

# *Knoxplex '97*

*March 1-2, 1997*

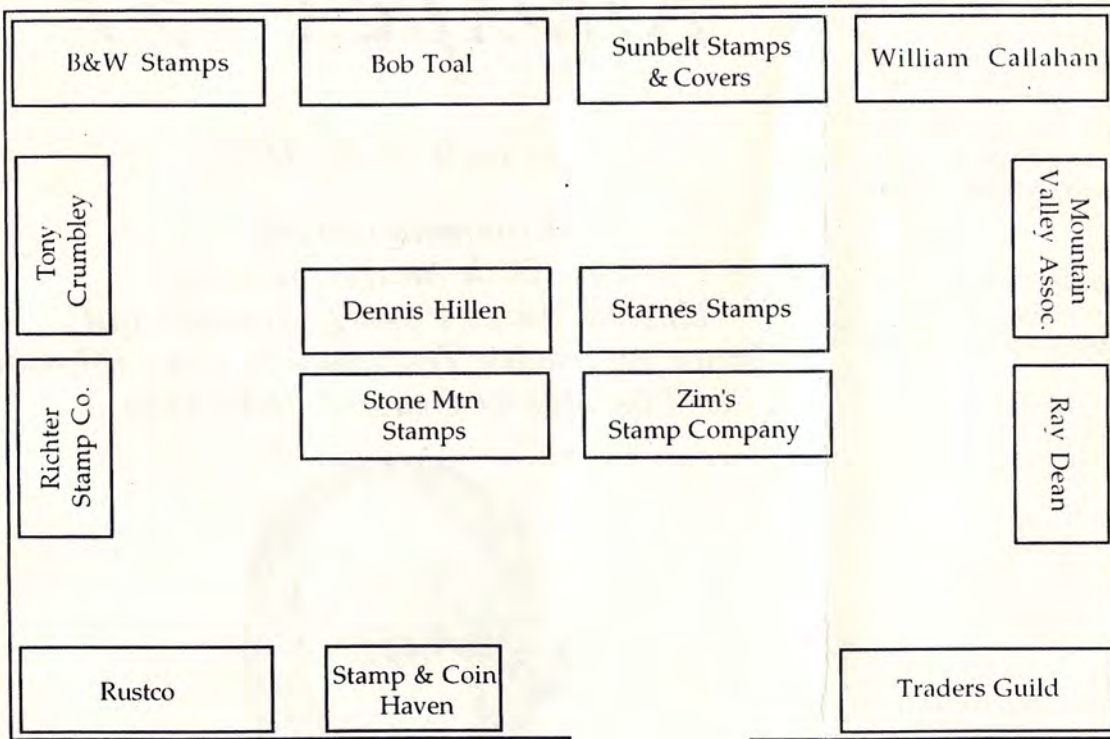
*Commemorating  
the 150th Anniversary of  
United States Postage Stamps and  
Honoring Native Tennessean Cave Johnson,  
Postmaster General, 1845-1849.*



*Cave Johnson*

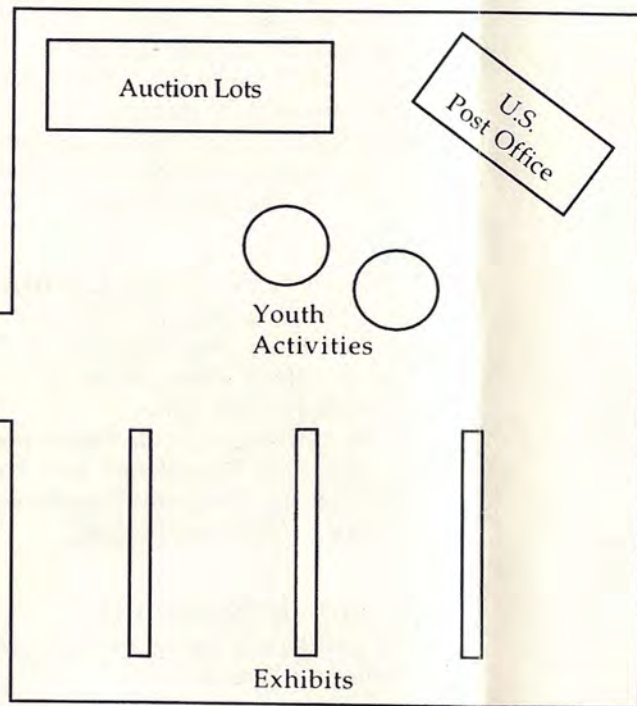
*Presented by . . .*

*The Knoxville Philatelic Society*



**Dealers:**

B&W Stamps, 5774 Eatons Creek Rd., Joelton, TN 37080  
 William Callahan, Rte. 1, Box 342F, Troy, AL 36079  
 Tony Crumbley, PO Box 219, Newell, NC 28126  
 Ray Dean, 5840 Mt. Vernon Rd., Newark, OH 43055  
 Dennis Hillen, 175 N. Tabor St., Lexington, KY 40509  
 Mountain Valley Associates, PO Box 310, Townsend, TN 37882  
 Richter Stamp Co., PO Box 603, Athens, OH 45701  
 Rustco, PO Box 580, Lima, OH 45802  
 Stamp and Coin Haven, PO Box 741, Waverly, TN 37185  
 Starnes Stamps, 602 South Maple, Winchester, KY 40891-2495  
 Stone Mountain Stamps, PO Box 1324, Tucker, GA 30085  
 Sunbelt Stamps & Covers, PO Box 2211, Columbia, SC 29202  
 Robert Toal, 6530 Westminster Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919  
 Traders Guild, 2022 Stanhope Dr., N.E., Huntsville, AL 35811  
 Zim's Stamp Company, PO Box 5805, Columbus, GA 31906



**EXHIBITS**

This year, **Knoxpex** features the following exhibits of philatelic material, which will be judged according to standards of competition of the American Philatelic Society. Judging will be supervised by Dr. Paul Phillips, an APS accredited judge.

