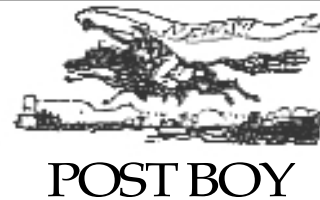


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

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.



March 9, 2002

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Another great turn out of the NSSS membership (this is getting boring). I counted 32 out of 44 members. Considering that we have members from Henderson NV and Sacramento, CA, not to mention Carson City and Chilcoot, we turn out for our meetings.

Stan Cronwell and **Bill Brew** attended the Airipex Show in Mesa, Arizona and returned with programs for us to see. the show was put on by the GPS (German Philatelic Society) and the Federated Stamp clubs of Arizona. I wonder if there are enough stamp clubs to create such a federation here in Nevada.

Speaking of stamps shows, the **Westpex 2002** is coming up on April 26 to the 28th and will be held in San Francisco. **Dick Dreiling** has some free tickets for the show, available to club members. The NSSS will receive credit for all club members who show for the show. Westpex 2002 will take place at the Cathedral Hill Hotel at Geary and Van Ness.

Cindy Scott is taking a course in photography at UNR. As part of an assignment for her class she set up her camera and flash for photographs of our meeting. "Everybody raise your hands." was the cry from Cindy as we voted to buy chairs for the museum in memory of our most recently passed members. The motion to buy 7 chairs was made by Ed Hartly and passed unanimously. Maybe we can get a picture or two to publish in the

next issue of the Post Boy.

If you would like to help the museum replace these old ratty folding chairs we are sitting on, you can purchase one (or more) for the museum for \$24.00 and they'll put your name on the chair. Several members wrote checks on the spot when Dick Dreiling brought up the subject at the last meeting.

The Greater Reno Stamp and Coin show will be held at the Atlantis Hotel on June 15th to June 16th. We're going to need some help on the 14th of that month to help direct setting up the show. There are currently 8 dealers signed to attend the show and a possible 9th. We can still use a few more exhibits for the show. If you're putting one together or would like to, talk to Dick Dreiling. If you have a friend from out of town who would like to attend, the Atlantis is setting aside a block of rooms with special rates.

The program for the last meeting was given by **Dick Dreiling** on how to read the Scott catalog. The example used was a star shaped stamp that Dick described as a "Private Die Proprietary." It was found in the US Specialized Catalog. Turned out to be a post Civil War stamp worth \$400.00 The value of which was destroyed by cutting it into a star shape. Too bad.

Don't forget to save the last page of each issue. Learn how to exhibit.

Are you interested in United States postal history? What better place to look than the U. S. Post Office. The picture below was taken from a USPS website. I found it through a website I featured in the last issue of the Post Boy called philateli.com. It's quite an impressive site. I'm only printing part of the first subject "**Significant Dates in Postal History**". There's lots more!

<http://www.usps.gov/history/hisl.htm>



Home

History of the U.S. Postal Service

1775-1993

Preface

When the Continental Congress named Benjamin Franklin the first Postmaster General in 1775, the United States was a weak confederation of colonies scattered along the eastern seaboard. The postal system that the Congress created helped bind the new nation together, support the growth of commerce, and ensure a free flow of ideas and information.

In the more than two centuries since, the United States and the Postal Service have grown and changed together. Today, the Postal Service fuels the nation's economy and delivers hundreds of millions of messages and billions of dollars in financial transactions each day to eight million businesses and 250 million Americans. The Postal Service is making history, too, as it helps lead the way in making the federal government more businesslike and responsive to customer needs.

This is the story of the evolution of the Postal Service and the role it has played in the development of the United States.



