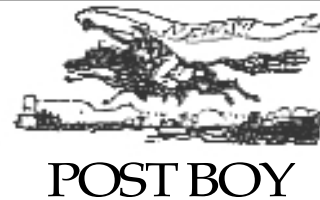


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

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.



April 13, 2002

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The new "state postcard" stamps are on the market and, as predicted by the Linn's readers, has met with stiff resistance. On the first day of sale in the regular Post Offices I went to the downtown office to buy some for this issue of the Post Boy only to be confronted by a sign that said, "Temporarily Sold Out." This was shortly after noon on Friday. Hopefully on Monday the Post Office will re-supply and each of you will have an early use cover with the new stamp. Guess the stamps weren't as ugly as the Linn's readers thought.

**Stan Cronwell** has been appointed Program director the club and as such, has twisted a few arms to give us some great programs for the coming meetings. Thanks Stan.

We have several interesting presentations coming up in the next few meetings. This month, for the April 27th meeting, Duane Wilson will tell us about Cachet making. I know we all have a lot to gain from this. On May 25th, Ed and Arlene will give us a little inside information about the ins and outs of being a dealer. That should be very helpful with the up-coming Stamp and Coin Show.

Make sure to attend the **The Greater Reno Stamp and Coin** show to be held at the Atlantis Hotel on June 15th to June 16th. because Stan Cronwell has set up the next meeting day (the 26th of June) for us all to give a program. We will, as a group, be giving a critique of the show in hopes of finding ways to improve next years

show. Bring your note pads and pencils and write down everything you see.

I have been writing this newsletter for a couple of months now and I find I cannot always cater to the various collecting interests of the club members. I would like to make a couple of suggestions.

It would be interesting to hear from different collectors about their respective collections. Similar to the programs we give every month only more directed towards the collection and how you gained an interest in it, as well as what you are doing with it now. I might include a questionnaire in the newsletter which can be filled by anyone who likes the idea and write the story from that.

A forum in this newsletter where you can ask stamp related questions ala Linn's. The answers can be given by anyone who knows the answer. I'm sure there are many questions that remain unanswered among us. I have a few myself. We are, after all, a stamp *study* society.

**From the President:**

A special thanks to **Arline and Ed Davies**, and **Stan Cronwell** for staffing the NSSS table at the Nevada stamp First Day of Issue in Carson City on April 4. They all did us proud.  
Dick Dreiling

*In Cleveland, Ohio, it's illegal to catch mice without a hunting license.*

In the last issue I featured the "History of the Post Office" as presented by the Post Office on the Postal History website. This week is a continuation of that history beginning with the Colonial "postal" system.

## 1775-1993

### United States Postal Systems

**On July 26, 1775, members of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, agreed ". . . that a Postmaster General be appointed for the United States, who shall hold his office at Philadelphia, and shall be allowed a salary of 1,000 dollars per annum . . . ."**

That simple statement signaled the birth of the Post Office Department, the predecessor of the United States Postal Service and the second oldest department or agency of the present United States of America.

#### Colonial Times

In early colonial times, correspondents depended on friends, merchants, and Native Americans to carry messages between the colonies. However, most correspondence ran between the colonists and England, their mother country. It was largely to handle this mail that, in 1639, the first official notice of a postal service in the colonies appeared. The General Court of Massachusetts designated Richard Fairbanks' tavern in Boston as the official repository of mail brought from or sent overseas, in line with the practice in England and other nations to use coffee houses and taverns as mail drops.

Local authorities operated post routes within the colonies. Then, in 1673, Governor Francis Lovelace of New York set up a monthly post between New York and Boston. The service was of short duration, but the post rider's trail became known as the Old Boston Post Road, part of today's U.S. Route 1.

William Penn established Pennsylvania's first post office in 1683. In the South, private messengers, usually slaves, connected the huge plantations; a hogs head of tobacco was the penalty for failing to relay mail to the next plantation.

