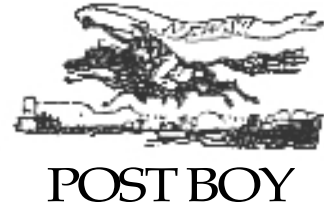


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

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.



February 12, 2005

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At this writing, I have been able to dig out of the snow and I see that others are slowly getting out of their driveways too. My backyard may not be visible 'til June when, hopefully I can get to the toolshed and start fixing the things that broke during the winter. Hope you're doing better than I.

Poor **Steve Foster**. He and his wife, **Elvira** were stuck in Argentina, suffering from 100+ degree temperatures while we were lucky enough to be digging ourselves out of the snow here in Reno. Perhaps Steve has the right idea. Lets hold our next meeting in Buenos Aires.

This month's program came from **John Wetterling** and was all about the use and variety of catalogs for determining the value of your stamps. There are many catalogs in existence. At least one for each Country and major specialty. We all know about Scott's. there is also Edfil, Yvert, Michels, Sanabria and that covers only a few countries.

The February program will be an APS slide program on a History of Hawaii as told thru stamps. It will be given by **Ed & Arline Davies**.

Special credit is given to **Ed Davies** for bringing us the story

"What Not to Collect", assuring us that some items are collected by people who don't understand the true nature of philately. it was written in 1888. You'll find it on page two. On page three is an article written by **Bill Brew** called "Glasgow to London - 1849", an intriguing tale of mail transportation a hundred and fifty years ago.

On page 5, is something called "APS Quick ID". It's a new service from the American Philatelic Society to help you identify your stamps rather than having them expertized. The idea is to save you a little money and make it easier by doing it on the internet with a scan of your stamp. But, it can still be done by regular mail if you don't have your own computer.

The new membership list is almost ready. I will bring the first copy to the next meeting. Be prepared to make corrections. If there was an error in the last issue, or an omission you wish to add, have the information ready. There are a few mem-bers who's collecting interests we don't have and would like to add them with this issue. If you can't make the meeting, my name, address, phone number and e-mail are on the left side of this page. Contact me and your information will be changed or added.

The excerpt (in quotes) is taken from Volume III, August 1888 issue of The International Collector. It was written by Col. Lector, and titled;

What not to Collect

"There is an absurd tendency among some collectors to place in their albums everything bearing the semblance of a postage stamp – without regard to use, value or history. There are certain classes of stamps which it is best not to collect, and among them may be mentioned locals, match, medicine, beer, tobacco, playing cards and telegraph stamps and other fiscals.....

If a collector, (he can not be called a philatelist) starts his collection simply as an amusement, or for the sake of obtaining a greater number of stamps than some of his school-mates and is intent only on the increase in quantity without regard to quality, it of course makes but little difference what the spaces are filled with – whether with postage stamps or with pillbox labels and beer stamps.

Of the above named stamps, the locals are the most entitled to a place in an album; while they are, in a measure, postage stamps, it is not advisable to attempt to collect them, for the market is so flooded with counterfeits and reprints that the collecting of genuine specimens is made a task rather than a pleasure, and a source of expense rather than of profit....It is true that (match and medicine stamps, sic) they were issued with the sanction of the Government and that the revenue derived from them went into the U.S. Treasury, but by what a miscellaneous set of quacks and cranks were they issued....Of course they resemble stamps, have "gum-stickum" on the back and their value in cents, and this, I regret to say is to some collectors all that is deemed requisite. But they are not stamps any more than the moon is green cheese.....Collecting of this kind is but a "mania" for gathering scraps of paper, etc. There is neither art nor science in it.

It is claimed by many that the only true way to collect envelope stamps is entire. This is true enough in some particulars. There is no denying the fact that the size of the envelope and the watermark is "non est" in the cut specimens. The cut envelope, however, is much more convenient, it takes less space, and the color of the paper is retained. The stamp is the only part which has any postal value.* There is nearly as much sense collecting medicine stamps on the wrapper which enclosed the bottle or box, for after all, the envelope is only a wrapper My idea is to collect only those stamps which have, or have had, a postal value.

*We cannot agree with the writer in this statement. It is the so called "wrapper" as much as the colored impression that the government accepts as available for postage services. (Ed.) "

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

Wonder if Col. Lector is any relationship to Hannibal?

