

October 2014

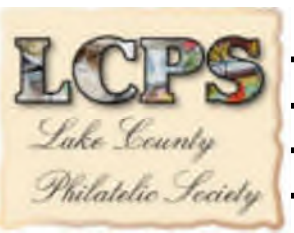
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Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society - Established 1933

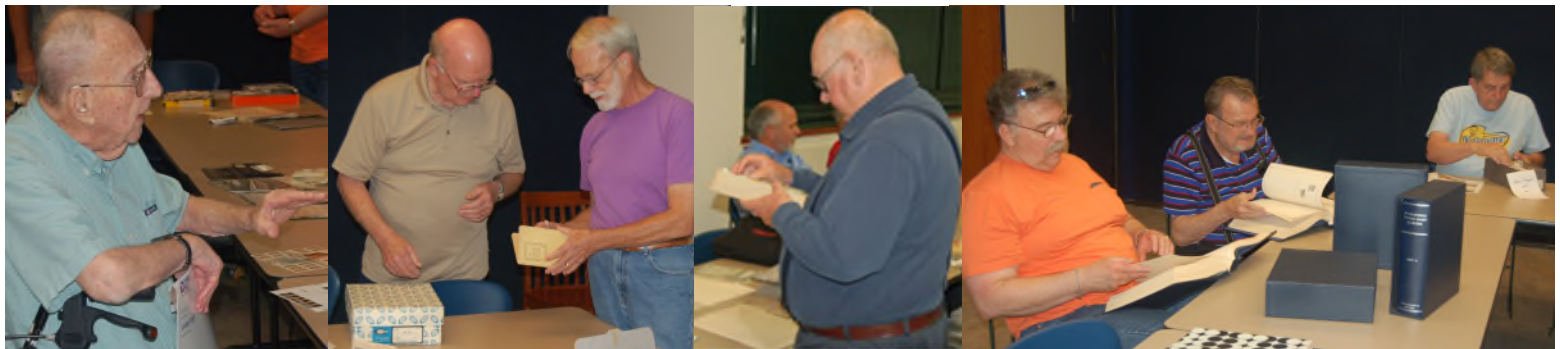
Website: LCPSHOME.ORG

Perforations



Last month was the Semi-Annual "Buy/Swap and Sell" meeting. The next one will be in March of 2015. In all, it appeared that members were able to find items to add to their collections while clearing out items that were extra or just hanging around.

This month, it is "Bring your Favorite Stamp" and tell the group why it is your favorite and how you came across this treasure. We also need to discuss the December Brunch that is fast approaching as is the New Year.







This year's **CHICAGOPEX** event will be **Friday-Sunday, November 21-23** at the **Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd, Itasca, IL 60143** (same place as the last four years). This is the largest 'local' stamp show in the area and one of the largest in the nation with many national stamp and supply dealers making an appearance.

Besides 'just the dealers', the **Polonus (Polish) Philatelic Society**, the **International Philippine Philatelic Society**, the **US Possessions Philatelic Society**, the **Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society** and the **Canal Zone Study Group**, will be holding their annual conventions at this year's stamp show.

U.S. Parcel Post stamps of 1912-13: Just over a century ago the United States Post Office Department issued a dozen different stamps (Scott Q1-Q12) to pay the postage on parcels weighing 16 ounces and more; something greatly needed in the rural areas of the country that then accounted for more than 60% of the nation's population — but not without a few problems.

Treasures' Report: Total – \$ 3,261.88

Local Stamp Shows	Chicagopex Westin Chicago Northwest 400 Park Boulevard Itasca IL November 21-23	Frostypex St Aloysius' Gonzaga Hall 1435 S 92nd Street West Allis WI December 06 and 07	MSDA SUBURBAN SHOW Lindner Conference Center 610 E. Butterfield Road Lombard IL December 13 and 14	MSDA Winter Show Comfort Inn and Suites 600 Milwaukee Ave Prospect Heights IL January 10 and 11	MSDA Spring Show Comfort Inn and Suites 600 Milwaukee Ave Prospect Heights IL April 18 and 19
					

Next meeting:
7-PM on Tuesday, 28 October 2014
at the Grayslake Library
100 Library Lane - Grayslake, IL 60030



Officers:
Dr Tom Willer – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Ed Pieklo – Treasurer

These stamps, featured some truly interesting characteristic — such as each denomination printed in the same color (carmine-rose) and similar border design. The set was unique in that each denomination bore its own distinctive image (vignette).

