



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

September 10, 2005

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If you can, take a moment for silence and another for prayer for the victims of Katrina.

We are coming into a new season of events for our club and I, for one, am looking forward to it. There are, of course, the normal run of weekly events such as auctions consignments and programs and in addition, the **Auction Bucks** auction comes in the second week of November. This is old hat old members but it is new to our newest members, so here's what its all about;

Every time you do something for the club you will earn "Auction Bucks". Write an article for the Post Boy, donate stamps to the penny box, donate your time on a project even coming to a meeting will net a few auction bucks in your pocket. If you look to page 7 of this edition of the Post Boy, you will find a list of the things you can do to earn bucks, and how many bucks you can earn.

what are you going to do all these "Auction Bucks"? Its simple. The time is coming to spend them. Every year on the second Saturday of the month of November the club has the **Auction Bucks** auction. Its like a garage sale among the members of the club, only you don't make any money at the end of the sale and you don't

spend any money either. Everything is donated. Everything is sold for auction bucks. The auction bucks are returned to the auction bucks chairman and given out again the following year. You bring your extras to be sold. Preferably philatelic but not necessarily. There's usually not much left over at the end of the sale and what you buy is your reward for participating in the club functions. If this doesn't explain it to you, coming to the auction in November will, and you might have a good time.

I see that Linns has corrected the information about how to get to the **Filatelic Fiesta** (Sept 30, Oct 1st & 2nd in Parkside Hall at 180 Park Ave. in San Jose). This will be a good one to go to. You will be near the Philatelic library (Raynor Activity Center building 6, Room 61500 Partridge Ave, Sunnyvale, CA) so be prepared to do some research. To enter an exhibit the person to contact will be **Jim Sauer** at hjamessauer@yahoo.com.

There are no local shows in October, but there are several in the L.A. area. November will give us 3 shows in California. The first is in Sunnyvale on November 12 and 13. The next is in Santa Clara and will is on the weekend of the 17th - 20th. The third is in San Francisco on the 26th - 27th.



Shortly before they opened the doors

Just thought I'd let everyone know that the State Fair was here this last month (the 24th- 28th for those who didn't catch it). We had a few volunteers to man the table and the rest of the time was covered by **Dick Dreiling** who spent every day, all day at the table. Special thanks to **Laura Beck, Paul Glass, Mike Potter, Terri and Harvey Edwards, John Wetterling, Barbara Diedrichsen and Kay Williams** all of whom helped out at the table. Hmmm, 55 members, nine helping. We could use help with the museum too. See Dick Dreiling.

**Dick Dreiling** captured first place and best of show for his first day cachets which included a uniquely expertized piece, from George Linn. It was the first, first day cachet and it was expertized when he answered a letter asking if he really made it. I was glad to have seen it in person.

First place in the Junior division went to **Sumayya Beekum** for her very important display called "How I get my Stamps". Glad to have that one there. I directed several inquisitive people to it.

The second spot was given to **Keith Carvin** for his rather intellectual exhibit, "Honoring a Native Son and Nobel Laureates". The stamps are Sweden and the native son, Alfred Nobel. The other honorees were the Nobel Prize winners from all over the world.

The Third place was taken by **Dick Dreiling** with his "Reno, Nevada" in postcards. This one was the hit of the show among collectors and non-collectors alike with everyone looking for places they've stayed, worked or eaten in that may be gone, now. What a great history show.

"Mail and More" was an exhibit that Nadiah

Beekum snatched from the hands of the garbage man. Its a great group of WWII letters that were about to be disposed of. Luckily she put two frames together for our collective pleasure.



Dick gives a history lesson

The final result was that while there was a shortage of help, the attendees didn't notice. Much attention was paid to the club and our exhibits. Many questions were asked, many stamps were given away, information was freely given and several strangers may be showing up at the next few meetings. Welcome them. We could be making new friends.



Howard pounding palms with a potential member

**AUCTION BUCKS**

THE PURPOSE OF THE AUCTION BUCKS PROGRAM IS TO INVOLVE NSSS MEMBERS IN THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES.

THE 2002 AUCTION BUCKS AUCTION (PHILATELIC AND "WHITE ELEPHANT") WILL BE HELD 9 NOV, 2002.

YOU MAY EARN EXTRA BUCKS BY FOLLOWING THESE RULES AMENDED FOR THE 1999 YEAR BASED ON MEMBER INPUT.

