



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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January 8, 2005

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As January has begun, we start new things in our lives to celebrate the renewal of our energies. **Happy New Year!**

Here's hoping we can dig ourselves out of the snow in time to make the next meeting on the 8th. Haven't heard anything about record snow-fall, yet, but this is the most I've seen in the Reno area in the last 30 years.

Another great Christmas party this year thanks to the efforts of many. Thanks to **Dick and Dee Dreiling** for that wonderful turkey. Thanks to **Kay Williams. Pat Barraige, Dorothy Geiger** and her daughter **Karen** for being there early to get everything ready for us. Thanks to all (all fifty-two of you) for attending and sharing your company. And thanks to all again for helping to clean up at party's end.

I was unable to attend the party this year and wish to thank **Stan Cronwell** for reporting this news of the party. Here are a few snippets in his words;

"For future reference, the "hot" items that were swiped back and forth were a Wal-Mart Gift Card, a super large bag of M&Ms, a hand-knit shawl or wrap, and several philatelic items including somer

cuff links depicting the US 2-cent Sesquicentennial stamp.

Marla Wetterling picked a dancing and singing Santa and Mrs. Claus which John spent the next hour trying to get someone to swipe. He finally succeeded when one of **Terri** and **Harvey Edwards'** exchange students took the bait."

For those who are setting their plans for 2005, we have the same facility booked, but for a week earlier, so mark your social calendars for the NSSS Holiday Party on Saturday, December 3, 2005.

And from Harvey Edwards;

We will be having a **show committee meeting** following the next regular meeting. We only have 4 months left to go and there will be a lot going on. We need more exhibits also.

We still need some small exhibits for the post offices. Just four to eight pages (letter size) in length will be enough to draw attention to our club.

In this issue, on the second page is an eye-opener from the nineteenth century on what you should do as a stamp collector. On the next page, an article about the Indo-China overprints of 1945. Enjoy.

1888

Ed Davies sent the following which comes from a philatelic journal written in 1888. There has always been someone ready to set us straight on what we should collect and how we should collect it, so pay attention.

The following excerpt is from Vol. III, Aug.1888 Edition of "The International Collector", an article titled "The Advantages of Being a Member of a Philatelic Association"

"There are a large number of societies devoted to Philately, and nearly every real stamp collector is a member of one....It is for the benefit of these (those who don't belong to a society, sic) that this article is written, - that they may advance the cause of Philately and their own interests by immediately hieing themselves to the nearest association, and becoming a member thereof.

...But it is of the former class (sectional collecting, sic) that we desire to treat. We hold that one can hardly be a real philatelist, in the modern usage, unless he is a member of an association of the character; and one always has duplicates to dispose of in exchange for stamps not in his collection....A certain dealer is discovered to have sold bogus stamps, and all of the members are warned...In fact, in ways too numerous to mention is a member's knowledge of Philately added to.

Then the spirit of progression is adhered to and one is informed what good collectors are doing...Several philatelists often talk together and impart to each other bits of stamp gossip, but there is never such an interchange of ideas as at a meeting for such purposes; neither are stamps displayed.

Besides being invaluable for the philatelic knowledge imparted, one should join a Stamp Society for it's social features which are always agreeable, if not more so, than in any other class of associations. For many reasons, therefore, every stamp collector should familiarize himself with his contemporaries by joining a Philatelic Association.

S.A.M. Member of C.P.A "

This article was put together by Karen Prytula. a collector in Canada.

I certainly hope you now have the knowledge to become a *real* collector like those of us smart enough to join a society. Next month we'll tell you what to collect.

Indo-China Overprints



Scott 1L7

You've seen these overprints on Indo-Chinese stamps. What are they?

In 1945 Ho Chi Minh declared the independence of Vietnam. He formed the Viet Minh to drive the French out of Vietnam (and Indo-China) in what came to be known as the first Indo-China war. The stamps were overprinted in Hanoi on a supply of Vichy, Indo-Chinese stamps that were taken from a liberated post office.

The Viet Minh postal service was small being restricted to the north and central areas of Vietnam and *possibly* Laos and Cambodia. It was not recognized by other countries and was not international in scope.

The Viet Minh postal system was seldom used for commercial or personal mail, and when it was, the covers did not often survive. Most was free official mail and did not use the stamps. The earliest known use, at this time is December 21, 1945. It may be possible that covers as early as September exist.

Owing to war shortages, some of the stamps themselves were printed on different types of paper and a few had more than one printing. While the stamps are not watermarked, it is known that the margins of the sheets were watermarked with one of two. REGISTRE A LANAY is one and the other HANOI-IDEO-HAIPONG. The font is probably different.

There are several things in the overprints, such as DAN SINH on the stamp to the right which have meanings that don't apply to the postal service. Dan Sinh means "People's Livelihood". BUU CHIN is found on most stamps and means "Postal Service". VIET-NAM DAN-CHU CONG-HOA is on all stamps and translates to Viet Nam Democratic Republic.



Scott 1L56

The Viet Minh postal system is a mystery. The ravages of war have destroyed much information and the people involved are old and memories are failing. The full story may never be known. It is always possible new knowledge might come to light. I would like to thank those who have brought what little is available.



