

P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in the Sparks Heritage Museum at Pyramid and Victorian Avenue



# N.S.S.S.

## POST BOY

January 26, 2002

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We had the first meeting of the year. It's been a while since the last meeting unless you count the Christmas party. We had more than 30 members show up on this fine January day.

**Nadiah Beekun** brought in three white carnations, tied with black ribbon in honor of **George Costello, Jerry Stanfield and Tom Morrissey**, our clubs three closed albums. **Dick Dreiling** asked us for a moment of silence for their memory.

**The Greater Area Stamp and Coin Show 2002**, to be held on June 15, 2002, has induced seen dealers to sign up. We hope to have three more (a total of ten) for the stamp club and expect to have thirty dealers for the coin club. **Nadiah Beekun** made up some flyers to pass out for the members to post. Hopefully, there will be a good turnout again this year.

**A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:** The museum provides us with a free meeting place in exchange for a little help with the museum. They are getting desperate for volunteer helpers. If anyone would like to help out as a docent, with fund raising, tours or history and research, please contact:

**Lois Graves 355-1144**  
in the mornings, Tuesday through Friday.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, the 26th. Same time same place.

Please, if you have the time, pay attention to Dick's message. These people have been kind enough to donate space for us to meet, let us be kind enough to keep up our end of the bargain and volunteer to help keep the museum running.

I took this article from the internet. It is written by John Tollan and taken from his website called "Postal History. The Ultimate Philatelic Website!" The address is <http://www.postalhistory.org/>. There are several other interesting pages on this site including "Basic Forgery Detection" and "Postage Rates Worldwide (for the modern postal historian)." I may be inclined to reprint from this site in the future.

## What is postal history?

### Postal history topics

- Pre-adhesive mail
- Development of postal services
- Postal rates
- Mail routes
  
- Postal markings (marcopily)
- Military mail, fieldpost, siege mail
- POW and internee camp mail
- Maritime mail
- Inland waterway mail
- Railway mail
- Traveling post offices
- Disaster mail
- Censorship mail
- Postage due mail
- Automation of the mails
- Forwarding agent's markings
- Official mail and free frank mail

Based on F.I.P. (International Philatelic Federation) regulations for postal history exhibits.

**postal history** is the study of material carried by, and related to, official, local or private mails. It illustrates routes, rates, markings, usages and other aspects, services, functions and activities related to the history of the development of postal services. Postmark collections (marcophilly) demonstrate classifications and/or studies of postal markings related to official, local or private mails on covers and other postal items.

Based on F.I.P. regulations for postal history exhibits

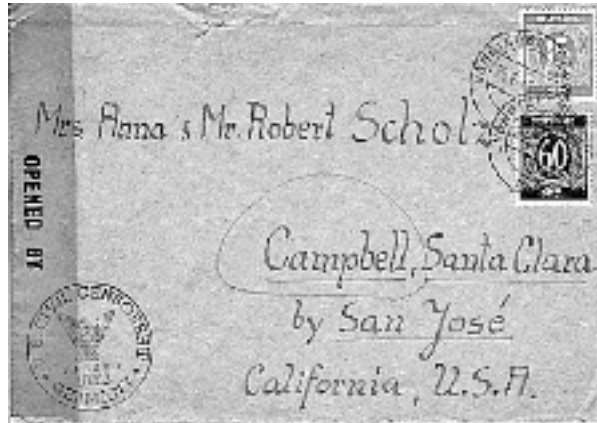
**postal history** is telling the story of how mail has been handled, who has handled it, and why. In postal history, research is necessary to interpret a cover and its postal markings. In doing so one comes face to face with the history and the personalities of a particular event, place or postal service

### a comprehensive definition??

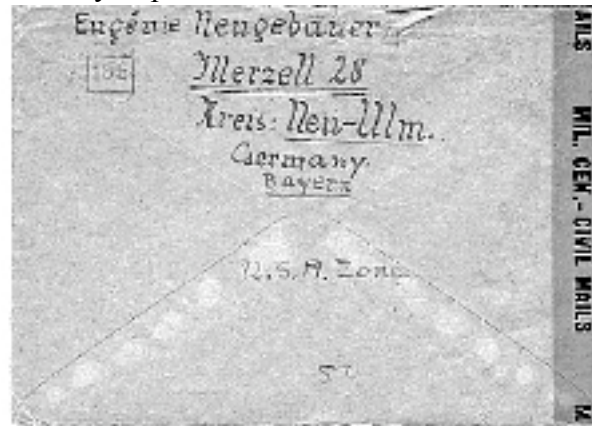
It's difficult to lay down a comprehensive definition of postal history, simply because, in the end, how you collect is up to you! However, if you collect with a view to exhibiting, know that there are rules to be followed. If you collect for your own enjoyment, you are limited only by your imagination!

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.

