

The Dayton Project

By Douglas Files

While researching another topic I stumbled across the fact that our city participated strongly in the Manhattan Project during World War II. Our members familiar with Dayton history probably know this already. But others will not, so this article will summarize what occurred and where the activities took place.

At the start of 1943 nuclear scientists at Los Alamos, New Mexico decided that polonium would be the best material to use to help trigger America's atomic bombs. The element polonium had been discovered by Marie and Pierre Curie and they named it after Poland, Marie's native country. Marie Curie was the first woman to earn a Nobel

Prize and she did so in 1903 and 1911. Pure polonium is highly radioactive, emitting many energetic alpha particles and that is why it made a useful substance to trigger atomic reactions.

In 1943 polonium was a mostly theoretical element; almost none was known in nature. Not enough a few milligrams existed for scientists to study. In fact chemists were unsure if it was possible to purify polonium in a laboratory environment. The President of Harvard University, James Conant, and General Leslie Groves

of the Army asked the Monsanto Chemical Company to work on the problem. Charles Allen Thomas of Monsanto was appointed the director of the project, which was initially planned to include only 12 chemists. Keeping the project small would help maintain secrecy, which was seen as critical to the wartime Manhattan Project.

The challenges for the Monsanto scientists were to produce polonium and then to purify it. Originally the plan was to carry out this work at the Oak Ridge Facility in Tennessee. But that area lacked adequate resources. So the next laboratory sites chosen for the project were in Dayton, Ohio. The first Dayton site set up was at the existing Monsanto Chemical Research Station

(at 1515 Nicholas Road). This building served as the administrative headquarters for the project. But it was soon clear that that space, which

had been designated Unit I, was not sufficient so Monsanto decided to lease other buildings.

Unit II was the Monsanto Rocket Propellant works near Betty Lane off State Route 741. And although it was a Monsanto complex it did not do any strictly Manhattan project work.



Marie Curie discovered polonium

Meetings / Activities

Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays (adjusted for holidays) at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429

For the Zoom invitation and link, please email daytonstampclub@gmail.com

Member's Socializing and Silent Auctions begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

2026

February

Feb 2, 7:00 pm—Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom -- What are Match and Medicine Stamps? DSC Member Speaker—Dennis Callison

Feb 6 & 7, North Canton—McKiinley Stamp Club Show, St. George Servian Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW. HRS: Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-4pm. Email: Lincoln-way@assnet.com

Feb 7-8, Indianapolis Stamp Show, Lawrence Park District Center, 5301 N. Franklin Rd., Lawrence, IN. Email: mdsastampshow@gmail.com.

Feb 9, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Feb 15, 2026 K2 Lancaster Stamp Show Hrs: 10am-4pm at Farm & Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Rd. Lancaster, PA.

Feb 16, NO MEETING (Presidents Day Holiday) Church Closed

Feb 27-28, Toledo Stamp Expo 2026. The stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, Graystone Banquet Hall & Conference Center, 29101 Huffman Rd, Perrysburg. Email: cschafstall82@gmail.com.

MARCH

Mar 2, 7:00 pm—Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Member Bourse & Club Open House—Buy, Sell & Trade.

Mar 9, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Mar 13-15, Garfield-Perry March Party 2026, Gardfield-Perry Stamp Club, Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd. Strongsville. Email: MarchPartyChair@garfieldperry.org.

Mar 16, 7:00 pm -AUCTION #2—Regular Member Auction

APRIL

Apr 6, **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20pm** Club What was Your Biggest Mistake in Stamp Collecting? Member Participation 4-6

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 8)

DSC NEWSLETTER

Published by: DAYTON STAMP CLUB, INC., PO Box 1574, Dayton, OH 45401

Club Meetings: Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Rd, Kettering OH ---- 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 PM

Editor: Bill Smith, 329 East 1st St., Suite 311, Dayton, OH 45402 Phone (937) 344-3155

Asst. Editor: Steve Bricker, 3302 Diamondback Dr. Dayton, OH 45414 Phone: (937) 898-5181

Newsletter email: wesjemail@gmail.com DSC email: daytonstampclub@gmail.com Website: www.daytonstampclub.org

Contents of the DSC NEWSLETTER are copyright @ 2009 by the Dayton Stamp Club, Inc Permission for reproduction in whole or part is granted to other philatelic organizations for internal nonprofit use provided that credit is given to the DSC NEWSLETTER and the authors of the reproduced material. A copy of the publication in which the material is printed is requested.

