

March

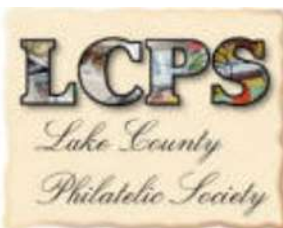
Volume 19 Number 03

Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society - Established 1933

Website: LCPSHOME.ORG

Perforations



Last month, Chris Brenner and Tom Willer talked about the Stamps of Hawaii beginning with the missionary stamps (and the story behind them) to the end of issues when the islands became a territory of the United States.

This month, Tom Willer and Dave Sadler will step in and present **"Mystery Stamps - Can You Identify Them?"** Larry Linden, who suffered a stroke was originally scheduled to enlighten us on methods to ID stamps and related stamp like items.

The April 30 meeting has Jerry Dacs talking about **"Passing on Your Stamp Collection"**.

The May meeting is scheduled for 21 May (the third Tuesday).

Postage stamp identification (ID) is a crucial aspect in both basic and technical philately as it studies the aspects of initial stamp design process, paper, printing methods, gum, perforation, tagging, overprints, watermarks and especially in the identification of fakes, forgeries and error stamps.

The ID process is important to collectors for them to place their postage stamps in their proper spots in the stamp album(s) - this especially important when one wants to sell or trade stamps.

In the process of identifying a postage stamp, it is imperative that one acquires the basic stamp collecting tools needed such as: stamp tongs, magnifying glass, perf gage, color chart, watermark trays and fluids, UV lights and most importantly, the stamp catalogues.

The **Tongs** are very essential because it can hold the stamps without causing damage, crease, or getting skin oils or other substance on them.

The **Magnifying Glass** is used to aid in identifying the stamp as it enlarges the small text and details on the postage stamp.

The **Perf Gage** is used to ascertain the number of holes/slots per centimeter along the edges of the stamp.

The **Color Chart** routinely describes a color name associated with a swath/patch of the color on a card.

A **Watermark** detection requires watermark tray and fluid will help identify marked paper and in some cases the type of paper the stamp was printed on – usually stamps prior to 1930 .

The **UV light** is important in the detecting if a stamp is tagged and what type of tagging the stamp possesses.

Last, and most important are the **Stamp Catalogues** which provides detailed information on postage stamps and will help in (final?) stamp identification and are also handy as stamp values reference.



Treasures' Report: Total – \$3,343.55

**Local
Stamp
Shows**

ASDA Chicago Stamp Show
Holiday Inn Oakbrook Terrace
17 W 350 22nd St
Oakbrook Terrace IL
March 22, 23 and 24

MSDA Spring Show
Ramada Inn Wheeling
1090 S Milwaukee Ave
Wheeling IL
April 6 and 7

COMPLEX STAMP SHOW
Guerin College Preparatory High School
8001 W. Belmont Ave.,
River Grove IL
May 31, June 1-2

