

STAMP
STUDY
SOCIETY

P.O. BOX AD, Sparks, NV, 89431

NSSS MEETS THE 2nd and 4th SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT 2:30 P.M., IN ROOM 203, PHYSICS BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.



POST BOY

MAY ISSUE 1983

Our next program will be a white elephant sale. So bring your material, in mint, never hinged condition. Just like stamps the better the condition the better the price. It is interesting to note that this type of program seems to bring out the members. Put May 14 on your calendar.

NEVPEX '83 is going along at a goodly pace, not as fast as other years, but steady. 14 or more dealers have already signed up, with the requests for exhibits, just a little slack, at this time. The advertising program is on schedule, with a heavy push in the final week.

We did receive nice billing the May 9 issue of Stamp Collector, even though it sounded as if the dealers were putting it on. A correction will be made by Stamp Collector.

The next local show will COALPEX in Walnut Creek, on May 28,29, with STANPEX in Modesto, following on June 11, 12.

The Post Office is off and running again. 11 new issues in two months. 5 in March, and 6 in April. Here is a quick rundown of them.

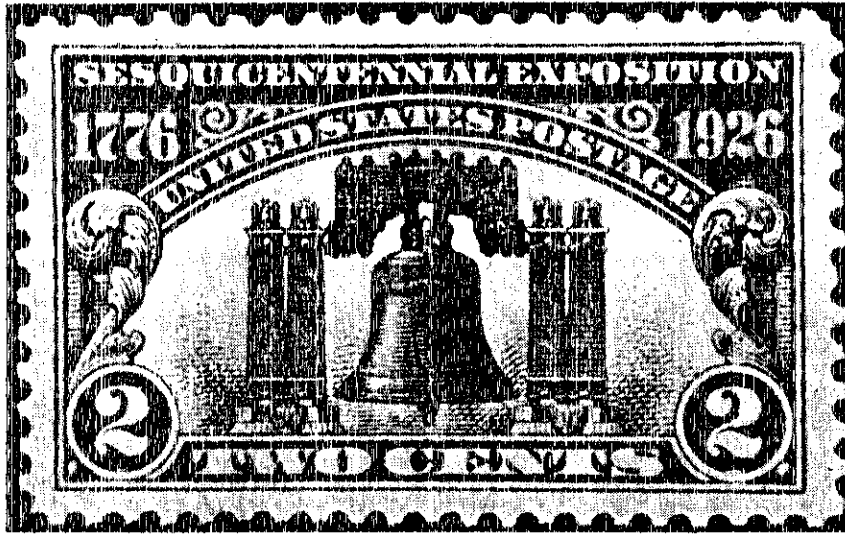
Mar.	21	5.2¢	Sleigh, regular issue, coil stamp.
Mar.	21	5.2¢	Embossed envelope for non-profit rate.
Mar.	24	20¢	Comm. for the 200th anniv. of trade with Sweden.
Mar.	25	3¢	Railroad hand car.
Mar.	31	20¢	Balloons.
Apr.	5	20¢	CCC 50th anniversary. (We could use the CCC now)
Apr.	8	40¢	1984 Olympic Games, block of 4.
Apr.	13	20¢	Joseph Priestley.
Apr.	19	13¢	Old Washington Post Office, post card.
Apr.	20	20¢	Voluntarism.
Apr.	29	20¢	Comm. for 300th ann. of Arrival of German Settlers.
May	14	20¢	Physical Fitness.
May	17	20¢	Brooklyn Bridge.
May	18	20¢	Comm. Tennessee Valley Auth.

U.N.

June. 6 20¢ Trade & Development Comm.

CANADA

May	24	32¢	Queen Elizabeth II Definitives.
June	3	32¢	St. John Ambulance Comm.
June.	28	32¢ and 64¢	World Univeristy Games.
June.	30	\$3.20	Canada Day Comm. Booklet.



The 1926 Sesquicentennial commemorative stamp.

THE LIBERTY BELL -- FABLE AND FACT

*Hushed the people's swelling murmur,
Whilst the boy cries joyously
"Ring!" he's shouting, "ring, grandfather,
Ring! Oh, ring for Liberty!"
Quickly at the given hand
The old bellman lifts his hand.
Forth he sends the good news, making
Iron music through the land.*

These lines of a widely circulated poem in the 1871 Franklin Fifth Reader by G. S. Hillard have perpetuated one of the legends regarding the Liberty Bell; the popular belief that the bell was rung on July 4, 1776 to announce the Declaration of Independence. Other myths generally accepted as fact also still persist today.