Scott 1L3

The information given here was extracted from an article by Irving Kopf and printed in The Stamp Lover Vol 57, #4 in July 1965. Special thanks to Andrew Crenshaw of Innaha Stamps for his help and providing the article by Mr. Kopf at <http://www.innahastamps.com/>

<http://www.abfimagazine.com/stampcollecting/index.htm>

AbfiMagazine.com

If this looks like an e-zine, that would be because it is an e-zine. For those of you who haven't gone to your computer at the library yet, an e-zine is just a magazine online. This one will give you a great deal of information on new issues (stamps, of course) from all over the world. This magazine is not only about stamps but covers many other subjects. For instance, there is an article on the bridge at Remagen, an event that took place during World War II. The subjects covered are architecture, history, science, women, the arts and, of course, stamp collecting.

The first article on stamp collecting I see is, "Liberation 1944-1945". This may change by the time this Post Boy gets to you. A stamp from Luxembourg is shown that was issued on December 7, 2004 to celebrate their liberation from the nazis 60 years ago. The picture on the stamp is a watercolor by Carlo Losch that shows a war scene of 1944 and the national liberation memorial of 1994 side by side. There is an article that discusses the events that occurred in 1944 and the stamp. Below the article is some of the technical information about the stamp.



There are also articles about the Domfil stamp catalog (5 articles), 2005 stamp issues of Finland, Aland poster art, comic strips and so on. If that's not enough, at the bottom of the page there are several years (links) if you want to examine past articles. These years start with 1999. Below the dates is an alphabetized encyclopedia of stamps. Most of the articles I looked at are about Aland, Finland and Luxembourg, though the Domfil articles are about the Holland, Belgium and Swedish catalogs.

This looks like a very good site as long as your interests are restricted to a few countries. While I haven't looked at every article, the ones I have looked at reflect this. If you are interested in these countries go to the site. Or, if you are just curious, take a look, it will make you happy.

Christmas is over and so is New Years. Hope you did the Christmas quiz. Now its back to actually looking up the answers. Sit down by the fireplace. Have a glass of eggnog and see if you can answer these. They're a little harder than last months.

1. On August 15, 1947, a stamp was issued in Bath, Maine. What industry did it honor?
A) Steel manufacturing B) Ship building C) Maple syrup
2. In what year did the US end domestic airmail service?
A) 1977 B) 1987 C) 1997
3. "Old Faithful" appears on a 1972 commemorative. In what national park is it located?
A) Grand Canyon B) Yosemite C) Yellowstone
4. What animal appears on the thirty cent definitive of 1922-25?
A) Bald eagle B) Buffalo C) Timber wolf
5. Who is on the twelve cent 1938 definitive?
A) Zachary Taylor B) Millard Fillmore C) James K. Polk
6. What athletic activity is depicted on the 1979 Olympic postal card?
A) Sprinting B) High jump C) Swimming
7. What is the middle denomination of the Graf Zeppelin issues?
A) \$1.20 B) \$1.25 C) \$1.30
8. What author appears on the three cent stamp in the Famous American series?
A) R W Emerson B) E A Poe C) N Hawthorne
9. What is the name of the lamp shown on the fifty cent stamp in the Americana issue of 1975-79?
A) Iron Betty B) Iron Mike C) Iron Maiden
10. What vehicle is shown on the ten cent special delivery stamp of 1922?
A) Motorcycle B) Bicycle C) Train

For those of you who have never tried this quiz before, you had your chance last month. Well, don't let that stop you. Try this one. Its harder than last months, but not too hard. For those of you who did last month's quiz, congratulations. You all scored a perfect one hundred auction bucks. Good job!

Merry Christmas everyone. Hope you did this quiz. Easiest one of the year. It's so easy it's tough to miss an answer unless you didn't answer it. 100 Auction Bucks to all who turned one in.

1. - A, B, C) But was this really a Christmas issue? There is no Santa Claus, Angels floating in the sky or manger scenes. Why is it called a Christmas issue? It says "Xmas". Well, guess that's enough.
2. - A, B, C) The stamp was issued before Christmas, on December 7th, 1898.
3. - A, B) This statement is true (not false). While black is not considered a color by some, the fact is that it is the presence of the three primary colors. red yellow and blue.
4. - A, B) Again, this statement is true (not false). The second issue of that stamp was not only issued in the same year, it was issued on the same day. However, the color lavender was changed to blue.
5. - A, B) Once more the answer is true or not false. As mentioned above, the color lavender was changed to blue.
6. - A, B) True, not false. This was the first Christmas issue and the only issue (from Canada) until 1964.
7. -A, B, C) Well, since you ask, the Mercator projection map includes all the countries in the world.
8. - A, B, C) At the time the stamp was issued it cost two cents, Canadian (\$0.02) to mail a first class letter, therefore the stamp was sold for 2 cents.
9. - A, B) As mentioned above, the date of issue was December 7 and it was a Canadian stamp and, therefore, sold in Canadian Post Offices..
10. - B) The first Christmas stamp was a product of the Victorian era. The queen at the time was Queen Victoria I, sometimes lovingly referred to as Old Queen Vic.

This month's quiz will be a little bit more of a poser. A real challenge to the philatelic brain cells (most people aren't aware that the philatelic center of the brain is located just above the medulla oblongata).