Unlike regular postage items, whose rates were determined by weight in **ounces**, Parcel Post rates were determined and measured by increments in **pounds**. The new stamps were soon widely used by industry, farmers and others who needed access from/to rural areas.

Partly owing to 'some confusion' involving their usage, their exclusive use as Parcel Post stamps proved short lived, as regular postage stamps were soon allowed to be used to pay any parcel postage rate.

The first stamps were available for use for this new 'Fourth-Class' rate in November 1912 and depicted images that were associated with the mail service, American Industry, Agriculture and of course an airplane that appeared on the 20¢ stamp. This was the first stamp in the world that displayed an airplane and was in keeping with the USPOD efforts to begin some sort of airmail service – something they officially did six years later in 1918.

In spite of their intended original purpose (the accountability for the Parcel Post System), there was almost instant dislike among the stamp sales clerks. Because the stamps were made all the same color, at the insistence of then Postmaster General Hitchcock (who served as chairman of Republican National Committee from 1908 to 1909 and then appointed to this patronage position by President William Howard Taft from 1909 to 1913) who had little knowledge of the postal system. He was a corporate lawyer by profession.

It soon became evident that the postal employees were making an increasing number of 'natural' errors due to the single color of the series. This was especially true with the 1¢ and \$1.00 value stamps in the issue, in that they used the same numeral "1" making it to where the clerks actually had to read the words to distinguish the value. Clerks who went by stamp color in a normal series of regular issue stamps, now had to slow down their sales to actually read the word values.

These Parcel Post stamps had some other problems that contributed to their dislike. They include: a large stamp size (did not fit conveniently into stamp drawer slots and more importantly the stamps were too big to fit in multiples on small parcels and parcel tags), the odd number of stamps per sheet (45 instead of 50/100) made the end of day accounting more difficult, and just the fact there were these seventeen extra stamps to handle when the five special (green) Parcel Post Postage-Due (Scott JQ1-JQ5) stamps were added to the mix.

Looking back at the Postal Bulletins from the period, no definitive guidance was given to how to use the stamps until three/four months after they authorized for service. The first notice of their issue was sent out in October 1912 that instructed that these new stamps were for Fourth-Class mail and a chart on how much it would cost per pound but nothing on what was allowed to be mailed. As a result, items such as dogs, goats, sheep and the occasional child found its way into the mail stream.

In all, the Parcel Post System was and with later modifications, was a major contributor to the growth of our nation. When coupled with the concurrent introduction of R.F.D. and C.O.D., Parcel Post allowed the rural population of the U.S. to engage in real material commerce with the rest of the nation and the world. In the beginning, the Parcel Post System used special stamps to insure strict accountability because of concerns over profitability (especially by the Postmaster General).

The USPS, officially ended **International Parcel Post** service in 2007, replacing it by First-class Mail International service for parcels up to four pounds. For heavier parcels and/or printed matter, Priority Mail International, Priority Mail International Flat-Rate, Express Mail International, Airmail M-Bags, and Global Express Guaranteed service is available to foreign countries allowing these types of mail delivery.

Domestically, the **USPS Domestic Parcel Post** continues as an affordable method of sending large parcels of up to 70 pounds and a maximum combined length and girth of 130 inches (~12 cubic-foot max) via ground transportation across the U.S. This is, to say, sending a 70 pound package of maximum dimensions from Grayslake IL to Redmond WA would cost \$114.16 and would arrive within a week. Given the size, this is cheaper than UPS (\$146.38) or FEDEX (\$149.77).



Scott JQ1-JQ5