



**P. O. Box 295, Midvale, UT 84047-2950**

**Winter 2015**

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

### Club Meetings

Location: Sandy Senior Center  
9310 So. 1300 East, Sandy  
First and third Thursdays of each month @ 6:30 pm  
Club Website: [www.utahphilatelic.org](http://www.utahphilatelic.org)

### Club Officers

President: Steve Baldrige  
Vice-President: John Alleman  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ed Blaney  
Board Members: George Cobabe, Judy Maxfield,  
Blaine Cox and Don Marr.  
Newsletter Editor: Ewald Kuefner

### Upcoming Events

The next stamp show will be on February 6-7 (Friday 10 - 6 pm, and Saturday 10 - 4 pm).  
At the Sons of the Utah Pioneers building at  
3361 East Louise Avenue (2920 South).



## The President's Corner

Steve Baldrige

The Utah Philatelic Society starts its 69<sup>th</sup> year of existence this year, and that is a remarkable achievement. Over the years the club has experienced its share of highs and lows; longtime member Dave Blackhurst has said that during parts of the 1970s, club attendance was measured in single digits. But it has endured and even prospered, and today we are hale and hearty. Membership is just over 50, our financial condition is sound and club attendance hovers between 25 and 30.

There's always room for improvement – we are constantly reminded that philately seems to appeal mostly to an older generation, and we aren't terribly successful in attracting younger collectors. Virginia Lee, Sandi Locke and others have been making a concerted effort to reach out to younger generations, but it may be years before we see the fruits of their labors.

But for now, we're enjoying the hobby and like the times we can get together. Being a member means we can exchange our ideas with each other; we have a place to dispose of our duplicate material; we can ask and answer questions with those who share our passion. Eventually we may have to turn our collections over to someone else, but it won't be today. (Continued next page)

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## **The President's Corner** continued

Hopefully that will be true of Don Marr, a past-president and current board member. Don has been ill in recent weeks, requiring at least one surgery to handle some deadly pneumonia. He's currently undergoing rehabilitation and not very mobile, but we hope to see him later in February.

As Exhibits Chairman, we'll miss Don especially because we have a show during the first weekend of February, and the board has made a decision to invite juried exhibits at the show. Prizes will be awarded as before, with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes given as certificates for \$40, \$30 and \$20, respectively. The certificates are to be spent at the show. Also as before, lunch will be provided. Lunch is free, but donations will be accepted and appreciated.

Don usually handles the details of these exhibits, so we'll miss him at his post. I am aware that sometimes members become ill, or otherwise incapacitated without my knowledge, and therefore I don't bring it to the attention of the club. I don't mean to leave out someone who should have our attention, so if this has happened to you, I apologize. I would like to think that we are a close-knit-group of friends, concerned for each other's' welfare.

Remember, folks – we have shows because we are able to attract vendors who are willing to come, set out their inventory and help us find what we need. To keep on coming, vendors have to make a profit, so you can help by coming to the show with your want lists and your checkbook. We can always use volunteers also, to help set up and take down tables and man the registration desk. This is how the club operates – everybody needs to contribute one way or another. So, SEE YOU AT THE SHOW! (And club meetings!)

Dollar Sign Stamps by Charles Snee...



The \$2 Circus souvenir sheet is available mint in the 2014 annual yearbook from the U.S. Postal Service that costs \$64.95.

### **Buying a \$2 Circus souvenir sheet can set you back \$64.95**

The United States Postal Service's annual stamp yearbooks are a convenient, if somewhat pricey, means for obtaining most of the commemorative stamps issued in a given year.

Definitive (regular-issue) stamps are not included but may be purchased as a separate packet.

To protect the stamps, mounts are included in the yearbook. The mounts can be affixed to the yearbook pages to display the stamps.

Short, informative reviews of each issue and colorful pictures make the yearbook an entertaining gift for collectors and non-collectors alike.

For the 2014 yearbook, on sale in December (pre-orders began in September), the Postal Service is including a special self-adhesive Circus souvenir sheet.

