The
Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club
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Issue: DECEMBER 2020
THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND COVID HOLIDAY SPECIAL

NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

A NOTE FROM YOUR E-EDITOR:

I decided not to wait until late December to put out the next issue, but rather do an end of year with a Special Issue. I think I can say for everyone *"it's been quite a year"*. Certainly not the year we had hoped for at the beginning and hopefully there will be no more surprises before we reach December 31st.

This issue features an article for Thanksgiving about the Mayflower courtesy of David Hunt followed by a tribute to Christmas with issues from Around the World and finally I felt we could not end this year without referring to COVID-19. I found an article depicting several Issues and the through searching on the internet I found a number of other issues.

So the last article of the year is a tribute to all the Frontline Workers who have worked and still are working tirelessly to help those who have this virus and to all the families who have lost loved ones. God Bless them All.

To all our members and those who might read this Overprint greetings and best wishes for a safe Thanksgiving and Christmas. Lets hope 2021 will bring us back to normal, whatever that may look like.

Stay Safe

Mike Bach

11-22-2020

THE MARKET PLACE IS BACK

Reading's Mike Matus is offering the following Lots. If you are interested email him at Michael.matus@verizon.net or call him at 610-790-9001 (cell phone.)

FOR SALE.... (16) American Philatelist, issued by the American Philatelic Society, for the following years at $ 3.50 for each issue

Vol. #54 - #1 - October. - 1940
Vol. #54 - #5 - February - 1941
Vol. #54 - #10- July - 1941
Vol. #55 - #2 - November 1941
Vol. #55 - #3 - December 1941
Vol. #55 - #5 - February 1942
Vol. #55 - #7 - April 1942
Vol. #56 - #2 - November 1942
Vol. #56 - #4 - January 1943
Vol. #56 - #5 - February 1943
Vol. #56 - #6 - March 1943
Vol. #56 - #12 - September 1943
Vol. #57 - #1 - October 1943
Vol. #57 - #2 - November 1943
Vol. #57 - #3 - December 1943
Vol. #57 - #4 - January 1944.

In addition Mike also has the following for sale:

LIGHTHOUSE STOCK BOOKS.

BLACK PAGES AND EACH HAS 32 PAGES WITH (9) POCKETS ON EACH, BOTH SIDES.
These have been used but in excellent condition.
These are high quality stock books typically selling in excess of $50.00.

Have (6) books for sale @$30.00 each with either green or black outside covers

If you have anything you are trying to find ortrying to sell. Let me know.

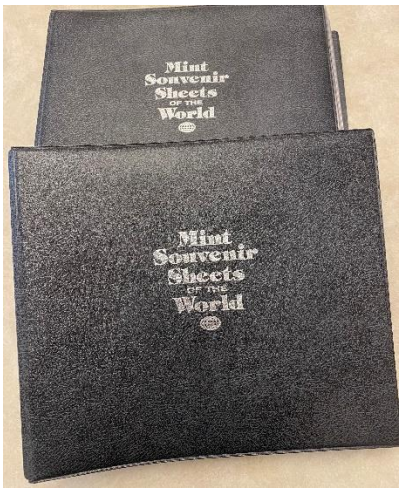
The Reading Stamp Collectors' Club received a number of donations early in the year and I have been storing them thinks they could sold at a meeting or our show. The next page features several items that are available for sale.

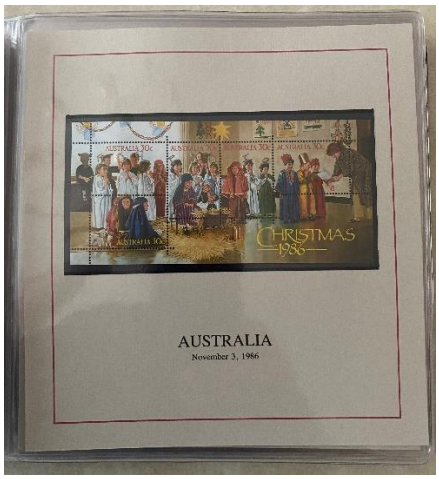
If you wish to purchase any item send me an email: mbach1@comcast.net
or call my cell phone 610-937-2826

