

West Suburban Stamp Club  
[www.thewssc.com](http://www.thewssc.com)

# Mayflower Minutes

P.O. Box 700049  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
E-mail:  
[newsletter@thewssc.com](mailto:newsletter@thewssc.com)

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd  
Fridays of each month at 7:30.  
(Doors open at 6:30)

Held at:  
Plymouth Historical Museum  
155 South Main Street  
Plymouth, Michigan



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- June 6- What I Got at The Plymouth Show
- July 18-TBD
- August 15-TBD
- September 19-TBD
- October 3- TBD
- October 17- TBD

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Pg. 2—Club Officers, Club Information,.
- Pg. 3—Scott 292 Cont.
- Pg. 4—Auction List

## CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

The June 6th Meeting (7:30 PM) will be LIVE at the Plymouth Historical Museum and via ZOOM. Doors open at 6:30.

## SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE—ONE CLUB MEETING A MONTH

During the summer months our club will have only one meeting a month. This is due to holidays and museum scheduling issues.

See “upcoming programs” for summer schedule.

Later in the year the club will discuss future meeting scheduling.

## June 6th MEETING—What I Got at the Plymouth Show

Come ready to show what you got at the show.

## 2026 WSSC PLYMOUTH SHOW LEADERSHIP NEEDED

Sarah is looking for someone to take the lead for next year's show. Think about it and hopefully step up to take on that task. If interested, please talk to Sarah.

## CLUB OFFICERS NEEDED FOR 2026 TERM

A slate of WSSC Club Officers is needed for the 2026 term. Please think about serving as an officer by renewing your current term or starting to become more active in supporting our club.

## AUCTION INFORMATION

Jim would like feedback from the membership. He has been given a number of donations for the Auction, made up of Full Sheets, Plate Blocks, Partial Sheets and pages from booklets. If he does not hear of any interest in these items he will offer them in the auctions as postage in various quantities. You may contact him by e-mail at [jimnap@woodshop.comcastbiz.net](mailto:jimnap@woodshop.comcastbiz.net) or in person at the Club meetings.

**WSSC Club Officers:**

President: Sarah Beckman, Vice President: Ron Beier, Secretary: Nick Fava, Treasurer: Bill Chace.

Trustees through 2025: Rod Watts, Tabitha Herron. Trustees through 2026: John Beeskow, Ray Gunther

Newsletter Editor: Doug Becker, E-mail: [newsletter@thewssc.com](mailto:newsletter@thewssc.com)

**DOOR PRIZES NEEDED**

Looking for donations of door prizes for our meeting raffles. If you have items that would be appropriate for our raffles, talk to Jim. Current stock of items is getting low.

**PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR 2025 MEETINGS**

Looking for someone to present a topic for discussion at a 2025 meeting. If you would like to talk about something in your collection, see Charlie Wood. It can be as simple or complex as you want. Do whatever you feel comfortable with.

**WESTERN CATTLE IN A STORM (SCOTT 292)**

Among collectors, one of the most popular U.S. stamps has long been the \$1.00 “Western Cattle in Storm” issue, part of the Trans-Mississippi series of 1898. It is one of nine commemorative postage stamps in the series, which celebrated the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in Omaha, Nebraska. While the entire Trans-Mississippi Issue set has been praised for its quality, the \$1 stamp, stands out from the rest.

The breed of cattle used in the issue were meant to represent the ruggedness of the American West, but actually derive from the Highlands of Scotland. That's because the design originated in a John MacWhirter painting (1878) depicting cattle in a winter storm in central Scotland. An engraving of this painting was published at least twice in England, and this image was copied without the permission of the painting's owner. It was also used by an American cattle company on its calendar as a trademark of sorts.

The scene did not depict an event west of the Mississippi, but it might have been, and few really cared about this detail, for cattle were an important part of the western U.S. economy.

This image caught the attention of the Post Office Department and Raymond Ostrander Smith, the staff designer of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at the time, and it was adopted for the \$1 design. Little did the designer know that the scene depicted was in Scotland, not the Western U.S., as was supposed. A full apology was later issued to the owner of the painting. Both the frame and the vignette of the stamp were engraved by Marcus W. Baldwin; the numerals and lettering were the work of Douglas S. Ronaldson.

## Production and printing

Ironically, the feature that gives this stamp its singular distinction and beauty, is its coal-black color, which was decided upon only a few days before the issue went to press; previous versions seen in surviving essays are far less dramatic in appearance. The \$1 stamp and the eight others in the Trans-Mississippi series were originally to be two-toned, with all the vignettes printed in black and the various frames printed in different colors. In preliminary bi-color die essays, a brownish-purple frame surrounds the cattle herd. However, after the outbreak of the Spanish–American War in April, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing found its resources severely overtaxed by the need for additional revenue stamps, and so, elected to simplify the printing process for the Trans-Mississippi series by issuing the stamps in single colors. The color initially chosen for the \$1 value, announced by the Post Office on May 16, was light brown. Only on May 26, four days before printing began, did the public learn that the denomination would instead be printed with black ink.

