



**West Suburban Stamp Club**  
**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

- November 7—Charlie Wood, In Memoriam
- November 21—Big Auction
- December 12— Holiday

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## CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

The November 7th and 21st Meetings (7:30 PM) will be LIVE at the Plymouth Historical Museum and via ZOOM. Doors open at 6:30. The Holiday meeting is also at the Plymouth Historical Museum on December 12th (start time TBD)

## WSSC MEMBERSHIP—DUES PAYMENT

Annual dues are \$15.

To check your membership status or ask any questions, feel free to contact Nick Fava at [westsuburbanstampclub@gmail.com](mailto:westsuburbanstampclub@gmail.com).

Dues can be paid by check to:

West Suburban Stamp Club  
P.O. Box 700049  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## WSSC HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 12th

The WSSC Holiday Party is scheduled to take place on December 12th at the Plymouth Historical Museum

If you plan to attend, please sign up at either of the November club meetings. Cost per person TBD.

Remember, guests are welcome.

More details will be provided when available.

## WSSC Club Officers:

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

Trustees through 2026: John Beeskow, Ray Gunther. Trustees through 2027: Doug Becker, John Beckmann.

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

## SOME AUCTION INSIGHT FROM JIM

At a recent meeting I was talking with another member about the source of the items in a typical Auction.

In June of 2024 I started to present the items for Auction that I got from Dave Stanbury. The items varied as far as popularity. In October of 2024 I was able to improve the quality of the items from a collection the club purchased from Sterling Stamps. After that I acquired several donations from other collectors that was given to us by the Canton Library Friends Group and from families of collectors that have passed away.

The only costs were to Sterling stamps and donations we made to the Canton Library Friends.

When preparing items for Auction, I attempt to mix the quality and desirability from what I am aware the members want to see. To keep interesting items in the Auction, we needed the items that were purchased in the Sterling Collection. No other items have been purchased .

I prepare all the United States, United Nations items and some Canadian. If I get any other World Wide items I forward them to Chuck Vomastek. I prepare # 1-15 and he prepares #16 -25 (or more).

I have been acquiring in the donations numerous singles and plate blocks. I intend to start offering them in a small container and let the members pick out odds and ends for their collections. This should be available starting in January.

I am open to any input the membership has in the preparation of the Auction items. Or if you wish to take over my portion of the Auction items, please let me know. I also provide the door prizes for each meeting as well as the Stamp of the Month. All from the donations we get.

## “THE PLYMOUTH SHOW” AN IMPORTANT UPDATE

While we know many of you look forward to our annual event, we've made the decision to take a brief pause in 2026. This means we will not be holding The Plymouth Show next year.

We know this may be disappointing, but we're channeling all our energy and planning into making the next show a great event!

Mark Your Calendars for a Spectacular Return in 2027!

We are already excited to announce that The Plymouth Show WILL be back in 2027 and will feature fantastic dealers and wonderful fellowship.

Thank you for your understanding and continuous support. We can't wait to see you all again for an unforgettable show in 2027!



## THE NATIONS FIRST COMMERATIVE STAMPS

The 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's initial landing in the "New World" provided Chicagoans with an occasion to reflect, to celebrate, and to memorialize the adventurous Italian navigator whose determination and exploits, they believed, had set the trajectory for the emergence of the United States as the world's industrial powerhouse. Though financial and construction problems postponed the celebration for one year, in 1893 city leaders hosted a magnificent international exhibition to commemorate both Columbus and the nation's progress over those four centuries—the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

In keeping with the exposition's celebratory theme, the U.S. Post Office Department issued the nation's first commemorative stamps, the "Columbians" (New South Wales issued the world's first commemoratives in 1888). The American Bank Note Company printed the stamps, which comprised the last new series before the Bureau of Engraving and Printing assumed stamp production in 1894. Postmaster General John Wanamaker (1838-1922), who saw opportunity in Chicago's proposed gala affair, announced his intention to issue the series in his 1892 address to Congress. A consideration other than commemorating Columbus inspired Wanamaker, however: the series would raise revenues for the Post Office Department by appealing to collectors, some of whom would never use the stamps for mail services. As such, they would be "souvenir" stamps. Further, the series would include expensive denominations not tied to valid postal rates. Collectors purchasing such stamps would, in essence, provide the Post Office Department with monies it never needed to repay.

