



"Evolving since 1886."

February 2022

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Quote of the month:

"So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!" Abraham Lincoln *on meeting Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852).



Frogtown Philatelist

The Official Journal of the Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo

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www.toledostampclub.org

Where we've been.

January 6

A number of factors reduced our numbers for tonight's meeting. The program was a discussion of catalogs members brought in. Included was a presentation about cataloging Scout stamps.



January 20

Again our meeting was reduced to 20 members due to various reasons. The 'Stump the expert' program was pre-empted by the "reduced members" who didn't make the last meeting bringing in catalogs. This led to a lengthy discussion about the shortcomings of Scott's and the reasons and advantages for using specialized catalogs.

The business end of the meeting included a discussion about email security and keeping a sharp eye out for fraud, which was attempted against our club. Do not send any

money to Liberia so they can send you the million-dollar lottery check. Likewise do not give bank account numbers so the inheritance your long-lost uncle can be deposited. If it looks fishy, it is fishy—don't do it!

We also had a discussion regarding amending our constitution to add some at-large members to our governing board, which currently consists of the elected officers and the immediate past president. In order to do this, we must have a quorum at the next meeting, so please plan to attend.

Dues are due!

We really need you to beat the bushes selling raffle tickets for the show.

We are still looking for Gene's perfin binder that someone mixed in their stuff and took home.

Where we're going.

February 3

There will be a formal auction. The last one was very successful, and we expect that this one will be successful as well.

Attendance is very important, as we need a quorum to vote on the proposed SCCT constitution amendment to add at-large members to the governing board.

Hopefully we will have information regarding when we may get in the hall to set up the show. It depends on the hall, and what their schedule is, and when they tell us. Please plan on helping out in the set-up, show operations and take-down. The more there are to help

the less work there is for everyone.

February 17

It seems that no one had a summer vacation last year, so it looks like we have to scrap the program on the calendar. We will look at an APS slide program that will be of interest to all.

Dues are due!
Sell raffle tickets!

Take a few minutes on Presidents Day to reflect on the wonderful country that we live in.

February 25 & 26

The 98th annual show.

Plan to be there, help if you can, when you can.

Saturday morning we will have doughnuts and coffee/juice preceding the exhibit awards and acknowledgements.



This month's topic: Stars

A **star** is an astronomical object consisting of a luminous spheroid of plasma held together by its own gravity. The nearest star to Earth is the Sun. Many other stars are visible to the naked eye at night, but due to their immense distance from Earth they appear as fixed points of light in the sky. The most prominent stars are grouped into constellations and asterisms, and many of the brightest stars have proper names. Astronomers have assembled star catalogues that identify the known stars and provide standardized stellar designations. The observable universe contains an estimated 10^{22} to 10^{24} stars, but most are invisible to the naked eye from Earth, including all individual stars outside our galaxy, the Milky Way.

A star's life begins with the gravitational collapse of a gaseous nebula of material composed primarily of hydrogen, along with helium and trace amounts of heavier elements. The total mass of a star is the main factor that determines its evolution and eventual fate. For most of its active life, a star shines due to thermonuclear fusion of hydrogen into helium in its core, releasing energy that traverses the star's interior and then radiates into outer space. At the end of a star's lifetime, its core becomes a stellar remnant: a white dwarf, a neutron star, or, if it is sufficiently massive, a black hole.

Almost all naturally occurring elements heavier than lithium are created by stellar nucleosynthesis in stars or their remnants. Chemically enriched material is returned to the interstellar medium by stellar mass loss or supernova explosions and then recycled into new stars. Astronomers can determine stellar properties including mass, age, metallicity (chemical composition), variability, distance, and motion through space by carrying out observations of a star's apparent brightness, spectrum, and changes in its position on the sky over time. Historically, stars have been important to civilizations throughout the world. They have been part of religious practices, used for celestial navigation and orientation, to mark the passage of seasons, and to define calendars.

The concept of a constellation was known to exist during the Babylonian period. Ancient sky watchers imagined that prominent arrangements of stars formed patterns, and they associated these with particular aspects of nature or their myths. Twelve of these formations lay along the band of the ecliptic and these became the basis of astrology. Many of the more prominent individual stars were given names, particularly with Arabic or Latin designations.

