

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.



POST BOY

August 14, 2004

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Another balmy day in Sparks. The temperature is starting to climb though. Time has come to stay out of the sun and move over to the shady side of the street.

The new officers were elected including a surprise. **Mr. John Wetterling** was chosen as our new Vice President, taking over for **Jim Ringer** who has done a fine job in the absence of **Stan Cronwall**. Hope you heal soon Stan. **Terri Edwards** will take over for **Nadiah Beekum** as our new Secretary. Terri will be replaced in the Board Member spot by **Mike Johnson** and **Frank Fey** volunteered to stay on in his position as a Board Member. Congratulations to all in their new jobs.

With the picnic being the event of the month, the program we usually have at the second meeting did not take place. Next month will see the resumption of this regular feature in the form of a slide show. The subject will be errors, varieties, freaks, and oddities on US stamps. Bring your US collection, you may have a few freaks, errors and oddities you weren't aware of.

A new committee has been formed to look at the by-laws

of the club. The committee consists of John Wetterling, Mike Johnson, Leon Wimbley and Howard Grenzsbach. 1988 was the last time the by-laws were revised and a lot has changed since then (perhaps we don't need the air race committee as much as we used to). If you have seen changes that need to be made, please talk to someone on the committee and they will bring it to the next meeting.

As usual, the picnic was a great success and everyone had a good time. We all ate too much of the fattening stuff. But that's something we have to do at least twice a year. Don't we? I know I enjoyed the good company and the conversation. The officers are now officially installed and have their mandates for the coming year.

The **APS Stamp Show**, this August 12 to 15 (10:00am to 6:00 pm) will be held at; The Convention Center 1400 J Street Sacramento, CA For more information contact Ken Martin PO Box 800 State College, PA 16803 (814) 237-3803 See you there.

Board meeting after the regular meeting on the 28th.

Self-Adhesives, Yea or Nay?

The following come from a stamp dealer in Canada by the name of Frank von Hausen (E-Mail: FvHSTAMPS@aol.com, Website: www.fvhstamps.com), courtesy of Stan Cronwall.

In the current issue of Canada Stamp News and Canada Post's Details Magazine is the annual poll of 2003 Canadian Issues. Favorite, least favorite, etc.

Most interestingly however is the 3rd section of the questionnaire which reads: 'All U.S. Stamps are now self-adhesive. Should Canada Post do the same, or should some stamps always be issued traditional gummed ?'

My feelings on the subject are as follows:

Positives:

One only.... on the business aspect, the general, non-collecting public likes the convenience of self adhesives and will usually choose them given the choice.

Negatives:

1. Separating, storing, mounting, displaying are all much more difficult with self-adhesives.
2. For anyone who keeps a quantity of issues on hand, the storage space required for self-adhesives is substantially higher.
3. Questionable long-term life of the mint stamps. You know what happens to tape and other self-adhesive labels over a number of years, the gum either dries out & stains, or the gum breaks down, comes loose from the backing paper and/or bleeds into the paper creating that translucent look. In the years ahead, it will be likely that most of the self-adhesives will be collectible, only in used condition, the mint ones having deteriorated into a non-collectible state. I often run across mint Canada #1191 (38c Large self-Adhesive Canada Flag, Issued 1989) and #1615-1616 (45c Cinema In Canada Set of 10 stamps in two souvenir sheets, issued in 1996) in a deteriorating state. These stamps are only 15 & 8 years old respectively !!!!!
4. Cost of production for self-adhesive stamps is substantially higher than for traditional water activated sheets of stamps.
5. Waste of Paper & Garbage. I would estimate 3-4 times more paper is used in producing self-adhesive stamps. With self-adhesives there is much more paper in the backing and surrounding selvage than there is in the stamps themselves. All this goes into the garbage !!

For years collectors have complained about self-adhesive stamps. Every dealer has customers who have either quit collecting modern issues or have scaled their collecting back dramatically because of self-adhesives. It is obvious there are no true, traditional stamp collectors at the decision-making levels of Canada Post or many of the other countries following the trend to more self-adhesives. The Post Offices around the world sure want our money when it comes to production & sales of collectible stamps, but on the other hand, they are not listening to what collectors want.

The pioneers of self-adhesive stamps were the countries of Sierra Leone and Tonga. You will note that it has now been many years since either of these countries has produced self-adhesives. Both have gone back to issuing traditional water-activated stamps. Why????? Most likely a dramatic loss of revenue from stamp collectors. Will it take the same here, or might somebody out there be listening ?

On the other side of the coin is this opinion from Paul Mammano of Apple Valley, California who wrote a letter to the Stamp Collector Magazine.

As a collector for more years than I'd care to mention, I have to say that self-adhesive stamps certainly can be difficult to handle. Trying to remove a single stamp from a sheet is often a hit-or-miss proposition, with the backing paper tearing in unexpected places and in undesirable ways.

However, in all fairness, I guess I must admit that - regardless of how it affects us in the philatelic community - the general public certainly likes this feature. And, after all, should the features of the stamps that are issued be dictated by the few of us who collect, or by the majority of postal patrons who like the convenience of the self-stick format?

