Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

March 2024

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Filatelic Fiesta 2023

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Club Blog

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Filatelic Fiesta Website

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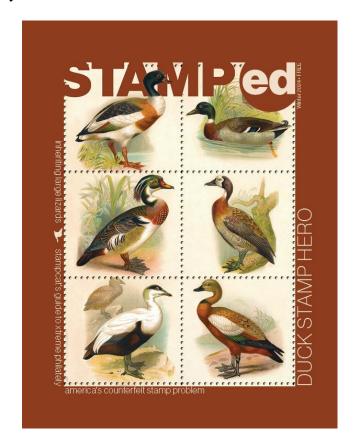
the San Jose Stamp Club on Facebook

StampEd: Launch Date Postponed

2/15/2024

Due to an editorial delay caused by unforeseen but temporary circumstances, we've made the decision to push the launch of <u>StampEd</u> back to **Monday, February 19**.

We're disappointed to not meet our goal for the launch, but we want to be sure we put our best foot forward with the debut of this magazine. We'll be using the extra time to polish every article and column to perfection — in the meantime, we want to share some of what we've been working on with you as a big thank you for your patience and belief in *StampEd*. So without further ado, please enjoy a sneak peek of the inaugural cover of *StampEd* and a preview of the slate of topics and authors you'll see in the first issue.



Designed by our very own Chad Cowder, the inaugural cover of *StampEd* features scientific illustrations of six species of duck, including two types of shelduck, a mallard (or wild duck), a white-faced whistling duck, a common eider, and a wood duck.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

February 2024 Newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

Presidents Message

March 2024

Last month I begged everyone to reply with their input on what they wanted from the club. I only heard from a few of you, but there are three basic themes:

- 1) Camaraderie: Friendships with fellow collectors. We all want friendships with people who share our interests. Therefore, I'm proposing the following:
 - a. Hold as many meetings as possible "in-person" while keeping the Zoom link open.
 - b. Try name badges at meetings so that new and long-time members learn each other's name.
 - c. Restart social events like the summer picnic, Christmas party, and maybe a few other social events.
- 2) Learning Opportunities: Regardless if we're a long-time collector or relatively new, we all are looking for opportunities to continue to learn. I heard from several of our less experienced members for a tutorial / educational feature at each meeting.

- a. Everyone can suggest a topic you'd like to learn more about.
- b. The more experienced club members are the key here. Pick a topic that you have experience with and give a 10 minute (or so) tutorial.
- c. Those with deep knowledge on a topic are asked to give a talk. NO, you don't have to be the world's leading expert to speak.
- d. Presentations from philatelists outside our club are always welcome. For example, our March meeting, Robert Brilliant, a member of the Sequoia Stamp Club is giving a talk on a rare variety of US #681. We should then also be willing to share our knowledge with other clubs. Experienced members are asked to consider speaking once a year.
- 3) Access to philatelic resources. The generous donations to the club's charity programs give us resources that are difficult or expensive for to own. This include, but not limited to:
 - a. Stamps and covers from all over the world that are often unusual or hard to find.
 - b. Collecting supplies: need mounts? We've a HUGE assortment. Need hinges, tongs, perf gauge, a magnifier?
 - c. Got an album that needs to replace a broken or lost piece?

Does this sum-up accurately what you had in mind? Either way, please speak up!

Brian

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Club Notes:

<u>Donations</u>: There is a deal of work to be done to get the donations ready for our various programs. A lot of the work can be done at your own home at your schedule. For example, you can take home stamps to be soaked, albums to be stripped, loose stamps to be sorted. I also need help at my home doing things that need to be done here.

March Stamp Show: Tom Kinberg is hosting a stamp show on March 9-10 in Napredak Hall. The club is hosting the registration table and we also get one 8' sales table. I continue to volunteer to have the club host the registration table as I believe it is important to put a stamp club in front of people coming to a stamp show. Talking to the show guests is the best way I know to recruit new members. Also, a free sales table is a wonderful way interact with guests and generate income for the club with materials we don't need for our other programs.