As well as certain constellations and the Sun itself, individual stars have their own myths. To the Ancient Greeks, some



"stars", known as planets, represented various important deities, from which the names of the planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were taken. (Uranus and Neptune were Greek and Roman gods, but neither planet was known in Antiquity because of their low brightness. Their names were assigned by later astronomers.)

If you would like to collect stars & constellations on stamps, there are quite a few of them out there. Look at ATA checklists: Science - Astronomy - Constellations / Stars – List Number: 1118 – Topic Count: 2263



By the way, there are ten categories listed under Astronomy. The sky's the limit! I like my hot dogs on puns! :)



February 3, 1809

Felix Mendelssohn

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (3 February 1809 - 4 November 1847), born and widely known as Felix Mendelssohn, was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. Mendelssohn's compositions include symphonies, concertos, piano music, organ music and chamber music. His best-known works include the overture and incidental music for A Midsummer Night's Dream, the Italian Symphony, the Scottish Symphony, the oratorio St. Paul, the oratorio Elijah, the overture The Hebrides, the mature Violin Concerto and the String Octet. The melody for the Christmas carol "Hark! The Herald Angels



Sing" is also his. Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words are his most famous solo piano compositions.

In the 20th century the Nazi regime and its Reichsmusikkammer cited Mendelssohn's Jewish origin in banning performance and publication of his works, even asking Nazi-approved composers to rewrite incidental music for A Midsummer Night's Dream (Carl Orff obliged). Under the Nazis, "Mendelssohn was presented as a dangerous 'accident' of music history, who played a decisive role in rendering German music in the 19th century 'degenerate.'" The German Mendelssohn Scholarship for students at the Leipzig Conservatoire was discontinued in 1934 (and not revived until 1963). The monument dedicated to Mendelssohn erected

in Leipzig in 1892 was removed by the Nazis in 1936. A replacement was erected in 2008. The bronze statue of Mendelssohn by Clemens Buscher (1855-1916) outside the Düsseldorf Opera House was also removed and destroyed by the Nazis in 1936. A replacement was erected in 2012. Mendelssohn's grave remained unmolested during the Nazi years.

Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" from A Midsummer Night's Dream was played at the wedding of Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Victoria, The Princess Royal, to Crown Prince Frederick of Prussia in 1858, and it remains popular at marriage ceremonies. A large portion of Mendelssohn's 750 works still remained unpublished in the 1960s, but most of them are now available.



February 17, 1844

Montgomery Ward begins mail order business

Montgomery Ward was founded by traveling dry goods salesman Aaron Montgomery Ward in 1872. Ward had conceived of the idea of a dry goods mail-order business in Chicago, Illinois, after observing in his business that rural customers often wanted "city" goods but that their access to them was almost only through rural retailers who had little competition and did not offer any guarantee of quality. Ward also believed that by eliminating intermediaries, he could cut costs and make a wide variety of goods available to rural customers, who could purchase goods by mail and pick them up at the nearest train station.

Ward started his business at his first office, either in a single room at 825 North Clark Street or in a loft above a livery stable on Kinzie Street, between Rush and State Streets. He and two partners raised \$1,600 and issued their first catalog in August 1872. It consisted of an 8 in x 12 in single-sheet price list, listing 163 items for sale with ordering instructions for which Ward had written the copy. His two partners left the following year, but he continued the struggling business and was joined by his future brother-in-law, George Robinson Thorne.

In the first few years, the business was poorly received by rural retailers. Considering Ward a threat, they sometimes publicly burned his catalog. Despite the opposition, the business grew

at a fast pace over the next several decades. This was fueled by demand



primarily from rural customers who were inspired by the wide selection of items that were locally unavailable. Customers were also inspired by the innovative company policy of "satisfaction guaranteed or your money back", a policy Ward pioneered in 1875 that is now broadly taken for granted in U.S. retailing. Ward turned the copywriting over to department heads but continued poring over every detail in the catalog for accuracy.

