

# Knoxville Philatelic Society News

November 2007

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APS Chapter 1189-119261

[www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm](http://www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm)  
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Southeast Federation  
of Stamp Clubs

## Congratulations TGPS

On Thursday, October 11, KPS member Paul Chasteen received the good news from the Germany Philatelic Society (GPS) that a new chapter proposed by Paul had been approved. The Tennessee Germany Philatelic Society (TGPS) thus becomes the latest organization in our area to be chartered as a chapter of an important international philatelic organization. In addition to Paul, we have several other KPS members who are interested in German philately, including Randy and Russ Haese and Tony Torres – all of whom have given excellent programs at past monthly meetings.

I took some time to learn more about the GPS at its web site – [www.gps.nu](http://www.gps.nu). I really enjoyed the exhibits



page – [www.gps.nu/exhibits/index.html](http://www.gps.nu/exhibits/index.html), which has seven digital displays ranging from 16 to 128 pages.

Stay tuned for more information from Paul about the new TGPS chapter. Rumor has it that it will meet on

selected Sundays, but we look forward to learning more about German philately at our monthly KPS meetings.

Don't forget that the program at the November KPS meeting will be "Show and Tell." Bring something old or new from your collection to tell about and show us.

December's monthly meeting will be our annual holiday party. Start thinking about some fun activities and be ready to discuss these at the November monthly meeting.

*Tom Broadhead*

## President's Column

I am glad that I have the opportunity to write this column before the KPS Executive Board and the KPS Fifth Tuesday meetings on October 30. First I want to make you aware of topics up for discussion at the Board meeting and invite you to communicate your thoughts on any/all of these topics. The board meeting is open to all members.

Topics for discussion: (1) increase in Membership dues from \$10 to \$15-\$20, (2) qualifications for Honorary Membership, (3) a by-law to recognize chapters in the KPS, (4) IRS non-profit status application and Employer Identification Number, (5) publishing the newsletter every other month, and (6) not publishing the newsletter on the website until a month or two after month of the newsletter.

Following the Board meeting is the KPS Fifth Tuesday meeting at 7:00 pm. I hope that we have a turnout as large as the last Fifth Tuesday. We will have APS Sales Circuit books for viewing and purchases – stamps have prices ranging from 5 or 10 cents to \$100 or more. What I found most exciting last time was the many satellite tables members set up to trade and sell their stamps and covers. So, bring philatelic material that you would like to sell and set up a table. This meeting is strictly for buying, selling and trading – no KPS business!

Great things are happening at the Knoxville Philatelic Society. I hope that you will join us on the Fifth Tuesday, October 30 and again next month on the first Tuesday, November 6.

By the way, if you would like to keep up with what's happening during the month just drop me an email at [jbpettway@comcast.net](mailto:jbpettway@comcast.net) and ask that your email address be added to the KPS Email News List.

*Jim Pettway*

## Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – October 2, 2007

The October 2007 meeting of the Knoxville Philatelic Society was held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Jim Pettway, president, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. There were 20 members present.

Stu Hanlein presented an interesting and informative program on precancel collecting. He discussed the history of precancels, the first being used in the 1860's. As part of the discussion, Stu showed his collection of Tennessee, Kentucky & Wisconsin and circulated several catalogs on the subject. Of particular interest was his discussion of the types and towns of precancels. In Tennessee alone there are 422 towns that used precancels and there are 708 different types. Stu is an active member of the Precancel stamp Society. In the future, Stu's presentations will be entitled "*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Pre-cancel and Much, Much, More!*" It is exciting to hear someone who is so passionate about his collecting interest. That's what makes KPS such a wonderful organization.

At the beginning of the business meeting, Jim Pettway announced that the November meeting will feature a "Show & Tell." Each member is encouraged to bring an item to show and discuss with the members. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Pat Goebel presented the treasurer's report which was approved. The club authorized Pat to roll-over the club's current CD at Suntrust bank at the best rate possible for approximately a one-year term.

**The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Annual dues are \$10.00.**

**KPS Officers:**

President	Jim Pettway
Past President	Mike Kauffman
Vice President	Ralph Dinwiddie
Treasurer	Pat Goebel
Secretary	Charlie Wade
Directors	Bruce Kinney, Stu Hanlein, Thomas Lane, Charlie Wade
APS Representative	Jim Pettway

Requests for information and submissions of articles and short notes of philatelic interest 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](mailto:tomwb50@aol.com).

Jim reminded the members of a special cancel for Stamp Collecting Month which will be available at the Weisgarber post office only on October 23.

The KPS executive board meeting will be held at 6 PM on Tuesday, October 30, and will discuss Knoxpex 2008 and an increase in the annual KPS dues. All members are invited to attend and present their views on this and any other subject. Also on October 30, the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday meeting will be held at 7:00, after the board meeting. A new set of APS circuit books will be available, and members are encouraged to bring their own items to sell, trade or barter.

Paul Chasteen told the members of the organizational meeting for the Tennessee Chapter of the Germany Philatelic Society on Sunday, October 7 at Paul's home. Paul encouraged any KPS member with an interest to attend.