- 1. PROVIDING A NEW MEMBER -----200 BUCKS
- 2. NEW MEMBER ("JUMP START" BONUS)-----250 BUCKS
- 3. PROVIDING A PROGRAM-----150 BUCKS PER SUBJECT
- 4. PROVIDING REFRESHMENTS-----100 BUCKS
- 5. SELLING DOOR PRIZE TICKETS----- 25 BUCKS
- 6. DONATING DOOR PRIZES----- 5 BUCKS EACH (LIMIT 5)
- 7. PROVIDING AUCTION ITEMS----- 5 BUCKS EACH (LIMIT 6)
- 8. DONATED ITEMS FOR GOOD OF CLUB ----- SAME # OF BUCKS AS  
AUCTION YIELDS OR EQUAL TO VALUE OF ITEM
- 9. OFFICERS BOARD MEETING----- 50 BUCKS
- 10. COMMITTEE CHAIR ATTENDING MEETING----- 25 BUCKS
- 11. CLUB MEMBER ATTENDING MEETING----- 10 BUCKS
- 12. MEETING ROOM SET UP OR DOWN----- 5 BUCKS EACH
- 13. HELPING ON THE YOUTH PROGRAMS-----10 BUCKS PER HOUR
- 14. HELPING ON AN ORGANIZED SHOW-----10 BUCKS PER HOUR
- 15. ANY CLUB ACTIVITY ( EXCEPT MEETING)----- 10 BUCKS PER HOUR
- 16. PROVIDING ORIGINAL POST BOY ARTICLES----- 100 BUCKS - 1/2 PAGE  
(MAY BE EDITED) ONE PAGE LIMIT----- 200 BUCKS - 1 PAGE
- 17. CORRECT POST BOY QUIZ ANSWERS----- BUCKS VARY PER ISSUE
- 18. PENNY BOX DONATIONS----- .02 BUCKS PER STAMP

- MEMBERS (THAT'S YOU) YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING IN "OUTSIDE MEETING" ACTIVITIES HOUR VALUES TO A "BUCK" CHAIRPERSON. PLEASE COUNT YOUR PENNY BOX DONATIONS TOO.
- AUCTION BUCKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY.
- YOU MAY CARRY AUCTION BUCKS OVER FROM A PREVIOUS YEAR'S EARNINGS
- BUCKS MAY BE USED TO BUY, SELL, TRADE PHILATELIC ITEMS BETWEEN MEMBERS.
- BUCKS MAY BE PURCHASED: 500 BUCKS FOR \$10.00 (REAL MONEY)

GETTING INVOLVED IN NSSS ACTIVITIES IS THE BEST WAY TO EARN BUCKS !!!

**GET INVOLVED !!**

# *The Marshall Islands*



The Marshall Islands. I've heard of them. Don't they put out more stamps than they have people to use them? This site is a little different than the ones I've had on this page in the past. If you try this one out, you will come out of it with an intimate knowledge of the people, the culture, the history and geography of the Marshall Islands along with a new appreciation of their stamps.

The site is, essentially a biography of these American islands, the islands that ushered us into the atomic age. The first page opens with the above picture or others (they rotate every time you return to the first page) such as the Marshall Islands flag or a native boat on the beach. There are seventeen links that will take you to various aspects of island life and history, except for the last link, called "Editorial Matters".

Above the image are two links called "Link of the Day", which, on this day, was about human rights practices in the islands, and "Historic Image of the Day", a placid village scene from 1906. These are the simplest pages on the site. Once you are on the page, you can go to an archive or return to the home page.

Then comes "Culture & Society", "European History" and "World War II", and then, after "Literature & Art", we finally get to stamps. You may never believe this but the link is called "Stamps". It starts out with a non-working link to Pre-Colonial mail. That section is the newest on the site and judging from the other links, it is quite promising. The next area is the German Colonial period. It starts off with a table of contents, so you can take a little time exploring this one. The years between the wars is covered and if you look closely, you will find a nice cache of Crosby covers, mostly made for Pan Am. This takes it up to 1941 and then it skips the war years and goes straight into the Trust Territory period from 1945 to 1989 with covers from Operation Crossroads (nuclear testing) and finishes with the famous "Hialeah Forgeries", a group of forgeries produced recently in Hialeah, Florida.