CLUB OFFICERS 2025-2026



President	-----	Bill Streisel
First Vice President	-----	Jim Guthrie
Second Vice President	-----	Tony Kosarew
Secretary	-----	Doug Files
Treasurer	-----	-----Jim Schwerdtfeger
Chairman, Board of Directors	-----	Mike Komiensky
Board of Directors:		Rick Clark, Carol Costa, Susan Kolze, Steven Solomon and Bill Smith, Newsletter editor



May 23-30, 2026
at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

136th Garfield-Perry
MARCH PARTY
March 13-15, 2026
Ohio's largest annual stamp show



Hotel
Best Western Plus
15471 Royalton Rd.
Strongsville, Ohio
440-238-8800
Special Show Rate



Scan code or visit
www.garfieldperry.org

Show Hours
Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

How to Negotiate with your Cat?

Step one:
Give your cats whatever they want.

Step two:
End Negotiation.



AIRPEX 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 and SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

DAYTON STAMP SHOW



Emerge CENTER
(937) 401-0727

Map to Emerge Center
2960 W Enon Rd, Xenia, OH 45385



USPS Black Heritage Series 1978-2026



USPS Honors Phillis Wheatley, First Published African American Poet

The U.S. Postal Service is honoring Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784), the first author of African descent in the American Colonies to publish a book, with the 49th stamp in the Black Heritage series.



The first-day-of-issue event for the Phillis Wheatley Black Heritage stamp is free and open to the public. News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtag #BlackHeritageStamp. First day ceremony will be Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, at 11 a.m. EST in Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108. Attendees are encouraged to register at <https://www.usps.com/philliswheatleystamp>

Born in West Africa and brought to Boston on a slave ship, Phillis Wheatley was enslaved but educated in the Wheatley household. Wheatley published her first collection, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral," in 1773. This collection showcased her impressive mastery of various poetic forms, including hymns, elegies, and narrative verse, securing her place in history. Freed from slavery that same year, she went on to correspond with figures such as George Washington, who praised her poetic talent.



Published according to Act of Parliament, Sept. 1, 1773, by Archd. Bell, Bookbinder, N^o. 8 near the Saracens Head, Aldgate.

Wheatley's legacy continues to inspire generations, earning her the title "the mother of African American literature." Before the Civil War, abolitionists used her accomplishments to affirm the intellectual capability of people of African descent and argue against slavery. Today schools, libraries, community centers and university buildings across the country have been named for Wheatley, and she has been the subject of numerous inspirational books for children. In 2003, a statue of the poet was included in a new Boston Women's Memorial. The first full-length scholarly biography of Wheatley was published in 2011, with a second biographical study published in 2023, part of an ongoing effort to recognize her resilience in adversity. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp using an existing portrait by Kerry James Marshall. The Phillis Wheatley stamp will be issued in panes of 20. As a Forever stamp, it will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.



February Dayton Stamp Club Meeting

February 2, 7:00 pm — Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

What are Match & Medicine Stamps? DSC Member Speaker—Dennis Callison

February 9 — 7:00 pm Board meeting

February 16, NO MEETING — Presidents' Day Holiday — (Church Closed)

(Continued from page 1)

During the war rental space for commercial buildings was quite limited. So Monsanto ended up leasing the three-story Bonebrake Seminary warehouse (at 1601 West First Street) from the Dayton Board of Education and this was called Unit III. After renovations the project leaders began to use this 1879 building in November 1943. A building constructed in 1879 sounds fairly old to us today but in 1943 that was the equivalent of us renting a building in 2025 that was built in the early 1960s.

A separate space was needed to actually produce the novel element polonium. It was again difficult to find a large enough space in an available building. At that time the Talbott family (heirs of the Delco fortune) owned the empty Runnymede Playhouse and they were not eager to rent it. But the government could commandeer the building through eminent domain. Moreover, project director Charles Thomas was married to

Margaret Talbott and he convinced his mother-in-law that at the end of the project the building would be returned in its original state. He told her that her building would be used to make training films. Pointedly she was not told that her property



Unit III, October 1947 Unit III, October 1947

would be used to make radioactive elements to trigger the largest bombs ever constructed. The Runnymede Playhouse complex in Oakwood thus became Unit IV and it included the main building plus a tennis court, a squash court, a garage, several greenhouses and an outdoor swimming pool. In the end Thomas broke his promise to his wife's family. During the project Unit IV became contaminated with radiation and the buildings had to be razed to the ground in 1950.



