

# Knoxville Philatelic Society News

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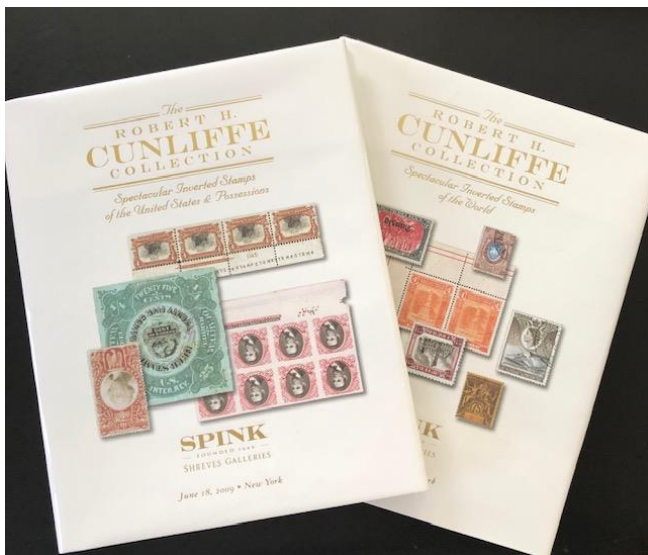
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## Its KNOXPEX Time in Tennessee...and a Tribute to Bob Cunliffe

By Bill Ott

It is hard to believe it is already March and time for KNOXPEX. We will have 12 dealers plus Kelleher Auctions coming from 8 states to Rothchilds on March 4-5. Thanks to all the volunteers that put in countless hours to make this special weekend happen. Let's turn out and make it a great time.

In addition to the show, we will have a member auction on Saturday night. The auction is great fun and there is no telling what you might find. A couple years ago I was surprised to find a two-volume hard bound Spink auction catalogue of the Robert Cunliffe Inverted Stamp Collection, which I bought for a whopping \$8. I had seen this on EBAY a couple times but was never a winner. This is one of my most prized philatelic items. You might be asking why I am so interested in this catalogue and Bob Cunliffe?



I grew up in Pittsburgh and worked in a coin and stamp shop as a teenager. I first met Bob Cunliffe at

the store on a Thursday night. When I got home my mom asked about work and I told her a guy named Bob Cunliffe came in. My mom exclaimed, "Little Bobby." My mom and dad were stamp dealers in the 1930s-40s and "Little Bobby" was one of my mom's favorite customers. Bob grew up in a second floor apartment over an A&P grocery store and a liquor store in the Arlington neighborhood.

Bob got interested in revenue stamps at age three from the liquor store trash, which turned into a lifelong pursuit of revenue stamps and later inverted stamps. My mom and dad took Bob to his first New York stamp show as a teenager. Bob was a modest man, well-spoken, and obviously very intelligent. He was a B-17 bomber pilot in WWII and flew 11 missions in Europe before being shot down. He was later awarded the Purple Heart. After the war, he completed his college education and was an investment advisor for over 50 years. His revenue collection sold for over \$2 million and his inverted stamp collection for over \$5 million. Quite an achievement starting from a second floor apartment in Arlington.

I hope you enjoy the show and will fill many spaces in your albums. Some great finds await, and a prized item may be in the Saturday night auction. Happy collecting.

## Special Delivery Transport

By Tom Broadhead

With cycling as our KnoxPEX 2023 theme, it seems appropriate to share some information about Special Delivery, the early stamps of which showed different means of conveyance of urgent mail. Information below in quotes comes from Wikipedia ([U.S. Special Delivery \(postal service\) - Wikipedia](#)).

"The U.S. Post Office in conjunction with the Universal Postal Union established a basis for a special service for speedier delivery of mail for an

extra fee beginning in 1885. Special Delivery was at first limited to post offices that operated in townships with populations of 4,000 or more. In 1886 Congress revised Special Delivery service to all U.S. post offices. Special Delivery service was in operation from 1885 to 1997 whereby the letter would be dispatched immediately and directly from the receiving post office to the recipient rather than being put in mail for distribution on the regular delivery route.”