Stamps may be our main interest but that interest is necessarily extended to the human condition by the purpose for which these stamps are used. Communication is the essence of stamps and the central theme of our collections. This site reveals the human condition in the Marshall Islands, partially through stamps. I recommend this site to you because it goes beyond our hobby and into the heart of a community.

I thought last months question about how many stars in the flag on the four cent flag stamp would throw a few people off. Well, you guys are too smart for me. There were another batch of perfect papers. See if you can do it again.

1. What fictional character appears on the 1974 issue for the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow"?  
A) The headless horseman      B) Washington Irving      C) Ichabod Crane
2. What president appears on a twenty five cent airmail stamp of 1960?  
A) G. Washington      B) A. Lincoln      C) T. Roosevelt
3. Who is on the one half cent value of the 1938 definitives?  
A) Martha Washington      B) Martha Stewart      C) Benjamin Franklin
4. What is the color of the Thomas Edison stamp of 1929?  
A) Green (one cent)      B) Carmine (two cents)      C) Violet (three cents)
5. What famous publisher and editor was the subject of a 1961 commemorative?  
A) Horace Greeley      B) Adolph Ochs      C) Perry White
6. In what year did the U. S. issue a stamp to mark the 100th anniversary of the California Gold Rush?  
A) 1947      B) 1948      C) 1949
7. What was the denomination of the George Rogers Clark stamp of 1929?  
A) One cent      B) two cents      C) three cents
8. The 1956 wildlife conservation issue showed three types of wildlife. What were they?  
A) Fish, fowl, mammal      B) Insect, mammal, bird      C) Reptile, mammal, fowl
9. What explorer appears on the one cent stamp of the Panama-Pacific Exposition issue of 1913?  
A) Vasco Nunez de Balboa      B) Vasco de Gama      C) Hernando DeSoto
10. A Washington DC building, now used as a museum, appears as one of the stamps in the Historic Preservation issue of 1971. What building is it?  
A) The Madison House      B) The Decatur House      C) The Smithson House

Check your answers closely, the trickster is at it again. The question is simple and the answer seems obvious but its not quite as it appears. Do well. Score another hundred Auction Bucks!

There are two questions about my favorite set of American stamps, the Columbian Exposition. Take a close look at these stamps. They are an impressive issue.

1. - C) #1552 presents special problems for collectors. The self adhesive gum causes discoloration in the stamp. If soaked, the stamp will separate into layers. And, like price tags in stores, slashes were cut into the dove on the stamp to prevent it from being peeled off and re-used. Handle with care.
2. - B) #C46 is a bright red-violet. Diamond head refers to the Hawaiian volcano. Now, why would anyone need an eighty cent stamp in 1952? Hmmm.
3. - B) Masaryk came to the United States in 1917 to seek support for an independent Czechoslovakia. He is credited with the founding of that state and served as its president for seventeen years. #1147 and 1148.
4. - A) #222, the four cent dark brown stamp of this beautiful issue, has a picture of the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. Poetic names, aren't they?
5. - A) issued to celebrate the International philatelic Exhibition in Toronto, #1757 has eight stamps in the sheet.
6. - C) In 1657, the Flushing Remonstrance said; "Wee desire therefore in this case not to judge least we be judged" (<http://www.nyym.org/flushing/remons.html>) in reference to the Quakers thus paving the way to religious freedom. #1099 commemorates that document.
7. - B) Alaska became the 49th state on Jan, 3, 1959. # 1131 was issued on June 26, two months before the admission of the 50th state, Hawaii. There were 49 stars.
8. - B) James A. Garfield was noted for being the second president to be assas-sinated. He went onto office as a political reformer to stop corruption but was shot with only six months in office.
9. - C) #230-245 contains twelve stamps depicting the story of the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus.
10. - A) The New Netherland is the ship that carried the Walloons to New Netherlands (New York) to settle in Fort Orange (Albany) in 1624. # 614 celebrates that ship and the Dutch development of the New York state area.

Now that we know all about the Walloons, who were the Huguenots? Weren't they French? Hope you made a hundred.

## **Some Notes on Stamp and Cover Preservation**

by Arlene Sullivan, RPSC, BNAPS  
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(Note- the author has a B.Sc. in biology from Simon Fraser University and recipes listed are proven effective and safe!)