The awards ceremony will take place at 6:30, immediately prior to the live auction.

All persons in attendance at **Knoxpex '97** are encouraged to vote for the "People's Choice" award, reflecting their favorite exhibit. This award will be posted at 2:00 on Sunday.

Multiple Frame Exhibits:

1. *Autopost Stamps* - Paul Gzyb
2. *Space Covers* - Paul Gzyb
3. *Meet the Psittacines* - Nicole Pendleton
4. *CAM 9 Chicago-Minneapolis* - Ron Sarson
5. *Rattlesnake Island Local Post* - Ron Sarson
6. *Postal Uses of the 2 cent Small Banknote Stamp of 1890* - Robert Toal

Single Frame Exhibits:

1. *France: The 1925 Decorative Arts Exposition* - Tom Broadhead
2. *The Confederate States of America: Patriotism in the Face of Adversity* - Paul Parmalee
3. *Confederate Arkansas: A Selection of Postal History* - Bruce Roberts
4. *Interisland Registered Mail in the Lesser Antilles: 1895-1937* - Gerald Schroedl
5. *Interisland Printed Matter Rates in the Lesser Antilles: 1882-1937* - Gerald Schroedl

*Welcome . . .*

to **Knoxpex '97**

hosted by the Knoxville Philatelic Society!

Saturday - 10-6 Live Auction - 6:30

Sunday - 10-4

*Tennesseans and the First U.S. Postage Stamps:  
President James K. Polk and  
Postmaster General Cave Johnson*

The presidential administration of James K. Polk (March 4, 1845-March 4, 1849) is well known, historically, for the war with Mexico and the Oregon Treaty with Great Britain. From a philatelic perspective, it is similarly important for the authorization and production of the first United States postage stamps and authorization of prepayment of postage.

The presidential campaign of 1844 pitted the Democrat, Polk against the Whig candidate, Henry Clay. At that time the expense of mail delivery was assumed by the recipient, rather than the sender. This fact was seized upon by some of Polk's detractors, who attempted to bankrupt his campaign by sending large quantities of letters to him (Wayne Cutler, personal communication). Thus, following the election, Cave Johnson, a longtime personal friend and supporter of Polk's, was appointed Postmaster General with the goal of reform.

The problem of lost revenue due to unclaimed mail and rate reductions in 1845 led Johnson, in his address to Congress of December 2, 1845 to warn of a projected shortfall in income and to reiterate that "...this department should sustain itself by limiting its expenditures to its income." Johnson is credited (Grant, 1952) with authorization of the postmaster provisional stamps issued by several cities in 1845 and 1846.

However, it was the congressional postal reform act of March 3, 1847 that not only specified prepayment of postage, but also authorized "postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of the payment of the postage chargeable on such letter." (29th Congress, Session II, Chapter 63). Within four months, the first postage stamps of the United States were available for sale and use, although stamps were not required on ordinary mail until 1856.

Acknowledgement: Dr. Wayne Cutler is editor of the James K. Polk presidential papers at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Reference: Grant, C.L., 1952. The Public Career of Cave Johnson. Tennessee Historical Quarterly, p. 195-223.

# Join the Knoxville Philatelic Society!

The Knoxville Philatelic Society (KPS) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at the First Presbyterian Church Family Life Building, 620 State Street, Knoxville, TN 37902. KPS publishes a bimonthly newsletter and hosts a stamp show each spring. Membership is open to all ages with all interests in philately.

Please consider an individual or family membership. For information, write to KPS at PO Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422, or be our guest at one of our monthly meetings!!

## KPS Officers

President: Tom Copas  
President-elect: Gerald Schroedl  
Past-President: Tom Broadhead  
Treasurer: Lillard Harvey  
Assistant Treasurer: Nick Holt  
Recording Secretary: Richard Ehrlich  
Corresponding Secretaries: Effie Rule, Jean Byrne  
Newsletter Editor: Tom Broadhead  
Directors: Stuart McNeil, Ray Ritter, Tom Robusto, Bob Toal,  
Tom Broadhead

## Knoxpex '97 Show Committee

General Chair: Gerald Schroedl  
Bourse Chair: Bruce Roberts  
Auction Chair: Lillard Harvey  
Hospitality: Effie Rule  
Youth Activities: Nicole Pendleton  
Cachets: Tom Broadhead, Bob Toal  
Publicity and Program: Tom Broadhead  
Exhibits Judge: Paul Phillips

## Acknowledgements:

KPS thanks the following publications for notices and articles promoting Knoxpex '97.

*American Philatelist*  
*Knoxville News-Sentinel*  
*Linn's Stamp News*  
*Stamp Collector*