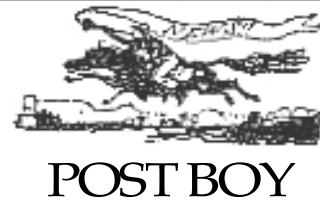


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

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.



February 23, 2002

**President:**

**Dick Dreiling**

35 Mc Lemore Ct.,  
Sparks, NV 89436  
(775) 425-0623

**Vice President:**

**Jim Ringer**

605 E. Huffaker Ln.,  
Reno, NV 89511  
(775) 853-3137

**Secretary/Editor:**

**Nadiah Beekum**

2560 Howard Dr.  
Sparks, NV. 89434  
(775) 355-1461

**Treasurer:**

**Michael Mc Auliffe**

4820 Pinespring Dr.,  
Reno NV 89509  
(775) 826-1848

**Editor:**

**Howard Grenzebach**

180 Pompe  
Lemmon Valley  
(775) 972-6301

**Directors:**

**Nadiah Beekum**

2560 Howard Dr.  
Sparks, NV. 89434  
(775) 355-1461

**Stan Cronwell**

10000 Blue Spruce Dr.,  
Reno, NV 89511  
(775) 849-7850

**Frank Fey**

2601 Monterey Circle  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 826-1476

**James S. Goodwin**

50 E. Quail St.,  
Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 358-7781

**Ed Hartly**

1285 Baring Blvd.,  
PMB # 306  
Sparks NV 89434

(775) 626-8513

**Al Shay**

2930 Outlook Dr.,  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-8304

**Brandon Wimbley (Jr. Rep.)**

3965 Pargue Verde,  
Reno. Nv 89502

It was a beautiful day outside. Nice weather for the golf course. In spite of that we still had excellent attendance at the meeting. As **Dick Dreiling**, our president reminded, we are maintaining an average attendance of 75% of the club membership each week. Kudos to us all!

**Brandon Wimbley** held his second meeting of the Juniors Program. Brandon says he feels quite confident in the success of this program. We need to continue to introduce young people to this hobby of ours if we're going to keep it alive into the next century. Brandon is a good choice for the position.

Two layout proposals for the upcoming Stamp and Coin Show were aired at the last club meeting. The first proposal, made up by the coin club, placed most of the stamp dealers against two walls. **Dick Dreiling's** proposal gave the stamp dealers another wall (they prefer wall space) and scattered them a little more evenly around the room. The coin club may agree with Dick's proposal. Let's not forget to thank Dick for the time he has spent putting this show together for us. I'm sure he will welcome any help that's offered.

At the last stamp show we were lucky to have several very excellent exhibits on hand. These exhibits are a draw for the show as well as an educational tool that will teach non-collectors about our hobby and the

variety of the ways we collect. The "People's Choice Award" is a prime way to get the non-collectors that come in with their significant others to take a closer look at what we do. Who knows, it might bring a new collector into our ranks. If you would like to put a exhibit together this year, contact Dick Dreiling. He will be happy to make room for you.

**Nadiah Beekum** has been holding meetings for the Junior stamp Club at the Mendive library on Tuesdays. The library has been very helpful to Nadiah in making sure that the children are not intruded on during their meeting. They have given the club a room that is downstairs and out of the way of the library's regular patrons. If the children make a little noise, no-one else is disturbed. Nadiah could use some help with the Junior meetings. If you like kids this is a great opportunity to spend some "quality time" with a great bunch. No special qualifications, just a desire to be there and help out. The kids would love to see you and Nadiah might be grateful for the help.

There is a really big shew coming up from April 26th to the 28th in San Francisco. It's called "**Westpex**". There will be a 300 frame exhibit and a 75 dealer bourse. This would be a great place to go for some ideas for your exhibit at the **Greater Reno Stamp and Coin Show** in June. Cost for Westpex will be \$3.00 for three days.

I hope this is a matter of interest to you all. We might, as a group, give consideration to creating a reference book of fake stamps. Many fakes are pretty easy to spot. Some can be picked out with help from books like Linn's "Focus on Forgeries" by Varro Tyler. A company called AMR Monthly Sales produced the following material on their website. The address is:

<http://WWW.AMRSTAMPS.COM/index.shtml>

They have a page called "Features" that has a lot of interesting information on several pages. This is only one of them.

## Faked Stamps

We will assume that the stamp design you are looking at has a space in your album or is listed in your catalog: Scott, Gibbons, Yvert i. e. the catalog of your choice. But the stamp you are looking at may not be genuine. It may have been altered or counterfeited. Lets talk about altered stamps first since that is what most collectors are likely to be concerned with. Counterfeited stamps are usually inexpensive postage whereas altered stamps are generally expensive.