**Civil Censorship**



Censored mail is a popular area of postal history. The cover above is a letter sent from the American zone of Occupied Germany after the end of World War II. Two things on this side of the cover identify it as a censor cover. The tape on the left indicate where the letter was opened and resealed and who it was opened by. In this case, the “MIL. CEN.- CIVIL MAILS” (Military censor of civilian mails). There is also a cachet stamped in the lower left corner That reads “U.S. Civil Censorship \* Germany. The date on the postmark reads 20-6-46 (June 6th 1946). European dates read the month and day opposite the way Americans do. Civil censorship began with the surrender of Germany and continued, officially till the beginning of 1947. Most of the censorship stations were closed by September of 1947.



Underneath the first name of the sender is the cryptic number 13b in a block stamped on the envelope. This number apparently denotes a violation of some censor code. The research on this aspect isn't yet complete. The letter was sent from Bavaria (Bayern) to California for a correct postal rate of 75 pfennigs

The censor tape a plastic type, similar to scotch tape of the era. This is unfortunate as the glue used on the tape has dried over the years and soaked into the envelope. The tape itself is beginning to separate from the paper. Only time will tell how this will affect the cover.

Elephants can't jump. Every other mammal can.

## The Computer Corner

Did you go to the library to visit your computer? Then I'll have to give you reason to make the trek. Most of us like to investigate the secrets of our stamp collections. Why was this stamp issued, when was it issued, who does it honor, etc., etc., etc.? There is a lot of information out there on the "web" and I know where some of it is.

Start with Sandafayre. This is a British company who sells stamps through their auctions. I'm not recommending that you buy stamps from them. European auctions tend to run a little higher, price wise, than American auctions. But, Sandafayre has the "Stamp Atlas".



Point and click on the lower right. The Stamp Atlas contains a lot of information about stamp issuing countries such as, when they first issued stamps, currency involved, a brief history of the country, etc.. There are also maps that show the country as it first evolved and as it progressed to it's present day configuration. There is a history of Europe's early Royal Post Roads dating before 1650 that the Royals used maintain control over their dominions

### **The Royal Posts**

The need for rulers to maintain control over and contact with every corner of their dominions led to the creation of the Royal Posts.

Before 1650, European posts for use by the public were virtually non-existent and correspondence between countries depended on the need either for the Royal courts or the rulers to transmit messages or for the maintenance of commercial information between merchants. At that time, many of the



This site is full of useful information for the collector. It's a good place to begin your research.

It also has a stamp gallery where you can look at some very rare stamps. Take a peek, you may find one of your own stamps in there.

Cat's urine glows under a blacklight.

Okay, Here's the tough quiz I promised last week. I managed to squeak out a 40% correct on this one. Answers for last week's test are at the end of this one. 10 auction bucks per correct answer.

1. For how much was the Hope Diamond insured when it was mailed to the Smithsonian institution in 1958?

- About \$500,000
- About \$1,000,000
- About \$5,000,000

2. In Sept. 1918, the U.S. Post Office sent two pilots on a path finding flight between which two U.S. cities in an effort to expand the countries airmail service?

- New York and Chicago
- New York and Saint Louis
- New York and Detroit

3. A popular style of stagecoach was used in the late 1800's throughout the American west to carry passengers and mail between towns. From which New England town did these stagecoaches take their name?

- Burlington, Vermont
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Concord, New Hampshire

4. This actor portrayed the character "Cliff Claven," the know-it-all mailman for 11 years on the television series "Cheers."

- John Ratzenberger
- George Wendt
- Ted Danson

5. The tunnel shaped mailbox is a common sight on our rural roads. What year was it deigned?

- 1905
- 1915
- 1925

6. As train traffic began to slow, Highway Post office Service was inaugurated in 1941 to replace portions of the Railway Mail Service. When did Highway Post Office Service end?

- 1968
- 1974
- 1980

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.

7. Dog sleds were used to carry mail in Alaska throughout the 19th century and into the 20th. What mode of transportation eventually replaced most of the sleds?

- Automobiles
- Trains
- Airplanes

8. Rural Free Delivery Service began as an experimental service in West Virginia, The service became very popular, and was soon in great demand. By 1906, how many miles of American roads were covered by Rural Free Delivery?

- 500,000
- 600,000
- 700,000

9. V-Mail was the name given to a process of reproducing miniaturized messages by microphotography from 16 mm film during World War 11. The system of microfilming letters was based on the use of special V-mail letter sheets which were a combination of letter and envelope. Why were they used during the war

- To prevent spies from reading the letters
- To save badly needed transportation space
- To test the eyesight of military personnel.

10. In the 20th century, postal vehicles were first painted olive drab, then in the 1950's, red, white and blue. In what decade did they begin to be painted almost all white?

- 1960's
- 1970's
- 1980's

There you have it and here are the answers for the last test:

1. Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster General.
2. All of the above.They carried mail everywhere.
3. All of the above. Train workers did it all.
4. Owney was a mongrel dog.
5. Introduced Streetcars, tubes and autos.
6. They didn't have to go to town.
7. Airmail in 1918.
8. Chosen by the Stamp Advisory Committee.
9. Commemoratives honor a person, place, thing.
10. All of the above
11. By photographically reducing letters.

Answers are worth 9 auction bucks each. If you answered #4 correctly, that should be worth an extra auction buck.

*A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.*