The USPS also will issue uncut Circus press sheets. The press sheet cost has not been announced at this writing.

Three stamps comprise the souvenir sheet: a \$1 stamp with a design similar to the Barnum and Bailey Clown Poster forever stamp (Scott 4898), and two 50cent stamps reprising the design of the 5 cent Circus Wagon coil of 1992 (2452).

If not for that \$1, I probably wouldn't have given the sheet much thought. But the more I ruminated, the more annoyed I got.

To acquire the souvenir sheet, I could buy the yearbook, which is priced at \$64.95. The price includes the face value of the stamps plus the cost of the mounts and the book.

That's rather more than I care to shell out for an item with a total face value of \$2.

Another option is to buy a souvenir sheet from a dealer, who will charge above face value to recover the initial cost and turn a reasonable profit.

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**Buying a \$2 Circus souvenir sheet  
can set you back \$64.95 (Continued)**

Buying the souvenir sheet from a dealer won't cost as much.

Given these circumstances, the only thing likely to be scarcer than the souvenir sheet itself will be associated postal history.

How pleased I would be to locate a cover franked with a Circus sheet paying postage to some exotic overseas destination.

Even a legitimate domestic use would be a cover worth saving.

Alas, finding such covers is not going to be easy, thanks to the limited-edition nature of the sheet.

"Limited Edition." Those words shouldn't be part of the Postal Services stamp program.

If a stamp is approved for issue, it should be readily available to anyone for face value.

Some might argue that you will, in fact, pay face value for the Circus sheet and the other stamps included with the 2014 yearbook.

True enough, but the problem is, not being able to buy the sheet separately. That's a slap in the face to the stamp collectors who sustain the Postal Services stamp program.

Linn's welcomes information and items about U.S. dollar-denominated commemorative and definitive stamps. Write to Dollar-Sign Stamps, Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365.

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**United States** — Official stamps are stamps issued for use on mail from government departments or offices. They are not authorized for private use.

Now falling under the Department of Defense, the Navy Department was established as a cabinet in the U.S. government in 1798. Prior to that, it had been under the cognizance of the War Department. When the Department of Defense was established in 1949, the Navy Department was placed under it and lost its status as a cabinet post. Official stamps issued for the Navy Department were in use from 1873 to 1884.

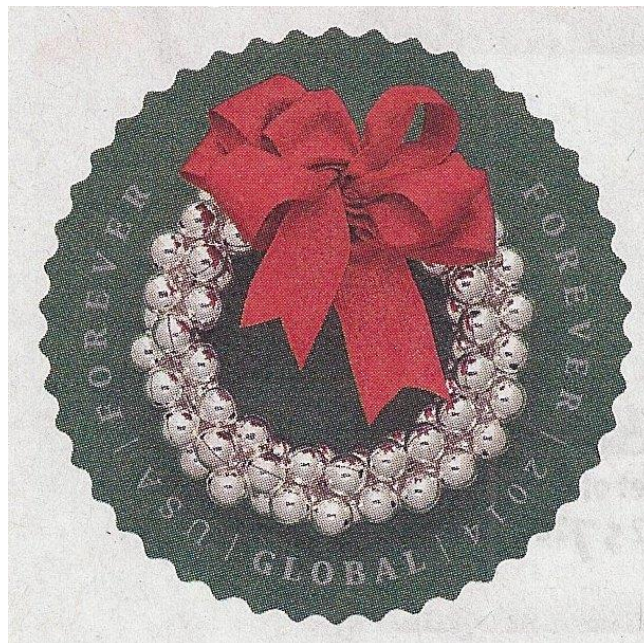
If you are working on the Official stamp section of your collection, now is a good time to look for the 6¢ Abraham Lincoln Navy Department Official stamp (Scott O38). Lincoln is a popular collecting topic, and this stamp has the same basic design as the classic 1870 regular mail issue.

