

Nevada

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
<http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/>



Stamp
Study
Society

N.S.S.S.

POST BOY

May 13, 2006

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At last, the Merrie Monthe of May. The birds are singing, flowers blooming and the sun is out every day! Right?

A small problem occurred this month when the museum had a function on Saturday the 13th and we needed to move our meeting to another location. A location was found on Oddie Blvd. and a map to the meeting is inside this issue on page 2.

A very nice program was given us thanks to the efforts of **Harvey Edwards** and the narrations of **Terri Edwards**. This month we were delighted with a show of trains on stamps. The CD used to show the ATA off was put together by transferring material from the American Topical Association to the CD by Harvey while his wife, Terri donated her voice to the effort. Beautiful job. Thanks!

Jeanne Paquin may be creating new stars for television as she is putting together an informational show about stamps to be aired on Cable TV. There's not a lot of time left so if you would like to try your hand at starring in or producing a hit TV show, contact Jeanne and offer your talents. The show's name is "Syntax."

The deadline for the cancellation stamp for the **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** has passed but there's still time to send a cachet to **Duane Wilson**. The Artown logo should be used within the design or placed somewhere on the cover. You may also want to consider that the deadline

for your exhibit is drawing near.

Time to start thinking about the **Nevada State Fair**, held this year on August 23rd thru the 27th. The website is at www.nvstatefair.com. Got a vegetable to show? Maybe a painting or quilt you made? I know! How about your stamp collection. This may be the time to try your hand at exhibiting. Put one together and contact **Dick Dreiling**.

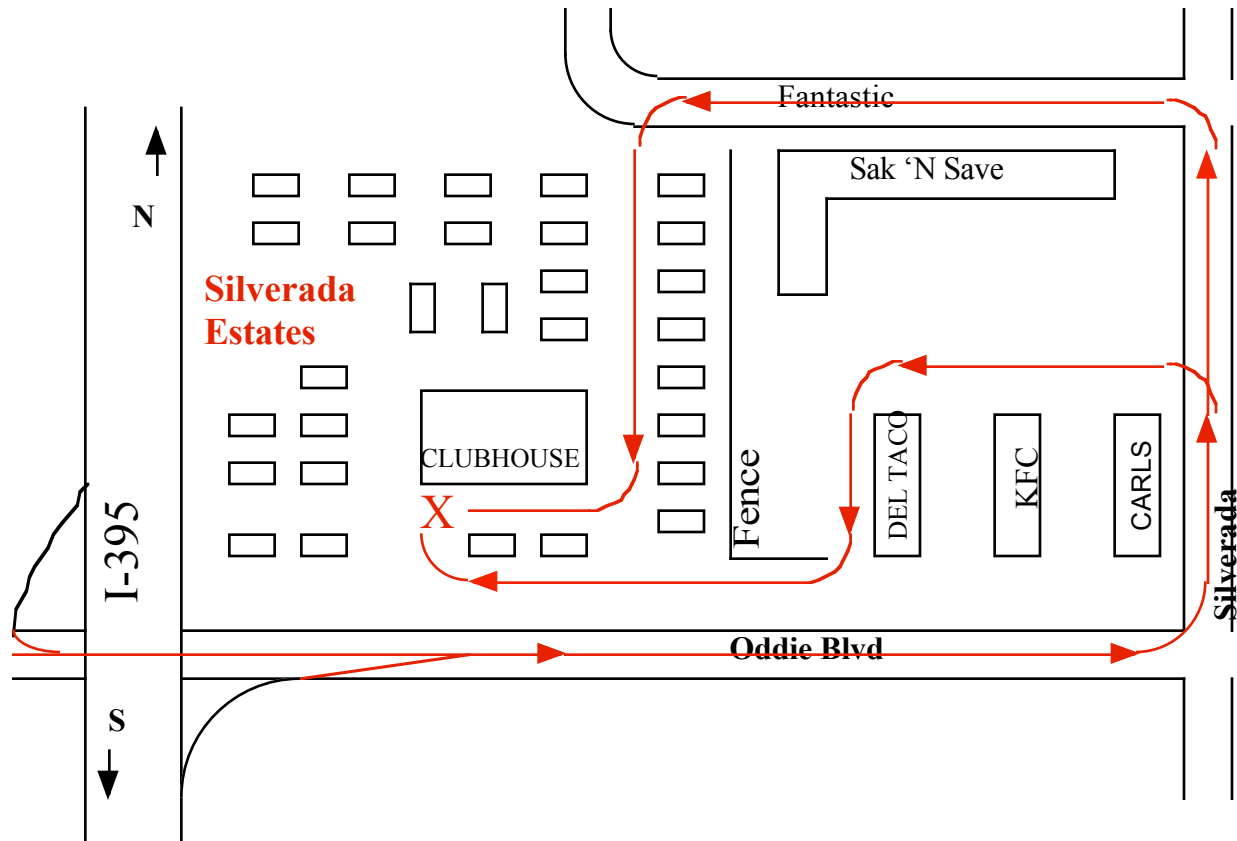
Next month's program will be given by Harvey and Terri again and we hope it will be the program on ships on stamps which was started last meeting but there was a problem with the CD.