As a final item, Paul Chasteen, Loretta Chasteen, and Ralph Dinwiddie spoke of their recent attendance at the Southeastern Stamp Show last month in Atlanta.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55

Submitted by  
Charlie Wade, Secretary

## December KPS Meeting

Don't forget that the December KPS meeting will be our annual holiday dinner. This year, it will be at Mandarin House in west Knoxville, located at 8111 Gleason Drive. The restaurant offers an extensive buffet, and the cost per person is \$12.80. Bring your spouse or a guest, along with a philatelic gift (not more than \$5) for the gift exchange. Think of some games to play and stamp stories to tell! Thanks go to Thomas Lane for the arrangements.

## Stamp of the Month

This month's stamps are a variety of precancelled definitives donated by KPS precancel expert, Stu Hanlein. Precancelled stamps were developed to assist bulk mailers and the post office by applying a printed cancellation on the stamps before they were applied to envelopes or newspaper bands – the most common uses of precancels.

Users of precancels were required to have special permits, which meant that these stamps could not be soaked off and reused by individual mailers. The precancels – the city and state between two parallel bars – were printed on the stamps by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, or sometimes locally at the request of postmasters.



## A Caribbean Philatelic Journey Aboard the RMS Esk, 1904

by Gerald F. Schroedl

Beginning in the 1840s and continuing for more than 100 years the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company carried mail to and from Great Britain and its Eastern Caribbean colonies in the Lesser Antilles. This was largely done on a twice monthly circuit calling at individual islands and ports in northern South America. At first the Caribbean base for the service was Barbados, but this was replaced by St. Thomas and then by Trinidad. In the 1880s the company obtained contracts for interisland service, utilizing three small coastal steamers, the *Solent*, *Eden*, and *Esk*, based in Barbados. The ships were often used interchangeably on one of three different routes. Mail posted on board the ships received distinctive handstamp or manuscript cancels using the ship's name. Covers or stamps with these cancellations are rare and highly prized by Caribbean collectors.



RMS Solent – manuscript and handstamp cancels



RMS Eden – manuscript cancel



RMS Esk – manuscript cancel on pair with accompanying circular date stamp on portion of cover

Shown below is a picture postcard carried on board the *Esk* on at least three trips over a period of nearly five months by a crew member, probably the ship's purser. The card bears postage stamps and markings of fourteen different ports of call visited by the ship while sailing on its inter-colonial route. These include nine British islands and British Guiana, as well as Dutch Surinam, French Guadeloupe, and Danish St. Thomas. Each stamp pays a 1 penny rate or its equivalent. The earliest postmark is July 28, 1904, while the final postmark is 15 December 1904. A St. Lucia one penny stamp on the face of the card is uncanceled and not shown below.



Address side (left) and cropped face side (above) of a postcard carried on board the *RMS Esk* in 1904.

Continued on p. 4 →

# This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, November 6

## A Caribbean Philatelic Journey Aboard the RMS Esk, 1904 (continued)

This card is a particularly nice addition to my collection of Caribbean interisland mail because it traveled among so many islands in just a few months and it was carried on board one of the best known interisland steam vessels, the *RMS Esk* in the early 20th century.

Cancellations on the RMS Esk postcard (shown on page 3)

JY 28/04	Dominica (two strikes)	AU 26/04	St. Vincent
8/8/1904	Paramaribo (squared circle)	SP 14/04	St. Kitts
11 AUG/1904	Georgetown, B. Guiana	SP 14/04	Montserrat
AUG 13/04	Barbados	1/11/1904	St. Thomas
AUG 22/1904	La Guaira, Venezuela (three strikes)	NO 2/04	St. Johns, Antigua
AU 25/04	Tobago	15/DEC/04	Basseterre, Guadeloupe
AU 26/04	G.P.O. Grenada	undated	St. Lucia

### References

- Rego, Michael. 2005. Steamship Lines to the Caribbean. British West Indies Study Circle, London  
Oliver, M.N. 2000. The Leeward Islands, Notes for Philatelists. British West Indies Study Circle, London

## Dickinson Airline and CAM 9, Chicago-Minneapolis, 1926

### An Article in the October 2007 *American Philatelist* by KPS member, Ron Sarson

Many months ago, this newsletter printed an announcement that KPS member and former treasurer, Ron Sarson, would soon have an article printed in the *American Philatelist*. Ron now lives in Ohio, and we hope that he is enjoying his retirement.

The story of the U.S. Post Office's Contract Air Mail (CAM) is a fascinating and sometimes complicated set of tales, including some tragic ones, about the transport of mail across the U.S. in the 1920s and 1930s. When Ron was still living in Knoxville, we were fortunate to get to see some of his CAM covers at KPS meetings and in his



A later CAM 9 cover to Germany with C.A.M. 9 handstamp at lower left.

exhibits at Knoxpex. Ron's article recounts the challenges faced by the small private Dickinson airline, which received the government contract for CAM 9 in March 1926 to fly mail from Chicago west to Milwaukee, La Crosse, St. Paul, and Minneapolis. On June 6-7, pilots flying Dickinson's small planes made valiant efforts to take the mail west, facing strong headwinds, mechanical problems, air sickness, and even a fatal crash.

Those problems with the initial flights ultimately led to Dickinson airlines going out of business later that year, and CAM 9 was later taken over by Northwest Airways. Read all about it in Ron's great article!

**5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday meeting – October 30 at 7:00 – trading and swapping, plus a new set of APS Circuit Sales books. KPS Board meeting at 6:00 – all members are invited.**

**KPS Holiday Party – Tuesday, December 4**