



Last month saw the 'Stamp Pick-thon'. The dent in the boxes of stamps was noticeable — with most appearing to be on the way to a school in northern Indiana and possibly joining more stamps from the school's Stamp Club.

This month Glenn Zinck will be talking about "Things Japanese" just after the end of WWII.

We also need to start thinking about the Holiday Brunch.

Treasures' Report: Checking - \$1,612.17; Savings – \$ 1,539.71; Total – \$ 3,151.88

The USPS also announced some of the stamps that will be issued this coming year: Barbara Jordan - Black Heritage, Gregory Peck - Legends of Hollywood, a new Civil War (replacement for the Nature of America) series (of five – Marty; something for the Civil War Round Table?), Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) - Literary Arts, and 10 more Flags of Our Nation.

With the new postal rate of 46¢ scheduled for January 2011, we can also expect new Love/Wedding, Express/Priority, Hallmark Butterfly and redenominated חנוכה , العيد , Kwanzaa, and the Purple Heart stamps.

In all, it should prove to be an expensive year.

Anyone wishes to have electronic delivery of the newsletter let me know.

On October 21 the nations first Holiday Forever stamp will be issued. The (44¢) special stamps will feature four varieties Evergreens - the special stamps include: ponderosa pine, eastern red cedar, blue spruce and balsam fir.

They will be issued in three formats; pane of 20 (convertible booklet format), ATM pane of 18 and picture postal cards.



Holiday Forever Stamps



Local Stamp Shows

MILCOPEX '10
Wyndham Convention CTR
4747 S. Howell Ave
Milwaukee WI
September 24-262

MSDA Show
Holiday Inn Express
600 Milwaukee Ave
Prospect Heights IL
October 16 - 17

TOSAPEX '10
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall
1435 So. 92nd St.
West Allis, WI
October 23-24

CHICAGOPEX 2010
Westin Chicago Northwest
400 Park Blvd
Itasca IL 60143
November 19 - 21

MSDA CHICAGO SHOW
Lindner Conference Ctr
610 E. Butterfield Rd
Lombard, IL
December 11-12

Next meeting:
7-PM on Tuesday 24 August 2010
at the Warren-Newport Library
224 North O'Plaine Road, Gurnee IL



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In 1997, prior to being stationed in Japan, I started researching Japanese Philately to get some idea of how Japan views itself (on stamps). In this study, it became readily apparent of the subjects of stamps issued mirrored closely the attitudes the Japanese had for both their internal and foreign relations.



Scott 2 (1871)

Their first stamps were issued in 1871, just four years after the Meiji Restoration (明治維新) or renewal. This event was the end of the Tokugawa (virtuous river) shogunate ((徳川幕府?) that had ruled Japan since 1603 (the year Queen Elizabeth I died). It should be noted that the pivotal event that started the renewal process was Commodore Perry's opening Japan for trade in 1853. (The early shogun period is illustrated very well in James Clavell 's the historical novel "Shogun" – 1976).

Stamps of this period were few and generally for internal use and were very 'vanilla' in design, just text and number.

In the mid 1890's, after about 25 years on the throne, the Emperor (and his government) were secure enough to announce to the world and their subjects what had been happening in Korea and China. The released five stamps depicting the generals that defeated China in the Sino-Japanese War (1895). This militaristic trend continued until 1945.

Also during the period, symbols of the Japanese monarchy were also issued along with stamps that represented government functions (communications, post office and census).

In the mid 1930's, the Nippon Post issued the first series of stamps depicting Japanese historical building, places and events. The 1936 national park series is very beautiful and touch upon the twelve main regions of the country. In the next two years, 16 additional 'scenic' stamps joined this set (these stamps are still moderately priced in mint condition).



Scott 24 (1874)



Scott 166 (1921)



Scott 226 (1936)

After the surrender in 1945, Japan issued a number of stamps depicting Baron Maejima Hisoka, the statesman and business man who argued for Japan to pursue an economic path until pushed out by the militaristic faction in the early 1880's. During his height of influence, he hired a foreign advisor, Samuel M. Bryan, to negotiate a postal treaty with the United States, and to assist in the admission of Japan into the Universal Postal Union in 1877.



Scott 391 (1947)

In 1949, Japan issued its version of "Great Japanese" - each Individual honored opposed the military and in general, fostered economics, cultural expansion and social equity - all virtues espoused by the occupying powers.

After the occupation ended Japanese stamps have been primarily depicted cultural, science, nature, social and engineering themes.

In 2003, 150 years after Commodore Perry's little visit, Japan issued a stamp noting the event.



Scott 2858 (2003)

