



STAMP  
STUDY  
SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 2907 • SPARKS, NEVADA 89432

# N.S.S.S.



*Presents*

## *THE POST-BOY*

*January 1997*

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1997 is here. It has been a very fast and eventful year. Good things have happened and sad things have happened.

We lost one of the great active members, **Ruthe Dreiling**, in December. She was the spark plug that has kept Nevada Stamp Study Society going from day one. One of the original members. Her work on NEVPEX, dealing with the dealers and organizing the food service for the shows made our shows very desirable among the dealers. The dealers were always willing to come back because of her attitude to them. She handled all the auction and mini-auctions, was an officer in some capacity over all the years and contributed much of her personal time to N.S.S.S.. She will be missed. Out sympathies go to Dick and Dee Dreiling and the rest of her family.

The annual Christmas was held at the Masonic Lodge on Peckman Ave. It was a success and all those that attended enjoyed the good turkey, side dishes and pies. Gifts were excellent and the opening and exchanging of them was great fun. Marie Calendar's restaurant cooked the turkey for us and provided the stuffing and gravy. It was good, but, it didn't seem to have the personal touch that Ruthe used to put to it. She will be missed there, as well.

Al Shay has the information on the joint Coin and Stamp show, for 1997 and will announce his finding at the first meeting in Jan. That meeting will be on Jan. 11., 10:00a.m.

Dick Dreiling provided an interesting and challenging article for the Post Boy. Please read it and then discuss it at the first meeting in Jan. January 11th. 10:00 a.m.

It should be noted that the second meetings for Jan. Feb. and Mar. will meet at 2:00 p.m., instead of the usual 10:00 a.m. This is due to the University scheduling of the room. This will be discussed at the first meeting in Jan. January 11, 10:00a.m. The first meeting in Jan. will be a humdinger. Lots of stuff to discuss. Please plan to attend.

Ron Schultz will be in Washoe Med Hospital. No visitors, please. Just phone calls. Jan 1 to Jan. 6. In for observation. They are watching his hair grow.

*"To promote and enhance the hobby of Stamp Collecting."*

**Ramblings**  
**By Dick Dreiling**

As I sit here pondering the ways of the world, I sometimes wonder what it is all about? It is all too easy to allow my own personality and ego to enter into the areas which should be kept



entirely objective. Do I allow others to dictate the course of events in those subjects I feel very strongly about, or do I stand up for my views and visions of the overall scheme of things?

The Nevada Stamp Study Society is a case in point. We have a new (and fairly capable) cadre of officers and board members. Unfortunately, being new, they do not know or understand what the club has had to go through in its infancy and the

growing pains loyal club members went through to ensure we have a stamp club today. Many of the things we did in the past were not necessarily wrong, but, perhaps ill-timed, not completely thought out, or ill-fated. We never felt anyone owed us anything. We never applied for a grant or a loan from outside the organization. If our membership was not willing to provide financial support for a given project, we simply shelved the idea for the project until such time as we could afford it. We steadfastly maintained our independence. We never aligned with any outside organization or group which may (or may not) wish to exert pressure or use us to their advantage.

The membership felt the club had no place to go but up from our small beginnings in Carson City. There was rarely ever a subject discussed in a board meeting or a regular meeting that had unanimous support. There were always dissenting views and alternative ideas. However, we encouraged honest debate and listened to differing views. We did not attempt to strong-arm our ideas through or act without consulting the membership. We tried not to lose sight of the fact that the Nevada Stamp Study Society was *THEIR* club. *They* could either make it work, or we could dissolve it and have everyone go their own way.

The NSSS has always been a philatelic organization. There have always been members who were also numismatists, but stamps were always what we were all about. Numerous times, we had dealers at our shows request to bring coins and other items for sale, but we always said no.

Now, somehow, the idea that we are a stamp club only is being strongly attacked. It has been said we should align ourselves with the local coin club. Why? What can they bring to our club? What do we bring to them? How can they promote the furtherance of **STAMP COLLECTING**? Should we promote the furtherance of **COIN COLLECTING**? I, for one, do not understand why coin collecting and stamp collecting should be talked about in the same breath. To me it is like any two competing businesses. Ford Motor Company does not suggest that General Motors or Chrysler should align themselves with Ford to ensure the financial picture for Ford is sound. When businesses talk about alignment, they are talking about mergers for financial gain or to corner a larger market share. Remember the Golden Rule has been corrupted by many of these large corporations to "He who has the Gold Rules!"

