October 2026

Volume 26 Number 10

Newsletter of the Lake County (IL) Philatelic Society - Established 1933

Website: LCPSHOME.ORG

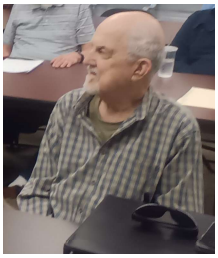
Perforations





Last month, we enjoyed another edition of **Ed Pieklo's "*A Century of Progress (1933-34).*"**

This month, "***Swedish Booklets" by Gary Olson.***







Bill's long-awaited "***Squirrel"*** event happened on 25 September with the ***Squirrels and Chipmunks*** first-day ceremony at the **2026 MILCOPEX.** Pictured booklet, announcement and the four new stamps with the presentation group (from left) are Scott Stamp LLC president and CEO **Jay Bigalke**, Brookfield WI postmaster **Michael Nitz**, Wisconsin Humane Society member **Mary Landry** and **John Hotchner,** Linn's Stamp News columnist .

MILCOPEX is sponsored by the **Milwaukee Philatelic Society (MPS)** — chartered on 1889 November 05 and is the fourth oldest stamp collecting organizations in the nation. The MPS was organized with four charter members and doubled its membership by the end of the year.

By1905 MPS had grown to 55 members. Early meetings were held at the members' homes or in the Trustee's Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Turner Hall also hosted early meetings.

Ninety years later, 1979, its membership had grown to over 200, but as with most philatelic modern organizations today the membership is somewhat less than that, still, the club continues to offers all of the benefits of the past as well as additional newly developed benefits.

The club sponsors **MILCOPEX**, an American Philatelic Society (APS) World Series of Philately (WSP) stamp show each September. The club also sponsors **STAMPFEST**, an annual spring show held on the first full weekend in March.

The Club logo depicts the, then, "new" Milwaukee post office that opened in 1901. This building is nows a United States Federal Courthouse, after the Post Office moved to its new facility in 1968 when postal automation required a "modern" facility.

Next Show

November 26

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	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						

November 20-22
CHICAGOPEX
Westin Chicago Northwest
400 Park Blvd
Itasca IL

Next Meeting

October 26

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
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	

Swedish Booklets





One of the vexing problems with the Postal Service and modern stamp collecting are the number of counterfeit stamps showing up on postage and now in stamp shows. The 2026.06.16 report on ***Counterfeit Stamps*** *summarized the problem:*

The U.S. Postal Service delivers over 108 billion pieces of mail annually, and each piece requires an approved stamp or other payment indicator. Bad actors, however, are increasingly selling, printing, or distributing counterfeit stamps. To combat this threat to its finances and customers, the Postal Service and its primary law enforcement arm, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, focus on preventing counterfeit stamps from entering the mail system through public education, removing online fraud schemes, or partnering with other federal law enforcement to interdict illicit inbound shipments.

Next Meeting:
2:00-PM on Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Grayslake Historical Society — Any Changes will be posted on: lcpshome.org



Officers:
Tom Willer - Presidents
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Gary Olson – Treasurer

The report objective was to evaluate the Postal Service and Postal Inspection Service's efforts to mitigate the threat of counterfeit stamps. We reviewed related policies, initiatives, and data; engaged a contractor to assess online threats; and tested equipment — and they found:

1) Postal Service and Postal Inspection Service mitigation efforts are limited, with no substantive approach to identify counterfeit stamps in the Postal Service network. While the Postal Service and the Postal Inspection Service have increased prevention-related efforts, the quantity of counterfeit stamps in the network remains unknown.

2) The Postal Service has not developed a comprehensive, risk-based strategy for identifying and mitigating counterfeit stamps. Developing such a strategy would help coordinate efforts across the organization, putting the Postal Service in a stronger position to protect its revenues and customers. The urgency of this threat also necessitates immediate actions to address other mitigation shortfalls. First, the Postal Service did not set mail processing equipment's detection capabilities to a level to sufficiently detect counterfeit stamps or conduct sample testing to quantify the potential revenue loss. Second, the Postal Service has no identification capabilities across any other points of mail entry. We estimate these shortfalls resulted in over **$349 million in revenue loss and $1.7 billion of revenue at risk in fiscal year 2026.** Lastly, the Postal Service takes more than twice as long as comparable companies to disable online threats due to legal considerations.