The Columbian series ultimately included sixteen stamps, of which the 1-dollar, 2-dollar, 3-dollar, 4-dollar, and 5-dollar filled no specific postal function. Those who purchased the entire set paid dearly—\$16.34 (\$353.60 by 2006 values). At the time, when laborers earned between \$400 and \$500 per year (adjusted for inflation, that was equivalent to \$8,656.07—\$10,820.09 in 2006), few could justify such an investment. Nonetheless, the single, low-denomination stamps proved very popular with the public, which had thoroughly embraced the new "collecting" mania. Sales ultimately generated over \$40 million.

The beautiful and highly collectible Columbian stamps, on sale only between January 2, 1893, and April 12, 1894, proved an incredibly ingenious marketing device for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition because they repeatedly drew the public's attention to the fair. Many businessmen disliked the stamps for their large size, but the Post Office Department soon used the format again, in the 1898 Trans-Mississippi series. Together, the Columbian and the Trans-Mississippi issues paved the way for the now-familiar practice of issuing stamps to memorialize outstanding people, places, events, and feats.

*Created by Cheryl R. Ganz and Mary T. Sheahan, Philately Department, National Postal Museum*





# Mini Auction November 7, 2025

1. US FDC Album with (113) covers produced by Postal Commemorative Society. Covers issued in the mid 1990s
2. US supplies Mystic Heritage Pages only Back of Book Vol 1 & 2 with US Possessions
3. US Mint & Used mix Special Delivery, Certified Mail & Registration. Cat. \$20.93
4. US Used Scott #397-404, 9 stamps, Pan Pacific Expo 1913-15. Cat. \$115.24
5. US Used Scott # 65,114,182,206,211,213. Cat. \$51.50
6. US Odds and Ends some covers, over 24 pieces
7. US Mint Variety of Plate Blocks mostly 3,4,5 cent. Good for postage. Face \$22.76
8. US Mint Scott 3391 & 3392 Wile Coyote and Road Runner. Panes of 9 and 10 mounted on album pages. Cat. \$33.00
9. US Mint full set. Voyages of Columbus. Cat \$25.48
10. US Used Back of Book Special Delivery E5, Postage Due J12, Parcel Post Q8. Cat. \$33.00
11. US Mint & Used US Airmail C8,10,11 Used, C12,17,19, 20, 21, 22, & 23 MNH. Cat. \$57.05
12. US Mint Assorted Commemoratives, good for postage and empty spots in Albums. Face \$39.00+
13. US Used Scott #405-423 (19) mounted on Album Page issued 1912-14. Cat. \$195.28.
14. US Mint & Used (30) Airmail mixed mint and Used earliest C24 Latest C113. Estimated Cat. \$30-\$40
15. US Mint Scott #367-373 Mint with hinge marks on #367, assumed all the same. Cat. \$216.44
16. Portugal - #16, 100reis, lilac, used. Imperf. Cat. \$90.00.
17. Denmark - #C2, 15ore, violet, MH. Airmail. Cat. \$70.00.
18. Great Britain - #137 used 10p. Cat. \$70.00.
19. (175) mint & used older stamps mounted on both sides of a stock card from: Ireland, Finland, Andorra, Denmark, & Greenland. Possibly many better.
20. Australia – (20) early Kangaroo stamps with potentially high Cat. Value.
21. Great Britain - #179 used 2sh6p Seahorse stamp. Cat. \$70.00.
22. (6) MNH Souvenir Sheets from Russia #6751, 6764, 6784, & 6800 & Czechoslovakia #3314 & 3654. Total Cat. \$30.75
23. Switzerland - #48, 60c, Bronze, used. Cut in slightly at right. Cat. \$215.00.
24. British Commonwealth – (8) MNH Souvenir Sheets from Grenada, Barbuda, St. Vincent, & Cook Islands.
25. (216) older stamps mounted on pages from: Straits Settlements, Swaziland, Trinidad, Trinidad & Tobago, Transvaal, Tristan da Cunha, Turks & Caicos Islands, & Virgin Islands.
26. (1,000) Foreign used stamps sorted roughly into glassines of 100 each.
27. China – A Cigar Box loaded with older stamps off paper and (33) Display Cards with mostly mint stamps.