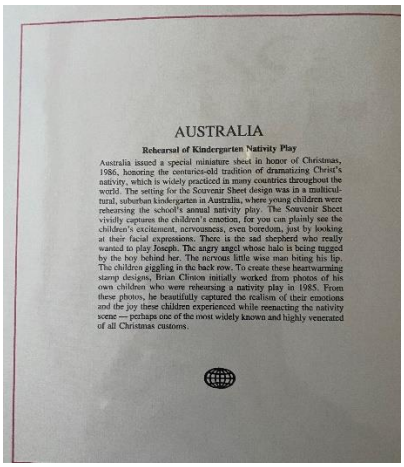
RSCC ITEMS FOR SALE:

ITEM #1 WORLD SOUVENIR SHEETS – 2 ALBUMS WITH 66 SHEETS

An Excel file is attached to this email with complete list Scott #s and 2010 CV of $ over $ 300
Picture of albums below with sample page. Each is on a separate page in plastic cover with description on back.





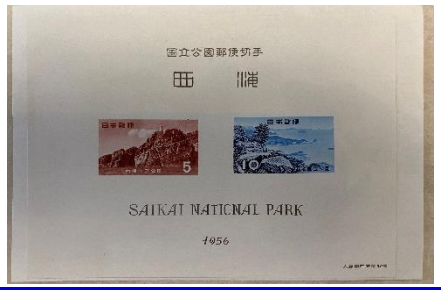


ITEM #2 COVER ALBUM with 25 Pages so can contain 100 covers

RESERVE PRICE OF $ 10.00 or HIGHEST OFFER ABOVE RESERVE
Note: Album currently contains US FDC's from 1982 to 1984 (free with purchase!)

ITEM #3 JAPAN MIXED LOT Incl. 2 National Park Mini-Sheets from 1939 and 1956

The 1939 Mini-Sheet alone has a CV (2010) of $ 85.00



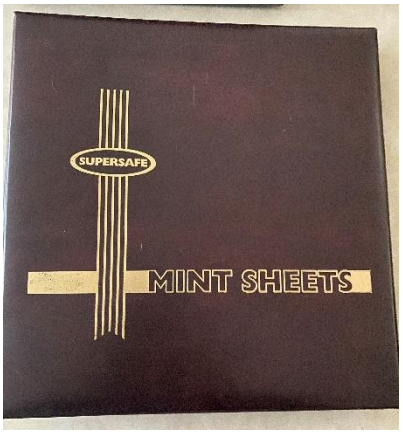
RESERVE PRICE OF $ 10.00 or HIGHEST OFFER ABOVE RESERVE

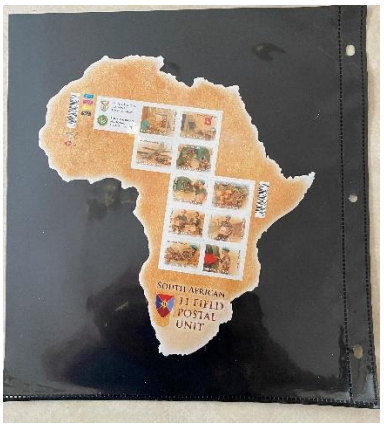
ITEM #4 ALBUM FOR FULL SHEETS – with 50 Blank Pages (so 100 sheets)

This is being sold for Roy Baardsen

Album with example page (front and back) below.

NOTE: Album is being sold without stamps. Contents will be sold at a later date.





RESERVE PRICE OF $ 25.00 or HIGHEST OFFER ABOVE RESERVE

Postal History and the *Mayfower*

David H. Hunt

I will not tell you that one of the Pilgrims brought his stamp album along on board the *Mayflower*. The damp conditions on board would have wreaked havoc with it, but even more important, he would have had to wait 220 years until the postage stamp was invented before obtaining any examples to put in his album.