Significant Dates in Postal History


- 1639- Richard Fairbanks' tavern in Boston named repository for overseas mail
- 1775- Benjamin Franklin, first Postmaster General under Continental Congress
- 1789- Samuel Osgood, first Postmaster General under Constitution
- 1823- Navigable waters designated post roads by Congress
- 1825- Dead letter office
- 1829- Postmaster General joins Cabinet
- 1830- Office of Instructions and Mail Depredations established, later Office of the Chief Postal Inspector
- 1838- Railroads designated post routes by Congress
- 1845- Star routes
- 1847- Postage stamps
- 1852- Stamped envelopes
- 1855- Registered Mail
- 1855- Compulsory prepayment of postage
- 1858- Street letter boxes
- 1860- Pony Express
- 1862- Railway mail service, experimental
- 1863- Free city delivery
- 1863- Uniform postage rates, regardless of distance
- 1863- Domestic mail divided into three classes

- 1864-** Post offices categorized by classes
1864- Railroad post offices
1864- Domestic money orders
1869- Foreign or international money orders
1872- Congress enacts Mail Fraud Statute
1873- Penny postal card
1874- General Postal Union (later Universal Postal Union)
1879- Domestic mail divided into four classes
1880- Congress establishes title of Chief Post Office Inspector
1885- Special Delivery
1887- International parcel post
1893- First commemorative stamps
1896- Rural free delivery, experimental
1898- Private postcards authorized
1902- Rural free delivery, permanent
1911- Postal savings system
1911- Carriage of mail by airplane sanctioned between Garden City and Mineola, NY; Earle H. Ovington, first U. S. mail pilot
1912- Village delivery
1913- Parcel post
1913- Insurance
1913- Collect-on-delivery
1914- Government-owned and -operated vehicle service
1916- Postal Inspectors solve last known stagecoach robbery
1918- Airmail
1920- Metered postage
1920- First transcontinental airmail
1924- Regular transcontinental airmail service
1925- Special handling
1927- International airmail
1935- Trans-Pacific airmail
1939- Trans-Atlantic airmail
1939- Autogiro service, experimental
1941- Highway post offices
1942- V-mail
1943- Postal zoning system in 124 major post offices
1948- Parcel post international air service
1948- Parcel post domestic air service
1950- Residential deliveries cut from two to one a day
1953- Piggy-back mail service by trailers or railroad flatcars
1953- Airlift
1955- Certified mail
1957- Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
1959- Missile mail dispatched from submarine to mainland Florida
1960- Facsimile mail
1963- ZIP Code and sectional center plan
1964- Self-service post offices
1964- Simplified postmark
1965- Optical scanner (ZIP Code reader tested)
1966- Postal savings system terminated
1967- Mandatory presorting by ZIP Code for second- and third-class mailers
1968- Priority Mail, a subclass of First-Class Mail
1969- Patronage no longer a factor in postmaster and rural carrier appointments
1969- First die proof of a postage stamp canceled on moon by Apollo 11 mission
1970- MAILGRAM
1970- Postal Reorganization Act
1970- Express Mail, experimental
1971- United States Postal Service began operation; Postmaster General no longer in Cabinet
1971- Labor contract achieved through collective bargaining for the first time in history of federal government
1971- Star routes changed to highway contract routes
1971- National service standards established: overnight delivery of 95% of airmail within 600 miles and 95% of First-Class Mail within local areas
1972- Stamps by mail
1972- Passport applications accepted in post offices
1973- National service standards expanded to include second-day delivery of parcel post traveling up to 150 miles, with one-day delivery time added for each additional 400 miles
1974- Highway post offices terminated
1974- First satellite transmission of MAILGRAMS
1976- Post office class categories eliminated
1976- Discount for presorted First-Class Mail
1977- Airmail abolished as a separate rate category
1977- Express Mail, permanent new class of service
1977- Final run of railroad post office on June 30
1978- Discount for presorted second-class mail
1978- Postage stamps and other philatelic items copyrighted
1979- Discount for presorted bulk third-class mail
1979- Postal Career Executive Service (PCES)
1980- New standards require envelopes and postcards to be at least 3 1/2" high and 5" long to be mailable
1980- INTELPOST (high-speed international electronic message service)
1981- Controlled circulation classification discontinued
1981- Discount for First-Class Mail presorted to carrier routes
1982- Automation begins with installation of optical character readers

The Computer Corner

http://www.pcug.org.au/~sheryll/Forgeries/Forgeries_article.htm

This week I'm featuring a website for you computer users that like to buy on eBay. I think you'll find this to be a useful site. It was put together by a lady named Sherry Oswald. She calls the site "eBay - forgeries, fakes, dodgy sellers, scams, the tip of the iceberg."