Runnymede Playhouse in Oakwood

other site was added to the Dayton Project when Monsanto rented a General Electric warehouse at 601 East Third Street. At first it was only a storage space but later a laboratory on the 5th floor carried out radiation experiments on test

animals.

Keeping the number of employees on the project to a dozen was an admirable idea, but it failed miserably when the work began. Eventually Monsanto's Dayton Project required ten times its initially projected budget and it ballooned to 300 people. These included professors, grad students and chemists from industry, although vanishingly few of them had any prior experience with radioactive materials. Many of the new recruits were sent to the University of California for extra training in radioactive isotopes. Forty guards stood watch over Unit III and Unit IV. The production of purified polonium was originally accomplished by separating this element out of lead dioxide, a by-product of uranium processing. But then a new technique was discovered for generating it by irradiating bismuth. This was a more efficient procedure but it was still highly complex, requiring many steps. Every week trucks would deliver neutron-irradiated bismuth slugs from Oak Ridge, Tennessee to the Dayton facility to extract polonium. They were stored in a lead-lined safe or in the swimming pool to decrease radiation exposures among the workers. When the polonium was purified its appearance was a silvery metal which gave off a violet glow. The first batch of a few milligrams

(Continued on page 11)



Sociedad Numismática de Puerto Rico



LA SOCIEDAD NUMISMÁTICA DE PUERTO RICO TE INVITA A SU congreso PRIMER ENCUENTRO DE NUMISMÁTICOS, HISTORIADORES Y COLECCIONISTAS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS Y PAÍSES DEL CIRCUNCARIBE EN EL HOTEL HYATT PLACE DE SANJUAN, DEL 18 AL 21 DE FEBRERO DE 2026. ¡TE ESPERAMOS!

SNPR Video Facebook

Octubre-Diciembre - 2025 - October-December

19



TOLEDO STAMP EXPO 2026
THE 102ND EXHIBITION & BOURSE OF
THE STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB OF TOLEDO

Graystone Banquet Hall & Conference Center
29101 Hufford Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551

Friday Feb 27, 2026 10am-5pm
Saturday Feb 28, 2026 10am-4pm



The STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB OF TOLEDO
Meetings are at 7:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month, September - May at the Perrysburg Masonic Hall, 590 East South Boundary, Perrysburg, Ohio. For information about the SCCT or TOLEDO STAMP EXPO 2026 contact us at: PO Box 2, Maumee, OH 43537 or www.Toledostampclub.org

New Issues from Israel Honor Philately



The Postal Service of Israel has released a nostalgic stamp series of three stamps at the end of December. This new series focuses on philately — that is, the hobby of stamp collecting. The points to the presence of stamps in the hands of collectors, stamps at Post Offices, and stamps on display at stamp exhibitions.

It might well be noted that this stamp set approaches the hobby from the initial steps of young collectors to the professional endeavors of seasoned collectors to the workings of the postal service itself.

The three stamps of this series from Israel feature (top) young people putting stamps in a stamp album, (middle) customers at a Post Office window, and (bottom) attendees at a stamp exhibition.

Featuring a nostalgic design, this set of three stamps pays tribute to

the hobby of stamp collecting while at the same time piquing interest in the hobby and encouraging both young and experienced collectors to be more engaged in their hobby. It is also hoped that these stamps will help to promote the hobby and attract more collectors to a hobby that is seeking new blood.

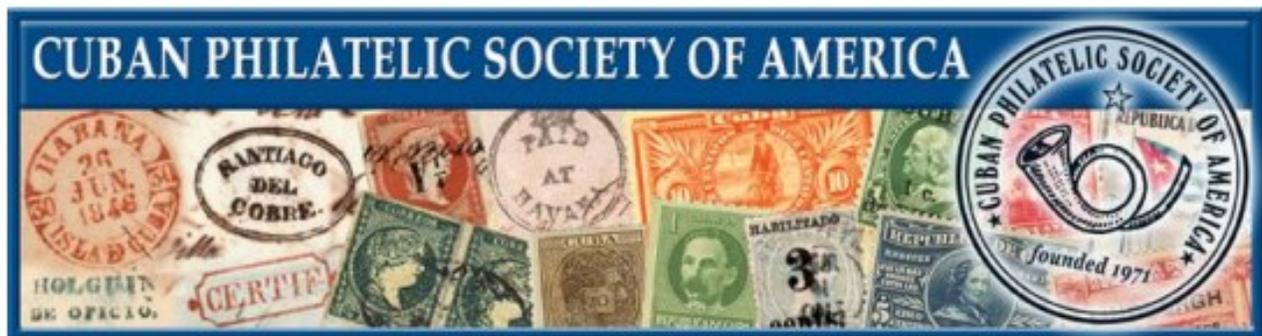


The tab at the bottom of each stamp in the series connects this set of stamps to the 100th anniversary of International National Philatelic Federations

The stamps in this series highlight the special experiences of stamp collecting and point to the hobby's historical and cultural significance around the globe.