The recommendations made (four):

1) Develop and implement a risk-based counterfeit stamp identification and mitigation strategy with documented vulnerabilities and risks; initiatives and priorities; roles and responsibilities, including a revenue assurance champion; and performance tracking mechanisms.

2) Take immediate action to enhance counterfeit stamp testing of mail processed on Advanced Facer Canceller System 200 machines, such as by more targeted or sample testing using the high-revenue protection mode. **(cost: $336,564,403)**

3) Some or all of the recommendation is not publicly available due to concerns with information protected under the Freedom of Information Act**. (cost: $46,875,103)**

4) ***Consider other avenues to disable online counterfeit stamp threats more expediently, such as through the Lanham Act.***

*[The **Lanham Act** (15 U.S.C. §§ 1051 et seq.) is the primary federal statute governing trademark law, service marks, and unfair competition in the United States. Enacted on 1946 July 05, , and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman, it replaced a fragmented, state-by-state trademark system with a uniform national framework.]*

Note: The United States Postal Service (USPS) faces massive revenue losses due to counterfeit stamps and fraudulent shipping labels, with FY 2026 Office of Inspector General (OIG) reports identifying nearly $5.8 billion in total postage fraud across labels, stamps, and enterprise accounts

Counterfeit stamps primarily originate from overseas manufacturing—frequently produced in **China**—and are introduced into circulation through global supply chains and digital platforms.

Primary Sources and Channels

- **Overseas Production:** Large-scale commercial forgeries of stamps (such as U.S. Forever stamps) are often printed overseas and shipped in bulk into the country, sometimes disguised under generic labels like "Patriotic Series American Independence Day Doodle Stickers"
- **Online Marketplaces & Social Media:** Fraudsters sell counterfeit stamps on unvetted e-commerce sites, third-party vendor platforms, and social media marketplaces.
- **Underground Networks:** Organized crime groups distribute fake postage through black markets, shadow networks, and shell companies set up to import and resell the items locally.

The first US holiday stamp was issued by the United States Post Office Department on 1962 November 01 in Pittsburgh PA and ***faced controversy*** over the release of a stamp commemorating a ***religious*** holiday was pronounced among stamp enthusiasts. Some were enthusiastic, while others rejected the idea of a government agency associating itself with a particular religion, and there were those who vehemently opposed the lack of explicitly religious content in the Christmas stamps, viewing them as ***too commercial***.

In all, though, it has culturally expanded the hobby by introducing **Hanukkah** (Jewish) (1996), **Eid al-Adha** (Moslem) (2001) and **Diwali** (Hindu) (2016).

Christmas is an annual holiday celebrated on 25 December/07January (Orthodox) that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.



Scott 1205



Scott 3118

Hanukkah is the eight-day Jewish ***"Festival of Lights"*** that commemorates the Maccabean Revolt and the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the 2nd century BCE. [2026.12.04 – 12]



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New Issues October 2026



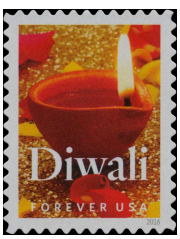
06 Oct



21 Oct
Last Issue of 2026



Scott 3532



Scott 5142

Eid, honors both the **Eid al-Fitr (**marking the end of Ramadan) and the **Eid al-Adha** ***"Festival of Sacrifice***" that honors the prophet Ibrahim's devotion and willingness to sacrifice his son Ismael in obedience to God, before God intervened and provided a ram instead.[Eid al-Fitr 2027.03.09 – 10; Eid al-Adha 2027.05.16]

Diwali, ***"Festival of Lights,"*** is a major Hindu five-day celebration symbolizing the spiritual triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. [2026.11.06 – 10].



The next holiday stamps?