Central postal organization came to the colonies only after 1691 when Thomas Neale received a 21-year grant from the British Crown for a North American postal service. Neale never visited America. Instead, he appointed Governor Andrew Hamilton of New Jersey as his Deputy Postmaster General. Neale's franchise cost him only 80 cents a year but was no bargain; he died heavily in debt, in 1699, after assigning his interests in America to Andrew Hamilton and another Englishman, R. West.

In 1707, the British Government bought the rights to the North American postal service from

West and the widow of Andrew Hamilton. It then appointed John Hamilton, Andrew's son, as Deputy Postmaster General of America. He served until 1721 when he was succeeded by John Lloyd of Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1730, Alexander Spotswood, a former lieutenant governor of Virginia, became Deputy Postmaster General for America. His most notable achievement probably was the appointment of Benjamin Franklin as postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737. Franklin was only 31 years old at the time, the struggling printer and publisher of *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. Later he would become one of the most popular men of his age.

Two other Virginians succeeded Spotswood: Head Lynch in 1739 and Elliot Benger in 1743. When Benger died in 1753, Franklin and William Hunter, postmaster of Williamsburg, Virginia, were appointed by the Crown as Joint Postmasters General for the colonies. Hunter died in 1761, and John Foxcroft of New York succeeded him, serving until the outbreak of the Revolution.

During his time as a Joint Postmaster General for the Crown, Franklin effected many important and lasting improvements in the colonial posts. He immediately began to reorganize the service, setting out on a long tour to inspect post offices in the North and others as far south as Virginia. New surveys were made, milestones were placed on principal roads, and new and shorter routes laid out. For the first time, post riders carried mail at night between Philadelphia and New York, with the travel time shortened by at least half.

In 1760, Franklin reported a surplus to the British Postmaster General -- , a first for the postal service in North America. When Franklin left office, post roads operated from Maine to Florida and from New York to Canada, and mail between the colonies and the mother country operated on a regular schedule, with posted times. In addition, to regulate post offices and audit accounts, the position of surveyor was created in 1772; this is considered the precursor of today's Postal Inspection Service.

By 1774, however, the colonists viewed the royal post office with suspicion. Franklin was dismissed by the Crown for actions sympathetic to the cause of the colonies. Shortly after, William Goddard, a printer and newspaper publisher (whose father had been postmaster of New London, Connecticut, under Franklin) set up a Constitutional Post for inter-colonial mail service. Colonies funded it by subscription, and net revenues were to be used to improve the postal service rather than to be paid back to the subscribers. By 1775, when the Continental Congress met at Philadelphia, Goddard's colonial post was flourishing, and 30 post offices operated between Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Williamsburg.

*Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.*

**the Computer Corner**<http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/loctown.htm>

Many times we have several stamps with good, clear postmarks that tell us the date and time the letter it was used on was sent. It also has the town or city in which it originated. If it came from Reno or Mindon, we would have no problem locating it on a map. But what if it was sent from Lodz, Poland? I think most of us know where Poland is, but what part of Poland is Lodz in? Here's a site that will help you find any town in central Europe. I typed in Lodz and clicked on Poland then "search". The results were every town in Poland that started with an "L". I found that there are two Lodz's. One is a small town that is northwest of Warsaw. The other is a major urban area that incorporates several smaller towns. It is about a 100 miles closer and south west of Warsaw. The information was given as displayed below.

LODZ	5216 1645	N	Poland	179.6 miles W of Warsaw
LODZ	5145 1928	N	Poland	73.8 miles WSW of Warsaw

By clicking on the set of numbers (in blue on the website) a map by "Mapquest" was brought up, identifying the location of the town in question with a star. Mapquest allows you to toggle the map east or west or, if you prefer, you can zoom in or out to give yourself a better sense of the location of the town within the country by zooming out. Or, by zooming in, a better sense of the immediate locality.

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## ShtetlSeeker - Town Search

Search for town  in Central/Eastern Europe.