In 1883, the company's catalog, which became popularly known as the "Wish Book", had grown to 240 pages and 10,000 items. In 1896, Wards encountered its first serious

competition in the mail order business, when Richard Warren Sears introduced his first general catalog. In 1900, Wards had total sales of \$8.7 million, compared to \$10 million for Sears, and both companies struggled for dominance during much of the 20th century. By 1904, Wards had expanded such that it mailed three million catalogs, weighing 4 lbs. each, to customers. What a boon to the Post Office Department!

At its height, the original Montgomery Ward was one of the biggest retailers in the United States. After its demise, the familiarity of its brand meant its name, corporate logo, and advertising were considered valuable intangible assets. In 2004, an Iowa direct marketing company, purchased much of the intellectual property assets of the former Wards, including the "Montgomery Ward" and "Wards" trademarks, for an undisclosed amount.

Although the Montgomery Ward trade name may still be floating around through various trademark dealings, it is not in any way associated with the original company.

Stamp Collector's Club of Toledo

All meetings are held at the Perrysburg Masonic Building, 590 E. South Boundary, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Members begin to gather at about 6:30, with the business meeting to begin at 7:00. Programs or activities follow the business meeting. Guests are always welcome to attend.

Internet Links

Linn's www.linn.com
 OPHS www.ohiopostalhistory.com
 APS www.stamps.org
 ATA www.americantopicalassn.org
 USSS www.usstamps.org
www.stampfinder.com
www.zillionsofstamps.com

Local Shows

Blue Ribbon Show, Third Sunday, 9:30-3:30. St. Clement's Hall, 3030 Tremainsville Rd., Toledo.

There is not much happening in our neck of the woods in January. The area shows return in February, the most important being our show, on Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th. Make your plans to help with setup, during the show, and of course, the take-down. Many hands lighten the load.

Get your exhibits ready!

SCCT CONTACT INFORMATION

Meetings: Phoenix Masonic Lodge,
590 E. South Boundary Street, Perrysburg, Ohio

Mailing: Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo,
PO Box 2, Maumee, Ohio 43537-0002

Web Site: www.toledostampclub.org

Email:
webmaster@toledostampclub.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Stamp-Collectors-Club-of-Toledo-1372536332845589/>



We're on the web!

www.toledostampclub.org

The Back Page

It's the world's first postage stamp. Issued on May 1, 1840, in Great Britain (but not valid for use until five days later), the "Penny Black" stamp helped England dig itself out of the costly and convoluted mess that was paid postage. Before the Penny Black, the price of mailing a letter varied depending on distance and the number of sheets in the envelope. And rates weren't cheap, either. Postage could cost as much as a shilling—a day's wages for many workers. But here's the kicker: All mail was sent collect, meaning addressees often turned away the mailman because they couldn't cough up enough dough.

Consequently, thousands of letters traveled the world in vain, never to be opened. Members of Parliament, who could send mail for free, were pestered by family, friends and acquaintances to send letters on their behalf. Those with fewer connections, however, opted for more subversive means, and scams to avoid postage abounded.

To reform the system, British

schoolmaster Sir Rowland Hill lobbied Parliament to adopt the "Penny Postage" program. For the first time, it was proposed that postage be paid in advance, using little gummed stickers to show proof of purchase. In addition, letters sent anywhere in the country would cost only a penny. The plan made sending mail affordable for nearly everybody and offered businesses tremendous savings. When presented with the Penny Postage program, many government officials feared the system would wreck the budget, claiming it would take 50 years to break even. But when the plan finally passed, the number of unpaid letters dropped so dramatically that the post office was soon profiting from the system.

There was only one problem. To make sure the stamps were not reused, postal officials cancelled them with an orange ink marking. Before long, however, news got around that the ink could be easily washed off the black (hence Penny Black) stamps.

Postal officials then switched to

black ink, which couldn't be washed off, but also did not show up against the black stamp.

After experimenting with different colored stamps, the Penny Black was replaced in 1841 by the Penny

Red. The world's second (third?) stamp could be cancelled clearly with black ink once and for all.



The Penny Black is a highly desirable item to be included in anyone's collection. Although it was the first postage stamp, there were more than 60 million printed, and they are readily available, cataloging for around \$300 (used), and the Penny Red catalogs for around \$24.

If you want a real challenge, you may specialize in collecting them by row/columns (numbers/letters), plate varieties, or on covers.