There has been a lot of discussion about the NSSS participating in a commercially-sponsored Spring Stamp and Coin Show. There will be no exhibits, so it cannot and should not be called a show. It is to be a group of stamp and coin dealers setting up tables to sell their merchandise. The NSSS has been invited to participate by having a free table at the show. In addition, NSSS is to receive \$500 from the promoters. *WHY?* What can NSSS provide that will increase the promoters profits? How will one stamp club make the Stamp and Coin (Event) Show better? Keep in mind one overriding thought: "There is no such thing as a free lunch!" The promoter expects to get something from us. I can't figure out what it is. If it is a list of our past and present dealers, should we distribute that? Attendees at our shows already know who our dealers are. I do not hold organizations in very high regard that sell their mailing lists. The argument that "Everybody does it!" does not make it right in my eyes. I do not like to receive a lot of junk mail and solicitations from people who have purchased my name from someone. I am an individual, not a commodity. The NSSS is a stamp club, not a commodity. It is not (or should not be) for sale simply to make our bottom line look more attractive. In the past when we needed to make money to improve our bottom line or to pay off some debts, we held raffles, white elephant sales, and sold pins and covers at the Air Races. Now, it seems there is a feeling is that those ideas required too much hard work, and didn't make as much money as some expected. What's wrong with hard work? Isn't the club worth working for? Have we gotten to the point where we should go around holding our hands out and asking others to "make things right and good for us?"

I have never been a strong proponent of welfare in any fashion. I, personally, don't think the NSSS should either, but I am only one voice crying out in the wilderness. Is there sound if there is no one to hear? Am I really speaking out if no one listens? Has anyone bothered to read this far? Why?

Does anyone even care if there is a Nevada STAMP Study Society? How many people have joined the club at their first meeting and never returned to another meeting or joined at NEVPEX and never attended a meeting? Did some of the arguments, egos, and personality insertions by some turn them off to our club? Did we fail in some manner to provide what they thought was going to be a group of people who were going to help them understand and enjoy their stamps more?

Should we dispense with the mess and hassle of fooling with stamps and, instead concentrate on being an Every-Other-Saturday social gathering place. If we did that, we could talk about upcoming musical concerts, our visit to West Undershirt, Arkansas, and what our nieces, cousins, grand children and great grand children were doing. The club would not have to rely strictly on Bill Brew to plan a program for our entertainment. We would not have to keep quiet when someone is trying to put on a program, because it wouldn't matter anyway (Hey, isn't that already happening? Frequently I can't hear the speaker due to all the separate private conversations going on between [obviously disinterested] members.). We would not have to waste time reading the Post Boy which Bill Brew sweats over, because none on the members are willing to submit articles for publication or to assist in its preparation or distribution. It would not have to be published. Also, some of us wouldn't have to throw it away unread because we aren't really interested anyway. We could, instead, merely submit articles to the Society page of the local newspapers and let them do the work for us. Jim Ringer would not have to work so hard trying

to substitute for Ruthe Dreiling in keeping track of the auctions. Matter of fact, we would not have to have auctions at all. Al Shay wouldn't have to keep trying to get someone to help auction off items. Kay Williams would not have to spend so much time trying to keep track of our expenses and income. There wouldn't have to be any. George Costello and Tom Morrissey would not have to work so hard trying to get youngsters involved in stamp collecting. They could save a lot of time and just recommend the youngsters go to the Coin Club and find out how to collect stamps. After all, aren't stamp collecting and coin collecting the same? We could have elections where Club Officers and Board Members are voted out without discussion or a legal quorum of the members of the club being present. We could disregard the NSSS by-laws and make up new rules and procedures as we went along. If the club decided to have a picnic or Christmas Party, we could ignore it and not attend, because we aren't really interested in what the club does anyway.

I am not an elected Officer or Board Member, so what I have to say is not pertinent anyway. Besides, who cares?

