



N.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

P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432



POST BOY

N.S.S.S.

May 11, 2002

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The weather's getting better as summer wends it's lazy way towards Reno. Let's hope it gets here in time for the **Greater Reno Stamp and coin Show** on June 15th and 16th.

Looks like our next meeting on May 11th will be shorter than usual. It seems there will be a tour coming through our beloved museum at 11:30 in the AM. We will need some able bodies to help set up some tables and chairs outside for the tour's luncheon before we go. Plan on ending the meeting by 11:00.

Brandon's meeting of the Junior stamp club went rather well this week. While only four people showed up for the meeting, they were four guys that had been to previous meetings. Now that there are "regulars" the club should be able to start growing. However, these guys are going to have to stop spreading rumors that the meetings are not coed.

Duane Wilson was the promulgator of this week's program. He showed us a little bit about cachet making. Duane makes most of his cachets with his computer, occasionally adding some of his own artwork to produce some rather fine finished pieces. What is a cachet, you ask? Duane tells us it's "a design of words or pictures" according to Scott. Duane is a member of the Art Covers Exchange group and passed around one of their newsletters showing us some of the

work of their other members. We were also treated to many pictorial cancellations that went well with the cachets Duane produced. I thought Duane made some very impressive cachets and judging from the conversations I overheard after the program, several other members agree with my assessment. My favorite was the "Designer Jewelry - The Al Queda Collection." Way to go Duane.

On page three of this issue I have a special book review that will replace the promised questionnaire. In the next issue I will keep my promise. This week, however we have a decision to make as to whether to attempt to create a philatelic library or have an auction. Be sure to read page three so we can have your input.

Take a look at the **quiz page** if you haven't lately. I know the questions have been tough lately, but I'm trying to make them a little easier so that a few more of you can earn some auction bucks for the auction later on this year. Now's the time to take advantage and start warming up for when the questions become harder. Get a few of these under your belt right now and later it will be a challenge for you. Come on. Jump in. The water's fine.

See you at the next meeting. If you have anything to put in the Post Boy, submit it to me at artfulputz@aol.com, or give it to me at the meeting. Howard

United States Postal Systems 1775-1993

Continental Congress

After the Boston riots in September 1774, the colonies began to separate from the mother country. A Continental Congress was organized at Philadelphia in May 1775 to establish an independent government. One of the first questions before the delegates was how to convey and deliver the mail. Benjamin Franklin, newly returned from England, was appointed chairman of a Committee of Investigation to establish a postal system. The report of the Committee, providing for the appointment of a postmaster general for the 13 American colonies, was considered by the Continental Congress on July 25 and 26. On July 26, 1775, Franklin was appointed Postmaster General, the first appointed under the Continental Congress; the establishment of the organization that became the United States Postal Service nearly two centuries later traces back to this date. Richard Bache, Franklin's son-in-law, was named Comptroller, and William Goddard was appointed Surveyor.

Franklin served until November 7, 1776. America's present Postal Service descends in an unbroken line from the system he planned and placed in operation, and history rightfully accords him major credit for establishing the basis of the postal service that has performed magnificently for the American people.

Article IX of the Articles of Confederation, ratified in 1781, gave Congress "The sole and exclusive right and power . . . establishing and regulating post offices from one State to another . . . and exacting such postage on papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray the expenses of the said office" The first three Postmasters General--Benjamin Franklin, Richard Bache, and Ebenezer Hazard--were appointed by, and reported to, Congress.

Postal laws and regulations were revised and codified in the Ordinance of October 18, 1782.

The Post Office Department

Following the adoption of the Constitution in May 1789, the Act of September 22, 1789 (1 Stat. 70), temporarily established a post office and created the Office of the Postmaster General. On September 26, 1789, George Washington appointed Samuel Osgood of Massachusetts as the first Postmaster General under the Constitution. At that time there were 75 post offices and about 2,000 miles of post roads, although as late as 1780 the postal staff consisted only of a Postmaster General, a Secretary/Comptroller, three surveyors, one Inspector of Dead Letters, and 26 post riders.

The Postal Service was temporarily continued by the Act of August 4, 1790 (1 Stat. 178), and the Act of March 3, 1791 (1 Stat. 218). The Act of February 20, 1792, made detailed provisions for the Post Office. Subsequent legislation enlarged the duties of the Post Office, strengthened and unified its organization, and provided rules and regulations for its development.

Philadelphia was the seat of government and postal headquarters until 1800. When the Post Office moved to Washington, D.C., in that year, officials were able to carry all postal records, furniture, and supplies in two horse-drawn wagons.

In 1829, upon the invitation of President Andrew Jackson, William T. Barry of Kentucky became the first Postmaster General to sit as a member of the President's Cabinet. His predecessor, John McLean of Ohio, began referring to the Post Office, or General Post Office as it was sometimes called, as the Post Office Department, but it was not specifically established as an executive department by Congress until June 8, 1872 (17 Stat. 284-4).