Ostensibly, this issue was produced to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (International Philatelic Federation). This can be seen on the "tab" that is attached at the bottom of each stamp in the series. But, the general thrust of this series of stamps is to promote the joys, the wonders, and the great experience yielded by the hobby of kings: Stamp Collecting!

The First Philatelist December 2025



Welcome to the Cuban Philatelic Society of America!

This is the international site of the Cuban Philatelic Society of America, Inc., also known by the acronym CPSA. The CPSA was founded in 1971 in Miami, Florida, U.S.A., and is dedicated to the study and promotion of Cuban philately in all its aspects. We are open to membership by anyone sharing our interests regardless of nationality, race, political or religious beliefs. This is an English-Spanish bilingual site. Most of our pages are available in both English and Spanish.

Become a CPSA Member Today

Membership Benefits Include:

Learning Opportunities - Attend weekly meetings with other experienced members.

Expertizing - Get opinions from the experienced CPSA members regarding the authenticity of Cuban stamps and covers in your collection.

The Cuban Philatelist - Full color philatelic magazine with many interesting articles, 3-issues per year.

Online Members Only Area - Log-in to access reference materials that include historical versions of *The Cuban Philatelist*.

Auctions - Buy and sell stamps during the various on-line auction events held throughout the year.

Reference Library - Access to scanned images of all Cuban stamps issued between 1855 and 1958 to help you identify your stamps (Coming Soon).

www.cubapsa.com

Octubre-Diciembre - 2025 - October-December

18

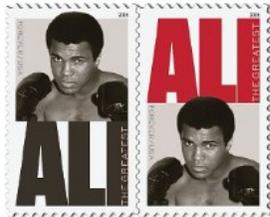
USPS January and February 2026 New Issues



Jan. 13. Four (78c) forever Commemorative stamps; pane of 20



Jan. 9, Angel's Trumpets. Two stamps forever commemorative stamps 4c definitive stamp, pane of 20, coil of 10,000.



Jan. 15. Muhammad Ali, Two (78c) commemorative stamps; pane of 20.



Jan. 29 Phillis Wheatley. Single (78c) forever commemorative stamp, pane of 20; Black Heritage series.



Jan. 24. Single (78c) forever stamp, pane of 20.



Feb. 18, Bruce Lee



Feb. 3, Lunar New Year of the Horse

Feb. 28, Harriet Powers, strip of 4



Introduction to Stamp Collecting

Stamp collecting helps instruct the collector in geography, biography, history, culture and art. Stamps are miniature gateways to the world.

Stamp collecting has very few rules. You don't have to buy expensive sneakers or rackets to enjoy it. However, there are a few simple things to remember when collecting stamps.

Which Stamps to Collect?

If you are unsure about what area of collecting you would like to concentrate on, you may want to consult a beginning collectors book. These "how-to-books" can be purchased or ordered through a local stamp dealer or bookstore, or you may find them at your local library.

Because one of the first things you will learn through collecting stamps of other countries is geography, you may want to get an atlas, globe or world map to help you see where the country is located, or to help locate countries which issued stamps you have in your collection. Several stamp atlases have been published for philatelists; they show "dead" countries that formerly issued stamps, as well as current nations.

Sometimes, collectors decide to collect stamps not by country of issue. People collect stamps according to topic, such as animals, birds, or fish, authors or scientists, or sport flowers, art or crafts, Good luck, and remember—enjoy yourself, because the main reason for collecting stamps is for the fun of it!

The Great American Stamp Show 2027



August 19-22nd, 2027

The Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

UNITED STATES POSSESSIONS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

(APS Affiliate #99)

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization organized for the study of the stamps and postal history of the U.S. Possessions



Interested in collecting U.S. Possessions, Administrative Areas, and Post Offices Abroad, including Puerto Rico? Join the USPPS



Introduction to Collecting U.S. Possessions' Stamps and Postal History

Regular membership is \$25 per year, including our quarterly journal Possessions published since 1978. New Members receive a copy of Introduction to Collecting U.S. Possessions' Stamps and Postal History



For more information visit our website uspps.net or email us at uspps.possessions@gmail.com



Clarification - New Misinformation About USPS:

There is no “New Cancellation Policy”

by Wayne Youngblood

I'm giving media a little credit for non-malicious spread of false information -- maybe; either way, it's important to not let panicked voices drive your narrative.

