasurer	Richard Ehrlich
Assistant Treasurer	Phil Ford
Secretary	Tom Broadhead
Directors	Norm Carlevato, Ralph Dinwiddie, Charles Klinstiver, Jim Pettway

tables so that young collectors could earn the certificates through their activities at the show. Jim Pettway described The ASDA children's albums that are available and was looking into obtaining copies.

Bruce Roberts asked about members planning to exhibit and indicated that there would be a wide range of exhibit types from half frame to multi-frame. Jim Pettway reported that he had sent an advertisement to Global Stamp News and to the Virtual Stamp Club. KPS will attempt to get approval from the Knoxville postmaster to have posters displayed in area post offices.

Bruce Roberts adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by
Tom Broadhead, Secretary

Send Your News and Articles

If you have an article for the newsletter or some great philatelic news, send it to Tom Broadhead at the KPS address or by e-mail – check the box at lower left for both addresses!

In the News

Former KPS president Nicole Pendleton (now Nicole Gamble) was featured in the Winter 2006 issue of the *Tennessee Alumnus*. Nicole is the director of the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center at Calloway Gardens, Georgia. During her years in Knoxville, Nicole was an active KPS member and an award winning topical exhibitor.



Her personal interest in parrots (she has two) translated into a topical exhibit. Nicole was an APS volunteer last winter at AmeriStamp Expo in Atlanta.

Stamp of the Month

Here is an example of one of the United States workhorse definitives – the name giver of the 1950's "Liberty Series."

This stamp served many purposes from unsealed letters to postcards. The newest U.S. liberty stamp appears on page 1 and brings you this month's newsletter



U. S. INTERNAL REVENUE BEER STAMPS

by Kenneth L. Korp

I started collecting beer revenue stamps after a local stamp dealer showed me some examples. They appealed to me because of the large size, colors and designs on the early series, mostly printed before 1900. The first series was released in 1866 and continued through 1951 with a total of 20 major design types, plus four overprint types listed in the Scott catalogue. Scott numbers run from #REA1 - #REA199 with many listed varieties pertaining to paper type, paper color, plate differences and surcharges. All were issued in imperforate sheets, and the early circular designs are more expensive cut as squares.

The first series, issued in 1866, paid taxes on six sizes, from 1/8 barrel to 1 hogshead (2 barrels) with a tax rate of \$1.00 per barrel. Fractional values are common, and the 12 1/2 cent stamp shown here (Scott REA1) paid for 1/8 of a barrel. Both the 1866 and 1867 issues were circular, and all later series were square or rectangular. In 1867 a denomination – 33 1/2 cents – was added for a new size, 1/3 barrel, making a total of 7 sizes. This is one of the most valuable beer stamps, as indicated by the Scott catalogue. The seven denominations and barrel sizes continued unchanged through the 1878 series, with six different issues.



The 50 cent stamp at shows a blue cancel (



The beer tax rate was doubled in 1898 to \$2.00 per barrel due to the Spanish American War, but was reduced to \$1.00 per barrel in the 1902 series. In 1914, under an emergency tax act, the barrel tax increased to \$1.50 and the number of denominations sizes increased to ten – the largest being a \$37.50 tax on 25 barrels. Then in 1917 the tax was increased to \$3.00 per barrel and then again to \$6.00 a barrel. The number of sizes was reduced to 9 in 1934.

From the first series through the 1916 series, beer stamps showed both the monetary value of the stamp and the quantity of beer taxed. However, beginning with the 1933 issue through

the last issue in 1951, stamps only showed the quantity of beer. The last beer stamp, Scott REA199, is an overprinted version of the 25 barrel stamp of the 1933 series and represented a cost of \$225, or \$9.00 per barrel. Over the nearly 100 years of use, beer taxes increase nine-fold, whereas postage remained the same at 3 cents for a letter!

One of my favorite pieces in my collection is an imperforate block of REA198a, the brown 500 barrel stamp of the 1947 series. Each stamp is canceled with a cut out center, a type of cancellation utilized extensively beginning with the 1933 series. This block of 4 represents two thousand barrels, and at a rate of \$8.00 per barrel, the total tax represented by this block is \$16,000.