“In 1885 Congress enacted the use of ‘a special stamp of the face valuation of ten cents ... [that] when attached to a letter, in addition to the lawful postage thereon ... shall be regarded as entitling such letter to immediate delivery.’ The first special delivery stamp was printed by the American Bank Note Company and issued on October 1, 1885. It could not be used to prepay postage or any other service. The stamp bears the words ‘Secures immediate delivery at a special delivery office.’” (Sc E1, below)



“In 1886 the Special Delivery service was expanded to all post offices and a new stamp was designed. The revised stamp was identical to the first issue of 1885 but instead bore the statement ‘Secures immediate delivery at any post office.’” (Sc E2, below)



“The release of the revised stamp was delayed by the Post Office until 1888, however, allowing supplies of the first issue to be sold beforehand. But the usage of such stamps had their drawbacks. Special Delivery

only served communities whose population was over 4,000 people and could not guarantee delivery by a specific time. To be valid the Special Delivery stamp had to be affixed to the envelope along with all other postage and could not be used to prepay regular and airmail postage.”

In January 1893, the same design was issued in orange. This lasted only a little more than one year before the color reverted to blue. The orange special delivery stamps are often associated with the Columbian Exposition of 1892-93, and rare covers exist with this stamp postmarked at the exposition. (Sc E3, below)



“Five distinct issues showing the running messenger were made. Beginning in 1902 and continuing for 20 years, Special Delivery messengers were issued bicycles to deliver the mail and correspondingly a stamp was issued that year which depicted a messenger riding a bicycle and delivering the mail.” (Sc E6, below)



With the exception of the 1908 stamp showing Mercury’s helmet, U.S. special delivery stamps continued to show means of transport. The bicycle messenger design shown above was in use for 20 years, being supplanted by updated designs that were in use for more than 30 years. The first of these, issued initially in 1922 showed a front door delivery with a motorcycle as the means of transportation (next page).



Three years later, in 1925, the motorcycle stamp was updated to 15 cents and printed in orange. A new stamp, showing a mail truck, denominated at 20 cents was issued at the same time. (Sc E14, below)



The motorcycle stamps were reissued from a rotary press printing in 1944 with new colors and denominations. The truck stamp was reissued from a rotary press printing in 1951 but retained the same color and value.

No subsequent special delivery stamps featured images related to the transport of mail. "In 1977, the Postal Service introduced Express Mail; the two services operated concurrently for the next 20 years. On June 7, 1997, the United States Postal Service terminated Special Delivery mail service which left many unused Special Delivery stamps in circulation that were no longer valid for such postage. The remaining stamps were allowed to be returned to the Post Office for their face value as 'services were not rendered.'"

## Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting

The Knoxville Philatelic Society met on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, for a regular monthly meeting, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. There were 22 members in attendance, and eight attended via Zoom. Vice president **Mike Downs** pre-

sided. Minutes from the last meeting, previously published, were accepted without change, by motion.

**Thomas Lane** presented the Treasurer's report. At the end of January 2023, the society had cash assets of \$6,841. Receipts for the month were \$5,104, and outgo was \$13,070 for a net outflow of \$7,966. The Treasurer's report was approved by motion.

KnoxPEX – **Thomas Lane** stated that there was a need for volunteers to assist the operation of KnoxPex (to be held March 4-5). The show will include a full complement of dealers. Presentations titled, "Perils of the Mails" and "Balloon Mail" will be given by Richard Jackson. Stamp Acquisition Committee: Several large lots have been purchased and are in process of being worked up into the KPS inventory.

There will be a Saturday, stamps only, meeting at the Unitarian Church from 9-1 on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**John Smartt** led a spirited discussion – "Looking Back at the Year in Stamps" for the program. Several members shared their stories of the significant events of their 2022 stamp year.

Adjournment at 7:45 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
John Smartt, Secretary

## Buy, Trade, and Sell

Do you have philatelic wants or needs? Send Tom a note about what you need or no longer need. Your email is required and will be published with your note so that other KPS members can contact you! Listings will refresh each month. Email Tom at [broadhea@utk.edu](mailto:broadhea@utk.edu).