Darn it! I care! I want the Nevada Stamp Study Society to be a vital and ever expanding organization of caring people who love their stamps as much as I do! I want to help others understand what stamp collecting is all about. I don't care to tell them the way I collect or what I collect is what they should do. **Stamp collecting is probably the most personalized organized hobby in the world. Every collector collects differently.** Even if they collect the same stamps using the same albums, they do it differently. Some collect only Mint Never Hinged, others collect only Used. Some collect Blocks, others collect Plate Blocks, others collect Matched Plate Blocks. Some use stamp hinges, others use only stamp mounts. Some collect First Day Covers, others collect First Day Cover makers. Is anyone of these people more right than the others? No! Each person should collect what they want and how they want. Is anything the same about these different collections? Yes! They are all assembled by people who are doing what they enjoy. There are also a number of things all collectors need to know: How (Why) stamps are produced; How (Why) stamps are perforated; How (Why) (If) stamps are watermarked; How (Why) to use a catalog (any catalog, not just Scott's); etc., etc.

How can we get the Nevada Stamp Study Society back on track? Each member should decide for themselves whether the club provides for them the things they originally wanted from the club. Each member should write down a list of things the club should do or provide. These lists should be submitted to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors should look over these lists and discuss all of the items, no matter how outrageous they may appear at first glance. There should be complete and full feedback to not only the submitting member, but to the membership as a whole via the Post Boy (sorry, Bill) of the ideas and a meeting planned to discuss the ideas publicly. Encourage our too frequently absent members to attend that particular meeting. Let's get the membership more involved in decisions being made for them. Granted, the Board of Directors must have the final say on what new (or old) items are to be adopted or discarded, but the Board cannot do this job properly without involving the members.

OK, if you have lasted this long through this rambling diatribe, you (should) realize, I have just made my list of things for the club to do. **WHERE IS YOUR LIST?**

## What's your favorite stamp?

by

Tom Morrissey

Pioneers in this stamp are traveling through the Giant Cactus bordered by white sands and in the background is the map of 45,535 square miles of Mexican territory South of the Gila river. James Gasden, Minister to Mexico, purchased this area for 10 million dollars. This long narrow strip of land forms the Southern Border of New Mexico and Arizona. On, Dec. 30, 1853, the Gasden Treaty ((Treaty of Masilla) was concluded.

The Treaty probably averted war with Mexico, but more important, the settlement of a border question. This purchase paved the way for a trans-continental rail way to California, which was now rich with the gold strike at Sutters Fort.

I've often wondered why the stamp wasn't a 2 color green Cactus, with a brown or red background. In any event, it's one of my favorite stamps.

The map stamp, Scott No.1028, was first placed on sale 12-30-53 at Tucson, Arizona. The stamp commemorated the one hundredth anniversary of the Gadsden Purchase.

--30--



Thank you, Tom.

### Ed. Note:

The only method for printing two or more colors was not used until the Giori press was introduced. This machine could print two or three colors simultaneously. Prior to 1957, the flat bed press was used print. One run through the press for each color. This caused many invert errors and degrees of shift in the printing. The International Red Cross stamp, Scott 1016, was rotary printed, also, but, required two passes through the press to accomplish this. Memory strikes me as this issue had some printing errors. Especially, shift errors. However, we still have color shift errors in our present day issues.

from  
Thos Sumner Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1887

Chas GC  
Dear Jimmie

I have not answered your letter sooner, because I wanted to consider well, before acting. If I could think that a loan would do you any good I would make every effort to let you have the money, but after mature deliberation, I am convinced that it would not be for your good, you should be made to feel the want of money, if only to teach you, ordinary prudence in its use. When I remember that you got \$25.00 found for 5 or 6 months & at the end of that time had to borrow money to go to Dover, I feel sure that you must have squandered it in habits of vice, which I have always suspected was the chief result of your 2 years at the Citadel, for which your Mother & G. Mother paid \$600.00. Now do not think that I say this in an unkind spirit, I am willing to make allowances for the follies of youth, but think that it is wholesome for you to feel their legitimate consequences. I must therefore decline, altho it a very unpleasant thing to do, while it would afford me pleasure to help you, if I could see the case in a different light. T. S.

For those parents whose offspring touch them up for a few bucks now and then, This gentlemen, in his letter of 1887, handled the situation quite masterfully. He even blamed the situation on the boy's mother and grandmother.

Guernsey:

1. What British honor is Queen Elizabeth II shown wearing on the issue of 1977?
2. In what body of water are the Guernsey Islands located?