



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

February 11, 2006

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It's February and we've made it through the floods again. Storms are still broiling on the horizon which means Spring is on the way! But it can't get here soon enough.

As you are all aware, at least if you pay your bills by mail, there has been another postal rate increase. and this right after the post office posted a 1.4 Billion, yes Billion with a capital "B", dollar profit. Congress approved it and we get to pay it. Again! In all fairness to the post office they hire a lot of ex-military person-nel and congress has decreed that the post office will be responsible for their military retirement pay. The post office expects to add another 4 Billion dollars to their gross income with the increase. I could use another \$billion or so, how about you?

My apologies to the club for not giving the program as promised, but family takes precedence even over stamp collecting. I am told the program was given by Radar O'Reilly, AKA **Gary Burghof**. I have the tape at home and it is a very good one, so I know you had an entertaining meeting. Next month will be about Zeppelins.

Laura Beck had an accident involving her hip. It was cracked when a very strong gust of wind swept her off her feet. She will be in Washoe Rehab for three to four weeks starting about two weeks ago. Stop in to say hello, I'm sure she will be happy to see you.

Keith Carvin's cancer surgery

was determined to be success-ful and he is now at home recovering. Chemo therapy is now part of his life and is difficult to handle. A call might make him feel better.

We may have a treat for the second meeting this month. The **Boy Scouts** will be paying us visit in order to earn a merit badge in stamp collecting. Lets all give them a warm welcome and be prepared to answer questions.

Those of us who are online have been sent a message from Harvey Edwards that looks like some very good news. It is official now that our stamp show has become an **Artown** event. It will help satisfy our local advertising problem (we couldn't afford local advertising rates) and bring in some of our neighbors. It may also help to bring some of the out-of-towners that come to Reno for **Artown**. Look forward to a big crowd this year!

On page 3 is an article by Jack Searles and page 7 & 8, one by Tom Fortunado, courtesy of the APS website and the authors of these nicely written pieces.

Mar 4-5, NOVAPEX '06 will be held at the Senior Citizen's Hall, 2290 Benton Dr. in Redding. Starts at 10, goes to 5 on Sat and 4 on Sun.

11-12 March - FRESPEX 2000 - National Industrial Education Bldg. Fresno District Fairground, Fresno, CA. That's all the info I could find on this one.

The Philatelic Cover

Do you have any philatelic covers in your collection? Or are they all postally and correctly used. If its postally used, can it still be philatelic? What is a philatelic cover, anyway? What's the difference between a normal cover, a philatelic cover that is postally used and a strictly philatelic cover? There are even have philatelic covers that aren't covers.



Philatelic covers can be postcards such as the one to the left. Note there is no address and it was made to pick up the special postmark when the Saar voted to rejoin Germany in 1935. This one is a "hand-back". It was canceled at the post office and handed back to the owner. It did not go through the postal system. Sometimes hand backs are done on a piece of paper with a stamp on it just to collect the postmark. This was very popular among collectors in Germany in the 1930's.

Another type of philatelic cover does go through the postal system. Usually they are made by you and me. Sometimes they are made by a dealer for his customers or for himself, to sell later. Typically, these are mailed to a (or by) friend or to oneself from another country or location to acquire special stamps, or for special cancels.

But, if it goes through the postal system, how can you tell that its philatelic? The cover to the right carries on it a full set of the overprints for the German occupation of Luxembourg. That's one way to tell. It is over-franked and has a variety or full set of an issue as this cover does. These stamps would be more valuable if the cover(s) were properly franked and displayed an appropriate usage. It is helpful to know the postal rates for the time.