<u>Social Media:</u> Out youngest member, Ryan has offered to lead our social media presence. We haven't set a plan yet, so I'll be in touch on what to look out for. The APS launched it's new online magazine "StampEd" this week. I've only had a few minutes to look it over, but it looks good. Philately is also moving forward on-line with the pending formation of a "Virtual Stamp Club". It is just getting started, so watch for updates.

<u>Vice President:</u> David Occhipinti needs retire as our VP. Please seriously consider taking this position. The main thing I need is someone to organize meeting presentations/programs. Got other ideas? It's time to step-up.

<u>Dues:</u> Our annual dues are now overdue. It's time to get this off your "To Do" list and get this done. Mail your check for \$12 made out to: "San Jose Stamp Club". Send to: 981 Shadow Brook Dr., San Jose, CA 95120

<u>Filatelic Fiesta</u> is on Nov 16-17th and we need to get busy planning it. Who's going to step-up to be our bourse chairperson this year? I REALLY need the help!

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Philatelic Calendar:

March 6; 7:00 – 8:30pm; Stamp Club Meeting

Pearl Ave Branch of the San Jose Library, in the Community Room Guest Speakers: Robert Brilliant on a rare color variety of US #681;

Peter Adams: Tutorial on using a UV lamp to detect tagging

March 9 - 10; Sat: 10:00 - 6pm; Sun: 10:00 - 4:00pm.

NEW Local Stamp Show

Hosted by Tom Kinberg at Napredak Hall 16 dealers are confirmed to be part of the bourse SJSC is requested to staff the registration booth and an 8' sales table

April 3: 7 – 8:30pm; Stamp Club Meeting

Pearl Ave Branch of the San Jose Library, in the Community Room Guest Speaker: Adam Smith, UK Stamps of King Edward VII, 1901-1910

April 26 – 28: Fri & Sat: 10am to 6pm; Sun 10am to 3pm.

WESTPEX Stamp Show

SF Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel; \$5 admission good for all 3 days The biggest stamp show in the western US.

May 1: 7:00 – 8:30pm; Stamp Club Meeting

Pearl Ave Branch of the San Jose Library, in the Community Room Guest Speaker: you – what will you present?

May 11: 10am – 4pm; Scout-O-Rama in History Park

With Boy Scout Troop 290, a stamp booth is offered to event attendees Participants get to build a stamp project created around one of the US stamp sets like the State Birds & Flowers; Prexies; Liberty; Famous Americans: & others.

TBD: Presentation at Pearl Ave Library

Host a program targeted to getting attendees interested in starting collecting. Exactly what the program will be is undecided. A new PowerPoint presentation will have to be created.

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Discovering a Rare Color Variety on a 1930 Flight Anniversary Cover

By Robert D. Brilliant Member: APS, USSS, AAMS, Sequoia Stamp Club

As a collector of U.S. Zeppelin covers and first flight covers from the 1920s and '30s, one of my greatest collecting pleasures is looking through boxes and albums of unsorted covers, searching for overlooked gems of interest. Last summer I was engaged in just such an activity after purchasing a disorganized album of '20s-30s flight covers.

Flipping through the album pages, I came upon a flight anniversary cover franked with a pair of the Ohio Canalization commemorative and a 1 cent Kansas overprint. What first caught my attention was the attractive flight anniversary cachet commemorating the first anniversary of airmail service out of Baltimore. Next, I noticed the 1 cent Kansas stamp, as Kansas-Nebraska overprints are always desirable on cover. Lastly, I looked more closely at the Ohio Canalization stamps. The color of that pair of stamps, which I knew was supposed to be a bright shade of carmine rose, looked too dark, almost blackish. I recalled that several issues from that era had varieties in the "lake" color shade. A check of the *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalog*ue confirmed that Scott 681a, lake shade, was indeed a recognized, though rare, variety. Could I be fortunate enough to have found two used examples of this rare variety, on cover no less?