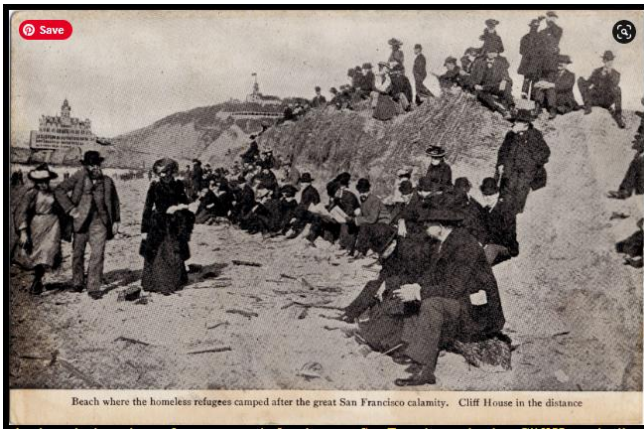
### Buy

Don Ashley – [dwa7@bvunet](mailto:dwa7@bvunet)

- Uncached USA FDCs Scott 1260 Amateur Radio, 1473 Pharmacy, 1264 Churchill, 966 Palomar

Michele Bresso – [mmb.philately@gmail.com](mailto:mmb.philately@gmail.com)

- 1906 SF Earthquake Postcards Wanted - I'm looking for real picture postcards (RPPCs) depicting the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire for a postcard exhibit I am building. The postcard pictured here is one that I am specifically looking for, but I'm interested in any postcards in this category. I prefer postcards with undivided backs but will consider all. Cards that are either postally used or unused are acceptable. An example from my collection is shown here (next page).



Beach where the homeless refugees camped after the great San Francisco calamity. Cliff House in the distance

## Sell

Carol Costa – [lyncar8@earthlink.net](mailto:lyncar8@earthlink.net)

- White Ace topical pages for the following: Music on Stamps, Chess, Religion. Dance.

## Trade

No items offered

## Upcoming Events

Keep your 2023 KPS calendars handy (on our website at [www.knoxstamps.com](http://www.knoxstamps.com)), created by **Tom Broadhead**, for meetings and events. If you have a program or workshop to give at a KPS meeting, let Vice President and Program Chair **Mike Downs** know.

KPS monthly meetings are **live** with a planned Zoom component - at 7:00 pm on indicated days, and we hope to have a program presentation at each.

March 4-5 – **KnoxPEX 2023** - Rothchild Catering & Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923; Saturday, 10-5, live auction at 6; Sunday, 10-3. 13 Dealer Bourse – Cachet & Show Cancel – Exhibits – Youth & Beginner Activities with Free Stamps. Free Admission – Free Parking – Show Sponsorship and Seminars by Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC.

March 7 – monthly meeting. Live and by Zoom – Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville 37919. 7:00, come early to swap and shop. Program: “Express, Afterpackets and Late Fees – India 1850-1876, by Paul Allen.

April 4 – monthly meeting. Live and by Zoom – Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville 37919. 7:00, come early to swap and shop. Nominations of club officers. Program: KnoxPEX 2023 Review.

Visit KPS on the web by scanning the QR code.

Check the website for updates.

Write for KPS News!



**The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets at 7:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month and other dates publicized by email and the website.**

**Annual dues are \$15.00.**

### KPS Officers:

President	Bill Ott
Past President	Brent Marquand
Vice President	Mike Downs
Treasurer	Thomas Lane
Secretary	John Smartt
Directors	Michele Bresso, Dick Odum, Roy Row, Bob Smith

KPS Webmaster & Communications **OPEN** – please volunteer!

Coordinator

Coordinator

APS/ATA Ambassador Tom Broadhead

## Give a Meeting Program

Contact Mike Downs at [mpdowns@gmail.com](mailto:mpdowns@gmail.com).

# Come to KnoxPEX 2023!