Wayne Youngblood

I'm seriously annoyed. If you know me, then you probably understand I have little patience for partial truths and outright misinformation or disinformation about most any subject. I'm currently seeing both.

I'm not exactly sure where it started, but in the past few days I've seen scare-tactic “news” stories from USA Today, CNN, AARP and many other publications, and scores of YouTube videos that cite a “new USPS rule” whereby it will be virtually impossible to tell exactly when your letter was mailed, unless you request a handstamped postmark. Unfortunately, the unquestioned digestion of this misinformation seems to be causing a bit of an uncalled-for uproar.

In some cases, “content creators” are actually stating this was a calculated move to suppress voting or for other nefarious reasons! As is frequently the case with what I consider to be an overall lazy mainstream media, the inaccurate information was unquestioningly picked up by multiple sources and spread in true Chicken Little-style fear mongering about potentially late-arriving bills, payments, tax returns and — especially — mailed-in ballots. This was all done without bothering to check the basic facts — or, perhaps, done to intentionally spread disinformation, despite ready access to facts.

Let me be absolutely clear: **There is no “new” rule, nor is there any change to existing postal regulations. Period.** In fact, cancellation machines were removed from most local post offices nearly a decade ago! Mail has been postmarked when received into the system at a sectional center as a matter of course for years, and postal patrons have always been able to request a handstamped postmark when important.

The media has it wrong. Again. You may be able to discern the fact I'm annoyed.

The genesis for this new media-led rush to panic postal users and inaccurately cast political blame comes from a misinterpreted change to the *Domestic Mail Manual*, effective Dec. 24, 2025. That change was meant merely to clarify and educate. Again, **there was absolutely no change in postal regulations.**

As published in the Nov. 24, 2025 *Federal Register*, the United States Postal Service added section 608.11, “Postmarks and Postal Possession,” to the *Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)*, to take effect on Dec. 24. According to the summary of the change on the government website, “*this new section defines postmarks, identifies the types of Postal Service markings that qualify as postmarks and describes the circumstances under which those markings are applied. It also advises customers of how to obtain evidence of the date on which the Postal Service accepts possession of their mailings. This new language in the DMM does not change any existing postal operations or postmarking practices, but is instead intended to improve public understanding of postmarks and their relationship to the date of mailing*” (emphasis mine). Did I mention I'm annoyed?

Months before, on Aug. 12, 2025, the USPS published — on its own website — the proposed language of the *DMM* update and specifically mentioned, “*as stated, the Postal Service’s postmarking procedures are unchanged. Postmarks and cancellations will continue to be applied to single-piece First Class Mail pieces, both letter-shaped and flat-shaped, in the same manner and to the same extent as before.*” Again, the emphasis is mine.

One item the USPS specifically noted about the then-existing *DMM* description of a postmark was that “*the postmark was not previously defined in any current Postal Service regulations, and the Postal Service considered it ap-*

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 1)

minute.

Apr 13, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Apr 20, >>Club CASH Auction Preview 7:00-7:25 pm<< Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom US and World-wide Postal Stationary—Doug Files

MAY

May 4, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom AUCTION #3 - Club CASH Auction

May 11, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

May 18, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Pre-1900 US Stamps DSC Member Speaker—Rick Clark

JUNE

Jun 1, AUCTION #4—Regular Member Auction

Jun 8, Board meeting

Jun 15, **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Topical Collecting and Exhibits DSC Member Speaker—Joe Shearer

JULY

JUL 6, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, My Other Hobby, Member Participation 4-6 minutes

Jul 13, Board meeting

Jul 11-12, MSDA Indianapolis Stamp Show. Midwest Dealers Association, Lawrence Park District Center, 5301 Franklin Rd., Lawrence IN. website: msdastampshow.com.

Jul 20, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, Member Bourse & Club Open House—Buy, Sell, Trade

AUGUST

Aug 3, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, AUCTION #5—Regular Member Auction

Aug 10, Board meeting, AIRPEX Review

Aug 17, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Panel Discussion: 19th Century Great Britain DSC Members—Jim Guthrie, Tony Kosarew, Jim Schwerdtfeger

Aug 21-22, AIRPEX 2026 @ Emerge Center (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm), 2960 W.Enon Rd., Xenia OH 45385

SEPTEMBER

Sep 7, NO MEETING, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY—CHURCH CLOSED

Sept 12, TUSCOPEX 2026, Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park Pavilion, q61 Tuscora Ave, NW, New Philadelphia email: slwors-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

appropriate to reflect these existing practices in the DMM to ensure that customers have a clear understanding of the postmark and what it means." Clearly, this was intended to be an effort to educate the public, not launch a tirade against ill-defined "foes."