# Big Auction November 21, 2025

1. US Mint Postal Commemorative Society FDC Album with 116 Covers issued in the late 1980's
2. US Supplies Mystic Heritage Pages for the Canal Zone Issues
3. US Supplies Earlier style of US Minuteman Album in Good Condition
4. US Mint Various plate blocks mostly 8, 10, 13 cent Good for postage. Face \$31.32
5. International 4 FDC, Tribute to Statue of Liberty, Issued from Turks & Caicos, Dominica, Congo, Comoros
6. US Mint Scott #3403 full sheet Stars and Stripes. Cat. \$12.50, Face \$6.60
7. US Mint Air Post Special Delivery CE1, CE2 and Block of 4 CE2. Est. Cat. \$10.62
8. US Mint Christopher Columbus Commemoratives mounted on Mystic Album pages. Cat. Estimated \$8.00
9. US Used Scott #183, 210, & 211. Cat. \$31.75
10. United Nations Assorted FDC (40+)
11. US & France FD of Issue French Revolution Airmail Block of 4 Scott C120 + 3 French in Block. Cat. \$8.00+
12. US Used (15) stamps issued in 1894 Scott #246-260 mounted on Album Page. Cat. \$265.40
13. US Mint Qty (7) LP of US Air Mail Scott C37-C83. Cat. \$52.60
14. US Mint Assorted plate blocks most are 5, and 6 cent good for postage. Face \$24.12
15. US Mint (14) Semi-postals, a total of 4 different issues. Cat. \$14.00
16. Portugal - #18, 10reis, yellow, used. Imperf. Cat. \$140.00.
17. Great Britain - #2, 2p, blue. Imperf. Missing upper left corner but still a nice space filler. Cat. \$700.00.
18. (187) mint & used older stamps mounted on both sides of a stock card from: Netherlands Indies, Curaçao, Suriname, San Marino, & Vatican City. Possibly many better.
19. Rhodesia – World War II Label reading “We Realize in Rhodesia the Safe Arrival of this Letter is Due to The British Navy”. Interesting Item.
20. San Marino – Graf Zeppelin Issue. #C11, Surcharged 3l on 50c, orange, used. Be cautious when used stamp catalogs so much higher than the mint. Cat. \$155.00 as used and \$8.50 mint. In any case a beautiful Graf Zeppelin Stamp.
21. Great Britain - #78, 79, & 80 used. Total Cat. \$76.00.
22. Olympic Games – (7) MNH Souvenir Sheets from: Belize #511 & 512, Haiti #C390A & C390B, Kenya #63a, Mali #64a, and Guyana unlisted. Total Cat. \$42.50++
23. British Commonwealth – (20) #108 Cards from various countries loaded with MNH Sets and Souvenir Sheets.
24. Great Britain – (8) used older stamps including #33-plate#190, 58, 66-plate#1 (upper left fault), 79, 99, 112, 113, & 115. Total Cat. \$199.75.
25. Princess Diana – (6) MNH Souvenir Sheets from Grenada Grenadines #1998 & 1999, Central African Rep. #1159 & 1161, and Niger #944 & 945. Total Cat. \$39.00.
26. (485) older stamps mounted on pages from Singapore, Solomon Islands, South West Africa, & South Africa.
27. (1,000) Foreign used stamps sorted roughly into glassines of 100 each.