Around this period, in 1830, an Office of Instructions and Mail Depredations was established as the investigative and inspection branch of the Post Office Department. The head of that office, P. S. Loughborough, is considered the first Chief Postal Inspector.

In the last issue I promised to put a questionnaire in this spot. I have chosen instead to review a book brought in by Dick Drieling that was published in a limited edition and is about the Ryukyus Islands. The club had a discussion about this book and the possibility of auctioning it off for the good of the club. It was suggested that an alternate possibility is to begin a philatelic library to be kept as part of the Washoe County Library System. Several members have philatelic books that were once part of the collection owned by the NSSS and were distributed when we lost our storage space at the university. These books would be donated to the library with the caveat that they be returned if the library no longer has use for them. This, of course would be decided among the membership.

Now for the book.

It's called "RYU A Philatelic Adventure to the Land of the Sleeping Dragon." It was written and published by Douglas Willick in November of 1983. It is a limited edition of only 20 copies of which this is the 7th copy. Mr. Willick was a past member of the NSSS.

The book opens with a couple of delightful legends about the creation of the Ryukyus Islands and the world. It expands on one of the legends, explaining that it has a basis in fact. Then proceeds into the geography, vegetation and animals of the islands. He then goes into the history of this delightful nation as well as the progression of dynasties from 1187 to 1879. He doesn't avoid the people because the next several pages are about their customs, traditions, religions and festivals.

The Ryukyus have been invaded four times in the last several centuries because they had chosen to forego war and had laid down their arms sealing them forever in a large storehouse. The Chinese lay claim to the Ryukyus, but their claim is described as "ambiguous at best" by Mr. Willick. The Japanese claim is more "substantial."

The philatelic aspect of the book begins with "Ryukyuan Post Offices" and continues with the development of the postal system, "Gunto by Gunto". There is a listing of the post offices (both numerical and alphabetically) and their locations as well as their function. He describes the evolution of the Perry stamp and shows designs that were not accepted as well as those that were.

The book is profusely illustrated with maps showing postal locations and routes as well as all of the postal emissions and postmarks. All of the illustrations are in color. This is perhaps the most charming character the book has. The color was hand done in crayon. There is a disclaimer at the end of the book stating, "The colors used in the color plates in this book are for clarification purposes only and are not the true colors of the originals."

All in all this is a very fine and rare book printed on a heavy parchment cardstock. It deserves the best treatment we can offer and should be preserved for future generations. It is very complete in its approach, though I cannot vouch for its accuracy, it certainly is convincing. If you want to know about the stamps of the Ryukyus or its postal history, this certainly seems to be the premier source for this type of information.

The Computer Corner

<http://1847usa.com>

If you're like me, you have a bunch of Washington / Franklins sitting in a glassine envelope that one day you'll get around to examining a little closer to see what you have. Most of them, of course are the common variety that already exists in your album, but two or three may fill some of those empty spaces. With a little luck there might be one of those rare one's, a # 500, mint perhaps, or that five cent just might be printed on the blue, experimental paper. One day. Maybe. But there's all that searching back and fourth throughout the catalog, checking perfs, watermarks and types and, wait a minute, is that A139 or A140? There's gotta be an easier way.

Well my friend, toot your horn, blow your whistles and strike up the band. There is an easier way and **1847 USA.com** has the answer. This website is the "how-to" of U.S. stamp collecting. The address above will take you to a site that helps you figure out which Washington Franklin is which. What more can you ask for? This guide to the Washington Franklins includes a "worksheet" wherein you can identify them by going through four or five steps. You will need a perforation gauge and a watermark detector setting alongside your trusty computer, and, of course, the address for the website. As you progress from step to step you are presented with new options on each page. The site flips back and forth through the Scott for you. Now's the time to get those Washington/Franklins done, while this site is still on the web.

The screenshot shows the 1847 USA website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to Home Page, Identification Guide, Washington Franklin Worksheet, and Help. Below the navigation bar, the main title '1847 USA' is displayed. A large, dark rectangular banner contains the text 'Work Sheet for the Washington Franklin Head Stamps'. Underneath this banner, there is a section titled 'Finally getting around to sorting out that pile of Washington Franklins?' followed by a detailed paragraph about determining Scott numbers. Further down, there is another section about identifying secret marks for banknote issues.

There are several links on the opening page. The first link takes you to "Identify Your Scott Number (and more)". This page gives you pictures of the stamps (for whichever time period you choose) and information about them such as who printed it, how many were printed, perf size, etc. The next link Gives you all the information you need to identify the secret marks for the banknote issues. It's called "Secret Marks of the Banknote Issues".

There is also "Guide to the Grills", "Types of the \$1 Perry", "282C Vs 283: the 10c Webster", "599 & 634 Vs 599A & 634A", "A Guide to the Washington-Franklins" (this is the one you'll want to use), "Types of the 2c and 3c WashFranks" (this one can be helpful, too) And "Flat Plate Vs Rotary Press Vs Offset". This should be enough information to help you through the rather ticklish problems created for us by the U.S. Postal Service in their early Years. However, if this isn't enough information they also have, under the heading of U.S. Philatelic Links, "Links to key U.S. philatelic web sites." This link gives 18 more sites that are more specific in the areas that are covered.. Many of these are commercial sites but you don't have to spend your money to get the information they offer.