The one bit of news in all this is that the USPS (depending upon area) can — and will — make less-frequent trips to sectional centers from post offices, so this will have some relatively small effect on mail transit time. But it has nothing to do with postmarks, nor does it warrant the uproar and temper tantrums noted

online.

For a deeper dive, here's a very interesting read. It is the the raw document of the USPS response to the public comments time period between August and November for the then-proposed DMM change. Many of the inaccurate "concerns" that are being expressed now were addressed in detail. Most of the public comment consisted of form letters.

If it's not already obvious, it should be noted that all of this information is readily available to anyone who cares deeply enough to find indisputable fact. This is what we used to rely upon media to do for us.

Unfortunately, corporate media, with its now-apparent sole responsibility to feed its stockholders the highest profit possible (at the cost of accuracy), has become lazy, incompetent, complicit and irresponsible on many levels. Yet it continues to drive much of the public's perception on any given issue. This bit of misinformation about the USPS is simply a microcosm of this unfortunate state of affairs.

But it happens to be an area I care deeply about and with which I have far more than a passing familiarity.

Did I mention I'm annoyed?

(Continued from page 8)

ham@frontier.com.

Sep 18-20, INDYPEX 2026. Indiana Stamp Club, Hendricks County Fairgrounds & Exhibition Center, 1900 E. Main St., Danville IN, website: indianastampclu.org.

Sep 21, ****SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM**** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom — TBD

OCTOBER

Oct 5, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom [AUCTION #6—Regular Member Auction](#)

Oct 12. 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Oct 19, Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Member Bourse & Club Open House—[Buy. Sell. Trade](#)

NOVEMBER

Nov 2, **>>Club CASH Auction Preview 7:00-7:25 pm<<** Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Santa Claus on Stamps ans Seals, DSC Member—Susan Kolze

Nov 9, 7:00 pm Board Meeting - Set 2026 Calendar & Budget Review

Video Pick: If I Had a Hammer Perforation Gauge Tongs, Gauges, Color Guides, Magnifiers: The Tools of the Stamp Collector

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. This video will forewarn you of the tools you will need to be a well-equipped, forearmed stamp collector. While the key item in stamp collecting is stamps, along with hinges or mounts to affix them in albums, there are other tools one will need to be a well-armed philatelist. To view the video, you can click the image below (if you are reading this newsletter electronically) or go to the following website address: stampaware.weebly.com/video.html.





Learning About Stamps Online

A forum for collectors discussing all things philatelic.
Zoom with us on the third Tuesday of every month at 8 PM Eastern!
www.learningaboutstamps.org info@learningaboutstamps.org

HOME ▾ JOIN! PROGRAMS ▾ RESOURCES CONTACT US PHILATELIC GUIDES SCOUTING ▾ SEARCH

Scouting

Scouting Merit Badge Resources and Support

Here you will find resources to support Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) merit badge counselors in guiding Scouts to earn the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. We have prepared slides for instructional material as well as documents to help you stay organized and track progress. Feel free to use any or all. Use them as they are or modify them to fit your own preferences. Contact LASO member Paul Booth (fishnstamp@gmail.com) with any questions or comments. We would also like to hear of your successes or challenges in using these resources.

DOCUMENTS

- [Explanations and Lessons Learned](#): A good place to start!
- [Becoming a Scouting Merit Badge Counselor](#)
- [Merit Badge Kits](#)

CLASSROOM TOOLS

- [Discussion of Requirements](#)
- [Activities](#)

(More Material to be added)



<https://learningaboutstamps.org/scouting/>

USPS adopts penny-rounding policy for cash transactions

BY LINN'S STAFF

The United States Postal Service has implemented a new penny-rounding policy at its retail counters following the cessation of penny production by the U.S. Mint.

Effective Dec. 12, the policy applies only to cash transactions and only when pennies are unavailable. Under the new rules, change due to customers is rounded to the nearest 5¢ increment.

Amounts ending in 1, 2, 6, or 7 cents are rounded down, while amounts ending in 3, 4, 8, or 9 cents are rounded up. If a total cash purchase is less than 5¢, the amount is rounded up to 5¢ unless the customer pays with exact change.