The poem was based on an earlier tale by George Lippard which appeared in the Saturday Courier in Philadelphia in 1847. The fabrication was then picked up by the famous historian, Benjamin J. Lossing, in his Field Book of the Revolution. Giving credence to the account of the Bell's ringing on July 4, Graham's Magazine, in 1854, during a series of the Life of George Washington by Joel Taylor Headley, went so far as to illustrate the fictional bellringer and his grandson on the June,

1854 cover. Thus, fable was accepted as fact.

But no proof exists confirming that the bell was rung on July 4. Records show, however, that the bell was rung on July 8, 1776, at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, and again at the completion of the reading.

July 8 also figures prominently in another Liberty Bell myth -- that of when and how the bell became cracked.

Traditional explanations claim the crack occurred when the 2,080-pound cast metal bell was tolled during the funeral procession of Chief Justice John Marshall on July 8, 1835. According to the authors of a 30= page pamphlet entitled Story of Our Liberty Bell, there are also some other theories.

A memorandum on file with the Independence National Historical Park favors another date, says the pamphlet. The memorandum, a copy of a letter written to the editor of the Public Ledger, a Philadelphia newspaper of the day, goes as follows: "Quoting from Welesley Bradshaw's History of the old Liberty Bell, and corroborated by the official record in the Journal of City Council for 1828: 'It was cracked during the joyful ringing at Lafayette's visit to Philadelphia in 1824, but not completely disabled until one night in the following winter, when while ringing an alarm of fire, it finally gave out.' The letter was sent in 1903.

Quite another story was disclosed in a July 16, 1911, New York Times article by 86-year-old Emanuel J. Rauch, who wrote, "How I Broke the Liberty Bell, by the Boy Who Broke It." Mr. Rauch claims that in 1835, the steeplekeeper, "Major Jack" Downing, asked him and several other boys to help ring the bell in honor of Washington's birthday-- "We were working away, and the bell struck . . . about ten or a dozen times, when we noticed a change in tone. We kept on ringing though . . ." After noticing the change in tone too, the steeplekeeper stopped the boys and they followed him up to the steeple for an inspection. "On the side of the bell," continued Rauch, "we found that there was a big crack, a foot or fifteen inches long. Downing then told us to run along home, we obeyed.

Several other theories for the crack have been published, all as unsubstantiated as the ones presented here. Unless positive proof is found some day, the reason and date of the Liberty Bell's crack will remain a mystery.

Another fable tries to impress us with the important patriotic significance attached to the bell because it was spirited away to Allentown and hidden beneath the floorboards of the Zion Reformed Church in 1777. The patriotic reverence was more impotent than important. Veneration towards the bell would not be attained for many more years.

When British troops threatened Philadelphia with occupation the State House Bell and other bells in the city were swiftly removed for practical reasons only; to prevent their capture, thwarting possible use of the melted down metal as weapons against the colonists.

In fact, the absolute disregard for what we now hail as sacred can be attested to by an event nearly causing complete destruction of the bell fifty years later.

So little import was held for the bell's value, that in 1828 it was cast off indifferently as mere junk for \$400 by the city fathers. The purchaser, John Willbank, accepted it as partial payment when he was hired to cast a larger bell for a new steeple clock. Mr. Willbank soon discovered that "drayage costs more than the bell's worth." So he left it hanging in the building. The City of Philadelphia then sued for breach of contract. As settlement, said writer Paul Ditzel in the December, 1968 American Legion Magazine, "Willbank agreed to pay court costs and Philadelphia accepted his "gift" of the Liberty Bell . . . in what must be regarded as one of the more fortuitous compromises in American jurisprudence."

Many persons believe the name, "Liberty Bell," has been with us since its arrival in Philadelphia. To the contrary, when the twelve-foot circumference bell was received from Thomas Lester's foundry at Whitechapel, London, in 1752 it was known as the New Province Bell. Later other names were used, including: Bell of Revolution; Freedom Bell; Old State House Bell, and as late as 1876, Magee's Illustrated Guide of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition dubbed it The Old Independence Bell.

First published reference of the present name derives from an 1839 abolitionist pamphlet entitled, "The Liberty Bell," by Friends of Freedom. No doubt the name came from the prophetic biblical inscription around the crown, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land, Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof,"

We can thank the anti-slavery group also for the attention drawn to the bell, which vaulted it into the prominence, esteem, and historical significance it enjoys today.

Like most other things in the public eye (or ear, as this case may be) the Liberty Bell has suffered its share of abuse. To malign the bell today is almost sacrilegious, but back in pre-revolutionary days some citizens tried to suppress its use when on Sept. 17, 1772, they petitioned the legislature, complaining that "they are much incommoded and distressed by the too frequent Ringing of the great Bell in the steeple of the State-House, the Inconvenience of which has often been felt severely when some of the Petitioners Families have been afflicted with Sickness, at which Times from its uncommon Size and unusual Sound, it is extremely dangerous, and may prove fatal . . ."