Nonetheless, we philatelists are of stout heart and can find ways around this problem. One of the more popular niches in philately in the 1930s was collecting ships' cancellations, especially those of U.S. Navy ships. Starting in 1908, U.S. Navy ships were provided with a cancelling handstamp consisting of a circular date stamp incorporating the ship's name, plus three "killer" bars to cancel the postage stamp used on a letter or postcard. Each ship also had a crew member assigned as postal clerk to process the outgoing and incoming mail to the ship's crew and officers. Until the 1920s, this mail was primarily the crew's personal mail and the ship's official mail. Starting about 1930 and lasting until 1941 it became popular for shorebound collectors to prepare commemorative envelopes and send them to various ships to get the ship's postmark and to be mailed back to the collector. This depended in part on the willingness of the postal clerk to do this extra work, but apparently most were accommodating.

My first example is a postcard mailed from the USS *Mayflower* in 1909 (*figure 1*). The USS *Mayflower* was originally built as a steam and sail powered yacht for Ogden Goelet, and was acquired by the Navy in 1898 for emergency services as a gunboat during the Spanish-American War. After the war, she was refurbished as a yacht and in 1905 hosted the Russo-Japanese Peace Conference. She then served as the presidential yacht until she was sold in 1929.

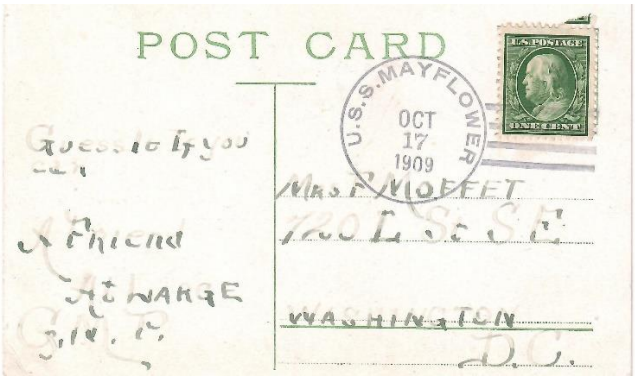


Figure 1

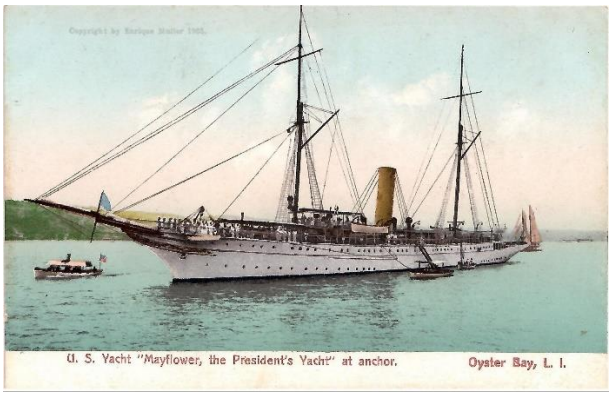


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows a postcard which depicts the presidential yacht. After her sale she was subsequently used as a private yacht, but was taken into service by the Coast Guard during World War II as a patrol vessel. Postwar she was sold and secretly outfitted to carry Jewish refugees to Palestine. In September 1948 she arrived in Haifa carrying the refugees from *Exodus*, which had previously been turned back from Palestine. The ship's subsequent fate is not recorded.

The USS *Breese* (DD122) (*figure 3*) was named for Captain Kidder Breese who served with distinction in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. Captain Breese was a descendant of the Pilgrims John and Priscilla Alden. The USS *Breese* was a flush-decked four stacker destroyer built just as World War I ended. She was too late for service in that was, but lasted to perform with honor in World War II even at the advanced age of 20+. The USS *Breese* was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, received ten battle stars for World War II service and participated in the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