Beer stamps were used by gluing them over the tap holes of beer kegs. Used postage stamps on cover have always been saved on letters, post cards, parcel wrappers found in the attic, in a trunk, or a box safe from damage. Not so for beer stamps. “On cover” means that the stamp was on a keg, exposed to all kinds of damage and possible destruction. Being located on the tap hole, beer stamps usually were damaged or destroyed, when the keg was tapped. In addition to those damaged, a substantial percentage was destroyed along with the keg as was required by law. Therefore, the surviving stamps

in very fine condition are not common. The Scott catalogue notes this typical damage in its introduction and indicates that listed prices are for stamps with minor damage. Flaws that do not detract from value originated from cutting the imperforate stamps from sheets, tears and thins caused during removal from the kegs, and stains from the beer. In the 20th century, most stamps were canceled by perforations and hand stamps, with cut out centers becoming a common form of cancellation on high value issues beginning with the 1933 series.



Early beer stamps show the most intricate designs. The used stamp at left is from the 1871 series and shows Civil War hero William T. Sherman. The example on the right from the 1875 series shows the Roman god Bacchus serving beer to man.

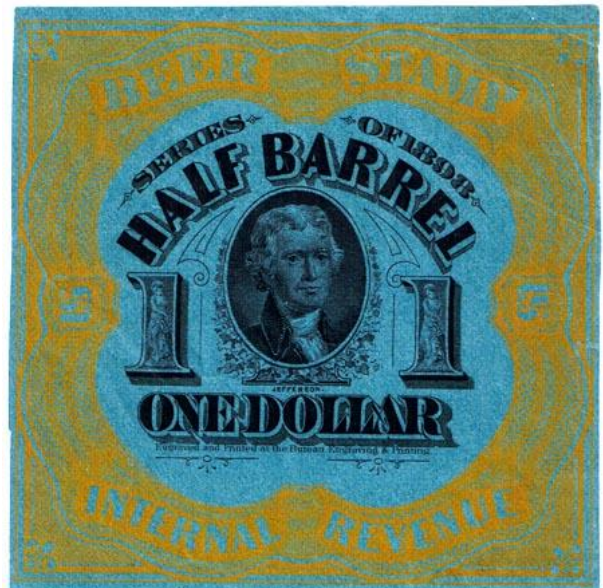


When I started collecting, I thought I would just obtain a type of each series. However, as I started, my interest in the variations of separation (square, die, cut to shape), the different designs on the values, colors, even mint (these are available due to brewers shutting down with an unused supply) and used, got the better of me so now there is no end to it.

A good basic book along with a Scott specialized US catalogue is “ United States Beer Stamps” by Thomas W. Priester, 1990 edition, cost about \$10.00. Most dealers at stamp shows don’t have any beer revenue stock. The best places to obtain these stamps seem to be mail and EBAY auctions, and specialized dealers.



Beer stamps are very large, and examples in this article are all reduced in size. The square ones are about 70 mm on a side. The



rectangular orange stamp of 1934 shown above at left is actually 139 mm wide and 86 mm high. Colors are spectacular, such as the yellow on dark blue paper of 1898 shown above at right.

What's for Sale at *Knoxpex*?

Bill Muenzer has put together a great bourse of 12 dealers. If you want to be sure that your favorite dealers have what you want, write them and send them your want lists!

B&W Stamps
P.O. Box 968
Joelton, TN 37080

Collect'em All
10800 Alpharetta Highway, Suite 645
Roswell, GA 30076

Country Collections
339 Thompson Lane
Rutledge, TN 37861

Dwayne Selix
137 Beth Manor Drive
Prattville, AL 36066-6053

F.A. Stamps
P.O. Box 4051
Shalimar, FL 32579

K-Town Stamps
P.O. Box 53644
Knoxville, TN 37950

Queen City Stamps
P.O. Box 141
LaFayette, GA 30728

R.J. Shultz Stamps
P.O. Box 610
Roswell, GA 30077

Richter Stamp Co.
P.O. Box 603
Athens, OH 45701

The Stamp-Tique, Inc.
17 Lake Lorraine Circle
Shalimar, FL 32579

Trader's Guild
P.O. Box 384
Huntsville, AL 35804-0384

Vest Pocket Philatelist
58 Raccoon Circle
Cherokee Village, AR 72529

Knoxpex 2006

March 4-5

Saturday, 10am-6pm

Live Auction at 6:30pm

Sunday, 10am-4pm

Budget Inn of America
323 N. Cedar Bluff Road
Knoxville, TN 37923

Knoxpex commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Rock & Roll

This year's show cancel, designed by Tom Broadhead shows a five-bar music staff with the inscription "50th Anniversary of Rock and Roll" together with a silhouette of a period-era rock musician holding a guitar. The cancel will be available at the show on Saturday, March 4 and afterward for 30 days at the philatelic window at the main Knoxville post office at Weisgarber Road.



