

THE SPACEFILLER

The NEXT
BUSINESS MEETING
will be held

February 13, 2004

At
Pacific Hills
Lutheran Church
90th and Pacific Streets
At 7:30pm



The NEXT
TRADING SESSION
will be held

February 27, 2004

At
Pacific Hills
Lutheran Church
90th and Pacific Streets
At 7:30pm

of the
Omaha Philatelic Society

TMPS Chapter No. 1
APS Chapter No. 1122
APS Member No. 108144



Edited by Richard L. McConnell

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE 2004 OMAHA STAMP SHOW

As of January 20, the 2004 Omaha Stamp Show Committee learned from Joe Chytil that Roncalli High School has decided they will no longer rent out the Student Center to any groups after the end of this school year. As a result, the committee has been beating the bushes to find a new venue. Thanks to the efforts of 2004 Omaha Stamp Show Chairman Edgar Hicks and Bob Loeck, a new venue has been secured—Benson High School, 5120 Maple Street. More information will be made available at the February 13th business meeting.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Roncalli High School, including a teacher there by the name of Joe Chytil, for making that venue available to us for the past three years. In 2001, we decided to move from our venue of many years, Holiday Inn Central, because they priced themselves out of the market. In searching for a new venue, we decided on holding the show the last weekend of September 2001 at the Nebraska National Guard Armory at 70th and Mercy Road. With the heightened security that went into effect in the wake of the attacks on New York City and Washington, D. C. on September 11, 2001, the armory decided ten days before the show was going to open that they would not be able to accommodate us. The day after we learned of that decision, an emergency committee meeting was conducted at the Roncalli Student Center, and we found out we would be able to hold the show there. The American Philatelic Society was highly impressed by our efforts in this matter, and made a note of it in the spring of 2002 in their monthly publication, *The American Philatelist*.

A WAY TO HELP THE 2004 OMAHA STAMP SHOW

How many of you, when viewing the exhibits at any of the Omaha Stamp Shows over the past 16 years or so, have noticed the small plaques which are on some of the frames? Have you wondered why they were put there and for what purpose?

These frames were procured from the AMERIPEX '86 committee after that international stamp show closed in 1986. As a means of offsetting some of the cost of these frames, it was decided we would sell plaques which anyone so interested could procure for \$30 each as a means of remembering a family member, a friend of the Omaha Philatelic Society, etc.

There are still a number of frames which do not have plaques on them. As a result, we are reviving the effort to sell more plaques which our members or friends can procure as a means of supporting the Omaha Stamp Show in a very real way.

If you would like to support the Omaha Stamp Show Committee in this effort, please contact either Bob Loeck or Bob Hoff at any of our meetings and let either or both of them know you're interested in supporting this project. The plaques are being sold for \$30 each. They will be glad to take the information you would like to place on a plaque on one of the frames. This can be a very real way of paying tribute to someone who has meant a lot in your life, or you could simply put a message and your own name on the plaque. It's all up to you as to what you want to do.

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 13TH

There's probably not a one of us who, as philatelists, does not have some material which we would like to swap out for something which we would rather have. It has, therefore, been decided to have a good old-fashioned swap session on February 13th.

Bring along anything which you might want to see if you can swap, trade, or sell to others who might desire that material for their collections. This is also a great way to find out what others are interested in collecting so that, if you run across such material in the future, you will know who you might be able to contact in order to dispose of that material.

Make plans now to attend this meeting and take part in this trade session. It's certain a great time will be had by all.

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9TH BUSINESS MEETING

The regular business meeting of the Omaha Philatelic Society was held at 7:30 p.m. on January 9th at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church. There were 18 members present. There were no new members or guests. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. with President Joe Chytil presiding.

The minutes of the December 12th business meeting were printed in the January edition of THE SPACEFILLER. It was noted that the minutes of those minutes referred to the December 12th meeting as actually occurring on November 14th. This was simply an oversight on the part of the Editor. There being no further additions, changes, or corrections, it was moved by Joe Rende, seconded by Chuck Petterson, that they be approved as printed. Motion carried. The December Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer Bob Hoff. Secretary McConnell reported he had received a holiday card from one of our members, Linda Lawrence of Lexington, KY, requesting we drop her name from our rolls. She became an OPS member several years ago when she and her husband thought his job was going to transfer him here. The economic situation quickly squelched that prospect. Linda is very active in APS, and we're truly sorry she and her husband won't be transferring to Omaha. Librarian Steve Vickland stated he had Volumes II, III, IV, and V of the 2004 Scott Catalogs with him at this meeting for anyone interested in checking them out. Joe Chytil read the November Exchange Manager's Report.