It is relatively easy to alter stamps though it is a painstaking and time consuming process because one is working with tiny parts of a small item. Generally altered stamps sell for hundreds of dollars because it isn't worth altering a cheap stamp. Expensive stamps are usually made by taking genuine stamps and reperfoming them or cutting off the perforations, regumming, applying overprints and cancels (First Day Covers have been made after the date of issue by applying fake cancels), removing dots and lines, adding and reinforcing dots and lines, thinning paper and changing colors.

A famous example of thinning, regumming and perforating are the Columbian proofs. The proofs are cheaper than the stamps and so they are a principal target for altering. The card proofs are thinned so that the proof feels like paper, then it is gummed and perforated. In genuine production sheets of stamps have the gum applied before they are perforated so this process of altering the proofs is difficult to detect because the gum on the altered card proof does not show on the perf tips if the gum is applied before perforating. If the forger really wants to go to some trouble, the gum can be removed from inexpensive Columbians and applied to altered proofs.

Many Washington-Franklin stamps are altered. This is because there are many cheap stamps which can readily be made into expensive stamps. Imperforate stamps can be perforated. Perforated stamps can have the opposite sides cut straight so that the stamp looks like a coil. Even pairs of stamps are not immune to altering in this manner. Colored dots can be added, lines can be thickened and unwanted dots and lines can be scraped away.

Scott's U. S. Specialized catalog will tell you a lot about the Washington- Franklins, but Paul Schmid's book entitled. 'The Expert's Book' will tell your more. It has 5" x 6" pictures of the stamp with the discriminating marks circled. Another book by Schmid entitled, 'How to Detect

Damaged, Altered, and Repaired Stamps' will tell you a lot about the forger's craft. The Serrane Guide (now being republished by The American Philatelic Society) is one of the most definitive regarding non-U. S. stamps. Linn's Stamp News publishes a small article entitled, 'Focus on Forgeries' every couple of weeks or so.

Overprints and cancels are very easy to fake. All it takes is a rubber stamp, a knife and a stamp pad. Many of the Kansas-Nebraska sets have been faked using cheap, but genuine, stamps. Fancy cancels can be faked by cutting a cork to look like a cancel and applying it to a non-canceled stamp. That is one reason unused stamps are generally more valuable than used ones. If it were the other way round then used stamps would be forged all the time using unused stamps and there would hardly be any unused stamps for you to collect. Can one put a stamp and a fake cancel tying the stamp to an envelope? Not too much trouble at all.

As to counterfeits. It's similar to counterfeiting money. These days it's too much trouble to counterfeit a coin but people have done it. Counterfeiting stamps is easy especially with modern day technology. In the July 19, 1993 issue of Linn's Stamp News there is a front page article regarding stamps which have been counterfeited using a color photocopier and a black and white photocopier. The stamps that were counterfeited were 5, 19 and 20 cent stamps. From the article it doesn't seem as if these stamps were counterfeited in huge quantities.

In the days when you could send a letter for 10 cents, the 10 cent blue Jefferson Memorial stamp was counterfeited. These stamps were printed by the thousands and sold to organizations that use stamps in large amounts. Naturally they were sold for less than the Post Office sells them. Since they were printed like labels the counterfeiters made a great deal of profit.

Counterfeiting has been going on for decades. In the twenties there was a ring of counterfeiters extending into Canada that printed 2 cent stamps.

Postal Inspectors are the ones who track down people who abuse the mail system. They have a great deal of authority to make sure that the laws applying to the postal service are followed.

For some reason many of the people who fake or counterfeit stamps do it rather sloppily. Thus, you can detect fraudulent stamps without resorting to chemical analysis or spectroscopy. The techniques of the counterfeiter are getting better and it is not clear how many phony stamps go undetected. If you have any doubts send it to an expertising committee and get a certificate. This will enhance the value of your collection and offset any cost you have for the expert opinion.

*Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down -- hence the expression "to get fired."*

## The Computer Corner

**Filateli** <http://WWW.FILATELL.NET/>



I realize that only one of our membership collects Indonesia. This is part of the page that comes up when you type in the above mentioned website. If you click on one of these logos, it will take you to that site and will also open a column to the left that will lead you to all kinds of information that doesn't deal with Indonesian philately. What it does deal with is Aerophilately, philatelic books and literature, journals and forums, libraries, organizations, postal history, postal administrations and other neat stuff. While the site does have a large amount of information on Indonesian philately, it also handles the rest of the world, too.

Some of the links on the site are broken. The site was last up-dated in 1999. Have a little patience and you will *probably* be rewarded with the information you seek. Even if you're not looking for specific information, it's a good site for exploration. You're liable to find information you need that you weren't even looking for. As an example, I found the Beatles guest book sign-in page, complete with three archives. Well, maybe you don't need that, but it is interesting.

