



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.



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March 13, 2004

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This month came in like a lion. Let's hope it leaves like a lamb. This kind of weather might affect our attendance which is, probably one of the best in the nation. Too bad there are no awards for that sort of thing.

For the last several meetings we have had two visitors from Europe. They are **Sandra Stasova** from the Czech Republic and **Geraldine Kaiser** From Germany. They are part of the exchange program in which students from all over the world may visit our country and study with American students. It is also available to American students to study in different parts of the world. The process, according to Geraldine, involves interviews with officials of the program from the country of origin and the host family, who must be willing to accept the student. Geraldine wrote an essay about her stay and read it for the club. It was a well written and delivered essay that was appreciated by the members (judging from their reaction). The host family for Geraldine and Sandra are **Harvey and Terri Edwards**.

This month's program was about how to separate ourselves from our duplicates (how many we have). It was given by **Arlene Davies**. The first suggestion, and probably the best, was to give them away. There are many avenues for donation. Talk to Al Shay. He knows of a group of incarcerated men who would appreciate the opportunity to share in our hobby. There are many charitable groups who would accept donations in any form. If your stamps are too valuable to give away, there

are alternatives and Arlene offers us many. Arlene had a list of stamp sale sites on the internet that are only too willing to help us sell our stamps through an auction. Some, such as Stamp-o-rama will do so without charge. Others, such as eBay will charge for listing, pictures and hammer price but may command a higher return. Good and potentially, profitable program. Thank you Arlene.

Volunteers are still needed. Help is needed in the form of docents for the museum. It's an easy job. All you have to do is sit around for a few hours and say "Hi, come on in." That shouldn't wear you out. If you would like to try something with a little more substance, try volunteering for one of the positions that are still open with the show committees. Advertising can always use someone who likes to use their imagination. Or junior activities, if you like children, and who doesn't.

Congratulations to **Jeanne Paquin** for winning the Vermiel Award and the Novice award at the **Victopical Show** in Victoria B.C. on 2/14/04. for her exhibit "Discover Our Capitols". Happy Valentines.

The **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** is coming together. Dates are October 2 and 3. Hours will be 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 to 4:00 pm on Sunday. We hope to have fifteen dealers this year. Don't forget to tell your friends, especially those from out of town, so they will have plenty of time to make plans. We will also need volunteers to man the tables.

The following is borrowed, in part, from the February 16th issue of the Stamp Collector from a story called "The Shady Side of Stamp collecting Exposed" by Wayne L. Youngblood.

Virtually every collector is aware that there are different shades of many stamps, but most collectors are not aware of the full scope and significance that the color of stamps plays throughout the history of stamp production.

The first stamp, the 1840 Penny Black of Great Britain, was simple. It was black. Nonetheless, there are even shades of that stamp ranging from intense black to grayish black.

Basically, all color or shade varieties can be broken down into two main categories; intentional and unintentional. Intentional color changes and varieties make up only a tiny fraction of this massive area.

Intentional color types would include items such as the different colors of the one cent Franklin First Bureau issue of 1894-1900. Early printings were blue (with many shades) and later printings were green (also with many shades). The early postage due stamps are considered unintentional varieties, due to inconsistencies in the color of each printing. Knowing the differences between brown, red brown and bright claret can, in some cases, change the value by hundreds of dollars.

Another example of color varieties, one that includes both intentional and unintentional types, deals with the different shades of brown on the twenty-nine cent Flag over Mount Rushmore coil stamp. The intended colors were maroon (on the engraved version) and deep brown (on the gravure version). A third color, on the so-called Toledo Brown, is a color error, meaning that the wrong color of ink was used to print the stamp. The color of that error is almost the same shade as the fifty cent Nimitz stamp of the Great American Series.

The category of unintentional varieties includes color errors, color changelings and shades.

Of these, the most significant are color errors. There are relatively few true color errors on U.S. stamps.

With the exception of the five cent red errors of the Washington-Franklin series (created by using the wrong cliché in the plate on correctly printed sheets), color errors must be printed with a different color of ink than was intended. A subcategory of color errors would include ink contamination freaks, where the wrong color of ink has either mixed with the proper color or has mixed on the printing plate. These can occur on single stamps or multiple sheets and are not generally consistent in appearance, but are quite striking in appearance.

As far as color errors go, there are relatively few in U.S. stamps. These include the previously mentioned twenty-nine cent Rushmore and the four cent blue Columbian (intended to be ultra-marine) or the twenty-five cent bright magenta Frederick Douglas issue from the Prominent American series (with ink presumably intended for printing the fifteen cent Oliver Wendell Holmes stamp).

