



STAMP
STUDY
SOCIETY

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POST BOY

N.S.S.S.

Presents

The Post Boy

March, 1999

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Ron Ely, a former member of N.S.S.S. passed away recently. Ron was active in N.S.S.S. for quite some time.

George Costello was back on the job at our Feb. 13, meeting. It was a welcome sight to see him at the meeting. That is why George was presented with the Spark Plug Award. We were running on 7 cylinders and now we are back to full power again. Great to see him again at the meetings.

The NEVPEX 99 show is going along quite smoothly and it will be something to look forward to in June. Dan Forgues needs help with his committees, so PLEASE volunteer to serve on one of the committees. It is so easy to do this. Just call him up or see him at the next meeting and ask him to assign you to a committee. Very simple. His phone number is 626-8223.

Cindy Scott is working on a new cachet for the show. It will be great as usual.

What a visit we had to the Post Office on Vassar. About 20 were in attendance and we had a great escorted tour of the place. Almost an hour and 45 minutes. We saw the fast machines in use for sorting mail, small and large packages. Afterwards we were given little goodies from the U.S. Postal Service. Pins and stamps. Great experience.

We had 31 members and 8 guests at our last meeting. One of the largest attended meetings in quite some time. There were 91 items up for auction of which 63 were sold. Great bargains and great items. This part of the meeting is getting better all the time. It pays to attend.

Refreshments were provided by Kieth Carvin. Donations to the door prize were given by Tom Morrissey, Frank Fey, George Costello, Kieth Carvin and Bill Brew.

Ed Hartley won the main door prize.

"To promote and enhance the hobby of Stamp Collecting"

N.S.S.S. has 6 new members. We welcome the Beekun Family. Mrs. Nadiah Beekun and family Muhib, Abdallah, Issa, Sumayya and Rafik. We look forward to their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the N.S.S.S. programs. Mr. Beekun was our guest.

NEVPEX 99 was discussed during the Feb. 27th program. Dan reported that all is going along smoothly, but does need VOLUNTEERS for the various committees. Please contact him as soon as possible. The show was announced in Linn's latest issue as well as in the Bay Area Communicator. Dick Dreiling noted that 8 dealers have signed up so far for the show. As the word gets out, more are presumed to be attending. It looks we are back to normal on the annual NEVPEX show. NEVPEX has been missed by the many other clubs in the Northern Council of California.

The summer picnic will be held at Rock Park at Rock Blvd and the Truckee river. It will be on Saturday, July 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. So bring your plates, utensils and one food entry for 6 people. Also games, stamps to trade or sell. There will be plenty of yak-yak. Also, if you like to fish, the Truckee River is just a pebble's throw from the picnic area.

It was announced the Post Card show will be held at Lawler Events center on April 17 and 18th. Good place to pick up stamps and etc.

George Costello is still on the mend and will be attending the meetings again, soon.

The Junior program is moving along. A little slowly here and there, but progress is noted both by Dick Dreiling for the Fernley area and by Chieu Ho in the local school area.

The cash prize was won by one of the Beekun children and Nadiah Beekun promptly donated it to the Junior Fund. Thank you very much, Nadiah.

Refreshments were provided by Vivian and Larry Scott.

Larry provided an excellent program on the postal history of South Africa. A history from the time of discovery by Vasco DeGama to the present day postal issues. Spain owned Cape Town until the Dutch took over in the late 1700's. British took over in 1795. When slavery was abolished in 1833, the Dutch moved to Orange Free state. Then a series of break-aways took place. Cape of Good Hope, 1853, Natal, 1857, Orange Free State, 1968 and Transvall 1869. Then the Boar War started in 1890 and finished in 1902. In 1910 The Union of South Africa was formed. From that several newer countries were formed. All the countries issued stamps at some time of another. Trying to collect them in the order formed was a challenge, but interesting.

Another great program by Larry Scott. Don't miss the next one.

A board meeting will be held on Mar. 13th. 11:00 a.m. at the Sparks History Museum.

Would the member holding Membership Card #46, please contact Jerry Stanfield at 825-1350. Call anytime and leave your name on my answering machine, if I am not a home.

