

Mayflower Minutes

West Suburban Stamp Club

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- March 5th Meeting Via ZOOM. Subject TBA
- March 19th Meeting via ZOOM, Show and Tell and Chat.
- April Meetings TBD



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MARCH 5th & 19th MEETINGS WILL BE VIA ZOOM

MESSAGE FROM WSSC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has made the decision that the March 5th and March 19th Meetings will be held via ZOOM. Active Links to the ZOOM Meetings will be E-Mailed the week of the meetings. 16 members attended the Feb. 19th ZOOM Meeting. Status of April Meetings are TBD.

Tom Schoenfeldt

Show News

WSSC members: I am happy, and hopeful, to announce that your show committee has been able to secure the weekend of September 18 & 19 for the 2021 Plymouth Show. We had to cancel the April date due to ongoing risks associated with the pandemic.

Here is what we know so far.

- The 2021 Plymouth Show will not have exhibits
- Dealers have begun to express their interest in participating
- The floorplan will be modified to provide a safe environment for our members, dealers and visitors
- Volunteer needs will not include frame set-up or exhibit mounting
- There will not be an awards banquet (we could consider a “club” gathering, if allowed)

The only other major show on these dates is in Houston

Here is what we don't know yet.

- Will masks be required (highly likely)
- Will there be occupancy restrictions
- Will there be refreshments
- Will the Post Office participate

Stay tuned, details will be shared as they become available.



2021 WSSC MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you wish to maintain your membership in the West Suburban Stamp Club, please remit \$12.00 before March 15. If you are an ATA or APS member, please provide the club with your membership #.

The mailing address is: West Suburban Stamp Club, PO Box 700049, Plymouth, MI 48170.

CLUB OFFICERS NEEDED FOR FALL ELECTION

The positions of Club President and Club Vice President will be open this fall. If you are Interested in running for either of these openings let Doug know and we will put you on the ballot. We need members to step up and keep our club strong.

Also need a couple of members to join the Nominating Team.

E-Mail ADDRESSES NEEDED

If you have an E-Mail address and **do not** receive the WSSC Newsletter via E-Mail please provide your E-Mail address to Doug. At times we have some meeting and/or club news that needs to go out quickly . This has come to light during this current COVID situation. If you get the newsletter via E-Mail I have your address. We're trying to enhance our communication with members

West Suburban Stamp Club Monthly ZOOM Meeting Information

March 5th Meeting

Time: March 5, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Active ZOOM Links be E-Mailed to members during week of meeting.

March 19th Meeting

Topic: West Suburban Stamp Club Monthly Meeting

Time: March 19, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Active ZOOM Links be E-Mailed to members during week of meeting.



MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE FORM

The Board is working on updating our membership records

Please complete and submit the following form to the P.O. Box or by E-Mail so we can have an updated membership list.

Name					
Address					
City		State		Zip Code	
Phone #		ATA #		APS #	
Other Clubs/ Associations					
Collection Interest					

MEMBER INPUT NEEDED REGARDING AUCTIONS

Because of COVID and ZOOM Meetings the board is looking for member suggestions on how to handle club auctions. Auctions are a challenge under the current situations and we are looking for your input. Please send or E-Mail your suggestion to Tom, Sarah or Jim.

INTERESTING COVER

Cancel on cover shows 7/22/1929 and looks like stamp was removed. All Bremen cancels look good as does registration number. It is a puzzlement. This was the date of first flight to New York by Bremen catapult plane.



STAMP COLLECTING THROUGH THE YEARS

Rev. Everett H. Klein

Take a moment. Ask yourself how you began your stamp collecting efforts. How old were you? Who was involved in teaching you how to collect? How has your collecting interests changed through the years?

During this year of the Corona-19 virus I did exactly that. When I was about six years old, my father ordered several mixtures from Ralph Gummerson, a stamp dealer in Sweden. When they came, he would spend his Sunday afternoons sitting at the dining room table with a big bowl of warm water and a tall pile of blotters. There he would wile away the hours dreaming about the value he was adding to his collection while he soaked each stamp from the paper. After a while, he came across a Finland # 205 that had been torn. Only about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the stamp remained. When he put it in a reject pile of scrap, I asked if I could have it. That became my first stamp.

With my next week's allowance, I went to a nearby 5 & 10 cent store and bought the smallest bundle of blotters they sold. It wasn't long before I had copied my Dad's actions and had a soaked off and dried crispy $\frac{3}{4}$ stamp. I repurposed an old composition book my mother had and made it into a stamp book. I didn't have any hinges, so I talked my mom into giving me the strip along one side of some postage stamps she had bought. Did you know that they make much friendlier hinges than does flour and water applied to the back of a stamp?

The next Christmas, my parents gave me a stamp collecting kit with a little paper covered stamp album, some stamps in a glassine envelope, and my very own package of Dennison pre-folded stamp hinges. Wow! Was I in business now! My very own seventh heaven was realized that day as I sat at the dining room table with my dad. He began the soaking procedure for his Christmas present – a German mixture - while I tried figuring out where each of the foreign stamps I had received belonged in the album.

