

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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May 8, 2004

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In my rush to publish the Post Boy in a timely manner after returning from my vacation, I made a couple of errors. I would like to correct them now. It is **Duane Wilson**, not Wayne that is in charge of producing the show cancellations. The second error was not giving credit for the program from March. My apologies to **Duane Wilson** and **Ed Davies**.

The program in March was given by **Ed Davies** and was called "Expanding Your Collection". Ed continued the program in April. Good program with exceptional ideas.

The first meeting in April gave us one of the more interesting auctions we have had in quite a while. It included several high value items, groups of covers, stampless covers, two private posts on cover as well as off a few items from Tom Morrissey's collection, an old Roman coin and a blue topaz. Can you beat that? Great auction and the next one may be just a good, so be prepared.

In case you weren't aware, one of the club rules of the auction is to limit the number of items to sixty-five. Jim Ringer cut off the items for sale at that number for the April auction and will continue to do so in the future. It was also discussed at the officer's meeting that the number of raffle items should be limited to no more than ten items. Any extra items donated will be held for the next raffle. Members may bring up to five items each. All donations are to be given to **John Wetterling**. He will put them out as

needed.

We had a couple of visitors at the last meeting. **Jim May** was there with a UN collection he wanted to dispose of. Any takers? **Xena** (Hope that's right), who inherited an old collection may be joining us soon. Maybe we can encourage her.

Stan Cronwell will be doing a commercial for **Frank Fey's place, the Liberty Belle**. Can't wait to see it. Is this going to be on TV Stan?

Elections are coming up soon. Installation of the new officers will be at the Club picnic in June (4th week). Be prepared to nominate someone (that knows about it and would like the job) at the next meeting or the following meeting. We will vote on it the first meeting in June (the 12th).

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Introducing Philately

Philately is not just about stamp collecting. The subject is enormous and can be as detailed or as general as you, the student or collector (or both), likes to make it.

Strictly, a philatelist is someone who has an interest or a liking for stamps (and related material), so you don't even have to be a collector to be a philatelist - but it helps! And it isn't just about stamps or even postage stamps.

For example, *Postal History* is a popular area of collecting and study - in general terms this covers "routes and rates" - how a letter travelled to its destination, what it cost and the markings postal administrations along the way applied to it.

In the 19th Century as transport and shipping services opened up (the railways in particular), the transmission of the post and the routes it took are in themselves a social history of that period.

And of course there are postage stamps themselves, with all the myriad differences that can exist as to paper, watermarks, methods of printing, printers, shade and type of ink, perforation, gumming, usage, etc.

You only have to look at a list of books on philatelic topics to realise just how wide a field it is. But you don't have to be daunted by this; most people select a subject or country or issue which particularly appeals or attracts them and focus on that.

We are here to help you.

The United Kingdom has an extensive network of local philatelic societies and stamp clubs. It also has the most developed network of clubs and societies devoted to specialised areas of philately, which have meetings and publish newsletters dealing with their particular subject; many also have libraries.

There are also more general societies, such as the National Philatelic Society

Working with organised philately in the United Kingdom, the British Philatelic Trust was set up in 1981 to promote the study of stamps and postal history.

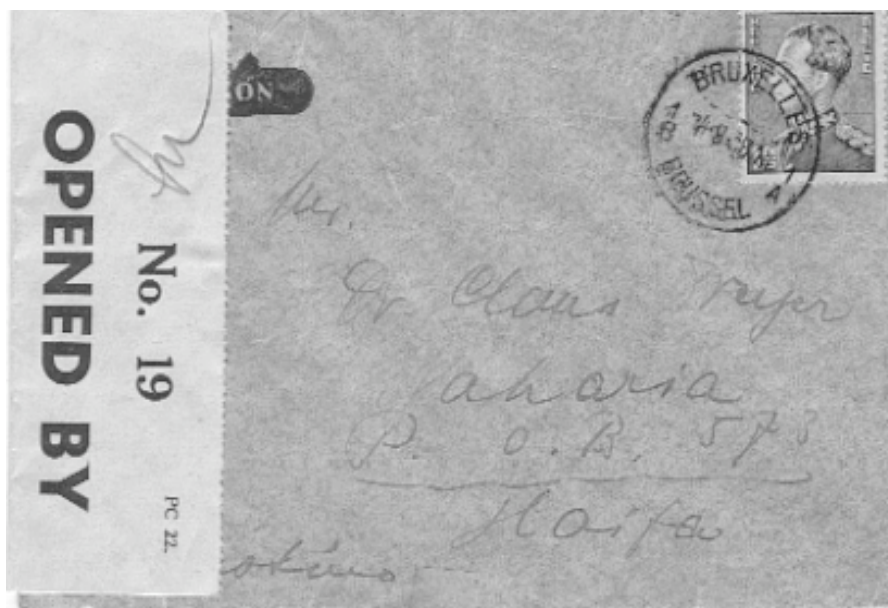
The above article was taken from the internet from a site in the United Kingdom where stamp collecting has a support system and organization unlike our own. Here in the US we are pretty much on our own to succeed or fail as a hobby. Of course we have the APS which offers help to stamp collectors and does what it can to expand the hobby, but it doesn't seem to be as inter-connected as it is in the UK. Go to their website and you'll see what I mean: <http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/>

