August 2021
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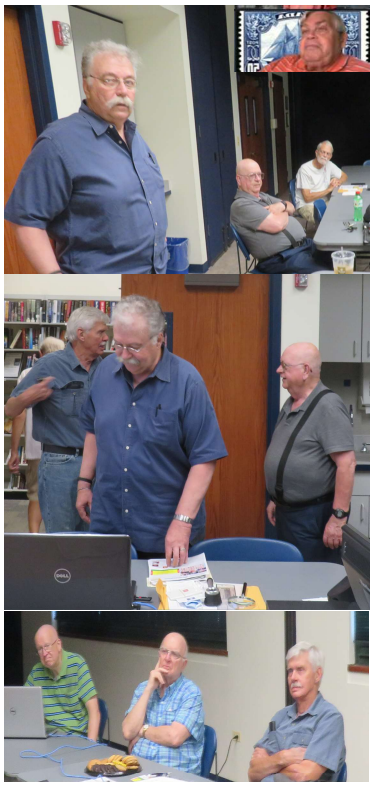
Newsletter of the Lake County (IL) Philatelic Society - Established 1933
Website: LCPSHOME.ORG

Perforations



Last month Dave Schenkel gave a presentation on ***"The Post Horns of Norway"*** where he gave out samples of the various series and guided us through their identification characteristics.

This month, Dave Schenkel (again) will lead us to an ocular migraine with ***"Grills: A-Z"*** — an attempt by the USPOD - fearing loss of revenue because some people were cleaning and re-using postage stamps. It commissioned numerous experiments aimed at making it difficult to do this including cancellation devices that abraded/cut the stamp surface, inks and papers that would dissolve during cleaning, and even one misguided trial involving gunpowder before deciding on the "grill".

August Zoom Meeting Info: Given the need for precautions, the meeting will also run concurrent with the 'live' meeting.
Use the Computer Join URL (Web Address): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89233039093?pwd=R0hvRmYxeEZQbHc0bDIwekp4T3dZUT09
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: 892 3303 9093 # Passcode: 657630

STAMP SHOWS

August 12 thru 15
Great American Stamp Show 2021
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center - Hall G
5555 N River Rd
Rosemont IL

September 18 & 19
MSADA Chicagoland NORTH Show
Ramada Inn
1090 S Milwaukee Ave Wheeling IL

Treasures' Report:
Total: $2,899.76

Postal Stationery - the Postal Card — In 1865, Dr. Heinrich von Stephan, a **Prussian** postal official, first proposed an "open post-sheet" made of stiff paper. He proposed that one side would be reserved for a recipient address, and the other for a brief message. His proposal was denied on grounds of being too radical and officials did not believe anyone would willingly give up their privacy.

The **Austro-Hungarian** Post Office accepted a similar proposal in October 1869 and three-million cards were mailed within the first three months. With the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in July 1870, the government of the **North German Confederation** decided to issue postal cards for soldiers to cheaply send home from the field.

Austrian Postal Card - 1869

It so happens, that in the **United States**, the custom of sending through the mail, at letter rate, a picture or blank card stock that held a message, began with a card postmarked in December 1848 containing printed advertising. The first commercial produced card was created in 1861 by John P. Charlton of Philadelphia, who patented a private postal card, and sold the rights to Hymen Lipman, whose postcards, complete with a decorated border, were marketed as "**Lipman's Postal Card**". These cards had no images. While the United States government allowed privately printed cards as early as February 1861, they saw little use until 1870, when experiments were done on their commercial viability.