Have fun with those Washington Franklins.

Almost as easy as the last one:

1. Which country introduced the perforations to postage stamps?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 United States | 2 Great Britain |
| 3 France | 4 Spain |

2. When were perforations introduced to stamps?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1 1848 | 2 1850 |
| 3 1852 | 4 1854 |

3. What is a perfins?

- 1 A stamp partially perforated
2 A stamp especially identified with perforated letters or markings indicating its source or usage
3 A stamp which is perforated with slots instead of holes
4 A stamp which was perforated at the local post office.

4. Which of the following was the first British colony to issue a postage stamp?

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 India | 2 Hong Kong |
| 3 Cape of Good Hope | 4 British Guyana |

5. Which was the first German state to issue a postage stamp?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1 Baden | 2 Bavaria |
| 3 Prussia | 4 Saxony |

6. Though the first Irish stamps were overprints, who was the British monarch depicted on those stamps?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Queen Victoria | 2 King Edward the VII |
| 3 King George the V | 4 King George the VI |

7. When was the first official American Aeroplane cover flown?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1 1907 | 2 1911 |
| 3 1915 | 4 1917 |

8. What does the term "Maltese Cross" mean to a stamp collector?

- 1 A valuable cover from the isle of Malta
2 A valuable stamp once owned by Humphrey Bogart
3 A type of cancel applied to early British stamps
4 A famous stamp issued by the Vatican

9. Where are the Universal Postal Union's headquarters located?

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1 Bern | 2 London |
| 3 New York | 4 Paris |

Most of the answers to these questions can be found in your Scott catalog, even if it's an old one. Other's can be found on the World Wide Web or in general information books on philately. Number 8 can almost be done in your head. Just give it a little thought. Ten auction bucks per correct answer, and a bonus ten for nine correct answers.

Anyway, good luck to all and happy answers.

Easy one wasn't it? However, Keith Carvin pointed out that the postage stamp was actually invented in 1653 by Renouard de Villayea (question # 2). He got the information from Linns. Can't argue with Linns, so Keith gets credit.

1. Great Britain issued the first postage stamp in 1840. Many people call it the 'The Penny Black.'
2. Sir Rowland Hill fashioned the idea. His simple invention made mail extremely popular. Other countries quickly adopted the British model.
3. The Universal Postal Commission adopted this rule to assist in sorting. Blue was for international first class mail.
4. Queen Isabella found herself on the Four Dollar Columbian back in 1893. Today this stamp in good condition can fetch more than 3,500 dollars.
5. Sir Rowland Hill proposed this idea as a counterfeit deterrent for the 'The Penny Black.'
6. The United States celebrated its Sesquicentennial with its first souvenir sheet commemorating the Battle of White Plains.
7. The United States issued the first regular air mail stamp in 1918. A famous inverted variety exists of this issue. It is universally known as 'The Inverted Jenny.'
8. Great Britain introduced the first postage stamp on May 6, 1840.
9. The warm humid climate of tropical areas causes the gum of stamps to darken or discolor. Try to keep your stamps in a cool dry place.

Well, even if you didn't turn in an answer sheet, did you try the quiz anyway? How did you do? Told you it wasn't that hard. When I found the quiz on the internet, I took the quiz myself and only got six right. If I had studied a little I may have done better. So can you. Take the quiz on the previous page and turn it in. I won't tell how you did if it's not as good as you like. Heck you might get a few right and earn some auction bucks. How can you lose.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades - King David; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Hearts - Charlemagne; and Diamonds - Julius Caesar.

In the last issue I mentioned a questionnaire as a possible substitute for an interview. Here it is. Just fill out the answers on a separate page (or the back of this one) and return it to me and you'll have your fifteen minutes of fame.

Your name _____

1. When did you start collecting? Like most of us, did you put it down and start again 20 or thirty years later?
2. What do you collect?
3. Most of us have a specialty, how about you?
4. Why do you specialize in this. What drew your attention to this particular field?
5. What about Postal History, is that part of your interests too?
6. Why stamps? Why not coins or trains or Barbie dolls?
7. Do you collect coins, trains or Barbie Dolls?
8. What do you think others would find to be the most fascinating aspect of your stamp collection and/or your specialty?
9. How did you come to join our stamp club and how did you find out about us?

Don't forget to include your name with your answers to these questions. Please feel free to add anything you might feel is important to this interview. There are several questions I have probably forgotten to ask. Return the questionnaire to myself (Howard) or one of the club officers if I'm not at the meeting.

In the next issue I'll "interview" myself so that all of you will have an idea of what will be included and what to expect. In this manner we can get to know each of the club members just a little better. We all have a story to tell, this is our chance to tell a small part of it.

The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.