The entire printing run of “Western Cattle in Storm” lasted three days, from June 1–3, 1898. In all, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing shipped 56,900 copies of the stamp to post offices.

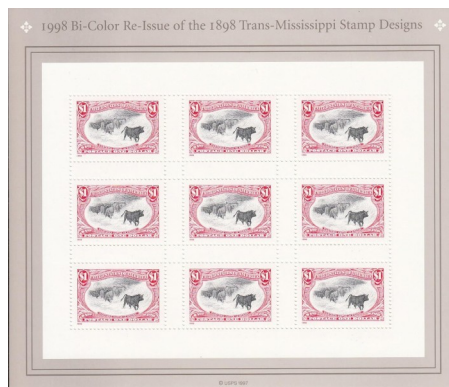
## Distribution

The earliest known date of delivery to postmasters of stamps of the Trans-Mississippi Issue is June 15, 1898. The assigned first day of issue was June 17. There had been considerable pre-issue publicity regarding the series, which resulted in an early rush on the initial limited supplies available at post offices. But such interest was short-lived, especially as post offices replenished their stocks, the novelty of the new stamps wore off, and speculative interest waned. On December 31, 1898, the sale of stamps to postmasters was discontinued. Afterward, an unknown quantity of unsold stamps was destroyed.

In 1934, Stamps magazine asked readers to vote on the most beautiful stamp in the world. The Canadian 1928 50¢ Bluenose stamp won first place with “Western Cattle in Storm” placing second.

## Reissue

In 1998, the nine stamps of the Trans-Mississippi Issue were all reissued on a souvenir sheet (Scott 3209) by the U.S. Postal Service, along with a separate souvenir sheet containing nine copies of "Western Cattle in Storm" (Scott 3210). Unlike in 1898, the 1998 versions were issued in two colors.





# Mini Auction June 6, 2025

1. US Used 50, Covers assorted postage, different events
2. US Postal Guide from 2004
3. US Mint 5 Booklets of stamps various issues. Face \$16.00+
4. US Mint Specialty Album President of the US Washington to Carter. Must See
5. US Mint Scott #327 with light hinge mark. Cat. \$105.00
6. US Mint Companion Album to Lot #4 Specialty Album of the President's First Lady from Washington thru Carter. Look Closely.
7. US Used Louisiana Purchase and Jamestown Expositions of 1904 Scott #323-330. Cat. \$95.00
8. US Mint Ameripex 86 US Presidents Full Set. Cat. \$16.00
9. US Mint MNH State Flags Scott #1633-1682, Individuals. Cat. \$6.50
10. US Used Expertised as requested by members originally ID'd as #64, evaluated as a #65. Cat. \$2.81 with certificate.
11. US Mint MNH Scott #750 & 751 Souvenir Sheets. Cat. \$38.00
12. US Mint Scott #658 thru #668 Kansas overprint, Excluding # 666 some MNH some have hinge marks. Cat. \$125.00 - \$226.00 Total
13. US Mint Full Sheet Scott #2335a American Wildlife. Cat. \$40.62
14. US Mint MNH Scott #C23-C31. Cat. \$35.50
15. US Mint & Used Airmail Mint hinged Scott C16,17,19,20,60-64,66-69, 71,74, Used C21&C22. Cat. \$28.00
16. British Commonwealth – Some nice MNH stamps from Tristan Da Cunha #108, 157-161, & 162-163 & 165-171, Bermuda #135-137 & 210-213, Solomon Islands #174-175 & 502-510, and Singapore #430-433.
17. Botswana – Interesting Christmas Stamps from 1982 & 1984 including #321-324 Mushrooms & 355-358 Butterflies. Both Complete Sets. Total Cat. \$40.25
18. Great Britain Offices Abroad – Morocco – (19) mint stamps including #50, 58, 99-104, 501-504, 514, 515-516, & 550-554. Total Cat. \$50.80.
19. Sarawak - #159-173 MVLH. Complete Early Set. Cat. \$22.40.
20. Great Britain - #81 used 2p lilac rose with Torquay, England Circular Datestamp. Cat. \$100.
21. Poland – (276) more modern stamps mounted on album pages.
22. Niue – An interesting group of (60) mostly MNH stamps. Included are: #90-93 Blocks of 4, #104-105 Plate Blocks, #106-115 Complete Set, #121 Christmas Stamp (4) different Plate Blocks (1A, 1B, 1C, & 1D), #122-131 Complete Set of Flower Stamps.
23. Netherlands & Portugal – (339) stamps mounted on album pages.
24. British Commonwealth – A Cigar Box with mostly Mint & MNH stamps and sets. A few are used and with First Day Cancells. Some duplication. Included are stamps from: Nauru, British Honduras, British Antarctic Territory, Barbados, South Africa, South West Africa, Swaziland, and New Zealand.
25. Great Britain - #105 used 6p green with Four Clear Margins. Cat. \$240.00.
26. Germany – A 1 ½ pound box containing 1,000's and 1,000's of older stamps sorted roughly in glassines. This will keep you busy for a while.
27. 1,000 Foreign used stamps off paper sorted roughly into glassines of 100.