How are philatelic covers defined? They are covers that are created for the purpose of creating a collectable item! They may or may not go through the mail system. Some of these are obvious, such as the covers pictured here and there are other way of determining that a cover is philatelic. First day cancels are usually philatelic, as are chached envelopes, and "event" covers (first flight, zeppelin, rocket mail, etc.), unnecessary mixed frankings, special cancelations, unusual town names and stamps from countries that make many more stamps than they use (Dunes). Still, legitimate covers can come from Dune countries and someone might walk into the post office to mail a letter on the stamp's first day of issue. Look for the unusual appearance or the name of a stamp dealer or collector. We can't always be sure it is a creation but we can separate most of the philatelic from the real. Now, what about the cover this newsletter comes in???

I drew most of the information for this article from Wikipedia at en.wikipedia.org. Just type in "philatelic cover" and hit "go".

©2000 Jack Searles <<http://www.jacksstamps.com/philart.html>>

Who is this famous person?

- The French author Balzac claimed this person “should be credited with inventing the United States”.
- He was the seventh son of a soapmaker.
- Had two years of formal schooling.
- He spoke English, French, Italian, Spanish and Latin fluently.
- He was first to chart the Gulf Stream.
- He was married for forty years to a wife that was almost illiterate and rarely seen, but to whom he noted “we throve together”
- During his life he had a major dispute with his son. The stand taken by the son ultimately caused him to be labeled a traitor and a spy.
- This person had a strong belief in the future. Once in a foreign country a skeptic witnessed the ascension of a balloon. The skeptic quipped “Of what earthly use is a balloon?” to which this person responded “Of what earthly use is a new born baby?”
- Who is this famous person?

Source: Storer, Doug. Amazing but true stories behind the stamp. NY: Pocket books, 1976/

Answer: Ben Franklin



<http://members.aol.com/shobansen/index.html>



Stamp Collecting

Doing it for enjoyment, not for profit

A different approach to stamp collecting.
A complete guide for beginners.
Spend less and have fun while you learn.

Well here's a different approach. The gentleman's name is Shoban Sen and he is not looking for your money, but he is looking for your stamps (if you want to give them to him) and he wants to introduce you to our hobby. he is more than willing to share his knowledge with anyone who sees his website. He says "This site is not meant for professional stamp collectors who collect stamps for profit. It is for beginners and intermediate stamp collectors. It is a non-commercial site." Very interesting, I think I like this guy.

So, what does he have to offer? A HOBBY. This is the first letter of each of his pages. "A" is for acknowledgment. If you contribute to his collection, your name goes on this page for helping out (and your picture if you're a big contributor). There is also a picture of his wife for being so tolerant of his stamp collecting insanity. Don't we all need a spouse like this?

The "H" is for home. That's the opening page. "O" is for overview of stamp collecting. Here you find a number of very nice stamps from different countries and subjects such as "About Me", he started collecting in the late 1940's, "Why Collect", several good reasons here, "My Method", he doesn't spend a lot of money, "my stamp Collecting Kit" and a few more subjects of interest. This is a good page for the beginning collector to start with. The older collector might find a few good ideas, too.

"B" is for Basics of stamp collecting and starts with an introduction "Stamp collecting is easy when you do it as a hobby". Then it goes on to the basics, like getting started, soaking and drying stamps and whether to use an album or stock book. Even here there is useful information for us old-time collectors. It never hurts to revue. The next "B" is for beyond the basics with more information on how to keep the hobby inexpensive along with perf gauges and watermarks, etc. Finally the "Y" which is Your chance to peek at his collection.

This is a pleasant site worth a visit from experienced collectors and new collectors alike. Pass this one onto the beginners in your life and don't forget to take a look yourself. This one's a keeper.

Last month's quiz was somewhat difficult. It had a few tricky questions. This one is less so. Remember what a "Sesquicentennial" is? The weather's still a little cool so a hot chocolate (or hot something) should go well with the quiz and should take as long to drink as to answer the questions!