The bell, which tolled for the first in August, 1753, was allowed to continue for many more years.

After the large crack rendered the Liberty Bell almost unusable, repairs for restoration were considered. But on April 13, 1876, the Philadelphia Council decided against this action, "believing that the people prefer that the old bell should remain in its present condition."

Since then, the 38-inch clapper has remained stifled. However, the bell has been hand-tapped symbolically at several ceremonies, the last time being August 13, 1862, on the first anniversary of the Berlin Wall.

Philatelic recognition for the Liberty Bell took a long time coming. 1926 saw two issues printed. A Canal Zone overprint was applied later. 34 years later in 1960 another stamp was issued with the picture of the Bell. Envelopes saw its picture more often, more recently the 15¢ airmail postal card on June 29, 1972. Only one foreign stamp, of all the Americana items on the market, shows the bell. A Cuba issue of Oct. 5, 1956.

This interesting article was written by Irving Weinberg in 1972. Hope you enjoyed it.

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What famous publisher and editor was the subject of a 1961 commemorative?
What explorer appears on the one-cent stamp of the Panama-Pacific
issue of 1913?

* * * * *

Board Meeting, Mar. 28, 1983

The meeting was held at the Riverside Hotel, with Ruthe Dreiling, Al Greene, Gloria Greene, Doug Willick, Jessie Rogers, and Bill Brew in attendance.

The Secretary and Treasurer made their reports, which were approved. The treasury has \$260.97 plus a \$1,200 certificate.

Discussion continued on NEVPEX '83. Also the programs for May. The first week in Sept. was designated as bourse night for all members.

The amount of postage for the cachets was discussed, along with selecting volunteers to chair the several committees needed for the show.

Other subjects were discussed and tabled at this time. One was new badges for the members and improving the frames with plastic replacement for the glass now in them.

Ad prices were determined for the program. \$10.00 for 1/3 page, \$15.00 for 1/2 page and \$25.00 for full page.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for May 9.

General Meeting, Apr. 9, 1983

Mrs. Art Swanson won the on-time gift, with Laura Brew winning the raffle.

Ruthe Dreiling read a letter from Bill Oliver, thanking the support of NSSS for his nomination to the APS.

It was noted that Bill Brew would present the program on Apr. 23 and Dick Dreiling would give his program on May 28.

Al Greene reported on NEVPEX '83 ad in Linns and Stamp Collector. To date 14 dealers have registered for the show.

Guest were introduced, Donna Evans, and Chris Tegmeyer, who were soundly and warmly welcomed.

Catherine Cole noted that UNRO would play tapes for advertising the show.

Larry Scott gave a brief summary of his experience with cancels from Truth or Consequences, NM.

Al Greene handled the mini-auction, which sold 3 out of 4.

Each member present gave a brief explanation of their favorite piece of philatelic material. A very entertaining and informative meeting.

General Meeting, Apr. 23, 1983

The on-time award was given to Gloria Greene, and Jack Barriage won the raffle.

Ruthe Dreiling read a letter from Laura Wilhite thanking NSSS for its donation in memory of former member Larry Wilhite.

Larry Scott displayed the award he received for his Nepal exhibit in FRESPEX, which was given by the Nepal Study Society.

Dick Dreiling read a letter from AFDCS asking for bids for it's 1985 convention site.

Jack described several new covers he had received, and Al Greene

reported on his visiting TUCOPEX, in Columbia, at which he won the 1st prize and the APS Award. The members gave him a resounding applause for his successful efforts. POST-BOY congratulates him, too, hopes that this will encourage other members to delve into the art of exhibiting their collections.

The program was given by Bill Brew, who explained the technique of grading stamps. Two methods were introduced, one in which the person uses a comparison of known grades, and the other, a little more complicated, which uses numbers, adding to and subtracting from, depending on the condition and quality of the stamp. The final total fits the stamp into the various categories stamps are graded.

Rudick Enterprises
P.O.Box 2324,
Sparks, NV 89431
Dick & Dee Dreiling

Sierra Stamps Etc.,
P.O.Box 922,
Sparks, NV 89431
Bill & Laura Brew

Silver Circle Stamps
522 California Ave.,
Reno, NV 89509
Roger Lauderdale

Silver State Stamps
P.O.Box 2083
Sparks, NV 89431
Art Swanson
Canadian & Norway, Used

Whichcraft Covers
P.O. Box 1481
Sparks, NV 89431
Lois Willick

1. Horace Greeley.
2. Balboa.