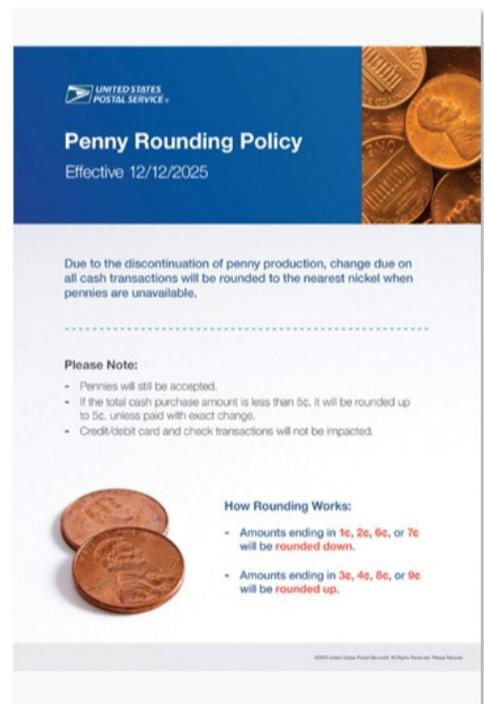
The policy does not apply to credit card, debit card, or check payments, which continue to be processed to the exact amount owed.

Pennies remain legal tender and are still accepted by the Postal Service as payment.

The change follows the U.S. Mint's decision to cease production of the 1¢ coin on Nov. 12. The penny was first introduced in 1793.

To inform customers, post offices nationwide are displaying signage in retail lobbies explaining the new rounding procedure. 

A sign posted in retail lobbies explains the U.S. Postal Service's new penny-rounding policy, which applies only to cash transactions when pennies are unavailable and rounds the change due to the nearest 5¢ increment.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Penny Rounding Policy
Effective 12/12/2025

Due to the discontinuation of penny production, change due on all cash transactions will be rounded to the nearest nickel when pennies are unavailable.

Please Note:

- Pennies will still be accepted.
- If the total cash purchase amount is less than 5¢, it will be rounded up to 5¢, unless paid with exact change.
- Credit/debit card and check transactions will not be impacted.

How Rounding Works:

- Amounts ending in 1¢, 2¢, 6¢, or 7¢ will be rounded down.
- Amounts ending in 3¢, 4¢, 8¢, or 9¢ will be rounded up.

(Continued from page 4)

of purified polonium was shipped to Los Alamos in March 1944. Dayton workers at the Monsanto site took several precautions to prevent radiation contamination. They were not permitted to eat or smoke in processing rooms and they had to wash their hands whenever they left those areas. They wore protective clothing and gloves in many areas. When leaving for lunch and at the end of the day they washed their hands with a dilute solution of hydrochloric acid, Chlorox and soap. Then they showered and each person's hands were analyzed with a Geiger counter. Once a week each employee had to submit a urine sample to check for polonium being excreted from their body. After the initial atomic bombs had been supplied with polonium Monsanto concentrated on creating a permanent polonium processing facility since the United States would need an ongoing supply of this element. Soon after Japan surrendered in 1945 a new partly-underground facility was constructed south of Miamisburg to produce polonium on a continuing basis. This area has been called the first post-war Atomic Energy Commission site and it was also called Unit V. Workers state that radioactive polonium was sometimes transported around Dayton sites by car, such as from Oakwood to Miamisburg. Fourteen large buildings were eventually part of the Unit V complex. Throughout the cold war Mound Laboratory scientists researched and produced polonium



Unit III buildings in 2012

initiators for nuclear weapons. The fact that polonium was used to begin chain reactions in American atomic bombs was classified until the 1960s, when it was known that the Russians had learned how the U.S. was initiating bomb blasts. It turned out that U.S. Army health physics officer George Koval had passed secrets to Soviet military intelligence. At first he worked at Oak Ridge, Tennessee and in 1945 he was transferred to Dayton. But to the Russians he was a spy code-named Delmar and they learned from him that polonium was used to trigger atomic weapons. Unit I remained in use until 1988 when the building was torn down. The land was sold to Quality Chemicals in 1992 and they sold it to DuPont in 2002. The main 1879 building at Unit III was demolished but several other buildings still exist on that site. As stated above, Unit IV remained too radioactive for effective decontamination so it was torn down in 1950. The Talbott family was compensated \$138,750 for the loss of their Playhouse. Residential homes now stand on the former site of Unit IV. The former Unit V served as the Mound Advanced Technology Center well into the 21st century. In the early 2000s Dayton residents voiced concerns about continuing contamination. But in 2006 the Army Corps of Engineers determined that all Dayton Project sites had been adequately decontaminated and no further environmental cleanup was needed.