As you look over the new Post Boy you might notice a color theme developing. People of importance are printed in **red**, websites in **blue** and events in **green**. Other small changes have been made in the masthead such as the font, added color in the back and I have redrawn the state map. Most of the changes are minor and, I hope, effective.

Volunteers are needed for the election committee. Please contact Terri Edwards.

New shows are coming up. One of them is us; **COALPEX** from June 10-11 at the Walnut Creek Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. in Walnut Creek, CA. Hrs, 10-6 on Sat and 10-4 on Sun. **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** from July 15-16, at the National bowling Stadium, 300 N. Center St. in Reno, NV. Hrs.-Sat, 10 - 6. Sun, 10-4.

The meeting for the 13th of May will be held in a different location this week, in the clubhouse of the Silverada Estates mobile home park near Sak 'N Save on Oddie Blvd. Take 395 north of the old MGM to the Oddie turn-off and follow the little red arrows. Sorry, they're only on the map, I didn't have time to paint them on the street! Parking near the clubhouse may be limited and you may have to park outside of Silverada Estates.



There are two routes to the clubhouse in the Silverada Estates trailer park. Take your pick and follow the red lines (black, if you get this in the mail) with arrows.

1. Go through the Sak 'N Save parking lot, around the fence near Del Taco and to the front entrance of the park.
2. Go to Fantastic where The entrance to the park is where the street turns right. You make a left into the back of the park

<http://www.stamps.org/CAC/index.htm>

Winick Snippets

By Les Winick

As syndicated in 435 non-philatelic newspapers.

Have you ever wondered if the parlor game "Post Office" had anything to do with stamp collecting? It certainly does and can be traced back to the Civil War.

Troops were not issued the comforts such as soap, stationery and other personal necessities. President Lincoln approved the United States Sanitary Commission on June 13, 1861 with the purpose of dealing with the health and general comfort of Union troops. The work of the Commission was to be supported by public contributions.

"Sanitary Fairs" were organized to raise funds for the Sanitary Commission. These fairs are similar to church sales and bazaars that are held today. One of the booths at a Fair was a Post Office. A personable young lady, known as the "Postmistress," was on duty. A gentleman in the crowd was told that mail was waiting for him at the Post Office. It was the task of the postmistress to get as much money out of the young man as possible. The young lady would deliver a blank envelope for a donation, and then would state that there was also a "postage due" charge. Upon payment of the additional fee, she would kiss the gentleman, to the cheers of the watching crowd.

The Post Office proved so popular, that "Sanitary Fair Stamps" were issued. Although these "stamps" were not valid for postal service, they were sold at the fair "Post Office": with the approval of the local postmaster. Sanitary Fair Stamps were applied to letters along with other stamps that actually paid the postage.