Philately is a hobby which goes far beyond the amassing of those little pictures issued by various governments to move the mail. As you see by this article, it's far more interesting and complex. I am trying to become a "philatelist". I am finding out that it takes a certain amount of study and discipline to do it right. While there is a large amount of satisfaction to be had in completing a set of difficult to find stamps or, better yet, completing a country, there is even more in knowing why that country issued those stamps and how they make the mail move.

A great deal can be said about knowing the history of a country and their politics as well as the social structure and development or evolution of the people who populate and create that history. We are not only hobbyists, we are historians and our contributions help to complete the history of nations.

That was a mouthful but it's true and I hope you get my point. We may not do a lot but we do contribute. Here's to us.

A letter to Haifa



Last month at the meeting, I purchased a group of covers at the auction. The cover to your left is the one that attracted my attention and forced me to bid on it (and the other eight covers in the lot) at the auction. I specialize in WWII stamps of Nazi Germany and thought this one was related. Next time I will take a closer look. Upon getting this one home and giving it a closer examination I found that the mailing date on the cancellation was September 4, 1939, twenty six days before Hitler's invasion of

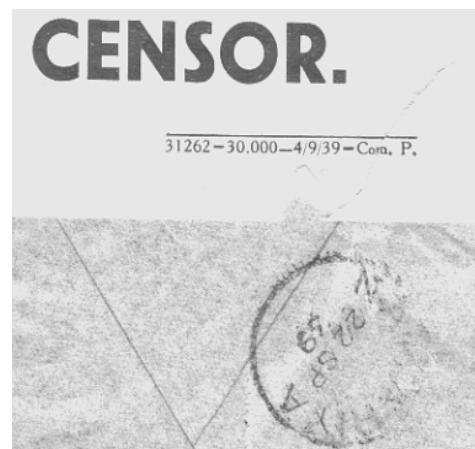
Poland starting WWII. Obviously this wasn't related to that war. The letter was postmarked in Haifa on the 22nd of September. A second cover from the same address (Brussels) to the same PO box in Haifa was sent in June and arrived only five days later with no censorship. The nazis weren't in Belgium yet and the war hadn't started. Why, then, was this covered censored? Something else must have been going on here. What was it?

The tape on the left side of the envelope is a censorship tape and is written in English. The British had no affairs in Belgium so the censorship had to be at the other end. The cover was being sent to Haifa in Palestine which was occupied by the British at the time, so I went to the internet and typed "Palestine" into a Google search engine. Up popped one site. I opened that site. There was very little to be here so I tried one of the links I found, searching for history of Palestine. Here I found no information, but I came across a clue. The British had written a "White Paper" that had caused restrictions to be put on Jews that wanted to immigrate to Palestine. There must be more to this story.

Not finding anything more on the net, I decided to write Chris Miller who is the secretary of the CCSG

(Civil Censorship Study Group) in the UK. His response told me there was actually was a little less going on. Great Britain had made preparations for war in 1938, but didn't implement them until September 3, 1939. Censorship was one of those preparations. Had the letter been sent a few days earlier it wouldn't have been involved in this web of wartime censorship. Chris's explanation was far more detailed than what is presented here and I will be happy to share it with anyone who may be interested.

Finding covers like this is intriguing. By examining a cover closely questions are almost always raised. Why was it routed this way, what were the people like who sent it, where is the town it was sent from? Censored covers can be more exciting to investigate because you don't know where it will lead. Usually the answers you find are rather mundane as it was in this case, but you never know when you will uncover a spy.



<http://www.chez.com/buoro/>



Did you know Barbuda issued a stamp featuring a rhinoceros? I didn't either until I went to the site who's logo is pictured above. Rhinos? A most unusual topical collection. How many rhinos could there be? When I opened the page I didn't expect to see much. Surprise, surprise! I found a very interesting site that contained a large number of stamps with rhinos on them along with covers and postcards.

The opening page has, along with the logo, a large black and white picture of a mother rhino with her calf (are they called calf?). There is also an invitation to "study with me the family name Buoro in genealogy". Just click on the words and you're in his family's world. The name of the gentleman who created this site is **Sylvertre Buoro**. He invites you to explore the site in French, German or English, so be sure to click on the appropriate flag on the right side.