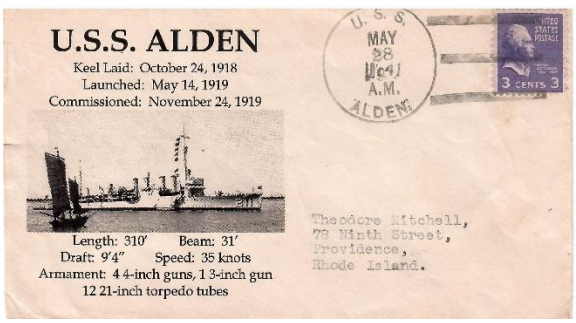


Figure 3 Figure 4

Figure 4 shows a cover from the USS *Alden* (DD211). She was a ship similar to rhe *Breese*, and was also completed too late for World War I, but served proudly in World War II, earning three battle stars. She was involved in the 1942 Allied debacle of the Battle of the Java Sea where two of five Allied cruisers were sunk and a third severely damaged. In company with three other World War I era destroyers, she made a torpedo attack on the Japanese squadron and while the torpedoes were unsuccessful, the four destroyers sank one Japanese destroyer by gunfire. The *Alden* was named for Rear Admiral James Alden, a third great grandson of the Pilgrim John Alden.

A cover from the USS *Bradford* (DD545) is shown in *figure 5*. She was named for Captain Gamaliel Bradford, a descendant of Governor William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony. He commanded the American private armed ship *Mary* in 1799, and in July 1800 in commend of *Industry*, he routed four French privateers at Gilbraltar.

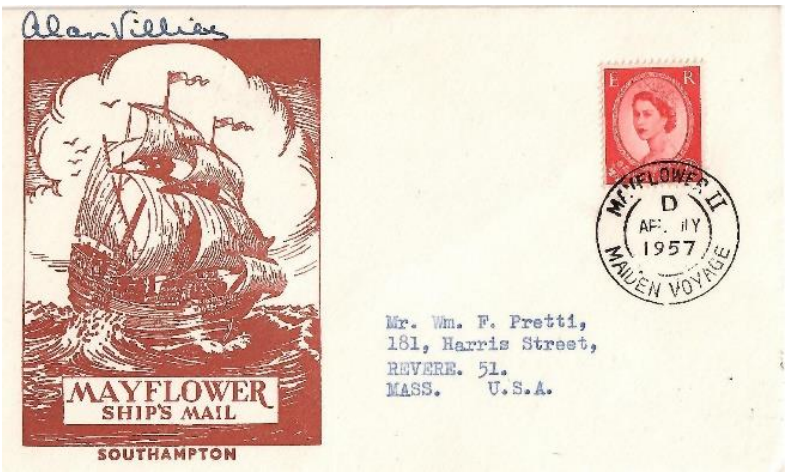


Figure 5

This little treatise would not be complete without showing a cover carried across the Atlantic by the *Mayflower II* in 1957 (*figure 6*). The back of the envelope is postmarked with a Boston, MA receiving mark. This particular cover is signed by Alan Villiers, captain of the *Mayflower II* on that historic voyage.