Seal of the Department of Energy

Thus Dayton played a key role in the Manhattan Project during World War II and continued to host nuclear research over the succeeding decades. Much of the work was useful, and although Dayton was a mid-sized city in the American Midwest, that did not prevent Russia from successfully infiltrating a spy into the site. Many sites served the project over the years and these are summarized below.

Summary of Dayton Project sites

Unit I- Central Research Department Headquarters 1515 Nicholas Road – administrative headquarters

Unit II – Monsanto Rocket Propellant Works - near Betty Lane off State Route 741 – performed no major Dayton Project work

Unit III – Bonebreak Theological Seminary – 1601 West First Street – was used for polonium research

Unit IV – Runnymede Playhouse – Runnymede Road and Dixon Avenue in Oakwood – was used for polonium production

Unit V – Mound Cold War Discovery Center Extra site General Electric warehouse – 601 East Third Street – mostly a storage space but some laboratory animal radiation research was done there. Now it is the J.K. McIntire Company Building.

References:
Dayton, Ohio, Atomic Heritage Foundation, National Museum of Nuclear Science and History, <https://ahf.nuclearmuseum.org/ahf/location/dayton-oh/>, accessed 24 Dec 2025

Dayton Project, 1943-1945, The Manhattan Project, Department of Energy website, <https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Places/Other/dayton.html>, accessed 24 Dec 2025

Dayton Project, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dayton_Project, accessed 24 Dec 2025

Dayton's Oppenheimer Connection, National Aviation Heritage Area website, <https://visitnaha.com/itinerary/oppenheimer/>, accessed 24 Dec 2025

Miller, Jacklyn, Dayton, Ohio, Manhattan Project National Historical Park, National Park Service website, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/dayton-oh.htm>, accessed 24 Dec 2025

DAYTON STAMP CLUB

2026 MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429

Member's Socializing, **Silent Auctions**, **Club CASH Auction PREVIEWs** begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM

1/5	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #1 - Regular Member Auction
1/12	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
1/19	Pizza Party-6:30 PM Marion's Piazza 50 E Stroop	MLK Day Holiday - Church Closed
2/2	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	What are Match & Medicine Stamps? DSC Member Speaker - Dennis Callison
2/9	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
2/16	No Meeting	Presidents' Day Holiday - Church Closed
3/2	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Member Bourse & Club Open House - Buy, Sell, Trade
3/9	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
3/16	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #2 - Regular Member Auction
4/6	**SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	What was Your Biggest Mistake in Stamp Collecting? Member Participation 4-6 Minutes
4/13	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
4/20	>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<< Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	US and Worldwide Postal Stationary DSC Member Speaker - Doug Files
5/4	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #3 - Club CASH Auction
5/11	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
5/18	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Pre-1900 United States Stamps DSC Member Speaker - Rick Clark
6/1	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #4 - Regular Member Auction
6/8	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
6/15	**SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Topical Collecting and Exhibits DSC Member Speaker - Joe Shearer
7/6	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	My Other Hobby Member Participation 4-6 Minutes
7/13	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
7/20	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Member Bourse & Club Open House - Buy, Sell, Trade
8/3	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #5 - Regular Member Auction
8/10	Board Meeting	AIRPEX Preview
8/17	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Panel Discussion: 19th Century Great Britian DSC Members—Jim Guthrie, Tony Kosarew, Jim Schwerdtfeger
Aug 21-22	New Location	**AIRPEX Stamp Show (Fri:12-6pm; Sat:10am-4pm)** Emerge Center
9/7	No Meeting	Labor Day Holiday - Church Closed
9/14	Board Meeting	AIRPEX Review
9/21	**SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	TBD
10/5	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #6 - Regular Member Auction
10/12	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
10/19	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Member Bourse & Club Open House - Buy, Sell, Trade
11/2	>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<< Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Santa Claus on Stamps and Seals DSC Member Speaker - Susan Kolze
11/9	Board Meeting	Set 2025 calendar & budget review
11/16	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Club Election for 2025 -- AUCTION #7- Club CASH Auction
12/7	HolidayPEX Party Starts at 6:30pm at Church	Dinner Party at Church
12/14	Board Meeting	Come to Board Meeting and Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
12/21	No Meeting - Enjoy the holidays	

1/26/2026