11 September, 2001 - a tribute from Australia

Click on the plaque to see photos taken on 17 September at the Memorial Service in Parliament House, Canberra, as well as some of the tributes placed at the US Embassy.

eBay - forgeries, fakes, dodgy sellers, scams

the tip of the iceberg




A visit to the [eBay Stamps chat board](#) is always an education. Specialists and collectors from many parts of the world do their best to answer questions on almost any topic (both philatelic and non-philatelic) that you care to name.

But they also perform another important function - that of the voice of the collecting community on eBay. Issues raised receive informed and often diverse commentary, to the point of action when less than ethical practices are discovered. Many a NARU of a scam auction seller is a result of eBay being quickly alerted by a concerned chat board member. Conversely, many a good deed by sellers is posted to show that honesty is still what counts.

There are several writers contributing their expertise to to this site. They are Jim Whitford-Stark, Schuylercrap, Peter Winter and Ashleigh Islington. A tough bunch of names to pronounce. Their work is thorough and scholarly. A lot of information can be used from this site for detecting forgeries even if you don't buy from eBay. This group of writers names names as

well as the sellers and what they sell. Below is part of the first page of the section called "U.S. Classics on eBay - as is". There are (according to my printer) 12 more pages.

U.S. Classics on eBay - as is Schuylercrap and Ashleigh Islington



Last updated: 14 February, 2002 (AEDST)

This article is aimed at educating stamp collectors of all levels on the pitfalls of buying U.S. classics on eBay. Schuylercrap's exposé on "[schuylerac](#)" comes from a long familiarity with this seller's listings. Ashleigh has provided the background for the article from her experiences of "gambling" on eBay lots, hoping to find nuggets of gold among the dross to fill the holes in her "Scott by prime number" collection on album pages.

Here you will find an overview of the problems facing collectors, including:

1. [recuttings, plate positions and printings](#) in major listings
2. the genuine rarities - grills, coils and perforation varieties
3. [tampered with stamps](#) - regummed or reperfected stamps, trimmed "coils" and more
4. the [Mint Never Hinged \(MNH\)](#) trend

A discussion of [eBay](#) lists some categories of sellers and the types of stamps they may sell.

The misdescription or misrepresentation of various classic issues is illustrated by sample listings of sellers. These include:

Other articles cover such subjects as what to do if you spot a fake on eBay and how to spot some of those fakes. What to do if you're selling a stamp that might not be real. Modern German forgeries on eBay. Fake overprints. There is also a feedback page where you can read what others have said about the articles written on this site. If you have some expertise to contribute, they always welcome new information.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," uses every letter in the alphabet. (Developed by Western Union to Test telex/twx communications)

This is the rest of the quiz. The last six questions. Interesting questions I think, that make you dig a little for the answers. As usual, 10 auction bucks for each correct answer. Will you make 60 bucks this time?

1. What country issued a stamp depicting a cherry-wood cannon, and what is its significance?
2. What is "Newfoundland currency"?
3. Someone who collects stamps is called a "Philatelist". A person who collects coins is called a "Numismatist." What is the name for someone who collects post cards?
4. The United States issued four lovely stamps in August of 1987 featuring lacemaking designs. However, there was a European country, famous for its lace, which issued a set of eight stamps depicting various lace patterns in February, 1960. What is the name of the country?
5. Man has long been intrigued with the concept of flight. The soaring balloon flights of the Montgolfier Brothers in France in 1783 captured the public imagination. However, it was not until 1877 that the first balloon was depicted on a regularly issued postage stamp. What country issued this stamp?
6. In printing, or philately, what does the term "key plate" mean? What areas of the world used "key plates" in printing their stamps?