Narrow the search by a specific country?:

Measure distances in:

This site, unfortunately, is not for the U.S. specialist nor is it for everyone. It is a very good site if you like central European countries or you are a general collector.

If you have a site you'd like to share with the club, e-mail me at [Artfulputz@aol.com](mailto:Artfulputz@aol.com). I'll be glad to hear from you.

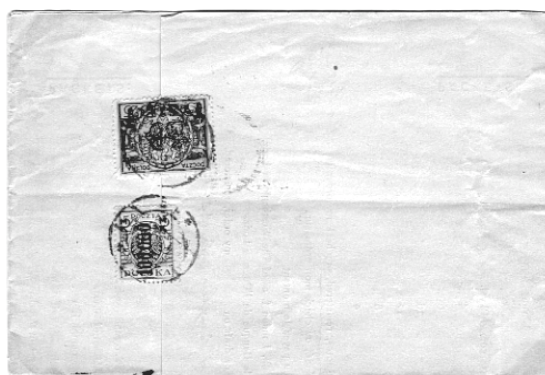
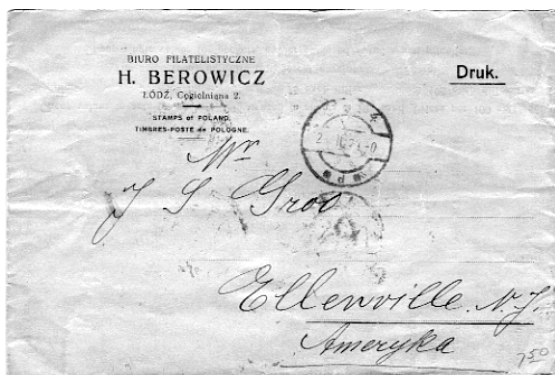
At the start of last month, this editor took a couple of weeks of vacation and spent a little time in the San Diego/ Palm Springs area for the sole purpose of refreshing my golf game. I did not buy one philate in all that time. However, when I returned to Reno, I made a trip to Chico and Auburn, California to investigate a couple of stamp stores, make a couple of purchases and gawk at whatever site there were to see.

I stopped in Chico first, to go to the Penny Ranch. It's located on East Avenue. If you're going north on highway 99 you take the East Ave. turnoff and turn left to go under the highway. Follow East Avenue to the end, you'll see the "Ranch" on the right side, across the street. They sell coins, stamps, baseball cards and comic books there (and, I'm sure, anything else that's collectible). The owner didn't seem to be very knowledgeable about stamps. Coins are probably his forte'. He charges whatever Scott says their worth and discount the tax and odd pennies change. Covers are negotiable. I found several stamps I needed for my Grenada collection and several interesting covers.

Then I went to Auburn. The stamp store there is actually the Western Union store. Stamps are a sideline. To get to this store go to Lincoln street, to the eastern most part of the rebuilt "old Town". It is on the north side of the street. Look for the yellow Western Union sign. I didn't get the owner's name but he is a great deal more knowledgeable than the previous dealer. I found several Azad Hind stamps that I've had a difficult time running down. **Hallaluhah**. This dealer also charges catalog prices, but gave me a reasonable discount on the stamps and covers I bought. Below is one of the covers.

Before I get to the cover I would like to voice my concern over the larger number of dealer using "catalog" to price their stamps. The Scott catalog bases it's stamp values on very fine condition of the stamp. Centering may be off a little to one side, not two. Original gum is expected and all perfs are in generally good condition. The stamp should have a good appearance with no scratches on the surface and the color is not faded. The above dealers did not seem concerned with those criteria and I did not argue the case. I simply rejected the stamps that did not live up to those standards. 'Nuff said.