1. The Iwo Jima Memorial is pictured on a stamp of 1945. What city is it in?
A) San Francisco, CA B) Arlington, VA C) Washington DC
2. Whose picture appears on the first Confederate stamp?
A) Benjamin Franklin B) Jefferson Davis C) George Washington
3. What sport is shown on the Lake Placid Olympic issue of 1932?
A) Slalom B) Speed Skating C) Ski Jump
4. What anniversary of football was marked by a 1969 stamp?
A) 50th B) 100th C) 150th
5. The World's Fair in what city was the subject of a 1958 stamp?
A) Frankfurt B) Brussels C) Seattle
6. In what year were the first US Christmas stamps issued?
A) 1960 B) 1961 C) 1962
7. A 1949 airmail stamp marks the 200 anniversary of what American city?
A) Washington DC B) Boston, MA C) Alexandria, VA
8. A stamp issued in 1955 showing the Great Lakes and two steamers marked what 100th year event?
A) Opening of the Erie Canal B) Opening of the Soo Locks
C) Operation of steamships on the Great Lakes
9. What is shown on the Canal Zone Postage dues of 1932-41?
A) Dr. Walter Reed B) Manuel Noriega C) Canal Zone seal
10. The Missouri Sesquicentennial issue featured a painting called "Independence and the Opening of the West". Who painted it?
A) Thomas H. Benton B) Gilbert Stuart C) Grandma Moses

Bonus! An extra ten bucks if you can tell me why the first Christmas issue (Canada) is considered a Christmas issue. Santa isn't on it.

This should be an easy 100 (maybe 110) Auction bucks!

1. C, Ignacy Jan Paderewski (#1159) played the piano. He was a child prodigy and a concert pianist who played for audiences in Europe and America. He became a statesman (great enough to be put on a US stamp) later.
2. A. Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon but, the stamp (#C76) doesn't show Neil Armstrong, specifically. The picture is of a man in a space suit, stepping onto the surface of the moon. But we all know who's in the space suit, don't we?
3. C. The Netherlands was one of the first (France was the first) to diplomatically recognize the independence of the United States in 1782, shortly before the end of the Revolutionary War. This was noted on Scott #2003.
4. This is a most interesting question. Garibaldi (#1168) led the fight to secure the unification of the Italian states to create Italy, however, he was born in Nice, France and was a citizen of that country. He escaped Italy after a failed Republican uprising in 1834 and went to Uruguay to help with the fight for their independence from Argentina. While the official answer is Italy, all three are acceptable.
5. The first airmail route was between New York and Washington DC with a stop in Philadelphia. It was 218 miles long and was flown once daily. The answer is A & B.
6. According to Scott, #1247 celebrates the 300th anniversary of the colonization of New Jersey in 1664. The rest of the story is that 1664 is the year that the Dutch surrendered New Jersey to the English. They colonized it four years earlier in what is now Jersey City. B would be the correct answer.
7. A. Winslow Homer was noted for his realistic paintings of the sea and taking American art out of Romanticism and into Realism. He did not write the Odyssey!
8. B. The Transcontinental issue spoke of exploration and settlements in new territories. #300-313 was about presidents and other important people. The Pan American issue (#294-299) was about planes, trains and automobiles, the industrial age.
9. B. It was Chester A. Arthur (#826) who started the modern US Navy by updating it during his administration. He also excluded immigrants who were "paupers, criminals, idiots, or insane". He probably wouldn't do in this age of the politically correct.
10. A. Wolf Trap Farm (#1452) is set in the country near Washington DC in Vienna, VA and provides entertainment for government workers and locals. Tickets aren't free but not expensive either. Go to wolf-trap.org to find out what's coming up and how much the tickets are going for. Wolf Trap was honored again on #2018 in 1982.

Obtaining a Commemorative Cancel

by Tom Fortunato
Chairman, APS Chapter Activities Committee

Are you looking for a free, unique way to honor a special event or anniversary in the US? Consider a pictorial postmark from the US Postal Service! Anyone or organization can apply to the post office for a cancel. Here's how...