It isn't only the moneyed collector of classic stamps and rare covers that needs to be concerned about the proper handling and storage of his collection. No matter what kind of philatelic material appeals to you, there are a couple of things that you can do to ensure that your stamps, postcards and souvenir sheets will last in good condition for many years.

I found a couple of books (check your local library) that provide good general overviews of how to look after paper artifacts. The first is "An Ounce of Preservation - A Guide to the Care of Papers and Photographs" by Craig A. Tuttle, Rainbow Books, Inc. ISBN 1-56825-021-5. This paperback is a nice introduction to care and preservation of your paper collectibles, not too technical but a useful overview of topics such as paper, inks, recognizing deterioration, how to store paper, and simple repair techniques.

The second is a much more technical book oriented toward the conservator of books, but it is worth a read particularly for those storing and displaying classic stamps. The information I give below on deacidification of paper comes from this volume. It is "The Practical Guide to Book Repair and Conservation" by Arthur W. Johnson. Published 1988 by Thames

and Hudson, London, ISBN 0-500-01454-X. This is a good read for the chapters on Materials, Adhesives, and Chemicals alone.

Information on the chemistry of stamp "oxidation" and it's reversal come from an excellent article in the first quarter 1998 issue of "BNA Topics", the journal of the 7British North American Philatelic Society. "Rejuvenation of Stamp Colours with Hydrogen Peroxide" written by L. Kruczynski is a very readable report on Mr. Kruczynski's investigations into some of the mechanisms of stamp discolouration and how to reverse them.

### **WHEN YOU BUY - Mould and Mildew**

Preservation should start from the moment you inspect potential purchases. Look closely - do you see any signs of staining, mould or water damage? Does the album or cover have a musty or sour smell? Is the paper damp, and is it fragile and easily torn? These are signs that the material may be contaminated with mould or mildew, and while it may be a really good buy, think twice about purchasing - you may be taking home more problems than the stuff is worth.

Next month we continue this column with the rest of "Mould and Mildew", followed with "Paper Condition" and "Special Cases" . This article will be ongoing over the next few months.

The main problem with albums and covers that carry fungal growths of this kind is that even with a good airing, a dry storage area, and careful handling, mould and mildew can spread to uncontaminated material in your collection and under the right circumstances can cause considerable damage. Fungal growth weakens paper, making it fragile and harder to handle, and can cause staining and colour changes in stamps and paper. Under conditions of dampness and sluggish air circulation - basement or attic storage, for instance - fungi can spread incredibly quickly and cause the loss of a collection in a matter of weeks. So avoid purchases that show the signs of mould and mildew contamination. If you must buy, make sure that your purchase is given a thorough airing in a dry place, and store it well away from the bulk of your collection. Always wash your hands after handling these kinds of pieces to prevent spread of the fungal spores to uncontaminated material.

### **Paper Condition**

Especially if you are buying older material, carefully inspect the condition of the paper for pinholes, thin areas, and tears. Take a look at the colour of the stamp, too; is it faded or darkened? These are signs of paper deterioration that could have occurred for a number of reasons - usually improper storage. Exposure to sunlight, cigarette smoke, emissions from automobiles or coal plants, and even handling of the stamps with fingertips instead of stamp tongs can cause changes in the paper that weaken the bonds that hold the paper fibres together. Pin holes and tears can then occur with even gentle handling.

Exposure to even small amounts of acid from atmospheric pollutants or handling can cause "oxidation" of the stamp ink. Acidic compounds will also cause paper deterioration, so be aware that changes in ink colour can mean changes in paper quality, too. Orange inks of the Victorian period seem to be particularly susceptible to this kind of colour change - examples of the 3c small Queens of Canada, for example, can be almost black.

### **Special Cases**

It also pays to know something about the printing and gumming of the stamps you are purchasing. For instance, "Ostropa" souvenir sheets issued in 1935 in Germany (Scott B68) are often found mint without gum. A gummed sheet in this case is not a very good buy as the gum was formulated with sulphuric acid which over the years has caused the paper of gummed sheets to deteriorate. Collectors who knew this soaked the gum off of their copies to preserve the paper, making the mint no gum sheets the preferred collectible. Know your stamps!

In the next issue of Post Boy, this article will continue with "OK, my stamps are home, now what?", and some tips on storage and first aid for your stamps.