I purchased the cover pictured below in the Western Union store in Auburn, California for the paltry sum of \$7.50 less the discount. I found it interesting for several reasons. Most of all, because it hasn't been opened since it was sent in 1924 from Lodz, Poland. The stamps are # 195 (10,000 Marka overprinted) and # 300 (100,000 Marka overprinted). Mr. Berowicz is a stamp dealer and is sending what appears to be a price list to Mr. Groo in Ellenville, New Jersey. I've never seen these stamps on cover before, which is the second reason for purchasing them. The stamps, themselves, were used to seal the *folded letter*. I am considering the possibility of opening the letter at the next meeting, with a little help from my friends. The third reason is the spelling of America. I've seem it spelled with a "k" before, but never with a "y". Ameryka. Interesting.



An easy quiz this time:

1. What country issued the first postage stamp?  
A. France    B. Brazil    C. England    D. United States
2. Who invented the first postage stamp?  
A. Sir Rowland Hill    B. Benjamin Franklin    C. Rene Descartes    D. Frederick the Great
3. Why are so many early U.S. 2 cent stamps red?  
A. The Government got a good buy in red ink  
B. International convention for domestic mail was to use red stamps  
C. Red was the Postmasters favorite color  
D. It was decided that red was easiest to see.
4. Who was the first woman on an American stamp?  
A. Pocohantas    B. Queen Victoria    C. Queen Isabella    D. Martha Washington
5. Why do early stamps have watermarks?  
A. Prestige  
B. Counterfeit deterrent  
C. International convention  
D. Improve overall quality of the stamp
6. When did the United States issue its first Philatelic Souvenir Sheet?  
A. 1893    B. 1902    C. 1926    D. 1933
7. What country issued the first air postage stamp?  
A. France    B. Brazil    C. England    D. United States
8. When was the first postage stamp issued?  
A. 1827    B. 1834    C. 1838    D. 1840
9. What is tropical staining?  
A. The stamp collection becomes too colorful for the serious collector  
B. The gum of the stamps becomes darkly toned  
C. The stamps are stained canceled in the tropics by local postal authorities  
D. None of the above

As usual, 10 Auction Bucks for each correct answer, and just to be a little different, a 10 Buck bonus for answering all nine questions correctly.

*On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year*

Here's the answers to our last quiz. Hope all of you did well on it.

#17 Bulgaria, on April 20, 1901, issued two stamps depicting a cherry-wood cannon, on the 25th Anniversary of Bulgaria's independence from Ottoman Turkish rule. The cannon, which is preserved in the National Museum at Sofia, was one of several bored out of cherry-wood logs and used by the Bulgarian insurgents of Panagurishte at the outbreak of the 1876 revolt against the Turks.

#18 The Newfoundland 1-cent stamps of the series of 1932 and 1937 all have images of codfish, with the inscription "Newfoundland currency" below. Due to the shortage of coin, the earliest "cash" used in Newfoundland was dried codfish. It was used for barter purposes and became known as "Newfoundland currency". Merchants would outfit fishermen at the beginning of a season by giving them credit. The debt would be relieved in the fall when the fishermen would turn over their dried codfish catch to the merchants in payment. No money passed between them, but the merchants had the advantage of being able to set prices and charge what they desired. Few fishermen ever saw any cash money, or a credit in their accounts.

#19 Someone who collects post cards is called a "Deltiologist," and the hobby is called "Deltiology."

#20 Hungary. In February, 1960, eight stamps appeared featuring various Halas lace patterns. In February, 1964, this beautiful set was reissued in new colors.

#21 In 1877, Japan issued a set of stamps called the "Koban" Series. Included in the set was a 12 sen denomination, which had four tiny balloons incorporated within the design around the perimeter of the central oval.

#22 In the case of the former British and French Colonies, the same design was used for the stamps of many different colonies. When a new issue was needed, the British or French colonial government printer prepared a basic design, with open areas for the name of the colony and denomination of the stamp in local currency. Since these basic designs were all the same, they were called "key plates". After the basic designs were printed, a second printing would fill in the name of the colony and the value of the stamp.

*The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.*