Under unfinished business, the 2004 OPS Officers were sworn in by Gordon Randall. The officers are as follows:

President – Chuck Petterson
First Vice-President – Steve Vickland
Second Vice-President – Joe Rende
Secretary – Richard McConnell
Treasurer – Bob Hoff

Allen Hendricksen expressed his thanks to the outgoing officers for the work they had done.

Rick Gardner reported he is putting in his retirement paperwork from the U. S. Air Force the week of January 12-16. He also stated Larry Zielasko, who has handled show security for the past two years, suffered a mild heart attack while at Ehrling Berquist Hospital the week of January 5-9. He is still on active duty and is progressing well.

There will be a meeting of the 2004 Omaha Stamp Show Committee at the home of Bob and Pat Loeck on January 16th at 7:30 p.m. Show Chairman Edgar Hicks raised the possibility of a Midwest Regional Champion of Champions competition. He was advised this wasn't possible since no other clubs in the area are hosting shows with the exception of Waterloo, IA and Lincoln, NE. Denver, CO is too far away. Edgar also mentioned about moving the show's venue from Roncalli to one of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) buildings. The OPS system has 82 of them. He thought the best was the old Technical High School building located on Cummings Street just to the east of 33rd Street. Joe Rende suggested the Lied Activity Center. There might possibly be a meeting with the OPS Superintendent about this.

New OPS President Chuck Petterson set as his goal during the next year an increase in OPS membership. He said we could use fliers or 3x5 cards to promote OPS membership. For several months we could run an ad in the *Omaha World-Herald* before each meeting. There will be a special Sunday Supplement to the *Omaha World-Herald* coming out in March. We could check about getting listed there. We could also talk to Roger Humphries at the USPS about publicity. He does get THE SPACEFILLER. Since the OPS By-Laws specify the Second Vice-President as the Membership Chairman, the point of contact for this effort will be Joe Rende.

There being no further business, it was moved by Bob Loeck, seconded by Rick Gardner, that the meeting be adjourned for the program. The program was a continuation of the discussion already started in the just concluded meeting on how OPS and the show might be improved.

Richard McConnell, Secretary

February 2/13/04	Swap Meet. Bring your items which you would like to swap, exchange or sell for other items which interest you.	February 2/27/04
March 3/12/04		March 3/26/04
April ?		April 4/23/04
May 5/14/04		May 5/28/04
June 6/11/04		June 6/25/04
July 7/9/04		July 7/23/04
August 8/13/04		August 8/27/04
September 9/10/04		September 9/24/05
October 10/8/04		October 10/24/04
November 11/12/04		November 11/26/04
December 12/10/2004		No meeting 12/24/2004

OPS SCOTT CATALOG LIBRARY LIST

<u>CATALOG</u>	<u>WHO HAS IT</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
2004 Volume I	Doug Kagan	551-0921
2004 Volume II	Gerhard Peuchert	733-3521
2004 Volume III	Steve Vickland	551-2754
2004 Volume IV	Paul Janecek	571-4533
2004 Volume V	Steve Vickland	551-2754
2004 Volume VI	Paul Janecek	571-4533
2004 U.S. Specialized	Bob Loeck	391-9120

2004 REFRESHMENT LIST

February 27	Paul Christofferson
March 26	Gordon Randall
April 23	Allen Hendricksen
May 28	Paul Janecek
June 25	Bob Loeck
July 23	Bob Hoff
August 27	Richard McConnell
September 24	Joe Rende
October 22	Steve Vickland
November 26	Doug Kagan
December 10	Annual Holiday Party

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Except for special holidays, such as religious holidays and those close to Christmas, the Omaha Philatelic Society meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Both meetings are held at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, which is located on the southwest corner of 90th and Pacific Streets. Enter from the south parking lot through the door with the canopy. The meeting room is in the basement. Both meetings start at 7:30 p.m. The second Friday is a business meeting and a program; the fourth Friday, a trading session. All stamp collectors or philatelists, whichever name you want to use, are welcome to attend. Dues are \$10.00 per year for adults (19 years of age and older and \$5.00 per year for those under 19. Further information or an application to join may be obtained by writing to The Omaha Philatelic Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4013, Omaha, NE 68104-0013.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

