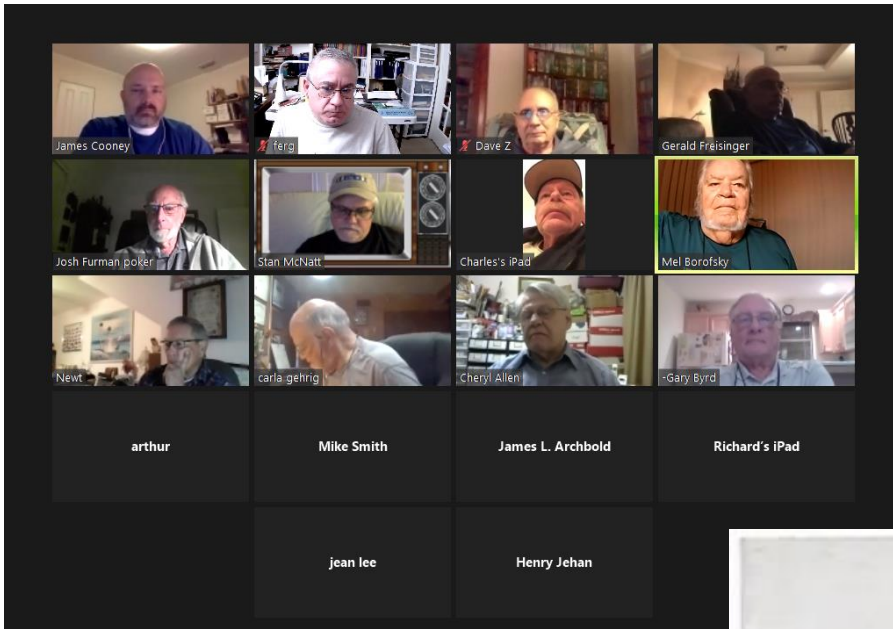


November Meeting Reports

Zoom It Is – For Now

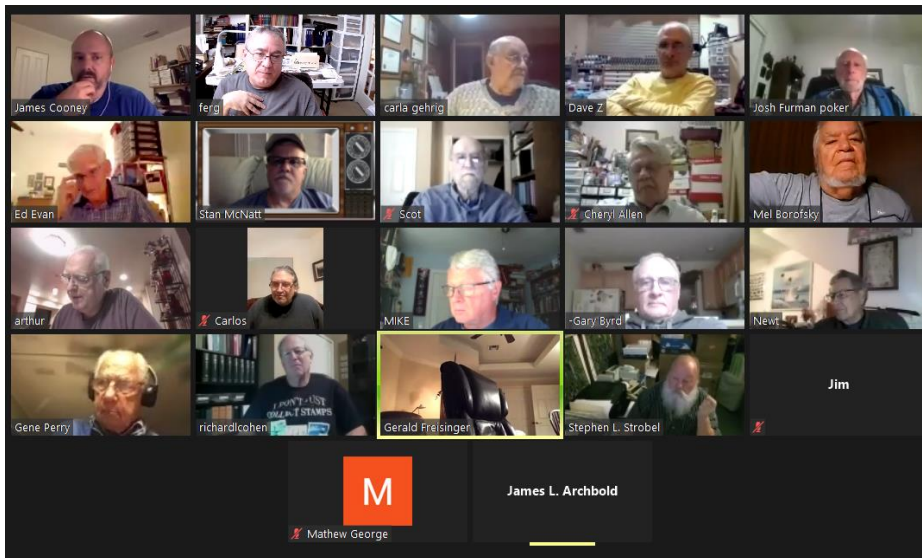
by A. Stephen Patrick



The first Zoom meeting of December attracted 22 of our membership for an outstanding program of material from the collection of a devoted club member of North/South Civil War philatelic material; the presentation was made by A. Stephen Patrick. The door prize was won by Mike Smith for use when we meet in person sometime in 2021. A prospective new member, Stan McNatt may be joining us.



The second Zoom meeting of December had a total of 23 members participating. The door prize was won by Ed Evan. Six club members gave a presentation on something special to them from their collections. These type of “pot-luck” presentations tend to be interesting and slightly off the beaten path.



Normally this meeting night would have been our annual Holiday Gathering with 50+ in attendance, full of good food and conversation, however the year 2020 changed those plans for the first time in any club member’s memory. We hope to return to our annual food fest in 2021. We hope all our club members and their

families have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

World's Largest Stamp?

by A. Stephen Patrick

I submitted an article a year ago about the world's largest stamp. It was a Guatemala stamp that saluted their coffee industry. I have now discovered an even larger stamp that comes from Costa Rica [Figure C1]. The stamp is 3 1/8" x 5 7/8" or about 18.36 square inches. It is Scott #568k, and it comes in a sheet with 10 smaller stamps (four of which are pictured in Figure C2).



Figure C1

In 1947 Joaquín Gutiérrez wrote the most popular children's novel in Costa Rican history. Hugo Díaz illustrated the novel, and both are paid homage on the stamp. *Cocorí* is the story of a small black boy from Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. He meets a blonde tourist girl who gives him a rose. In return, she asks for a squirrel monkey. When he returns with a monkey he has trapped, she has already left, and the rose has wilted.

Cocorí now goes to his mother Drusila and asks why the rose has lasted such a short time while other things last much, much longer. She doesn't know so he goes around the neighborhood asking the same question. No one knows, so he then goes to Doña Madorra the turtle. She doesn't know but takes Cocorí and the squirrel monkey around the jungle to ask other animals like Don Torcuata the alligator and Talamanca the snake [Figure C2].

Finally, he goes to El Negro Cantor who is



Figure C2

pictured with him on the stamp -- who tells him the answer. He returns home to find Drusila has taken a cutting from the rose and planted a rose bush. In recent years, the book has become controversial as African decent Blacks consider the book racist and offensive to the local culture. The book has been removed from required reading in elementary schools. However, in 2003 the Costa Rican government produced this stamp issue.

The quote on the stamp selvedge loosely translates, "because each useful moment is worth more than a year of useless moments." Now see if you can find a larger stamp than this.

Source: Wikipedia, for the story plot.

Editor's note: The collective body of stamps found in the philatelic world sometimes are viewed in a different light after issuance. With time, accepted norms change and evolve, this is easily one of those cases. The stereotype depictions are not found to be acceptable in 21st century, however in 1947 when the story was written a different set of societal norms existed.