Officially they're called, "Cancellations for Philatelic Purposes," with details found in section 164 of the bible of US Postal Service (USPS) policy called the Domestic Mail Manual. The workers at your local post office should have the book available, but this section may have been taken out of their edition. If so, they can contact a larger post office or GMF to which they report for clarification.

It is your responsibility to design the cancel itself within USPS guidelines. They're rather simple. A cancel must:

- # be no larger than 2 inches high by 4 inches wide in its final form
- # have the month, date and year it will be used somewhere in the design
- # contain the name of the event followed by the word "Station" or abbreviation "Sta."
- # not have copyrighted logos, slogans or alike, unless permission has been granted for their use
- # in no way defame any individual, group or organization
- # not promote a political undertaking or candidate
- # not endorse a commercial product or venture (non-profits are OK!)

Keep the design simple, as a cluttered cancel will not display as much detail as you hope. Three copies of the final artwork design must be submitted to the post office nearest the event at least 10 weeks in advance, preferably sooner. It's also advisable to contact them in advance and make your intentions known! Once approved, the post office will make up the rubber cancellation device at their expense! The USPS also freely promotes the availability of the postmark (and of course, your event!) at not only local and regional post offices, but nationally through stamp newspapers across the country.

These cancels are used on the designated day at a temporary postal station the USPS will set up at your event. In exchange for the cancel, the post office requests that they be allowed to use a table or stand to sell the latest stamps and postal products. Obtaining the cancel is free, however it can only be applied to a post card, envelope, or postal card bearing the proper first class rate postage.

Here's where it can get interesting! Although any envelope will do, sponsoring organizations or individuals are encouraged to create their own envelopes to be used with the postmark. Envelope design work is known to stamp collectors as the "cachet," pronounced "cash-ay." All you need to do is apply a stamp (one relating to the event works best) and get it canceled! Organizers can request in advance that an ink color other than black be used if desired.

Taking this idea a step further, most event sponsors get cacheted envelopes printed and either distribute them free of charge or sell them at a modest price as a fund-raising activity. Printing a box of 500 in one color ink runs around \$30, and some groups might be able to get it done free as a donation. Finished creations sell at a price you set (normally \$2-\$4 each) and can be sold along side the post office table by the sponsoring organization.

Such envelopes usually don't have an address on them. This is how they're normally saved as collectibles, known as hand-backs, since they never went through the mails. However, event-goers are certainly welcome to post a letter from the event, giving it to the postal employees there to mail. By the way, under USPS rules, anyone not able to get to your event may still write to the post office holding the cancel for up to 30 days and get a postmark. They must provide the item(s) for cancellation with properly rated stamps as well as a self-addressed envelope for the return.

From the "Top" of the Barrel

by Tom Fortunato

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Have you heard of "lock" stamps? Below you'll find an example of this rather unknown area of back of the book American philately. I last saw an article about them a few years back in Linn's Stamp News. It dealt with U.S. Customs and similar seals (green, I believe) used to guarantee that the contents in the locked room were not tampered with after inspection. Note that these below are similarly without denominations of any kind. According to the dealer, these smaller cousins were used on individual barrels of liquor locked to guarantee that no additional "watering down substance" was added. That sounds plausible to me. They're not listed by Scott's.

Although a bit difficult to read, they have the inscription "U.S. Inter. Rev. Lock Seal," and in very small print, "Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Litho." They are rouletted horizontally all the way across and vertically through the gutters, leaving straight edges on the sides and bottom. When I spotted them, there were 8 seals: 4 on each side separated by a wide gutter. Each "pane" started life as 10 seals mounted in a booklet at the top. Here is the lower pair. Three additional pairs were attached, bearing black sequential numbers 40552 through 40555 on left handed seals, and 40557 through 40560 on the right. Additionally, there is scoring on each running from Liberty's left eye to the bottom of the frame line, running through the black overprint "SERIES B." Have you seen these before, or know more about their use?



Since posting this article, several people have responded back with more information. If the club members are interested in this articles, I will cintinue with the later postings in the next issue.