As the years went on, my parents bought me a larger hard cover album, and I spent my allowance buying stamp hinges so that I could transfer all of the stamps from the old album to the new one. After another few years, a Master Global album became my "ultimate" album. A couple of my friends also collected stamps. We were just at the right age for the "quest" to become a strong influence on our lives. We quickly learned the art of trading our extra stamps to build our collections. One of those friends and I learned to ride the subway from Queens into New York City for a visit to the Gimbles Department Store's stamp department. We may have only had one or two Dollars to spend, but we had fun spending it. The quest for more material captivated our interest.

As I grew older and left home to enter the military, letter writing became the way of sharing my life with my parents. I soon discovered that the base exchange only carried regular stamps. So I quickly developed the scheme of sending a Dollar to my mother and asking her to send me some commemorative stamps. From that point on, each of my letters bore a Commemorative stamp. My mom saved each of those letters. Each time I came home for a visit, there was an instant mixture waiting for me.

My father died while we were stationed in Colorado. It was time for my Master Global album to go. I needed the money from the sale to afford the cost of going home to help my mother put together a funeral. In those sad moments, my childhood collection may have gone, but the collection remnants and my collecting bug never left.

During the 25 years that I was in the military, I was stationed in England (where I married a young woman from Dallas). The area around Adana, Turkey became our home in the mid 1970's. Then we went back to England for another three years. After a brief stay back in the States, we were relocated to northern Italy and from there, we were transferred to a base near Cologne in Germany. In all, we spent 14½ years overseas. All through those years, we were living in a stamp collector's paradise.

My collecting efforts changed during those years. I began to specialize in collecting stamps from the countries where we had lived. Learning the culture and the place names of each country, we collected mostly used stamps – ones with readable postmarks. Each of the collections took on a deeper meaning.

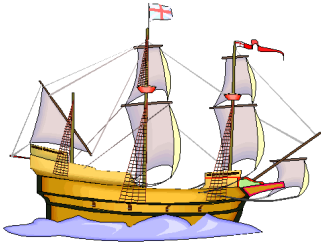
While we lived in Italy, we bought an album for Italian stamps, and we began building a collection for my wife Barbara. We lived along the wide southern edge of Lake Garda – literally the top of a volcano. We soon learned that there just happened to be a stamp store at the northern tip of the lake in the little town of Riva. Excursion boats sailed from a town near us to Riva. Every time we had a few extra Lire, we would be on one of the boats heading up the lake. At the stamp store, we would ask the owner – in our very best broken Italian – if he had any “Italiano franco bolo usata” (used Italian stamps) for sale. As we looked through his stock books, he would keep showing us how beautiful the mint never hinged ones were. We were a true puzzle to him, but he was always happy to sell us all he could.

Now that I am retired, and especially during this year of pandemic when we have spent more time at home, we have had time to reflect on our collections and add new dimensions to them. While we lived in Turkey, we learned some of the history about Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and the events that happened as the allies divided up the Ottoman Empire after the First World War. Between 1919 and 1922, the United States backed a new Sultan who had authority in and around Istanbul; the French and the English administered the peoples living on the Cilician plain along the Mediterranean coast; the Greeks had invaded Izmir in the West and pushed on toward Ankara; and Ataturk held ground on the central Anatolian plateau. There was a possibility of four stamp issuing authorities in what we now think of as Turkey. While we lived there, we added another possible dimension to our collections. We photographed many areas of the Turkish countryside where this history was made. Our collections of the stamps of that area now include some history, lots of stamps, and even a few pictures of the area and its people. As we study the history, our collections are becoming more comprehensive.

So, starting from that one damaged Finnish stamp, my collecting interest grew into a large world-wide collection. Then it changed and became specialized to specific countries. And finally, it has evolved into the forming of collections where the stamps represent a part of the total of the different cultures in a world we have learned to love.

I ask again, “How has your collecting interests changed through the years?”





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Newsletter Editor: Doug Becker
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Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of
each month at 7:30. (Doors open at 6:30)
Held at the Plymouth Historical Museum
155 South Main Street
Plymouth, Michigan

Club Officers:

President: Thomas Schoenfeldt
Vice President: Jim Napiorkowski
Secretary: Sarah Beckman
Treasurer: Jim Napiorkowski

Trustees through 2021 :
Ed Dubin
Chuck Vomastek

Trustees through 2022:
Frank Mallon
Carl Muller

Help Wanted:

Pres., V.P., Refreshment Team
Nominating Committee Members

Suggestion:

How about submitting a newsletter article

We Need Programs For 2021

If you are interested, please talk to Charlie Wood.

WANTED - White Ace First Day Cover Albums. (See Picture)

Carl Muller is in need of White Ace First Day Cover Albums.
Fleetwood Albums would be a second choice. If you have
some or one to sell please contact Carl at 734-273-4032.
He will be happy to pick them up.