There are a couple of tricky questions here, but I'm sure you're all up to the task. Good luck. Last issues questions are answered on the next page.

The Pentagon, in Arlington, Virginia, has twice as many bathrooms as is necessary. When it was built in the 1940s, the state of Virginia still had segregation laws requiring separate toilet facilities for blacks and whites.

Answers for the February 23 issue:

#1. The 15-cent portrait of Abraham Lincoln, issued in March, 1866. Lincoln was shot by actor John Wilkes Booth, on April 14, 1865. Early in 1866, having a need for a 15-cent stamp to prepay certain foreign rates, the Post Office Department placed an order with the National Bank Note Company of New York. Speculation is that the Department did not specify that the stamp was to depict Abraham Lincoln, but that the National Bank Note Company had a die already prepared with Lincoln's portrait, designed a frame, printed some examples in various colors, including black, and sent them to Washington for the Postmaster General's approval. The essay design was approved and the stamp was subsequently printed in black, the color for mourning. While no official documentation has been located saying this was to be a memorial stamp, the circumstances of the event indicate that it could very well be the first American commemorative stamp.

#2. A cancellation is any mark used to cancel or obliterate a stamp. It renders the stamp useless for further prepayment of postage. A postmark is any mark applied by the post office to any portion of a letter. For example, the marking "Incorrect address, return to sender", if it does not cancel the stamp, is a postmark.

#3. Answer - Engraving is where a design is actually carved, or deeply etched, into a metal plate. Then, in the printing process, ink flows into the crevices of the plate. When the plate is applied under pressure to dampened paper, the ink creates raised lines on the paper, which after drying, can be felt when a fingernail is lightly passed over it. In photogravure, prints are made from plates having an irregular groundwork, or grain. Designs are etched with acid into a metal plate, but the etching is very shallow. If one runs a fingernail across the design, no raised lines will be felt. The printed design is perfectly smooth.

#4. Provisional stamps are stamps issued under circumstances where there are no regularly issued stamps available. As an example, during the Civil War, before the Confederacy issued stamps of its own, some Southern postmasters had local printing shops print stamps of their own design for sale in their own post offices. These were withdrawn from sale later, when the Confederate States General Issues appeared in late 1861.

#5. "Tete-beche", a French term, literally means "head to foot". The term is applied when two stamps of the same design are so printed as to be inverted in relation to one another. This could occur in error, as in a case when a printer's apprentice may not be paying attention to which way the printing clichés were facing when he placed them into the printing form and locked them into place. Or, sometimes it was just the method of printing employed. "Turn and print" describes a method of printing one half a piece of paper, holding it level and turning the paper 180 degrees to print the other half. As will be realized, the stamps will be printed "head to foot".

#6. The Empire of Brazil was the second nation to issue adhesive postage stamps, first placed on sale August 1, 1843. These engraved stamps were nicknamed "Bull's Eyes", because the background of their large oval design reminded people of a bull's eye. While appearing earlier, on March 1, 1843, the Canton (province) of Zurich, Switzerland, first stamps are considered local or provincial stamps, and not national stamps.

#7. The John Wesley Powell commemorative issued August 1, 1969. Powell was a noted geologist who explored the Colorado River basin about 130 years ago. Powell lost his right arm below the elbow at the Battle of Shiloh in the Civil War, but did not let this handicap deter him in his work. He is shown on this stamp pointing out some hazard in the river with the stump of his arm.

#8. "Franklin taking electricity from the sky", as painted by Benjamin West. The stamp was issued January 17, 1956, on the 250th anniversary of Franklin's birth.

#9. The first Christmas stamp appeared on November 1, 1962, and depicted a Christmas wreath with candles.

#10. The first identifiable African American honored on a United States stamp was Booker Taliaferro Washington. His portrait is depicted on the 10-cent stamp of the Famous American Educators series, appearing on April 7, 1940.