

# WILLAMETTE STAMP & TONGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF SALEM STAMP SOCIETY



Volume 52 Issue 12

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS 1933-2025

December 2025

WEBSITE [www.salemstampsociety.org](http://www.salemstampsociety.org)

## November 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

The meeting started early with the doors opening at 5pm so that the monthly Board Meeting could take place ahead of the Thanksgiving Holidays. It also allowed members an extended view of the 75 lots in the Club Auction.

It turned out to be a busy and well-attended meeting with about 40 members in the room and 5 on Zoom. Bob Reynolds had promised us an especially good club auction for this month and we were not disappointed. There was lively and competitive bidding on many lots and in the end 59 of the 75 lots were sold (12 to members on Zoom) for a total of **\$2382**—a club record. With good raffle sales of another \$63 a total of \$2445 was raised for the club funds.



*Bob in full flow!*

One of the high value lots which did not sell was the US 1990 Love stamp with a dramatic color error (Cat. \$950). This will now be the star prize at the Christmas Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Society's AGM was also held at the meeting. VP Danny Bisgaard presented the slate of nominees for Officers and Board Members for 2026 to the membership. The 4 Officers (Janz, Bisgaard, Dulaney and Maul) were nominated for one year terms, 3 directors (McCallum, Reynolds and Daniel Edwards) were nominated for two year terms starting in 2026. A motion to elect the nominees was proposed, seconded and approved unanimously by a voice vote of the membership. Three directors (Morrison, Dean and Port) continue to serve for the second year of their two year terms.

We welcome Daniel Edwards as a new Board Member.

## New Member.

We also welcome back to the club, **Beverly Parry** from the Salem area, she rejoined at the November meeting.

## December 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting.

One last reminder that our annual Christmas Party takes place at 6pm at the Scottish Rite Center on Commercial St S., Salem. If you have not already done so, please let Lisa Janz know if you are coming and what you would like to eat (salmon, prime rib or vegetarian). Call her at the number below or by email at [lisan2scotties@msn.com](mailto:lisan2scotties@msn.com)

### **Salem Stamp Society**

P.O. Box 202

Salem, Oregon 97308

[www.salemstampsociety.org](http://www.salemstampsociety.org)

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#### **Vice President**

Danny Bisgaard 503 501-6931

#### **Secretary**

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#### **Auction Director**

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Peter McCallum 503 982-5741

David Morrison

Don Dean 503 409-8822

Tony Port 503 930-7014

#### **Webmaster**

George Struble 503 364-3929

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Tony Port

## That's Interesting!

**Bob Grosch**

### Perfins

A "perfin" is a stamp that has perforated letters, numbers, or symbols across the design of the stamp. Ordinarily these perforations are smaller than the perforations used to aid in separating the stamps.

Perfins originated in Great Britain when postage stamps could be returned to the post office for cash payments. This gave motivation to dishonest employees to steal stamps from work and cash them in at the post office.

In 1867, England's General Post Office offered employers a program to have their names printed on the backs of stamps before they were gummed, marking them indelibly, although this underprint was hard to see after the stamp had been stuck to a letter or document.

Then came the foolproof way to mark company stamps: perforate them with a unique identifying mark.

The invention of perfin stamps spread across the globe to a great many countries. The U.S. came late to this practice in 1908. Originally perfin stamps were considered damaged stamps and were not valued by collectors. However, today perfins are actively sought after by collectors around the world.



Perfin "GN" for Great Northern Railway



below is a perfin "OSS". This souvenir perfin is from the Oregon Stamp Society.

While I do not look to collect perfins, I do find them interesting and like to seek out the origin of the stamp's original commercial owner. One of my favorite items is a cover I have that was obviously used to send a personal message between

two friends. But the cover was franked with a perfin from a major U.S. company.

Since it is not illegal to make perfin stamps on U.S. issues, some collectors have taken to designing their own personal perfins for use on their mail. One pair of stamps

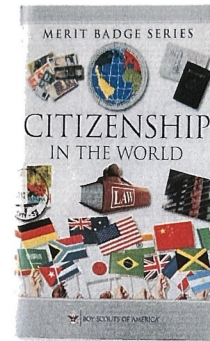
## Youth Activities.

**Phil Kumler** is an approved Merit Badge Counselor for Scouting America (see below).

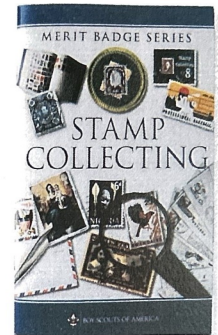
If members have scouts in their families that would be interested in gaining these merit badges please contact Phil. He can arrange for in person merit badge classes at troop meetings or classroom presentations or field trips sessions and provide all necessary materials free of charge. All our youth kits are free to youth and include 25 FDC's, specific country or animals, a recent catalog, identifier guide, perf gauge, stock cards/vario, tongs and much more.