Glasgow to London - 1849

Bill Brew

The powerful horses, their manes and tails flying in the wind as the driver cracked his whip. The outside passengers and the guard hung on for dear life. The guard was in the rear seat, or "dicky", outfitted with a blunderbuss, sword, a brace of pistols and a long horn. This was the era of the mail coaches. The roads were rough and bumpy. Still they managed to travel at the good speed of nine miles per hour.

Scott No's 1062 to 1066 (Great Britain) depict the types of mail coaches of the postal system of Great Britain from 1784 to 1831. However, coaches were still in use until 1874.

The letter, was mailed in Glasgow, Scotland on Nov. 6, 1849 and received in London on Nov. 7th. The receiver noted this and recorded those dates and the date of his answer.

The means of transportation and the route it had taken intrigued me.

In the early 1820's the train was being born. At first it was considered a toy and would not last. As the train developed it became apparent that this amusement would have some definite commercial uses. In 1840 Parliament authorized the building of railways and England entered into the "railway mania" era. Between 1844 and 1846 over 400 railways were authorized to be constructed.

The railways were an immediate success by the passengers of the coaches, not only for the shorter time of travel, but for the somewhat smoother ride. Mail and freight soon found its place and thus began the doom of the mail coaches.

The time of travel from Glasgow to London was decreased from 46 hours to 10 hours, if the train went directly to London. Scott No 904 and 905, depict the train and its development. In 1840 there were three coast to coast railways. Glasgow to Edinburgh, Newcastle to Carlisle and Leeds to Manchester. London to Birmingham was inaugurated on Sept. 20th, 1838. The Leeds and Manchester was the pioneer, having started in 1830 and carried the mail for the postal system. The North-South system needed to be connected to these systems. So, plans were approved to connect Birmingham to a point between Liverpool and Manchester. With its completion, mail and passengers could travel the 200 miles in seven or eight hours. By 1848, one third of Britain's railways were completed.

Coaches continued to carry mail and passengers in the more remote areas of West England, Scotland and Ireland. The last coach out of London was in 1846 and the last coach out of Manchester was in 1858. The last mail coach route was to Thurso, Scotland in 1874. This was Britain's longest mail route, about 750 miles.

The route of this envelope is somewhat uncertain. Did it go to Edinburgh from Glasgow, a two hour trip by train, thence to Carlisle, either by train or coach onto London? Or did it go directly to Carlisle by coach, a nine hour ride? Or by train all the way? It was mailed on Nov. 6th and delivered on Nov. 7th, excellent service by all standards. So the envelope had the exciting ride in an era of wonderful changes and its route will only be known by itself.

<http://www.pbbooks.com/cr1.htm>

For all you British Colonies collectors, here is something a little different. This time I will let the computer page speak for it self.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH POSTMARKS

by Robert S. Cragg

I think it must have been the late Lester Brookman who got me started on collecting postmarks. This is going on fifty years ago. I was looking at some Victorian Br. Guiana low values and there was "MAIL BOAT Ja 1,1901", if I recollect the date correctly.



I thought I wouldn't buy it because it was heavily struck and covered the whole stamp. Mr. Brookman convinced me it was a nice stamp, well worth the 5 or 10 cents and, of course, he was quite right. Now, after years of searching through dealer stocks, circuit books and auction catalogs, as well as many fine books and articles, I've put together some lists that might help you identify that troublesome partial postmark.

Attached are lists of villages and other offices where you may find a circular date stamp. Well, most are circular and almost all are dated. The lists are loosely arranged as follows:

1. Name as it appears in an early cancel or in the majority of cancels. Many town names, especially in Africa and Asia, have a number of spellings in English. These are ignored. But, if the town name changed significantly, the newer name is in parentheses. Names often changed because of confusing same or similar names in the same colony. Also, independence led to de-Anglicization, especially if the town name included words such as "fort". If the town is a post office outside of the colony but administered by the colony, that is indicated.

2. Next is the earliest date "known" of a dated cancel or, sometimes the date of opening. If not from literature, then from my collection. Sadly, most early dates from my collection are not that early

3. Then there are letter or numeral killers used alone or in conjunction with a date stamp. Sometimes several different numbers were used, perhaps in different styles. This is a huge field, only touched on here.

4. Lastly, the location of the village is given (or will later be given) by latitude and longitude. Sometimes this is only approximate, variables including inaccurate old maps, inaccurate new maps, moving of towns, confusion over similar town names, quirky software and my own clerical errors.