The 2015 Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* values the 6¢ Abraham Lincoln Navy Department Official stamp in unused original gum condition at \$150. A used example is valued at \$25, and an unused stamp without gum is valued at \$55. We think this stamp is a good buy at the Scott catalog values.

There are a lot of examples of this stamp out there with faults, flaws, damage or heavy cancellations that are offered at considerably less than Scott catalog value. Whether or not you choose to buy such a stamp is entirely up to you, but bear in mind that you are getting what you paid for.



The United States 6¢ Abraham Lincoln Navy Department Official stamp (Scott O38) is a good buy in unused original gum condition, in used condition or in unused no-gum condition at the 2015 Scott catalog values.



**The United States nondenominated (\$1.15) Silver Bells global forever stamp issued October 23, 2014 in New York City**

The United States Postal Service issued its fourth global forever stamp nationwide on Oct. 23 with a ceremony in New York City, along with the Winter Fun stamp set debuted at the New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, during the American Stamp Dealers Association's National Postage Stamp Show. The round nondenominated Silver Bells global forever stamp will sell initially for \$1.15, fulfilling the one ounce international letter rate for mail to any country.

The Silver Bells stamp's round shape, along with the words "global forever," help distinguish it from first-class forever stamps for domestic mail.

Mailers have the option of using the global forever stamp as postage on any type of international or domestic mail, according to the Postal Service. It is not restricted to international use only.

The stamp, designed by USPS art director William Gicker, uses a photograph by Sally Andersen-Bruce showing a wreath created with silver bells and decorated with a large red bow Michael Owens created the wreath for the stamp, and Angelica Dennis created the bow. The stamp background is dark green.

USPS art director Greg Breeding was the typographer for the issue.

Banknote Corporation of America for Sennett Security Products produced an initial quantity of 30 million Silver Bells global forever stamps in panes of 10.

The stamps are arranged two across by five down with  
(continued on next page)



### Silver Bells global forever stamp, continued

a Banner at top reading "Global."

The Silver Bells global forever stamp is also available in press sheets, both with and without die cuts. Each press sheet consists of six panes of 10 stamps and sells for the face value of \$69. The Postal Service is offering 1,000 of each version.

In addition to the standard black four-bar first-day cancel for the new stamp, a digital color first-day postmark is available.

Technical specifications and first-day cancel ordering information for the Silver Bells global forever stamp is pictured in this article. #



The United States Postal Service issued a new variety of the Purple Heart forever Stamp Oct. 11 in Dover, Del. The stamp has a 2014 year date inscription.

The current version of the Purple Heart stamp (Scott 4704) was issued Sept. 4, 2012. It was produced by Avery Dennison in a pane of 20. Avery Dennison's stamp printing division was acquired by CCL Label in 2013.

CCL Label produced a version of the Purple Heart stamp in January. Even though this stamp was issued in 2014, it bears a 2012 year date.

Stamps from both 2012-dated panes are indistinguishable, with only the plate number prefix changing from "V" to "C".

The medal pictured on the stamp was awarded during World War II to First Lieutenant Arthur J. Rubin (1917-78) of Bronx, N.Y. it was photographed by Ira Wexler of Maryland. The stamp was designed by Jennifer Arnold with typography of USPS art director Greg Breeding.

CCL Label printed an initial quantity of 70 million Purple Heart stamps. No press sheets will be offered for the new variety.

In 1782, Gen. George Washington issued a general order creating the medal. According to Army regulations, it is awarded in the name of the President of the United States and is limited to members of the armed forces of the United States who have been wounded or killed, or who have died or may die after being wounded.

The first U.S. Purple Heart stamp was issued May 30, 2003, at the first-class letter rate of 37 cents (Scott 3784). A 37 cent die-cut variety was issued Aug. 1, 2003 (3784A). This was followed by a 41 cent stamp in 2007 (4164); two 42 cent stamps in 2008, one with water-activated adhesive and one self-adhesive (4263-4264); a 44 cent stamp in 2009 (4390); and a forever stamp in 2012 (4704). #



### Remember 2007

