

GHSS
Foundation,
Inc.

THE PERFORATOR



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THE NEWSLETTER OF
GHSS
FOUNDATION,
INC.

EDITOR - JAY STOTTS

Copies of this newsletter are distributed to all Houston Philatelic Society members. Send articles for publication, classified advertising (Free !), news of members, exhibit award information or anything else of general interest to GHSS Foundation, Inc. members to:

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2020 Greater Houston Stamp Show Canceled

In a split vote, the Board and officers of GHSS Foundation, Inc., elected to cancel the Greater Houston Stamp Show 2020 because of concerns related with the COVID pandemic. The show was canceled in time to avoid losing our substantial deposit with our venue, The Humble Civic Center. We hope to report progress toward holding GHSS 2021 in the future.

St. Louis Holds Successful Stamp Show



Photo of St. Louis Stamp Expo (courtesy of *Linn's Stamp Show*)

The philatelic world has been waiting for a successful stamp show to indicate that shows can go forward safely and successfully if the show takes appropriate steps in advance and during a show. Up to the point where St. Louis was held, shows were cancelled for one of two reasons: either there were government or facility restrictions imposed or the hosting committee felt the risks outweighed the rewards of holding a show.

St. Louis, an American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately show, originally scheduled for March, chose to reschedule in August, probably expecting that the pandemic would be resolved after the five

(Continued on page 2)

St. Louis Stamp Expo (cont.)

month delay. Of course, as we now know, new cases continue to be announced every day and the death toll continues to climb.

Once the St. Louis committee committed to there new date, they decided to investigate and execute a plan to conduct the country's first successful stamp show since Garfield-Perry's March Party in Cleveland, Ohio, in March. The committee had a very willing and helpful partner in their venue, The Marriott Renaissance Hotel adjacent to the St. Louis Airport.

Logistics of Attending the Show

Dealers and attendees were required to wear a mask throughout the event. The show committee had a box of 200 masks in the room, and, although attendees show up wearing masks, at least 100 of the masks were taken as freebies by attendees.

The committee took temperatures of everyone at the door and some of that work was done by uniformed police officers hired by the show for security. The passing temperature was 100.4° F.

The next step was a requirement to sign a waiver. The most important part of the waiver was the disclosure of complete contact information by each attendee. In the event of an outbreak of covid associated with an attendee to the show, contacting other attendees would have been in order.

Each attendee was given a colored sticker. Four different colored stickers were used, one color for each day. The exit to the ballroom was on a different wall than the entrance. Restrooms were not located in the hall, so when using the facilities, attendees exited through the side door and then were required to re-enter through the front door. With the appropriate colored sticker, the temperature check and paperwork were waived upon re-entry.

Several sanitation stations were set up inside the room. Fred Boatwright, a key show organizer explained that these stations replaced drinking water stations provided in past years.

There was a \$5 entry for this show, unlike some other shows you may be familiar with that have free admission. This restricted most attendees to just one

day at the show. This is important when you consider the reported attendance was just under 200. Many shows reach their final attendance figured based on repeat counting for an attending multiple days. Critics pointing out that this is a low attendance for a prominent show need to factor in the admission fee as well as the pandemic situation.

Inside the Show

Twenty one dealers were in attendance. Two others were last-minute casualties. One was a California dealer who couldn't get airline flights to align. The other was A to Z of Arizona, who had their car loaded and ready to leave for the show when the local sheriff showed up and quarantined them because a former customer at their stamp store had been identified with COVID.

Boatwright explained that dealer booths were spaced at least four feet apart and for a typical eight-foot dealer table, a chair was placed at the end of each table and two more were placed along the long edge of the table, creating distancing at each table. He also said that dealers' back tables were spaced further back from their front tables allowing additional distancing.

Twenty of the twenty-one dealers were financially successful and immediately made deposits for the 2021 St. Louis Show (scheduled in March). The consensus is that the attendees you made the effort to attend the show were serious buyers, not just window shoppers.

The bottom line for shopping at the St. Louis show was that the dealers had more material prepared for shoppers due to their time off during the pandemic and shoppers had much more money available due to the five month lapse in shows. Newly available material and ready financing make this a spectacular show for attendees.

Linn's Stamp News, who featured the show in an August 17 new release written by noted philatelist Alex Haimann, includes additional details of the show workings. Haimann reported that he attended all three days of the show.

Haimann was also interviewed on a U-tube pod

cast, talking about the show. This is a good watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NIWDLU4GJ4>

As with all WSP shows, there was an exhibit, but the number of exhibits was down significantly. Obviously airline travel was a factor and mailing exhibits was also a factor. Only a single APS accredited judge was willing to attend the show and that was APS President Robert Zeigler from Indianapolis. The APS has ruled that due to the reduced size of the exhibit competition, the St. Louis Grand Award winner will not be in the World Series of Champions.