I carefully compared the stamps on cover with a mint copy of 681 pulled from my album. Yes, there was a very discernable color difference, it wasn't my imagination or wishful thinking. But who would respect my opinion in such matters? To get an expert opinion, I submitted the cover to the Philatelic Foundation in New York City for certification. About 6 weeks later (a long 6 weeks I might add) I received the certificate: "genuine lake shade, genuine usage." Wow, after years of plowing through bargain boxes at stamp shows and garage sales, and pretty much coming up empty handed, I finally found an item of special interest and perhaps special value. As far as can now be determined, this cover has the only known examples of 681a used and on-cover!

Some Background Information:

The color shade called "lake" is a distinctly darker, almost blackish, red that's strikingly different from the carmine rose shade normally used to print 681 and other stamps of the era. The color's name is derived from "lac," the reddish secretion of an Indian wood insect used for dyeing cloth at one time. Lac has the same root as the word *lacquer*, and comes originally from the Hindi word "*lakh*."

The Ohio River Canalization is among a group of other US stamps from the late 1920s-early 1930s (Scott 645A, 654A, 657A, 689B, 703A, 703B, 716A, 736B) that are found in the lake shade variety. It's been speculated that the lake shade ink, possibly the carmine rose shade contaminated with black ink, was mistakenly used in very limited quantities when printing these issues.

The flight cover commemorates the first anniversary of Baltimore-based airmail service. It carries a special cachet and is postmarked Baltimore MD May 6, 1930. A 1 cent Kansas overprint (Scott 658) completes the required 5 cents postage.

Scott 681 commemorates the canalization of the Ohio River that saw the construction of over 50 dams and locks by the U.S. government along the Ohio River system between 1885 and 1929. The final design of the stamp was based on a photograph of Lock No. 5 on the Monongahela River with the steamer *H.D. Williams* passing through. The stamp was issued on October 19, 1929 to coincide with the start of a six-day celebration honoring the project's completion. Almost 33 million 681s were printed in the intended carmine rose shade. The number printed in lake is unknown but it was undoubtedly very small.

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To Summarize:

Only five examples of 681a, including this cover, have been certified as genuine by the Philatelic Foundation. Mint NH examples are listed at \$650 in the 2024 *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue* with used unlisted (as indicated by a dash.) A mint NH plate block of 6 sold at Kelleher's March 2021 sale #755 for \$6,000, not including their 18% buyer's premium. Market value of this cover has yet to be determined but it could be substantial, especially if no other genuine 681a covers turn up.

I realize and appreciate my good fortune in discovering this cover. It's a real privilege that few collectors experience, and it just goes to show that there are still significant philatelic finds to be made, if one knows what to look for. A friend of mine mentioned how lucky I was. While luck always plays a role in random searching, I contend that the more you know the luckier you get. So, with that in mind, here's wishing you luck, and knowledge, in your stamp treasure hunting!

PS: If you can shed any light on this intriguing cover, please contact me directly at RBprodx@comcast.net. Thank you.



The 681A flight cover



Close up of the pair of 681As on cover with 681 in normal carmine rose shade superimposed to show color difference.

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StampEd Starting Lineup

ConnectEd

- Inheriting Large Lizards: A Beginner's Journey, Still in Process by Sarah Giavedoni of ArmchairPhilately.com
- Michael's Stamps Free Stamp Collecting Starter Kits by Michael Lynn
- "Screentime," a column about our great online creators, featuring Lisa Berthin of **StampCat Stamps**
- "Out and About," a column about getting connected to the wider community, by John Hotchner
- "Make it Stick," a column encouraging youth collecting, by Jessica Manack
- "The Bulletin Board," a space for readers to write in, share resources, and more

DesignEd

- **Duck Stamp Hero**, an interview with Kira Sabin
- Heat of the Moment: Thermochromic Ink in Stamp Design, by Christina Tang-Bernas
- "The Gallery," a column celebrating stamp art, featuring **Tonia Jillings**
- "The Topical Collector," a column about topical collecting

SkillEd

- **Countering Counterfeits**, by Nora Bryson
- "Stamp Apprentice," a basics advice column by James Taylor
- "Stamp Trek," a column about collecting around the world, by Tony Bard and the Korea Stamp Society

Thank you for bearing with us, and we can't wait to finally share all of *StampEd* with you on Monday.

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