The lists are a place to get started. They are incomplete, the degree depending on what literature is available to the author. Focus is on villages with post offices around the turn of the century without attempting to include newer offices. The cut-off date for each colony varies, depending on manageability of the number of offices.

Well, you get the idea. This is about postmarks. It comes from a site called "The Bibliopole" and they sell philatelic book. Included below the writing is a "Reference File" where you can click on the various colonies to find out which towns have already been added to the list. The article offers all collectors an opportunity to add to this body of knowledge. If this is how you collect, you will find this page useful.

I haven't yet identified the book and author these questions come from. The book is called "100 Trivia Quizzes for Stamp Collectors", written by Bill Olcheski. It was published in 1982 by the American Philatelic Society. Thanks APS, you've made my life easier. Mr Olcheski doesn't present the questions as multiple choice as I have chosen to do, so, on occasion, I will alter the question to fit the format.

1. The US issued a series of stamps in 1934 that came to be known as "Farlies Follies". What was the subject of those stamps ?
A) Discovery in Antarctica B) National Parks C) Admiral Byrd
2. What American president appears on a 1965 commemorative?
A) Calvin Coolidge B) Herbert Hoover C) Franklin D. Roosevelt
3. Toleware, from what state, is shown on the 1979 American Folk Art issue?
A) Pennsylvania B) Ohio C) New York
4. Cordell Hull is shown on a 1963 commemorative. What was his job?
A) Secretary of State B) Secretary of the Interior C) Secretary of Agriculture
5. Fort Snelling appears on a 1970 anniversary stamp. In what state is it located?
A) Michigan B) Montana C) Minnesota
6. Who is on the Twenty cent 1938 definitive. (hint; the twentieth president)?
A) Rutheford B Hayes B) James A Garfield C) Chester A arthur
7. What is the denomination of the Palace of Governors issue of 1960?
A) One half cent B) One and one quarter cent C) One and one half cent
8. What method of transportation is shown on the five cent parcel post stamps of 1912?
A) Trains B) Planes C) Automobiles
9. In the Famous American series of 1940, what is the color of the Horace Mann stamp?
A) Blue-green B) Bright magenta C) Brown
10. Four areas are singled out for the beautification series of six cent stamps. They are cities, streets, parks and what is the fourth?
A) Coast B) Rivers C) Highways

I altered the last question. Did you notice? Enjoy the quiz. Hope you score a hundred auction bucks.

Guess it's back to the books now that the Christmas is gone. Still, this one isn't too hard to take. Well, question # 2 might have taken a little extra effort, especially for our younger members. I found the answer in my copy of the Postal history which was printed in these pages over a period of almost two years.

1. - A, B, C) The year, 1947 was printed instead of 1957. The appropriate answer is Ship Building (B), so, all answers will be counted as correct. (#1095)
2. - A) Because it was more efficient to transport mail by air rather than rail, as it had been since 1832, domestic air service was ended on May 1, 1977 and all first class mail was sent by air at first class rates.
3. - C) Old Faithful (the star of Metamusil ads) is in Yellowstone. The stamp is #1453 and it shows the famous geyser in full spout. And, you may see it again on another "National Parks" issue of 1934.
4. - B) Sct #569 has a very nice picture of the American buffalo which was saved from extinction thanks to the efforts of William Temple Hornaday, an American zoologist,
5. - A) Zachary Taylor, our twelfth president (known as "Old Rough and Ready") was a hero of the Mexican war. He died with less than a year in office. #817.
6. - A) A sprinter is pictured on UX80, a 10 cent postal card. The only one issued to commemorate the Olympics.
7. - C) C14 sold for \$1.30. it was issued for mail on the Graf Zeppelin during it's first Europe-Pan-American round trip flight. They were sold in post offices for less than two and a half months (April 19,1930 to June 30, 1930).
8. - .A) Ralph Waldo Emerson's portrait is on #861 the three cent bright magenta. He was a writer of prose (Self-Reliance) and poetry (Snow-storm) and he embraced transcendentalism.
9. - A) # 1608 shows the Iron Betty from the Plymouth Colony which was settled by pilgrims from the Mayflower.
10. - A) #E12 shows a messenger delivering a package to the lady of the house while his motorcycle is parked on the street.

So, how'd you do? Did you get the first one right? Not that it matters, you will get it right anyway. How about that second one. It was a little tougher than I thought. Hope everyone made another hundred Auction Bucks.