Successful? Safe?

Absolutely. Some attendees described the experience like a trip to the local grocer store, only safer. Every dealer made money. Attendees had a safe environment due to the efforts of the committee and the hotel. Shopping was super and collectors grew their collections.

Boatwright said that he had communications from Gordon Eubanks of the WESTPEX stamp show committee in San Francisco. That committee met after St. Louis and made a 100% commitment to holding WESTPEX in April, based on the efforts and success of St. Louis. Eubanks said in his email, "I hope you are as excited as I am to get back to attending shows."

I asked Boatwright about club volunteers. He remarked that there was some reduction compared to previous years, but enough people did help to make the show a success. They did go without a Youth Booth this year, which appears to have been a good decision.

One attendee remarked that, yes, the older collector segment of the population is vulnerable, but that was a known going into the show, so adequate precautions were taken all along the way to keep in mind the typical attendees expected at the show.

While we don't know when we'll see a stamp show close enough to drive to from our Houston location, we do know that shows can be held successfully and safely. Dealers and collectors will come and we may be able to experience some of the in-person philatelic comradery that has been missing for six months now. Many thanks, St. Louis Committee.

Join HPS Weekly Virtual Meetings

by Steve Stewart

Editor's Note: This article written by Steve Stewart originally appeared in our June– August issue, but is repeated so that members have the information on how to join the Zoom meetings.

COVID-19 has made our regular in-person HPS meetings impossible, but many of us have continued to meet virtually using the Zoom application every Monday at 7:10 p.m. We keep the format informal with a question and answer session, a general discussion of club business and several members providing "mini-presentations". If you have not joined a meeting in the past you are welcomed and encouraged to join us in the future.

Some members have had concerns about joining a meeting using the Zoom application because of security flaws reported in the media and others because of poor Internet connections at home. Regarding security, the issues that were reported early on regarding the Zoom application were actually the same issues we faced in an in-person meeting. There is a concern that anyone could "crash" a meeting, and for example, display inappropriate materials.

This is a risk we also faced when meeting at the church, anyone could walk in that door. There were other more technical concerns also. However, these issues have since been addressed by Zoom and while we keep our meeting open to the public, a person who wants to join the meeting must have a link to join.

A poor Internet connection is a bit more difficult to address. You do however, have options, if your home Internet speed is below 20 mps. Option one is to join the meeting on your computer but turn off your web cam so that you can see what is happening, but do not waste bandwidth broadcasting video from your computer. Another option is to join with your phone using your data plan to see and send video (assuming you have a smart phone). A third option is to call into the meeting using audio only. This last option will allow you to hear what is going on, but you will not be able to see the presentations.

If you have not received an invitation to our meetings and would like to attend, please send an email to Steve Stewart, Paula Pedrick or Jonathon Topper.

An Uncommon 19th Century Destination - Iceland

by Ardy Callender

One of the more elusive nineteenth century destinations is Iceland. The limited numbers of covers are principally due to two factors; its small population and remote location. In 1887, the year this cover was posted, the inhabitants of Iceland numbered a mere 69,641. Today, 113 years later, the population has barely doubled. Iceland, located 850 miles north of Great Britain, is actually closer to Greenland (756 miles).

As there were no direct steamship routes, mail arriving in England was sent on to Copenhagen, Denmark. Iceland came under Danish rule in 1814, was granted limited home rule in 1874 and formally became a republic in 1944.

The stationery entire shown in Figure 1. was sent 29 September 1887 from Brooklyn, New York. Addressed to Bjossen R. Tamjar, Reykjavik (Reykjavik) Iceland, the entire (U279) is franked with two 1883 American Bank Note Company 2¢ adhesives. The 5¢ rate was overpaid by 1¢ as Iceland (essentially Denmark) joined the UPU as of 1 July 1875.

The indicia and stamps are tied by two strikes of a Brooklyn duplex consisting of an 11-bar #4 ellipse and a SEP 29, 10:30 PM 1887 date-stamp. The entire is docketed at the upper left "via Copenhagen". Above the address is a straightline "Retour" (return) struck at a slight angle. The return marking indicated that the addressee could not be located and the entire

was returned to Brooklyn. Five backstamps are struck on the reverse (see Figure 2.)

A chronological examination of the numerous datestamps paints an interesting story of the entire's five month journey back to Brooklyn. Placed in the mail on 29 September 1887 in Brooklyn, it first went to the New York City exchange office where it received its first backstamp the next day; a duplex made up of an ellipse #48 and a 30 September datestamp.