The page called "philatelic Chatting" was created on December 10, 1998. The next chat is set to start on Monday, December 14, 1998. This indicates to me that this may be one of the in-operable links. It might be worth a try, however. Possibly it's just this page that hasn't been up-dated since it was first published.

The "philatelic Dictionary", aside from being a good (and handy) "book," is open to the public for continued up-dating. Do you have a definition to add to it? You can re-define a word if someone got a definition wrong or you have better way of putting it. And, oh yeah, you can look up a word if you don't know what it means.

"Postal History" contains a lot of information and several good links to pages that deal with the postal history of several countries.

There is also "Philately for Beginners" as well as writers/ press, philatelic home pages and yellow pages. Did I mention Japanese philately, dealers, auctioneers malls, maximaphily thematics and the all inclusive "Other". And quite a bit about Indonesian philately, too. If you don't have a computer at home, go to the library and check this page out. It's a winner.

*Five Jell-O flavors that flopped: celery, coffee, cola, apple, and chocolate.*

Ten new questions to test your stamp collecting mettle. This is actually a continuation of the last quiz, I just changed the numbers. The first question appears similar to the 6th question on the last quiz but is different in that it refers only to US stamps. As usual, ten auction bucks per correct answer. Good luck!

1. While many collectors consider the Colombian series of 1893 as the first United States commemorative stamp, there was an earlier issue, which some think may qualify as well. What stamp was it?
2. Is there any difference between the terms "cancellation" and "postmark"? If so, what is it?
3. In printing, what is the difference between engraving, photogravure and offset lithography?
4. What is a "provisional" stamp?
5. What does the term "tete-beche" mean in printing parlance, and how does it occur?
6. The first nation to issue adhesive postage stamps was Great Britain in May, 1840. What was the second nation?
7. There is a United States stamp showing a one-armed man. Which stamp is it and what was his claim to fame?
8. There are many United States stamps depicting Benjamin Franklin. There is only one, however, depicting Franklin taking part in a dangerous experiment. Which stamp is it, and what was the experiment?
9. When was the first Christmas stamp issued by the United States, and what did it depict?
10. Who was the first identifiable African American shown on a United States stamp, when was it issued and what was he honored for?

Well? How did you do? Some of those questions are tricky. Who was the second country to issue stamps, anyway??

Answers for the last quiz are on the next page.

*The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.*

#1	Vatican City	108.7 acres
	Monaco	481 acres
	San Marino	24.1 square miles
	Liechtenstein	61.8 square miles
	Andorra	179 square miles

In the past, there were other "postage stamp" size stamp issuing entities, all of which have been since absorbed by their neighbors

	Heligoland	1/4 square mile
	Saseno	2 square miles
	Fiume	8 square miles
	Dalmatia	113 square miles

#2 The wild goose. Legend has it that a Chinese ambassador was mistreated by a treacherous prince. The ambassador wrote letters describing his condition and attached them under the wings of wild geese. One of the migrating geese was brought down by the Emperor while hunting, who found and read the letter. He freed the ambassador and punished the prince for daring to mistreat his representative. Wild geese may be found depicted on the Chinese issues of 1897-1912, 1949, and the airmail issues of 1969.

#3 Afghanistan. The earliest issues of 1871-77 were frequently invalidated by cutting or tearing the word "mahsul", meaning "postage" or "fee", from the stamp design. When a post office clerk sold a stamp across the counter to a patron, he would cut or tear it before it was placed on the letter. This was a sure preventative against reuse.

#4 Germany, in 1923, issued a stamp with a face value of 50 billion Marks. In January, 1919, the exchange rate was 8.9 Marks to the U.S. Dollar. By June, 1922, it took 320 Marks to equal a Dollar. By the summer of 1923, inflation had gotten so rampant that one U.S. Dollar was equal to 353,412 Marks. Peoples' lifetime savings were wiped out in less than one year.

#5 Normally the U.S. flag shows 13 alternating red and white stripes, one for each of the original 13 colonies. However, in 1978, the Postal Service issued a 15-cent stamp depicting the Fort McHenry flag of 1814, which had 15 stripes. It was not until 1818 that Congress legislated that no more than 13 stripes were to be used on Old Glory.

#6 A United States collector might say "the Columbian Issue of 1893", but that is incorrect. The first commemorative stamp was issued by France in 1862. It depicted the Emperor Napoleon III, with the laurel of the conqueror on his brow. In 1859, France and Sardinia had defeated Austria and the prestige of the Second French Empire was high among nations. French Empress Eugenie suggested that the current postage stamps be replaced by new stamps depicting Napoleon III wearing laurels, similar to those of the ancient Roman conquerors. The first stamp of the new set to appear was a 2-centime denomination, issued on December 15, 1862.