

This month, we will be looking at "Hometown Collecting: People & Places via Postcards & Postmarks" by Cheryl Ganz, as presented during the 2020 virtual summer seminar. (length 32 minutes).a general overview of collecting materials, especially postcards and postmarks combining genealogy with local history and philately, illustrated by examples involving Washington Island, WI.

**Recycling - Latvia's First Postage Stamps.** Latvia became part of the Russian Empire in the 1700s. On 1914 August 01 Germany declared war on Russia, bringing Russia and Latvia into World War I. Latvian leaders began making calls for independence during this war. German forces invaded and then occupied most of Latvia during the war.

The war officially ended on 1918 November 11 and a week later, on November 18, Latvia declared its independence. During the war, Latvia used overprinted German stamps. During World War I, the Baltic region of Latvia didn't have much to call its own. It was governed by Russia, and German forces were occupying much of the area. In 1918, however, Latvia gained independence during the chaos and collapse of the Romanov Dynasty. In addition, German forces had retreated — but not without leaving their mark on the new nation. Oddly enough, that mark was on Latvia's stamp's verso.

**March Meeting Info:** Given the negative status of both our libraries opening their meeting rooms, Dave Schenkel has scheduled the following **ZOOM meeting for 23 March 2021**:

Use the Computer Join URL (Web Address): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84592152764 just

prior to 7pm on the meeting date. This will connect device to view the presentation, and if you have speakers and microphone listen to and comment.

For Those who do not have a microphone or only wish to join just on audio, you can **Dial In** (*fees may apply depending on your phone contract*) +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago) and when asked to enter your meeting ID, enter: 845 9215 2764 #.

Next meeting: **7-PM on Tuesday 23 March 2021** Virtual Via ZOOM Any Changes will be posted on: Icpshome.org Latvia suffered devastating economic damage during the war as factories were destroyed or moved to Russia and Prussia. Adding to their woes, paper was in short supply. So, what does a young nation do when it gets ready to print its first national stamps? Postal officials got creative and used the blank backs of German military maps and unfinished banknotes. Indeed, if you look on the underside of some Latvian stamps from this era, you'll see a tiny sliver of a military map used by the Germans during World War I..

## **STAMP SHOW**

March 27 & 28 Wisconsin-Illinois STATELINE SHOW Doubletree by Hilton 11800 - 108th St. Pleasant Prairie, WI Treasures' Report: Total: \$2,899.52



Dave Schenkel – President Ron Brunner – Vice President Dave Sadler – Secretary Ed Pieklo – Treasurer



## 2021 Local Stamps Shows

March 21 Mo To: We Th: Fr Sa So 1 2 3 4 5 5 9 10 11 12 6 7 2 2 25 24 25 26 27 23 2 3 0 31 March 27& 28 Wisconsin-Illinois STATELINE SHO Doubletree by Hilton 1 1800 - 108th St. Pleasant Prairie Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3	
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July 21 Ma Ta W Th F 5a 5a 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 July 24 & 25 Chicagoland NORTH Ramada Inn 1090 S Milwaukee Ave. Wheeling, Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3	IL
September 21   September 18 & 19   Chicagoland NORTH   6 7 6 9 10 11 12   13 14 15 16 17 18 19   20 21 22 23 24 25 26   27 28 29 30 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3	IL
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Latvia suffered devastating economic damage during the war as factories were destroyed or moved to Russia and Prussia. Adding to their woes, paper was in short supply. So, what does a young nation do when it gets ready to print its first national stamps? Postal officials got creative and used the blank backs of German military maps and unfinished banknotes. Indeed, if you look on the underside of some Latvian stamps from this era, you'll see a tiny sliver of a military map used by the Germans during World War I.

According to their records, they used 79 different German maps of Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland as well as 62 different maps of southern Latvia and northern Lithuania.

To save precious paper, stamps were printed in 12 rows of 19 stamps each for a total of 228 stamps per sheet. The back of these stamps has detailed German military maps showing sections of Latvia, complete with name, scale and map grid position.

Just under 12,000 sheets were printed. And of those, only about 4,900 were perforated. Of those sheets printed, only 4,750 were delivered to Latvia's government in the period between 1918 and 1919. The shipment included imperforate gummed sheets (Latvia #1), and perforated gummed sheets (Latvia #2).



## Latvia Scott 1

Ansis Cirulis

Latvia Scott 1 (Verso)

Latvian painter and graphic artist Ansis Cirulis designed the first stamps. The stamps' designs were based on the Latvian coat of arms. This design used a sun symbolizing statehood, with 17 rays representing the 17 Latvian districts. The design also includes three ears of grain and three stars, representing the three historic districts of the new nation.

Currently, a mint block of 4 is going for under \$40.00 on ebay.

April 09 Lake County Philatelic Society • 34390 N Tangueray Dr • Grayslake IL 60030-4017 • 847-548-5070