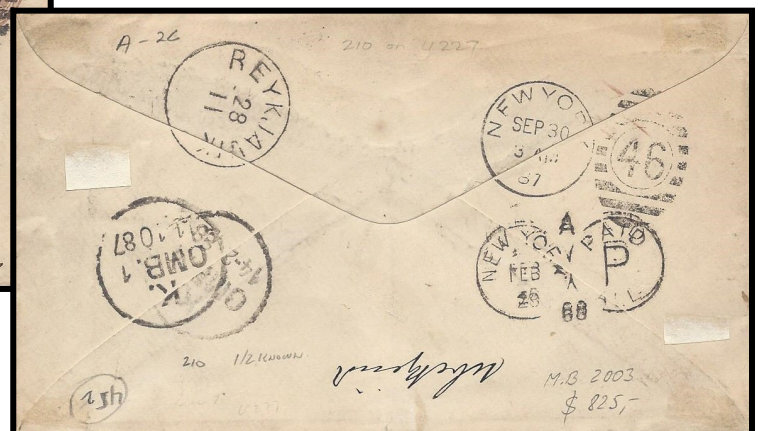
Placed onboard an outbound steamship, it transited England and reached Copenhagen on 10 November 1887. Arriving in Iceland, a Reykjavik receiving backstamp was struck (28 November 1887).

Apparently Mr. Tamjar was difficult to find as the Reykjavik post office held the letter for 2½ months until February (1888). The entire was sent back via Copenhagen on 14th of February and was received in New York on the 28 February 1888. As there is no DLO (dead letter office) marking, the entire seems to have made its way back to the sender (no acknowledgement of receipt from the Brooklyn PO).

A couple of notations on the reverse of the cover are informative. Three previous auctions notes are helpful in tracing the provenance of the cover as well as a pencil marking indicating the entire is 1 of 2 known (covers to Iceland).



Front of this cover a posting from Brooklyn to Iceland on September 29, 1887.



Reverse shows five backstamps showing the route traveled as well as dates.

Upcoming Philatelic Shows & Bourses

Editor's Note: For the time being, as the world-wide Pandemic is ongoing and sheltering in place guidelines are in effect in many areas, stamp shows and TSDA bourses continue to be on hold or scaled down to reduce risks. When shows in our area resume, we'll re-initialize this listing.

Houston Philatelic Web Site:
<http://www.houstonstampclub.org/>

Annual Directory Update

The annual publication of the Houston Philatelic Society's membership directory is coming up soon.

If you are on the list and wish to make any changes (additions/subtractions/alterations), please contact John Germann at the email address below.

If you are not currently on the list but would like to join it, simply send me your name, email address and collecting interests. No mailing addresses or phone numbers are used. The list is emailed via "blind cc" and is not made public.

John Germann, jghist@comcast.net

Classified Ads:

Members may place philatelically related Buy, Sell, or Trade ads in *The Perforator* free of charge. HPS Dealer-Members may place free classified or feature ads in *The Perforator* at no charge as well. Member ads will run indefinitely until the advertiser requests a change or cancellation. Send copy to the editor.

Wanted: U.S. unusual postal history material; 1887 large bank-note issue, 10¢ through 15¢ Washington/Franklin issues. Also, U.S. 19th century green cancels. David Willig, Houston, TX. 713-201-2042. cbhz3@hotmail.com

Buy/Sell/Trade: Texas Postal History. Email John Germann or phone him at 281-493-3938. jghist@comcast.net

U.S. FACE VALUE POSTAGE - Offered at 50% of face. Order any amount from \$25 to \$300 Face Value and receive a mixture of 5¢ to 30¢ values. Clean and fresh material. Send order with payment to: Jonathan Topper, 10480 Grant Road, Suite 117, Houston, TX 77070. Stamps can be mailed to you or delivered at the next stamp club meeting.

Add a GEM to your Hawaii collection: Scott 60e (III) Unused 1893 6c Green Double Overprint, with recent 2020 Genuine Certification (must read). Will scan upon request. Contact Ralph Chaiet

WANTED: Return Reply Envelopes - with stamps, unused or used. Building my collection of Return Reply Envelopes with the objective of a presentation, display or exhibit on their use. These are the pre-addressed return envelopes usually enclosed with solicitations for donations, contributions, subscription renewals, etc., and usually included multiples or thematic stamps. Interested in all types, of any period. No reasonable asking price will be refused. Please contact: RBajenski@Hotmail.com

A Word About The Houston Philatelic Society....

Enjoy the fun of stamp collecting by sharing your interests with fellow collectors at an upcoming HOUSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY meeting.

When : **First and third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM**

Where : **West University United Methodist Church, 3611 University Blvd., Houston, TX**

Visitors and new stamp collectors are always welcome.

Officers: President: Paula Pedrick
 Vice-President: Rick Barrett
 Secretary: Jay Stotts
 Treasurer: Larry Ballantyne
 Past President: David Willig

GHSS Show Chairman: Ron Strawser
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