An undesirable but very common form of color variety is the color changeling. Color changelings can occur because of poor stamp storage, long-term exposure to light or exposure to chemicals. Caution should always be used before purchasing items offered as color errors. Occasionally a color changeling can be restored with a short bath in hydrogen peroxide.

In terms of collecting, the broadest variety of un-intentional shades results simply from the extended use of regular-issue stamps that require multiple printings.

The broad range of colors shown on the first issue U.S. revenues is only a small sampling of the variety that can be found by the sharp-eyed collector. These stamps, printed in the heat of the American Civil War, utilized inks that were mixed by hand as needed. The instability of some of the different pigments used, as well as scarcity of consistent supplies, contributed to the vast array of shades collectors encounter today.

The constant and urgent need for these stamps and different paper types used also contributed to the creation of different shades. This was particularly true of colors in the portion of the spectrum dealing with green, blue and violet shades. Both the Minkus and Scott catalogs recognize only a few of these shades.

The green stamped envelopes of the nineteenth century exhibit some of these characteristics. In this case, the deep green is recognized as a specific color by catalogs, but the minor differences are not.

By the twentieth century, technology enabled both inks and printing to be much more consistent.

The broadest range of shades on twentieth century stamps is arguably found on the flat-plate printings of the eleven cent Hayes stamps of the 1922 definitive series. The colors range from peacock blue in the earliest printings to yellow-green. At one time, specialized catalogs listed and priced as many as thirteen different collectible shades of this issue. Minkus now lists four and Scott only two.

Shades are particularly hard to collect on modern multi-colored stamps. This is because each color we see is made of tiny color dots of red, yellow, blue and black. Thus, any tiny variance in color registration or inking can create the appearance of major color differences. Even these items are quite collectible, but they are a different category than shade differences.

The best part of collecting different shades of stamps is that there is no particular science involved and no fixed rules. If your eye perceives a color difference, then it's collectable, and pages with these shades mounted side-by-side can be quite stunning in your album or exhibit.

AN AMERICAN FORGERY



In the last issue I described a type of forgery that just made fun of the leaders. To the left is just such an issue. It is referred to as the “Death’s Head” issue. A skull was super-imposed on Hitler’s image and the words “Deutsches Reich” were changed to Futsches Reich”, changing the meaning from German Empire to Collapsed Empire. This, of course, was not light hearted fun but deadly serious. The world was locked in a mortal struggle as the result of this man’s efforts to conquer it. This particular issue was not believed to be postally used (none of the forgeries were), though there are a few covers in existence.

Operation “Cornflake” was the name assigned to the clandestine efforts performed by the Office of Strategic Services or OSS. It was started in November of 1942 and its objective was to give the impression of a large underground resistance movement within Germany. It was the brainchild of General “Wild Bill” Donovan who was the head of the OSS (later to become the CIA) at the time.

Knowledge of Germany’s postal operation were discovered by interrogation of postal employees that were captured as POW’s. The six and twelve pfennig stamp (below) with Hitler’s portrait were forged and used on envelopes with German address’ that were gleaned from death notices of soldiers who had died for the “Fatherland” and telephone books from selected German cities. Anti-Hitler propaganda along with a copy of the “Futsches Reich” stamp was included with the fake letter. The forged cover was then given an appropriate cancellation, also forged, and “mailed”. This was usually done in bombing runs. Whenever postal transportation was destroyed, a German mailbag filled with the forgeries would be dropped among the rubble, integrating it with regular German mail.

You don’t have to be an expert to tell the difference between the fake and the real thing. Just check the perforations. The real thing is perf 14. The forgeries are 11.5 x 12.5 (6 pf) and 11.5 (12 pf) Other differences are a slight color change, the forgery is duller red; paper, the forgery is yellower; contrast, higher in the forgery and details, the nose is shaded with straight lines in the forgery and crosshatched in the real issue. If you have one of these forgeries (especially on cover), keep it. It’s worth a bit more.



Forgery

Real

Introduction

Who am I ?

My name is Wim van Gennip, I'm born 64 years ago in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) and I'm still living there.

This is not the opening page of Mr. Ginnip's website. It is his introduction. The opening page has the coat of arms of Hungary carried by two angels. It is a very beautiful and impressive page. Why the Hungarian coat of arms? Mr. Ginnip collects Hungary and that's what his website is all about. Below the introduction is a menu of the seven pages of his site.

It starts with "History, The situation after the *Trianon* pact. This page is not about stamps, but the Trianon pact. You'll have to go to the site to find out what the pact is all about (hint; it happened after WWI). In essence, it's about the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and how the pact affected the various provinces of Hungary.

The next page is called "Occupations, 1918-1921". You may have guessed, it's about the occupations of Hungary after the Great War. You may recognize some of the names on the overprints from your own collection like Baranya. Now you can find out more about who was the occupier. Here he shows the stamps with the overprints.