We collect what we like. The rest of the Postal Service's customers only care that a stamp has the ability to get a piece of mail where they want it to go without any unnecessary problems.

Sadly, some collectors lose sight of this simple fact. You would be hard pressed to find another hobby where those who collect think that they somehow have the right to dictate the way the items they collect are produced.

Why are some of us so arrogant?

If self-adhesive stamps bother you so much, simply ban them from your collection. End your album at the year 2000 (or whatever other date you prefer to choose) and concentrate on filling those early, expensive blank spots.

Remember; what you collect is always your choice. Collecting older US stamps will surely keep you happily occupied for many years to come.

Both of these articles have been slightly abridged in order fit them into the limited space of this page. The main body of the writings remains intact and only extraneous materials such as addresses and advertising hve been removed.

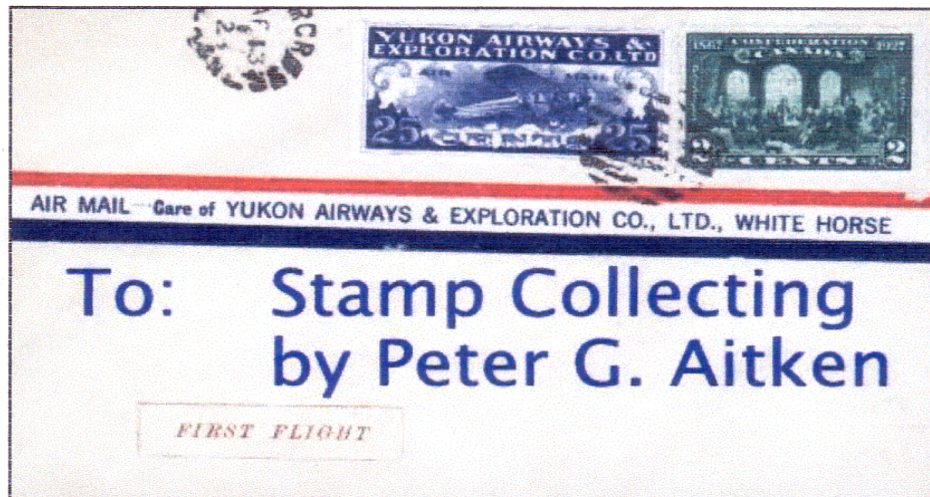


Here are two rare stamps. Recognize them? I grew up with the belief that the one on the right, the penny magenta from British Guiana was the rarest stamp in the world and it was worth \$50,000. That was a lot of money in the fifty's. I had never heard of the three skilling error from Sweden. Let me give you a little history of these two very ugly, but very rare stamps.

This stamp was printed in a color meant for the eight skilling. There is only one copy of this stamp in existence. It was found in 1885 by Georg Wilhelm Backman on a letter to his grandmother. He sold the stamp in 1886 to a stamp dealer named Heinrich Lichtenstein in Stockholm for the stately sum of seven kroner. The next known purchase was in 1894 by a stamp collector named Philipp la Rénotière von Ferrari who bought it through an agency for four thousand gulden (about \$600). It was next heard from in 1996 when it was sold in a Geneva auction for 2.5 Swiss francs to an unknown collector. That comes to two and a quarter million American. No wonder I had never heard of it. It disappeared for a hundred years.

There is a little more information for the penny magenta. It was produced by the local printers for the post office at the behest of the postmaster when a shipment of stamps failed to arrive. There were only one and eight cent stamps printed on whatever paper was available. Some were magenta, some were not. It was found in 1872 by a schoolboy who lived in Demerara, the capitol of British Guiana. Vernon Vaughn held, what was, for a long time, to be considered the rarest stamp in the world, in his hand and sold it for six shillings to a collector named N.R. McKinnon who in turn sold it five years later in Liverpool to Thomas Ridpath for 120 pounds as part of his collection. It was then sold to Count Philippe von Ferrari for 150 pounds. The count held onto it until 1922 and sold it for \$35,000 to Arthur Hind of New York. In 1939 it sold for an undisclosed price to Frederick Small and kept hidden until 1970. It was sold that year for \$280,000 and again ten years later for \$935,000 to John E. du Pont. Mr. du Pont shot and killed an associate for which he was sentenced to a hospital for the criminally insane. He will probably remain there for the rest of his life. The stamp is now locked up in a bank vault and will not be sold or viewed until it is transferred to a new owner. We may never see it again in our lifetimes.

<http://www.pgacon.com/stampcol.asp>



Stamp collecting is something we all know about. After all, we are stamp collectors. This site is a little different. Peer Aitken has delivered a site to us that we can refer to from time to time to do things on the internet with our collections. he does have a few stamps to sell us and a want list for the things he needs (this one's under construction right now, but I suspect it won't take long to finish). Perhaps you can work out a trade. But wait, there's more.

Would you like to put together a website of your own? Mr. Aitken has put together this site and a couple more that deal with other subjects like putting together a website. One of his links is to a page that gives you all the information you need to get one started. He doesn't tell you the intricate details of becoming a webmaster but rather the dos and don'ts of making a good-looking site that will be attractive to others as well as a good experience to those who visit. Just click on "Web Page Tips". Have you ever tried to scan a watermark. Tough one, eh? He will tell you how in "Tips on Scanning". But wait, There's more.

