

The Occasional
Asheville Stamp Club
Gazette



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Having successfully debuted the pre-Gazette last week we move along now to the OFFICIAL monthly edition. Thank you all for your understanding of the postponement of our mega auction and we are working diligently to prepare all the lots with scans, catalog values, descriptions and opening bids. We will post this online no later than one week before the auction. All lots will be scanned in high resolution and available for viewing at that time. Questions will be answered as time and practicality allow and we are currently engaged in negotiations with a very high profile auctioneer to grace us with his skills. We will unveil him with great fanfare (cue the trumpets) as soon as arrangements are finalized.

As perhaps an act of mercy, and in recognition of the suffering that members are enduring having to forgo our originally scheduled January auction we have decided to have the February meeting feature both a presentation and an auction. The presentation will be a showing (on our ubiquitously placed big screens in the Blue Ridge Room) of Don Denman's excellent recently released history of the post in America. If you haven't seen it you will love it and if you have seen it you'll enjoy it again with all its stunning detail and great imagery. The story told is truly enlightening in its ability to bring perspective to our understanding of American philately and the development through history of our postal system.

The auction will be a modest but interesting one featuring donation lots and contributions from members submitting items that have asked for a trade, been DFA'd or which are eligible for free agency. Oh, I'm sorry! Those are baseball terms. (Spring training is right around the corner so hopefully I can be forgiven for my mixed metaphors). Members have a great track record of bringing in interesting and valuable stamps and covers needing a new home.

As happens every month with alarming regularity we will have door prizes, a 50/50 draw, a free table (dig deep for contributions) our famous 5 cent table with new stamps, Show and Tell and our stunningly fascinating business meeting. Well, we do our best and always strive to keep it as short as necessary. Although it must be said that the opportunity for members to discuss ideas new and old in aid of the advancement of the club is always an essential and good thing.

At this meeting a comprehensive picture of the upcoming major auction will be painted for all to see. This March auction debuting for two consecutive months will be a live floor auction with a greatly enhanced online participation from several stamp clubs from far and wide who have been invited. See this as an opportunity to gain new members (you must be a member to bid) and to enhance our reach beyond just our local area as philately increasingly becomes a community joining collectors together from across state lines and beyond. Our fervent wish is that our club can make a useful contribution to the broader stamp world whenever the opportunity arises. Expanding our reach also makes it possible to make higher quality stamp lots available to our members and we are seeing great potential for the future as we expand this further.

So, sharpen your tongs, put new batteries in your magnifying glasses and come for a fun and informative afternoon with friends at our club meeting this coming Sunday, February 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center. The meeting starts at 2:00 sharp but come earlier to view auction lots and look through members' offerings for sale. The Scott catalogs will be at your disposal and the \$1 stamp mounts will be there. Measure up your needs before then and help yourself.

The Show and Tell link (Don't be shy) is <https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionFiles/ShowTellASC.aspx>

and the Auction upload link is:

https://stampsmarter.org/AuctionSQL/Auction_ASC_Entry.php?operation=insert

Please visit the website at <http://ashevillestampclub.org/> and click on *meeting info* at the top of the home page for the Zoom link. And don't forget to check in from time to time for news and updates. More Smoky Mountain Philatelists have been uploaded from the past five years. Thank you Don. We are pleased to announce that a new edition is right around the corner. This is our flagship publication and is respected and enjoyed far and wide. Its frequency is determined by the content submitted to Randal Chet, our editor and layout designer. So please consider submitting an article, however long or short to share your knowledge and passion with all our readers.

Breathlessly awaiting our meeting and wishing you HaPpY stamping until then

Happy Valentine's week!

Pres Frank