Then I become confused. The next page is called "Return, Haza 1938 Visszatér 1940-1941". Huh? Turns out to be the return of portions of Hungary lost in WWI, partially as a result of Nazi pressure. Here he shows several of the postmarks used during that period.

The next two pages are "stamps" and "Post-offices" which covers the stamps used by Hungary from 1850 to 1918 and the post offices from 1871 to 1921. Also a nice grouping of some difficult-to-find postmarks.

After this is "What I Want, And who will help me?", if you might like to offer some help for Mr. Ginnip. On this page are more maps of Hungary and the specific areas he is interested in. Lastly are links. Anything you may want to know about Hungary and their stamps is in here. Many of the pages are in Hungarian or Dutch. If you speak the language, you're in!

A very nice website and easy to navigate. It's all pretty straight forward. I enjoyed looking at his stamps and learned a little about the issues. It's a delight to go to a site built by someone from a different country. While his English is excellent, you can "hear" his accent. I would assume he did the translation himself and I wouldn't have it any other way. He can be proud of what he has put together. Even if you don't care about Hungarian stamps, visit this site.

March is with us now and the weather won't decide whether to be Spring or stay with Winter. Have a little tete-a-tete with Mr. Scott on the porch with a tall glass of iced tea or inside with a bit of hot spiced wine but enjoy the quiz and the rain, wind or sun as best you can.

1. Noah Webster appears on a 1958 commemorative. What kind of books did he write?
A) A Stamp Reference B) A Dictionary C) Novellas
2. Who is on the five-cent 1938 definitive?
A) James Monroe B) James Madison C) James Taylor
3. What scientist appears on the five-cent stamp in the Famous American series?
A) Luther Burbank B) Dr. Crawford W. Long C) Dr. Walter Reed
4. How many stamps appear on the 1956 FIPEX sheet?
A) Two B) Four C) Six
5. What famous artist's daughter appears on a 1965 five-cent stamp?
A) Linda B. Remington B) Susanne Whistler C) Elizabeth C. Copley
6. Victor Herbert appears on a three cent stamp. In what year was it issued?
A) 1930 B) 1935 C) 1940
7. How much did it cost to send a single-sheet letter up to 300 miles in 1845?
A) Five cents B) Ten cents C) Ten cents plus 1 cent for each additional 10 miles
8. How many children are shown on the 1979 Year of the Child stamp?
A) Three B) Four C) Five
9. What is the highest denomination in the parcel post stamps of 1912?
A) One dollar B) Seventy-five cents C) Fifty cents
10. What ship appears on the shipbuilding issue of 1957?
A) Windham Streamer B) Massachusetts Baler C) Virginia of Sagadahock

This one should be a walk in the park and not too difficult to do either. Number seven might give you a small crises to deal with for a moment. After all 1845 was pre-stamp in the United States. wasn't it?

The first question may have been a little tricky to the sophisticated mind as the answer seems too easy to be right. Well, As Freud once said, sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. the book I took the questions from, does not justify it's answers. Since the two cent rate ended on July 6th, 1932, I will assume it was an error made by the printers.

1. - A. Two Cents. Sorry, I don't understand this answer (not mine) as the postal rate from 1932 to 1958 was three cents so B. three cents will also be accepted as correct.
2. - A. Yes, he does have a beard. The stamp is # 893 and is from the Famous American series. C is also an acceptable answer.
3. - A. Four. #'s 1254 to 1257 includes pictures of Holly, Mistletoe, Poinsettia and a sprig of Conifer with Pine Cones. This was the third American Christmas issue.
4. - A. Woodrow Wilson is shown on the one dollar stamp, # 832. Don't forget to check for the USIR watermark (832b). It's a few extra dollars for the discoverer.
5. - A. Issued on Dec 11th, 1967 the Mississippi statehood issue is decorated with the Magnolia, the state flower, #1337.
6. - C. Samuel Clemens, known more popularly as Mark Twain, is recognized on Scott # 863, issued on February 13th, 1940
7. - B. Issued on May 21st, 1931, on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.
8. - C. Charles W. Elliot was honored as an educator in the Famous Americans issues. The number is 871 and the color is not only red violet, but *bright* red violet
9. - B. As evidenced by the New York's Worlds Fair issue, #853, The Fair was held in 1939, the same year as the stamp was sold. The other two years mentioned were the years of the San Francisco Fair and the Seattle Worlds Fair.
10. - B. Columbia Jays by John J. Audubon are pictured on #1241. According to Scott the birds are actually Collies Magpie Jays. I wouldn't know the difference but if you answered with that, you will relieve credit.

Did I have you fooled for a while? Did you think all the answers were going to be "A"? Well I tried to throw you a curve but you had it figured out right away, didn't you?