Selling a collection is always a bit of a mystery to us when it comes to the internet but Mr. Aitken has a few solutions to this problem for us in "Selling a Collection". How easy it can be! There is another link that will keep you fascinated for a while called "Stamps FAQ". For those of you not familiar with the term, it means Frequently Asked Questions. I don't believe this is his page as it tells you that you are going outside his site. Great link anyway. Glad he put it in. But wait, there's more.

The cover shown above is at the top of his page and just below it is a link that reads "About The Banner". And guess what? Every time you visit the page the banner changes. the first one I saw was a complete collection of the Canadian Jubilee issue. All were specimens. And he explains the issue for you as he does all the "banner stamps".

The last two links are to his home page and a link to contact him. If you go to the home page you will learn a little more about him. Haven't explored this one in depth, but I will soon. Then I will use the second link to tell him how much I enjoyed his site.

Another site that is both useful and entertaining and comes with a strong recommendation to visit. You'll come away with a little more knowledge than you went in with.

Take this one out on the front porch or sit in the shade of the old oak tree. take a sip of iced tea and study Mr. Scott's book well because there is a tough one or two here. The first question may cause you to thumb through a page or so before you find the answer. When did that series start anyway?

1. Who appears on the first stamp in the Champion of Liberty series?
A) Ramon Magsaysay B) Simon Bolivar C) Lajos Kossuth
2. What inventor is shown with his chest covered with medals on a 1940 stamp?
A) Elias Howe B) Samuel F. B. Morse C) Eli Whitney
3. What type of postal service is honored on a five cent stamp issued in 1963?
A) Special Delivery B) Local Posts C) City Mail Delivery
4. How many stamps are there in the State Flags issue of 1976?
A) Fifty B) Seventy Five C) One hundred
5. What is the denomination of the stamp showing composer Edward H. McDowell?
A) Three cents B) Five cents C) Ten cents
6. What government agency is honored on an eight cent stamp issued in 1972?
A) Peace Corps B) NATO C) NASA
7. The first Kentucky settlement was honored with a stamp in 1974. Where was it?
A) Fort Knox B) Fort Harrod C) Fort Hood
8. What ship appears on the two cent value in the Norse/American set of 1925?
A) Sloop Restaurationen B) The USS Constitution C) USS Enterprise
9. Who is honored as the organizer of the first volunteer firemen in American?
A) Peter Stuyvesant B) Benjamin Franklin C) Red Adair
10. Three Thomas A. Edison stamps were issued in 1929. How can you tell them apart?
A) Perf 11, imperf, coil B) perf 11, perf 11 1/2, coil C) perf 10, perf 11, perf 12

Whoa! What about that last one? Do you know the difference? And what about number nine? When did they print that stamp? Questions, questions. The answers are all in the book. Hope you can find them for another 100.

All of the answers to these questions come from the front of the book. No struggle to find answers here. Another easy 100 Auction Bucks.

1. - B) The first stamp of this four stamp series (# 930-933) was put on sale in the Post office on June 27th, 1945, a short time after President F D Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945 in tribute to the man who lead us through World War 2.
2. - A) The Erie Canal was completed in 1825, enlarged several times between 1835 and 1862 then connected with three other canals in 1918 on the Ohio River. The completion was commemorated with # 681 showing lock #5 on the Monongahela River. The Suwannee and Cuyahoga River were made famous in song,
3. - C) The Sunflower is pictured on #1183 celebrating 100 years of statehood For Kansas.
4. - A) The game of basketball was invented by James A Naismith in 1891 at the Y.M.C.A. college in Springfield Massachusetts. #1189.
5. - C) #809 shows a picture of the White house and I'm still waiting for my change when I bought one with a nickel many years ago.
6. - A) William Allen White, winner of the Pulitzer prize in 1923 for editorial writing and again in 1947 for his autobiography (posthumously) was honored on #960, issued on July 31, 1948.
7. -A) Alfred E. Smith (the governor of New York) was defeated by the largest majority of votes ever received by candidate for President. He lost to Herbert Hoover who later lost by an even larger margin to Franklin D. Roosevelt. He is pictured on #937.
8. - .B) The flag of "Korpa" was shown on # 921. This was actually a plate flaw where the E was mangled. It shows up in about one in every two hundred stamps.
9. - B) Louisa May Alcott who wrote Little Women and several other books, including Little Men, is honored on #321.
10. - B) Issued on Oct. 27,1948, Captain "Bucky" O'Neill was active in enlisting men for the Rough Riders in 1898 at the begining of the Spanish American war.

My bad, my bad. Question number six gave the wrong year. It should have been 1948 not '43 and was brought to my attention by several astute puzzlers. All who answered will get credit, of course. It seems history has overlooked Captain O'Neill. So far I have found very little about him, but it strikes me that he did more than enlist a few soldiers to deserve a statue and a stamp. Will keep checking.