### Plan your next Advancement Activity Free Resources Offered



Citizenship in the World\*



Stamp Collecting\*

- Use your current meeting locations



Merit Badge Counselor: PHIL KUMLER

Initiate plans by contacting [pkumler@gmail.com](mailto:pkumler@gmail.com)  
or pick up all badge resources by appointment at:

2373 NW Westover Road  
Portland, OR 97210

\*Above Merit Badge can be completed in a day.  
Course approved by National Council

Our 2026 youth exhibiting strategy is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the cartoon PEANUTS, continue favorite animals and heritage countries. To date we have Presley doing a horse exhibit, Titus doing a Haitian exhibit, and David doing the origins of Basketball.



## What are Those?

by George Struble



These appear to be Swiss stamps. They are the size of stamps; they are perforated; they show the name *Helvetia* of the country (for a long time Switzerland had three languages: German, French, and Italian. They didn't want to clutter up their stamps with the country name in all three languages, but also didn't want to discriminate against any, so they put the *Latin* form – *Helvetia* – on their stamps). These show a denomination in centimes, and inscriptions “Gebühr bezahlt” and “taxe perçue” that translate from German and French to “fee paid.” So they appear to be stamps. Aren't they?

Well, no. They were intended to look like stamps. Eugen Sekula was a Swiss stamp dealer; he had these labels printed in 1930, and received permission from postal authorities to use them for – *something*! He then tried to give the impression that these were stamps that could frank mail.

The post card below is a case in point.



His label is on the card where a stamp would be. And there is no other postage visible. So? Well, the “P.P.” cancel applied in Luzern was struck on mail whose postage was paid in bulk. Sekula mailed some quantity of these cards at the same time, and paid postage for all of them in lump sum. The postal clerks struck the “P.P.” cancel to show that postage was paid, so the recipient would not be charged postage due. Note that the “P.P.” cancel was not struck on the label; by rule, cancels were to be struck only on postage. The label had nothing to do with the payment of postage!

Many of the recipients of these cards – especially those outside Switzerland – did not know the Swiss postal regulations, and did not know the significance of the “P.P.” cancel. You see the evidence: a postal clerk in Endicott, NY saw an uncanceled *stamp* and, following normal procedures, canceled it!

The Swiss postal authorities saw what Sekula was doing, and revoked his permission to put his labels on mail. But Sekula had already sent a sizable number of pieces of mail to himself, so had those to sell to his more naïve clients!

## Postal Services News

The USPS recently announced a net loss of **\$9bn** for the Fiscal Year 2025. Although revenues for 1st Class, Priority and Express Mails had slightly increased, volumes were down. There was a similar picture for shipping and packages but there was an increase in marketing mail. An application was made for an increase of 5-8% in price for most categories in January but the good news (for the club) is that no increase was sought for First Class Mail.

We have just received our first two Christmas cards from friends in the UK and were staggered by the cost of postage. Both letters had stamps to the value of **£3.40** or about \$4.50 at current exchange rates with unpredictable and unreliable delivery times—is it any wonder that mail volumes are dropping?

## Inclement Weather in New Year.

If it looks like we will be in for some bad weather please check the society web site or your emails for notices about cancellations or changes. If you do not have access to online information you can call any of the people listed on the front cover of the newsletter for guidance.

**Salem Stamp Society**  
**P.O. Box 202**  
**Salem, OR 97308**

## **Meetings**

**All meetings held at the Scottish Rite  
Masonic Temple,  
4090 Commercial St. SE, Salem, OR.**

### **Wednesday 3rd December 2025**

**Christmas Party, Starts 6pm**

### **Saturday 17th January 2026**

**Members' Auction, S&T,  
Starts 10am**

### **Saturday 21st February 2026**

**Program: "SCADTA Airmail", George Struble  
Bid Board Starts 10am**

### **Wednesday 18th March 2026**

**Program: "Difficult First Year for Printers of  
the 1885 5 cent Stamp", Marc Dochez. Bid  
Board. Starts 7pm**

## **Pacific NW Stamp Shows and Bourses 2025-6**

### **Local Events**

**Salem Coin & Stamp Show, December 20-21  
Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR**

### **Repetitive Events:**

**Oregon Stamp Society: Rose City Stamp Fair -  
2nd Saturday of the month at OSS clubhouse  
4828 NE 33rd Ave., Portland 9:00am-3:00 pm  
Collectors Corner - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month  
at OSS clubhouse 9:00 am.- 3:00 pm**

### **2025-2026 Major Shows:**

**PIPEX 2026, May 1-3 2026, Monarch Hotel, Clackamas, OR**

**BOSTON 2026 World Expo, May 28-30 2026 at the Boston  
Convention Center**