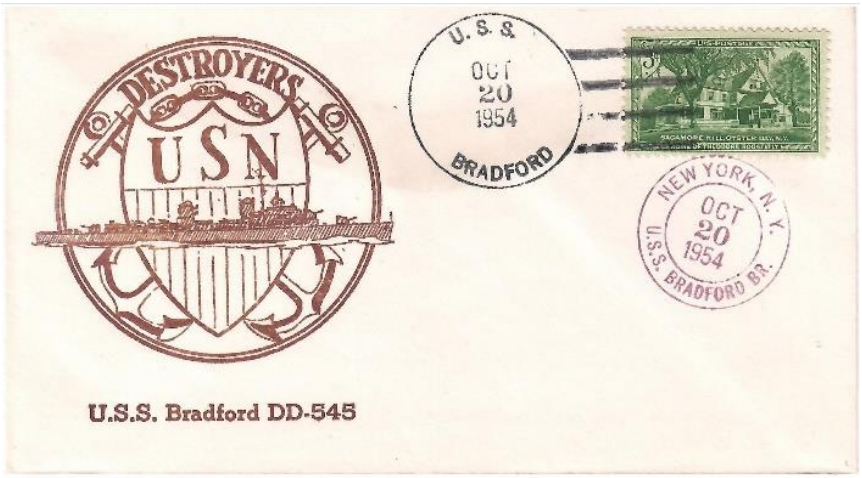


Figure 6

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

TO YOU ALL

HANUKKAH

KWANZA

MY LAST ARTICLE FOR 2020

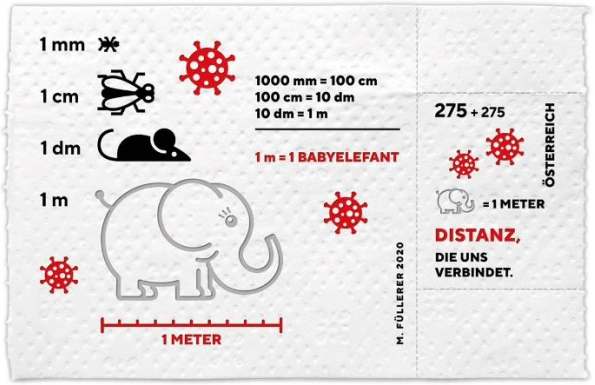
A TRIBUTE TO ALL THE FRONT LINE WORKERS WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY DURING THIS PANDEMIC

COVID-19 Stamps From Around the World

Since the start of the year, the entire world has been dealing with COVID-19, and different countries have suffered to varying degrees. More than 40 million people have been infected since the break-out, making this pandemic the most contagious and deadly in decades. The effects have been extreme in terms of both human lives, and in terms of economic damage. Most countries have instituted some form of economic pandemic relief programs, as they battle to get through the pandemic-induced recession.

Many postal operators around the globe have been issuing COVID-19 relief stamps, with some of the proceeds from the sales being used to combat the effects of the pandemic, in one way or another.

The Austrian postal service, Post AG, is well-known for their innovative choices, when it comes to stamp materials - and this is certainly true for their COVID-19 stamps. They found a way to express solidarity and communicate the importance of social distancing, while keeping it light and fun.



The souvenir sheet above depicts animals of different sizes, ranging from an ant to a baby elephant. The baby elephant is meant to give an idea of how far apart we should be from each other during this pandemic. The baby elephant is roughly a meter long, which is the advised social distance.

To make a serious situation a little fun, the stamp has been printed on toilet paper, in a stab at the irrational panic-purchase of toilet paper at the beginning of the pandemic. The stamp was issued yesterday, and it is denominated at €2.75+€2.75, with the surcharge going to charitable causes

Going further North, POST Greenland issued this wonderful stamp on August 10th. The stamp is the annual Greenlandic Added-Value stamp, with the surcharge going directly to a worthy cause. This year, the stamp is dedicated to the COVID-19 relief efforts, and it was created alongside the Greenlandic health authorities, and the proceeds go to fighting the consequences of the pandemic in Greenland.

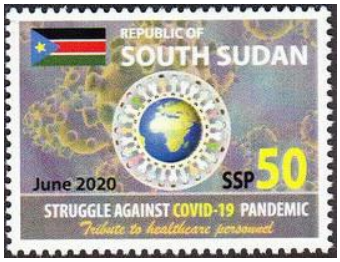
The stamp designer works with light and water in her artwork, and it clearly shows in the COVID-19 relief stamp. The stamp depicts a hand holding a globe of light, and the globe supporting a humanlike figure. The stamp is denominated at DKK 16.00+1.00, and it can be purchased directly through POST Greenland.

On June 9th, the postal service of Bosnia &Herzegovina issued this great stamp. The stamp was issued unde the COVID-19 relief effort theme, and it puts focus on the virus itself, and what we can do to avoid it.

The stamp depicts a person wearing a protective bodysuit, complete with goggles and gloves. The person is holding a hand up to the virus, which has just breached a solid brick wall, symbolizing that scientists and health professionals are putting themselves in the line of fire, to ensure that the pandemic doesn't worsen. However governments might have tackled the pandemic around the globe, we can't thank the health and science professionals, who are working tirelessly to protect us, enough.

AND OTHER ISSUES

THANK YOU



THANK YOU

2021 DUES

2021 DUES RENEWAL NOTICE

Please print this page and complete it and send it together with a check for $ 10.00 made payable to the RSCC (not Michael Bach) by December 31st 2020

Name: _____ Phone:_____

Email Address:_____

ATA Member YES / NO APS Member YES / NO

Please send this and your signed check to:

The RSCC c/o Michael Bach
12 Colorado Avenue
Sinking Spring, PA 19608