March 4, 2006 Knoxpex Station
Knoxville, TN 37923



This year's cachet promises to be spectacular. Newsletter publisher and cachet designer, Ralph Dinwiddie has been working on several designs that incorporate our theme and its Tennessee connections. One of the stamps that will be used on the cachet will be the 29c Elvis Presley commemorative Scott #2721. Do you have any ideas for an additional stamp or stamps to make the additional 8c?



Volunteers Needed!



Volunteers will be needed on Friday, March 3 beginning at 6:00pm for frame setup and other organizational needs at *Knoxpex 2006*.

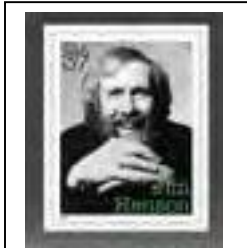
During the show, volunteers will be needed at all times to staff the registration desk. Contact Knoxpex 2006 show chair Gerald Schroedl – gschroe1@utk.edu to offer your help.

This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, February 7

I Knew Him before He Was on a Stamp!

by Stu Hanlein

How often is a stamp issued for a person that you actually knew? This happened to me recently with the issuing of the Muppets stamps, which included a stamp honoring Jim Henson. I met Jim when I was a sophomore at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, MD and he was a senior. I joined the drama club and performed in several plays. In order to get enough points to become a member of the National Thespian Society (the honorary drama society) one had to participate in all aspects of the theater.



Jim Henson is one of 11 stamps on the new Muppets sheet.

Consequently, I gladly helped to prepare the sets for our productions. As a stage crewmember, I got a 12 inch wide brush and a bucket of yellow paint to paint all the large flats (background for scenes on stage). When this was done Jim came in with a pallet, brush and yardstick and in a matter of a few hours he had painted whatever scene was required. I was truly amazed at his ability to paint so quickly and so well. On a visit to his home, I saw that he had painted a spectacular crucifixion scene on his bedroom wall. I asked him why he didn't paint it on a canvas or plywood so he could keep it. He replied, in all due modesty, "If I want to, I'll paint it again and I'll do a better job next time."

To earn money to support our drama club we performed at birthday parties in the local area. I vividly remember doing puppet shows with Jim's complicated puppets that had arms and legs, which we operated with strings--a forerunner of the Muppets. I remember his talent and also his pleasant nature with a bunch of younger schoolmates who had similar interests. His success with the Muppets and Sesame Street was a tribute to his talents and interest in younger people. I am glad I had the opportunity to know him and I feel he very richly deserved to be honored on a postage stamp.

How I got started.

Collecting everything in sight, from rocks and shells to leaves and seeds, Tom Broadhead's grandparents might have thought that he needed an indoor hobby. They started him collecting at the age of 7 with a small album and packets of hinges and stamps. The album had mostly blank spaces, but also a few with pictures, and one of Tom's early thrills was finding a stamp that matched one of the pictures!

For a few years, collecting was mostly from mail, old envelopes in the family scrapbooks, and packets purchased at a local bookstore. Tom's first Scott catalog was the 1961 issue, and it provided a great way to learn about history and world geography. In the 1960's, he got hooked on approvals from H.E. Harris, and many birthday presents were purchases by his parents from the Harris U.S. catalog. In high school, his father took him to a stamp show in Kansas City, and he still has the Cape of Good Hope triangle that cost a whole \$6.00.

Collecting was put on hold during college and graduate school, but one night after moving to Knoxville, Tom's wife suggested (which she may since have regretted) that he pick up his hobby again. That led to visits to Brookshiers stamp store and ultimately, joining the KPS. Monthly meetings and Knoxpex have always been enjoyable, and former KPS member Paul Phillips introduced Tom both to the fascination of postal history collecting and to exhibiting. His first exhibit was a single frame of French postcards at Knoxpex in the late 1980's and won an award.

Tom had gotten hooked on French stamps and covers back in high school, but over the last 15 years has pursued that area vigorously. He enjoys buying covers through the French auction houses and got to visit many of them on a trip to France in 2002. You can visit his article about collecting in Paris on the France & Colonies Philatelic Society website – www.drunkenboat.net/FrandCol/pages/exh_frames.html

Bitten by the philatelic bug almost 50 years ago, Tom has been bitten since by the exhibiting bug and the philatelic writing bug. His interest in France spans the post classics period (about 1870) through the early 1950's, but he also enjoys learning about all other areas of philately and collecting.

Next KPS monthly meeting – Tuesday, March 7.