This announcement is a little bit early, but here it is anyway. The Reno Stamp Fair will be held at the Airport Plaza Hotel on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Free admission. 15 stamp and cover dealers will be there. Door prizes, free appraisals, kids gifts, free parking and free periodicals. This reminder will be published again at a time closer to October.

Also, there will be a Postcard and Paper Collectibles Show at the Lawler Events Center on April 17 and 18th. Admission is \$4.00. This could hold some sources for philatelic material for those interested.

Al Shay announced the death of Herman Hearst. Herman was considered the most prolific philatelic writer in the world. Almost all philatelic publications contained one or more of his articles, practically in every issue. He was also noted for setting up two postal services. His dog was one who carried the mail from the Post office to his home and in Naples, Florida, the Bicycle

route which he took to mail and pick up mail from the Post Office. He franked each cover with a 2 cent or 5 cent cancel of his own designed. Of course, it was in addition to the U.S.P.O. stamps and cancels.

The program at the last meeting will be followed a program to be given by Dan Forgues. The subject will be "Tagging on U.S. Stamps." This, too, will be another fine program This will be on April 10.

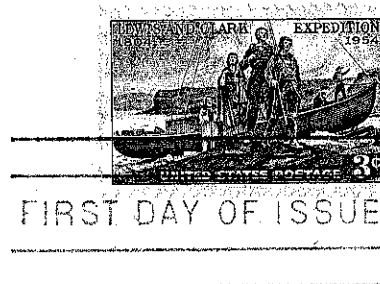
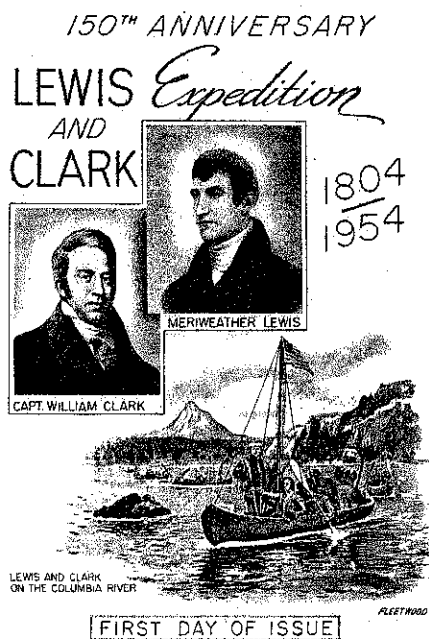
The refreshments for the next meeting, March 27 will be provided by Tom Morrissey.

For Your Info: The United States Postal Service plans to become a dealer in the sale of foreign issues. They will be selling stamps from Mexico, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, The United Nations, Israel and Ireland. The postal service just published "The International Collection," dated "Spring 1999." It is speculated that the Post Office's goal is 1 billion-dollar sales from stamp collectors. The dealers do not seem to be worried about the situation. Only a few of them deal in new issues from these countries.

You might desire to check your copies Minkus A7 (Scott C7) for a double transfer on the issue. The bottom line of the tailwing shows a double marking also the lower right portion of the frame line is also doubled. This is found only on the third stamp above the plate block number, counting the plate number stamp.

Did you know that John Vaaler invented the paperclip and he was recently recognized with a new issue 4-Kroner Norwegian stamp?

The following cover is the subject for this month's Auction Bucks. This cover refers to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Each correct answer will receive 25 Auction Bucks.



1. What year did the expedition take place?
2. On what river did they travel?
3. From what city did they start from and where did they end up?
4. What was the name of the female Indian who help guide them?
5. What was the name of the movie star that portrayed Clark in the movie?

In the news, recently, was an article about a special 1 cent coin produced in 1943. The gentleman explained that he came across one, but inadvertently, spent it. Now everyone is looking for this very expensive coin. Well, not to be outdone, the following article was taken from a recent issue of Stamp Collector. Read it and then start looking through your old boxes of used U.S. Stamps. Who knows, you might just have one of them. Minkus No. A99/Scott No. C99.

Imperforate airmail error discovered after 19 years

For the first time since it was issued nearly 19 years ago, an hitherto unknown imperforate version has come to light of the 28¢ Blanche Stuart Scott airmail stamp (Krause-Minkus A99 / Scott C99).

