

N.S.S.S.

PRESENTS

April, 1995

THE POSTBOY

The Post Boy has a new look to it. As members you have the privilege of deciding which heading looks the best. I am open to suggestions.

The minutes of the previous meetings will be read at the April, 8th, meeting. This will also be a change. If you find that reading the minutes takes too much time in the meeting I will put them back into the Post Boy. At least, you will have the opportunity to correct them.

The plans for our show in July, TOPEX-NEVPEX, are on track and the reports indicate great participation by both dealer and exhibitor.

There were two articles in the Reno Gazette Journal this last Sunday. One was on the efficiency of the Post Office and what you could do to help them. That is, use ZIP codes, Print your addresses, have a good readable returning address and use the proper amount of postage.

The second article was about a dealer, Ralph Foster, who has a shop near the Univ. of Calif., Berkeley. He has recently published a book stamp package. The title is "The Lost Stamps of the United States." It has been very successful. He says stamps are "lost" until you find the appropriate place to mount them. He supplies 100 stamps, tongues, magnifying glass, hinge mounts and a book. The book has a brief description below each stamp shown. It is intended for people ages 7 to 107. Where there is a need, fill it.

The program for Apr. 8, will be provided by Bill Brew. The refreshments will be provided by Dick Dreiling.

The program for Apr. 22, will be an A.P.S. slide show on "Fancy Cancels" or it may be on "Alaska and the Mails." It will depend on what A.P.S. has available for us.

The refreshments for Apr. 22 will be provided by Larry & Vivian Scott.

JAMAICA, THE LAST CENTURY

This information was provided by Malcom Watts, dealer and collector

from Great Britain. The information is old but should be interest to those whose interest in the British West Indies.

When adhesives were first issued in Britain, the Deputy PMC at Kingston, Jamaica, was John Wilson. At this time, no other post office was mentioned in the 'Blue Book' for 1840. In 1844 a list is given for the first time of the offices in the Jamaica. Fifty offices are listed in 1858, differing from the London list by omitting Ewaarton and Little River.

Jamaica had to take over the management of its own postal affairs in 1860. This was due to the work of Anthony Trollope, who visited the West Indies to examine the process of the mail system. It was his recommendations that certain postal operations be transferred to Jamaica. It was on August 1, 1860, that Jamaica began its own postal system. The London Postmaster General announced on that same date that his jurisdiction, now, only included the military stations of Gilbratar and Malta.

In 1847 the post to the country districts was increased to two each. In 1868, it became three for some years, although many thought that once a week was ample. The mails went by stage coach since the railway did not cover the island until the 90's. Only Kingston had a house -to- house delivery. Other mail had to be called for at the post office. If a letter was not called for by one month, it was returned to sender.

In mid-1868 Jamaica brought into force post office regulations based on those ruling in the United Kingdom. One of the rules required the postmaster to pay 2d for each letter from abroad, 1d if the letter came from the UK. The postmaster paid the fee to the master of the inbound vessel.

The cancellation for Kingston was A01, which was changed, in 1885, to A75. Also, during the period the cancels A28 to A78 were used. The practice of using these numbered cancels disappeared from 1889 to May 1891. On May, 1891, the last known cancel, of the number variety, was used at Spanish Town, Jamaica.

Most of these cancels are listed in Gibbon's Catalogue. This could make for quite a study and collection.

St. Lucia happens to be A11.

Jamaica:

1. What British leader appears on a 1966 set?
2. What scientific venture is saluted by a three-cent stamp set issued in 1972?

answers in next month's Post Boy.

That's all.