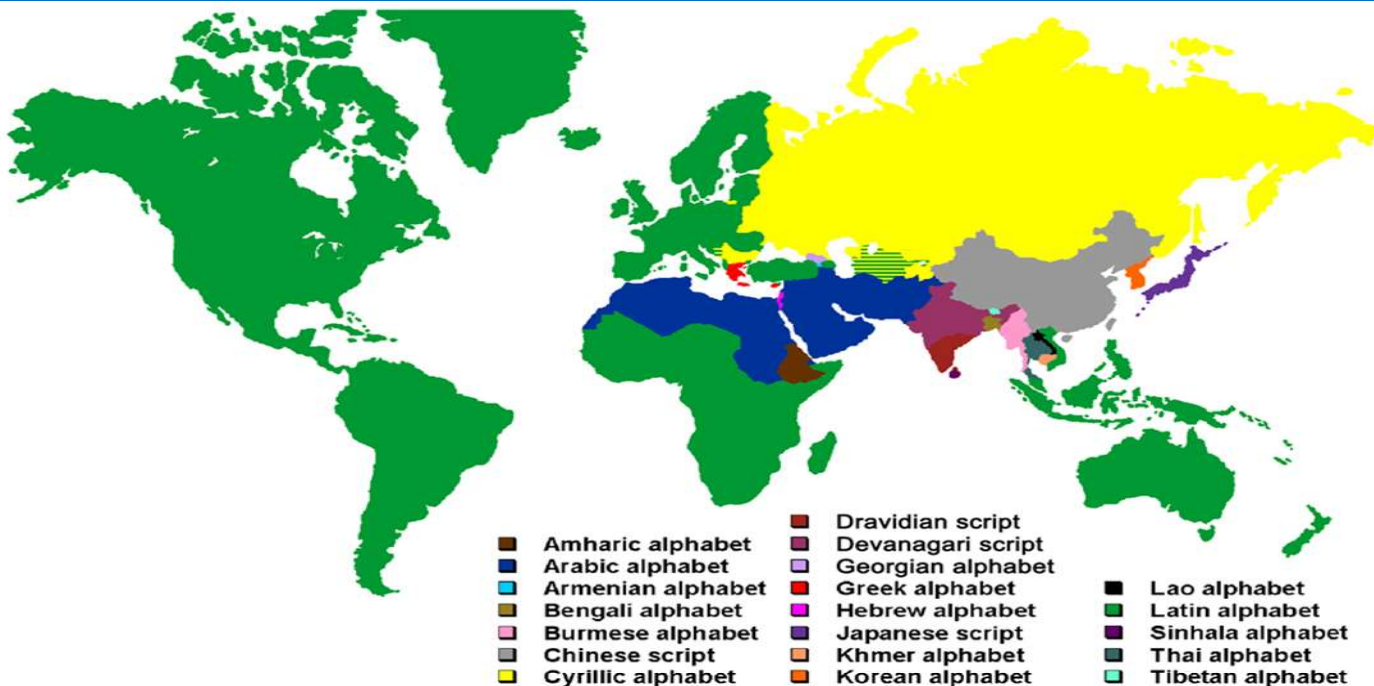
Next meeting:

7-PM on Tuesday 26 March 2019
at the Warren-Newport Library
224 O'Plaine Rd Gurnee IL 60031



Officers:

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



Having said this, we can move on to process of stamp identification.

1) Find the country. Most of the stamps printed have the name of the country (except the United Kingdom) - that is if you can read them — remember there are 20+ alphabets and script in use that can be found on postage stamps (see figure above). e.g. **இந்தியா** = India; **ישראל / עברי** = Israel/Ivri; **Россия** = Russia; **မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ** = Burma. Note: the good thing is most modern stamps have the countries name in English also imprinted.

2) Once you have the nation, use the catalog(s) or the internet to find the actual stamp catalog major number. If the stamp has minor numbers (usually denoted by a letter after the number - then the use of the perf gage, color chart, watermark tray/fluid or UV lamp may be required to sort that out).

3) What if the stamp does not have a counties name on it? Here we must again look at the 'symbology' on the stamp. Looking at the Alphabet map above, you can quickly find the region of the world the stamp belongs to.

4) Here you also need to have some idea of the history of the world since 1840 as the nation's tend to come and go and come again on the world stage. In general, the world boundaries were constant from 1840-1914, 1918-1939 and rapidly changing from 1945 to 1990 and stable since then. A map of the world as of 31 July 1914 with nations/possessions by color can be found below2.

4) If the "stamp" is still not IDed, then one may have a cinderella, a label/seal or some unrecognized nations stamps. Here the internet can of great value in tracking down the identity of stamps (postage/revenue/others)

A good reference on the internet for those counties that have issued stamps:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_entities_that_have_issued_postage_stamps_\(A-E\);](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_entities_that_have_issued_postage_stamps_(A-E);)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_entities_that_have_issued_postage_stamps_\(F-L\);](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_entities_that_have_issued_postage_stamps_(F-L);)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_entities_that_have_issued_postage_stamps_\(M-Z\);](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_entities_that_have_issued_postage_stamps_(M-Z);) And then there is the list of "dead countries" that may or may have not issued stamps.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_former_sovereign_states