Lipman Postal Card

Next Meeting:
7-PM on Tuesday 17 August 2021
Grayslake Library and Via ZOOM
Any Changes will be posted on: lcpshome.org

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

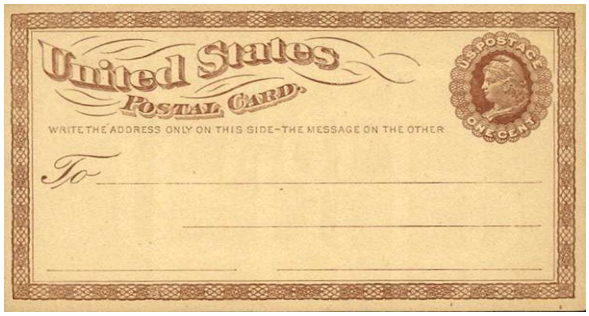
In 1871, Representative John Hill (R-NJ) introduced a bill in Congress authorizing postal cards, but approval was delayed, due in part to concerns about the privacy of messages. congressman James Garfield (R-OH / later, President), thought that open messages on cards would be too dangerous. By passing through so many hands, he thought that a postal card with a libelous message might *"be a vehicle of great injury to the person to whom it was addressed*." Garfield warned a colleague that he might "*find these postal cards coming back upon him like barbed arrows, from anybody who may wish to shoot at him.*" Garfield, among others, wanted a postal card constructed with a cover or gummed flap to conceal the message.

After much debate, Congress left it to the Postmaster General to determine the proper form and size of the card.

The Act of 1872 June 08, authorized the Postmaster General to issue postal cards for the "*transmission … at a reduced rate of postage, of messages, orders, notices, and other short communications*" on "good stiff paper, of such quality, form, and size, as he shall deem best adapted for general use."

Through an oversight, Congress did not appropriate the needed funds for their manufacture; this was rectified by the Act of 1873 January 08. Two weeks later, the Post Office Department advertised for bids, and on March 28 awarded the contract for postal card production to the lowest bidder, the Morgan Envelope Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. After a rushed printing job, the first postal cards were ready to be shipped to Post Offices a mere three months later.

The first postal cards went on sale in Springfield, MA, on 1873 May 12.



The card measured three inches by five and one-eighth inches and had a one-cent stamp impression ("indicium") in the upper right corner. The indicium bore a profile of the Goddess of Liberty surrounded by a lathe-work border, with the words "**U.S. POSTAGE**" above and "**ONE CENT**" below. The other side of the card, intended for the message, was entirely plain. The card was light buff in color.

The public responded enthusiastically. On 1873 May 14, the day after the first postal cards were issued in New York, The New York Times reported that the city's postal clerks sold 200,000 cards in two and a half hours. In their first week of issue, The New York Times tested the delivery of postal cards by directing reporters to mail twelve cards from and to various addresses in the city. Ten cards, mailed in the morning, were delivered the same day; two that were deposited in collection boxes after noon were delivered before noon on the next day.

Nationwide, customers bought 31-million postal cards by June 30th *(Total US population: 38.6 million)*, and more than 64 million by the end of September. In October 1873, the publishers of ***The Atlanta Constitution*** announced that they could "*furnish parties with postal cards in any quantity with their business circular or other matter printed on them*." Some businesses purchased cards by the thousands and had them preprinted with advertisements or fill-in-the-blank messages, simplifying communications with customers and colleagues. Banks mailed postal cards to customers, acknowledging deposits; libraries used them to send overdue book notices; and merchants and wholesalers used them to advertise prices. In 1875, more than 100 million postal cards were issued. Postal cards were popular with individuals as well — some critics thought they were too popular. In 1903, a writer for the ***Baltimore Sun*** lamented that *"there are people who would write anything on a 'postal card,' from a simple recipe .... arguments that they had with their husbands — nothing is private anymore.*"

New Stamps For August *(14)*:

06 August

10 August

12 August

Rules: *In 1911, Elizabeth Van Rensselaer, etiquette columnist for the Chicago Tribune, advised: "As a general rule, a postal card should not be used except for business purposes. … If it is an absolute necessity to send one to a friend … the sentences should be short. … all personal messages should be omitted."*

… and just think, it only took another 137 years to create the electronic counterpart – **Twitter** … *with no rules.*