Two fully imperforate horizontal pairs and an imperforate block of four (since

first known for this issue, was made public by Mystic Stamp Co. of Camden, N.Y.

All four of the existing error pairs received certificates of authenticity from the Philatelic Foundation last September.

How much are they worth? Time and the marketplace will tell, but known values for



A large accumulation of stamps never carefully examined by the collector who owned them will pay off handsomely for the stamp dealer who did. He ends up with four imperforate horizontal pairs of the 1980 28¢ Blanche Stuart Scott airmail, a previously unrecorded major error.

subdivided into pairs as well) were discovered over the past year in a large lot of postage stamps. This hoard was accumulated — but evidently never carefully examined — by an unknown collector.

That accumulation was eventually acquired by the Colorado stamp dealer who now owns the errors, but prefers to remain anonymous.

The existence of these major errors, the

comparable errors suggest possible prices.

According to the section on imperforate airmail stamps in the 1999 U.S. Errors catalog of Stephen R. Datz, three imperforate 1980s airmail errors discovered in quantities of 15-25 pairs are currently valued at \$1,750-\$3,500 each.

That should make these four newly found error pairs worth at least \$15,000 or more — perhaps a very great deal more.

Stamp Forgeries

By Christer Brunstrom

Most collectors know that many classic and valuable stamps have been forged. What is less well known is the fact that a substantial amount of quite common and inexpensive stamps have also been forged and often in large numbers.

Before World War II many youngsters (and older people, too) collected stamps on a worldwide basis. To get new stamps for their albums they bought packets from dealers. As it was sometimes difficult to find sufficient quantities of stamps from certain popular countries unscrupulous dealers produced forged stamps in large quantities to be included in these packets.

Today the packet trade is not as brisk as it used to be and hence very few modern stamps are being forged (although there have been a few recent cases in the Far East where colourful Disney stamps have been forged to be sold to unsuspecting collectors).

Loads of stamps from countries like Estonia and Fiume have been forged. The stamps were issued way back in the 1920's but they are still plentiful and inexpensive today. The catalogues tell us (sometimes) that forgeries exist but they don't give a clue as to how the forgeries can be identified. This is really a problem as many of the more common stamps from countries like Estonia and Fiume offered by the trade are indeed

blatant forgeries.

In a recent auction catalogue I spotted an offer of North Ingermanland 1920 pictorials. It was quite obvious from the photo of one of the stamps in the set that they were forgeries. The auctioneer obviously didn't know how to tell the bad from the good stamps.

A Finnish collector, G. Kock, recently compiled and published a *World Forgery Catalogue*. It is a 90-page book which lists more than 3,000 stamps or sets which have been forged. This is indeed a tremendous amount of stamps and we are more than likely to find many of them in our own collections or in dealers' stocks.

Kock does not explain the differences between the genuine and the forged stamps. Instead he has listed them in alphabetical order (from Afghanistan to Zululand including the United States, Canada and many other countries in America) with Michel and Scott catalogue numbers. He has then included details about the reference works where complete details can be found. Only books which are readily available in philatelic libraries or from philatelic book sellers have been included.

Kock's book can be a valuable tool to anyone who wants to find out more about his or her stamps. The book sells for US\$15.00 (dollar bills) postpaid from G. Kock, Vanhav. 20B, FIN-00830 Helsinki, Finland. It should be noted that the book is entirely in English.

In recent years a lot of important philatelic books have been published in Finland. At the auctions I attend interest in Finnish stamps and covers is very strong which suggests that stamp collecting is very active in that Nordic nation.