On the first page (different from the opening page), at the top, is the navigation bar. At the bottom is the index (like the navigation bar), a guestbook, "about the author" and Rhino collectors. In order to "sign" the guestbook, you must send an email to Mr. Buoro with whatever comment. Send him one and let him know you were there. In about the author, I found out that Mr. Buoro lives in the south of France (I am filled with envy) and has three children. Rhino collectors might be collecting pictures, pottery or stamps and you can send an email to any of them.

The next page has the stamps with rhinos. But wait, there is more. Would you like to know a little about the country these stamps come from? This is not a bad page for research about the history of the country. Did you know Katanga only lasted less than three years only to become absorbed by Zaire? The third page, Other Stamps, doesn't have a lot of stamps, but the ones it has are interesting. The fourth page is "SOS", Sylvester is looking for a personal letter from each stamp-issuing country (he already has the US). Fifth page is Postcards, which, as it says is postcards, lots of postcards with rhinos. Then links (some good ones) and how to contact Mr. Buoro.

The reason I bring these pages to you is because I find something in them to recommend them. This is a good one. I don't collect rhinocerii (?) but I enjoyed this one. You're gonna like it.

I don't see anything in this quiz that looks particularly tough or controversial. Sit back with a nice (cold glass, hot cup? Who knows what the weather will be?) of tea. This one will be easy. Consider it to be 100 Auction Bucks in your pocket already (but, you have to turn it in).

1. What type of transportation is shown on a fifteen cent envelope issue of 1980?
A) Motorcycle B) Scooter C) Bicycle
2. What country is honored on the first stamp in the "Overrun Countries" series?
A) Norway B) Poland C) Czechoslovakia
3. Who is on the eleven cent definitive of 1938?
A) William H. Harrison B) John Tyler C) James K. Polk
4. How many stamps are there in the butterfly issue of 1977?
A) Four B) Six C) Eight
5. In what year was the Alaska statehood airmail issued?
A) 1957 B) 1959 C) 1961
6. The creator of "Porgy and Bess" appears on a 1973 stamp. Who is he?
A) Johnny Mercer B) Shalom Alechem C) George Gershwin
7. What is the child doing on the Special Olympics stamp of 1979?
A) Racing B) Holding a medal C) Hugging another Olympian
8. What park is featured on the eight cent value of the National Parks series of 1934?
A) Yosemite, California B) Zion Park, Utah C) Yellowstone, Wyoming
9. What Arizona plant appears on the statehood issue of 1962?
A) Giant Saguaro Cactus B) Miniature Saguaro Cactus C) Barrel Cactus
10. What two birds appear on stamps in the wildlife conservation issue of 1972?
A) Blue Jay and Snowy Egret B) Cardinal and Brown Pelican
C) Blue Huron and Barn Swallow

See? Told you it was easy! Last month, someone forgot to put their name on the quiz and that person scored a perfect ten. Hope we can figure out who it was. Don't forget to put your name with the answers.

The only one here that might have given a little trouble is number 8, the one about the educator series. With a little “Let’s look, just in case” attitude, I’m sure you figured it out. The rest was just a matter of looking up the stamp. Easy 100 bucks.

1. - B) The last regular issue of the Commonwealth of the Philippines was issued in May of 1946. Their independence was celebrated with #500 issued on July 4, 1946.
2. - A) Andrew Jackson, our seventh president who became popular when, in the battle of New Orleans, he “filled his (the gator’s) mouth with cannonballs and powdered etc.” and defeated the British in the war of 1812.
3. - B) Another stamp from the Famous American series, #892, the five cents from the “inventors” group.
4. - C) While Henry Ford and Andrew Jackson also appear in this series, it is John F. Kennedy who is on the 13 cent stamp.
5. - A) Columbus landed in Cuba on October 10th, 1492. Issue #227 depicts a statue of Columbus.
6. - B) Issued on November 17, 1972, #1474 shows a picture of America’s first stamp under a magnifying glass.
7. - A) I have had the pleasure of visiting this site in San Juan, Puerto Rico at about the time of it’s issuance on September 12, 1971. #1437
8. - A) The “Educator” series referred to in the question is part of the Famous American series of 1940. The five cent stamp is Ultramarine, as are all the five cent stamps of that series.
9. - C) A locomotive, trike, horse and baby carriage were shown on separate stamps (#’s 1434 to 1437). These stamps were also issued as pre-cancels.
10. - A) This stamp was issued to commemorate the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean in 1819. The ship pictured was the Savannah. # 923.

Out of curiosity, I went to the internet to see what I could find out about Morro Castle. I discovered a site that turned out to be quite interesting. It is a tour, virtual of course, of the castle, inside and out along with a little history. Did you know Morro Castle was militarily active during World War II? To see it go to; <http://www.nps.gov/saju/morro.html>