COLLECTING INTERESTS: _____

A GUIDE TO THE WASHINGTON-FRANKLIN ISSUES OF 1908-1922

Some months ago, your Editor was searching the Internet looking for information on the 1904 Louisiana Purchase issue of 1904 and came across an incredible website which gives a lot of information on every issue of the United States. The website is <http://www.1847usa.com>. One of the many interesting areas it covers is the subject of the Washington-Franklin series of 1908-1922. The following is taken verbatim from that website. Here's hoping you enjoy it. There will probably be more on this fascinating subject in future issues of THE SPACEFILLER.

A GUIDE TO THE WASHINGTON-FRANKLINS

The Washington Franklin Series, or the "Series of 1908" as it is known by the USPS, came on the heels of the 1902 Series of regular issues which in turn had received its fair share of criticism for "overly ornate" designs. One of the great ironies of this series is that the Post Office was actually trying to **simplify** the designs of the regularly issued stamps to cut down on production costs. Emulating the European use of a single design of an existing monarch's head on many denominations, but having no monarch to call our own, the U. S. Post Office opted for two vignette designs, a Washington "head" and a Franklin "head".

For these two simple yet elegant designs one will find 220 major and 99 minor stamp varieties as listed in the Scott 2000 Specialized Catalogue of U. S. Stamps and Covers. The use of five design variations, two paper types, two types of watermarked paper as well as unwatermarked paper, three printing methods, a minimum of fourteen distinct perforations or combinations thereof, two overprints, a full spectrum of colors and twenty denominations makes it easy to see how complex this "simplification" turned out to be for the philatelist.

The study of the Washington Franklin stamps has traditionally been an area of some difficulty for many collectors of U. S. stamps. On the other hand collecting the Washington Franklin Heads can be one of the more fascinating areas in all of philately, presenting a wonderful microcosm of the evolution of stamp production in the United States as well as the entire world.

To provide an aide in the study of the Washington Franklin stamps, we have taken the liberty of breaking the series into thirteen sets, each highlighting an important change in the way U. S. stamps were made over the fourteen year period from 1908 to 1922.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE WASHINGTON-FRANKLIN SERIES—1908-1922

YEAR	CHANGE	REASON FOR CHANGE
1908		no change: Perf 12, Double-line Watermark, First Design, Flat Plate
1909	Blue Papers	to strengthen the paper (higher rag content) and to reduce shrinkage
1910	Single-line Watermark	to strengthen the paper (less paper removed in the watermarking process)
1910	Perf 8.5	to lessen the separation of stamps in vending machines (a lesser number of holes per inch)
1912	New Designs	to comply with International Postal Union guidelines and to make differentiate denominations easier
1914	Perf 10	to lessen separation of the stamps in the sheets themselves and to make it easier to separate the coil stamps (the 8.5 gauge proved difficult)
1915	Rotary Press With Watermark	faster and more efficient printing technique than the flat plate printing method, quality nearly as good. Enabled the production of much longer sheets, a Must for coil roll production.
1916	No Watermark	cheaper than watermarked paper; also, watermarks difficult to detect and therefore not an effective deterrent to counterfeiters
1916	Rotary Press, no Watermark	see the previous two reasons; this is actually not a change per se
1917	Perf 11	to ease the separation of stamps, the perf 10 stamps sometimes tore when separating the sheet stamps
1919	Offset	to eliminate the abrasive effects of the inferior inks available during the World War I era, by not using engraved plated wear was minimized and the plates lasted longer

1919-1923: In addition, although not a change per se, several important Washington Franklin stamps were issued from coil sheet waste and as experimental rotary press printings.

Also in 1919, the U. S. Post Office delivered to Shanghai, China the then current Washington Franklins, perforated 11 stamps on unwatermarked paper stock. These stamps were subsequently overprinted "Shanghai China" and surcharged at double the original denomination on all values (the 1c through \$1), creating a new set of stamps (the 2c through \$2) with the "Shanghai" overprint.