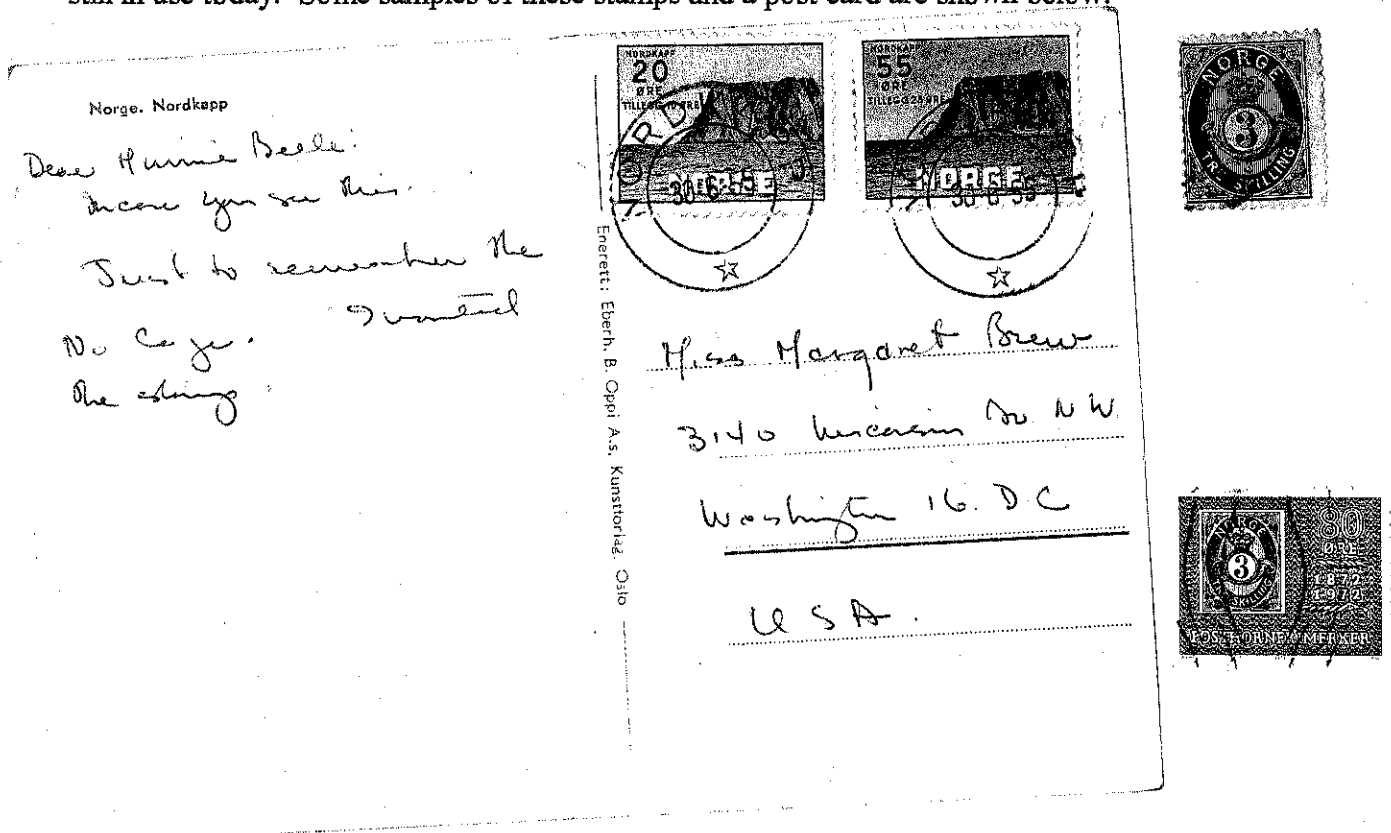
The above article is from a recent issue of Stamp Collector. Not all forgeries are done to create an expensive stamp.

Read on.

The Postal System of Norway

The first postmen in Norway were the Vikings. They had developed a 'message stick'. This device was a stick of wood with a point of iron or copper. Their inscriptions on the stick were messages of a warning nature. The metallic point tip allowed the deliverer to hurl it to the door or wall of a home. The home owner would then hurl it to the next house, thusly, the warning message was passed around. In 1647, the regular postal services were introduced. When Norway became an independent kingdom, in 1814, all postal activities were centered in Oslo.

Norway's first stamp was issued on Jan. 1, 1855. Parcel Post began in 1870. Steamship service between Bergen and Newcastle in England began in 1890. Rail service with Sweden began in 1871. Air mail service began in 1920, but was not used too much prior to World War II. The coastal service was used extensively to serve the Norwegian coastal villages. The ships usually had a post office on board, whose duty was to cancel, deliver and carry mail from fjords to fjords. Today there are over 5000 post offices. The "posthorn" issues, first printed in 1871 are still in use today. Some samples of these stamps and a post card are shown below.



Place your answers to the Auction Bucks quiz on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____