

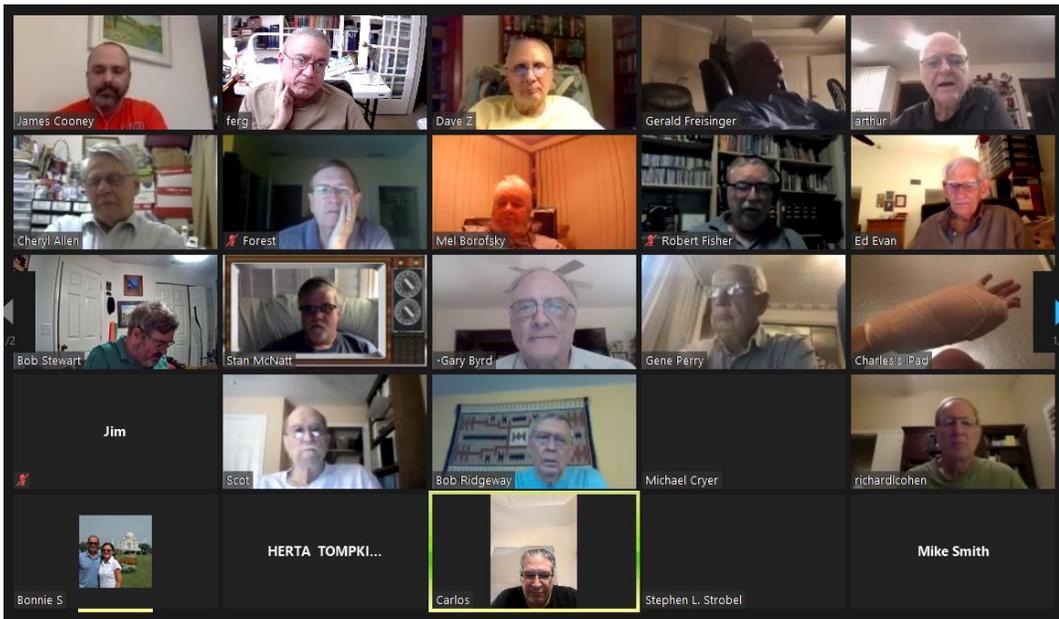
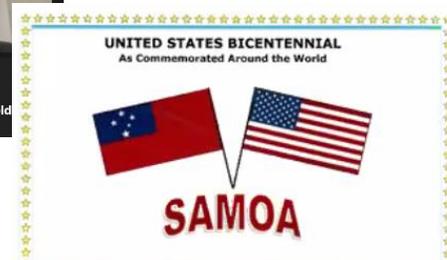
November Meeting Reports

Zoom It Is – For Now

by A. Stephen Patrick



The Zoom meeting attracted 25 attendees. Mel Borofsky presented on the stamps of the American Bicentennial of 1976 issues from around the world. Richard Blanchard won the \$10 door prize to be used sometime in the future.



The second Zoom meeting of November attracted 30 folks. Richard Blanchard again won the \$10 door prize!

The presentation by Francis Ferguson on the subject of “U.S. Classic Stamps” went well.



Advice to Non-Collectors for Protecting a Stamp Collection

by Jay Smith & Associates

Fairly often I hear from somebody who has inherited a stamp collection (and has considered selling the collection) and who decides to give the collection to a non-collector relative. Sometimes this is just “passing Grandpa’s collection down in the family”. Other times, the recipient of the collection has some (often unrealistic) hope that the collection will greatly increase in value if they just hold on to it for a few more years.

I look upon this situation as a possibility that the new owner of the collection will actually become a stamp collector. That would be the best outcome of all!

However, when that does not happen, the collection is usually improperly stored and soon forgotten. When the collection is again brought to light, it often has significantly degraded, especially in humid climates.

To attempt to protect collections from damage and preserve the stamps for future generations of collectors, I give the following advice to new owners.

1) Books, folders, albums, etc., MUST be stored UPRIGHT, like books on a shelf (even if they are in a box). Otherwise stamps are more likely to start to stick in the books and be ruined. Storing items flat, and especially under pressure, is one of the greatest causes of ruining mint stamps.

2) A stamp collection MUST be kept in a fully climate-controlled situation, preferably with FREE AIR FLOW in the area. NOT in a closet. And preferably on shelves (but not around pets), not in sealed boxes. It is also very helpful if the air is filtered to limit the amount of dust that falls on the collection. (Dust can lead to “infection” by the fungus that cause “foxing” or “toning”, and also the development of mildew.)

3) Never store a collection directly on the floor (even if in a “dry” area; moisture travels up through floors). If it must be kept in boxes on a floor, then put something, at least 2 inches thick and preferably with some airflow, under it. This could be empty boxes, Styrofoam chunks from packing materials, etc., ... anything to keep it off the floor. (This will also reduce the possibility of damage from water leaks.)

4) Never store a collection in an attic, basement (even if climate controlled), garage (!!NEVER), or part of the house that is not constantly climate controlled.

5) Avoid storing a collection, even if in a bookcase, against an outside wall (due to higher humidity and greater temperatures changes).

6) Be extremely cautious about storing a collection in a safe. Most modern “consumer grade” safes actually contain a type of “mud” in the walls of the safe. If in a fire, the moisture in the “mud” is expelled into the interior of the safe, reducing the damage to documents -- but ruining stamps. Because of this moisture in the “mud”, over time under NORMAL circumstances, the moisture from the “mud” can make its way into the interior of the sealed safe causing all the mint stamps to stick to the albums or each other. (If you want to test this for your safe, put a recording [i.e. max & min] humidity sensor inside the sealed safe. Such max/min sensors can be purchased for less than \$20 and are useful all around the house.) Also, being in a safe can result in mildew growing around/on the stamps. Just last month I examined what had been a very nice collection that had lost over \$5000 of value because of such in-safe humidity damage.

7) Stamp collections kept in homes in which somebody smokes suffer both odor and physical/chemical damage -- sometimes resulting in greatly reduced value.

If you know somebody who owns a stamp collection but has, or may soon, put it in storage, please pass this information along to them.

For the protection of your own collection if something should happen to you, please consider printing out this information and putting it with your collection AND with your “important estate documents”.

Remember, we are only the temporary custodians of our stamps!

Reproduced from the ‘Philatelic E-News’ email newsletter from Jay Smith & Associates. Free to all interested collectors who supply their name, email address, AND full postal address. A note about collecting interests is appreciated, but not required. Contact js@JaySmith.com address: Jay Smith & Associates, P.O. Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349