



<https://Jacksonphilatelicociety.org>

**APS chapter C-049526**

January 2023 Newsletter

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### **Postage stamps are going digital**

Since 2020 the Deutsche Post A.G. (German Post) has begun to issue stamps with a QR (matrix) code on the right side. This allows for tracking mail, is more forgery-proof and ensures that postal stamps cannot be used more than once.

The QR code not only allows the postal service to track mail but also, anyone who scans a letter before sending it can keep an eye on its status via the "Post app".

Forgery and illegal re-use are big problems:

There are currently around 70 known forgeries since the introduction of the Euro, to the detriment of the German Post. Most of them are said to be coming from East Asia.

Re-uses are stamps that have escaped stamping and stamps with washed-out ink-jet cancellations (offered in large numbers on Internet platforms from Eastern Europe).

With the total amount of stamps used on postal items of approximately € 1.5 billion annually, a percentage of invalid postal stamps of 4-5% represents an immense sum, which is to be greatly reduced by adding the QR code.



### The future of stamps? Handwritten codes



Kauf einer mobilen Briefmarke mit der Deutsche-Post-App. Gültigkeit der Marke: 14 Tage.  
Pressefoto © Deutsche Post DHL

In addition to the stamps with or without QR codes, there is also the handwritten number combination that can be affixed to the top right of a letter. You receive this number combination when you request the desired postage via the Deutsche Post app and pay online. A multi-digit alphanumeric code is then generated and sent, which can be handwritten instead of a stamp on the top right of the postcard or envelope.

Great Britain has also introduced its first stamps with a QR code. It has been affixed to the 2022 Christmas stamps and the first Machin issues. The goal is to add the QR code to all Machin issues, but with the exception of the Christmas stamps, not to commeterates.



So far, the USPS has only used QR codes on computer generated postage. However, I believe, that not too far in the future, we will see the first “normal” US postage stamp with a QR code.

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Our **next meeting** will be on January 17 at 10 AM at the Flowood Library. I am looking forward to seeing you there. Also, if you have not done it yet, please mail your 2023 JPS dues to the treasurer to maintain your membership.

**JACKSON PHILATELIC SOCIETY (JPS)  
DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** 12-17-2022

**Venue:** Flynn Library, Hall, Flowood

**Time** 10:20 AM

**Members** In attendance: KR Rao, Vijay Vedala, Eckhard Stuart, Jayant Mahajan, Vihaan Mahajan, Katherine Gifford, Mary Blalock, Stan Stewart, Lokanath Polepalli

**MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION:**

The secretary could not attend the meeting due to sickness and the treasurer was absent due to other commitments. KR the VP took the minutes for December.

Eckhard announced the Post office box is discontinued to save costs to JPS . All mail to JPS should be addressed to KR's address –360 Wood Hollow Cove, Brandon, MS 39047.

Eckhard announced it is time to renew the annual membership.

November minutes were approved.

The balance in the treasury is \$3,873.82.

Officers for the year 2023 were elected:

President: Eckhard D. Stuart

Vice President: Dr. K. R. Rao

Treasurer: Karl Schoeck

Secretary: Dr. Indira Rao

APS Liaison: Eckhard D. Stuart

Webmaster & Zoom Coordinator: Vijay Vedala

Mrs. Rita Agrawal and Mr. Durga Buddala Prasad were accepted as new members. (Mrs. Agrawal subsequently withdrew her application due to personal scheduling conflicts.)

Mr. Arora Sumesh applied for membership. The second reading for his approval will be held on January 21, 2023

Jayant Mahajan presented the last of his topics on Badges of Scouts. He talked about among several topics:

1. Where to find stamps for collection: free, auction, stamp catalogs, collect used stamps from letters received
2. Image centers -size and intensity of cancellation, color fading.
3. Mint stamps, scouting stamps of the USA and worldwide.

The next meeting will be on January 21, 2023 at 10 AM at the Flowood Library.