Many of these letters that were postmarked at these Fairs are worth several thousand dollars today.

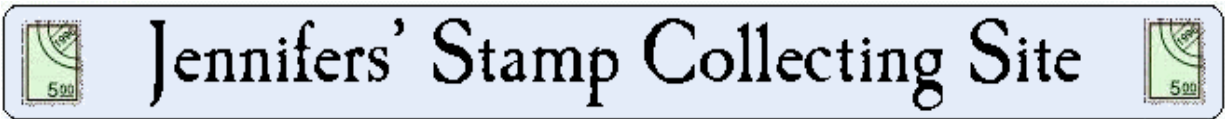


It was also during the Civil War that another group used stamps to promote good will. The newly formed Young Men's Christian Association found that many soldiers did not have stamps to use on their mail. The Post Office Department sent these letters to the dead letter office since most of them did not have a return address.

The YMCA left quantities of postage stamps in various Post Offices with instructions for the postal clerk to use them on soldier's mail if the envelope did not have any stamps or were short the correct amount of postage. They also left a label which was to be applied to the front of the envelope advising the recipient of the letter that the YMCA furnished the stamps and the group could use a donation to help carry on its charitable work.

The postal clerks were happy to put the stamps and the label on the envelopes rather than go through the paper work of sending the letter to the dead letter office.

<http://jenstampsite.web1000.com/>



The postage stamp is a flimsy thing
No thicker than a beetle's wing
And yet it will roam the world for you
exactly where you tell it to.

-Author Unknown

Is this a nice way to open a site, or what? A small poem with an unknown author. Just something to tickle the fancy. The rest of the site is not so simple. It is full of information for the beginner and more advanced collector as well as the person who is still

thinking about starting a collection or doesn't know what to do with the collection he/she just inherited. Do you want to learn about the different perforation types? Easy enough. Click on Perfs. The links are on the left side of the page, just under the APS logo and starts with "About". This isn't about the site or the person who set it up (FYI Jennifer Warriner), rather, it's about stamp collecting, the basics. Some of it is a little advanced for the beginner, but useful anyway. A little ways down the page is a question and answer section where the commercial aspect of this site is first revealed. It is noted that a good way to acquire stamps is from Mystic Stamp Co. and while there may be more commercialization, it hasn't become too obvious to this writer. This is still a good site.

You will find a glossary of philatelic terms that is fairly good and if you don't find the term you're looking for there is a link to Ask Phil, who has an even more complete glossary. There is an exchange listing to trade stamps with other collectors at no charge. Maybe you can find a trading partner. This part of the site seems not to be too well taken care of as there are a couple of spammers that have taken advantage of the free postings. I have contacted Jennifer to notify her of the spammers but haven't received a response yet. The Links page includes a number of sites that are both commercial and non-commercial where there are museums, identification aids, societies, philatelic resources and, yes, dealers (Mystic is one). There is also a grouping called "Scam" Protection which will lead you to three sites that offer information on dodgy sellers and how to detect fakes and forgeries. This is good information to have at hand when dealing on the internet.

There is still more to be found on this site so it is a good one to explore and learn from. Send a beginner there or someone who might take an interest in stamps one day. There is much for a newbie to glean from this site. As I have pointed out above, there is an apparent connection to the Mystic Stamp Company, and possibly to others, but that connection may be simply to pay for the site. Nothing wrong with that. Someone must pay for it, why not a company(s) that will benefit, ultimately, while they benefit the community they serve. Good site. Visit it often and take what it has to offer. There is much useful information here.

The snow hasn't melted off Peavine, yet so why not spend a few minutes answering this quiz. You can't plant your tomatoes just now anyway. Enjoy the sunshine before it gets too hot. Take the quiz to the park with you. Maybe some kid will ask what you're doing. You might create a new philatelist. Never know!

1. What poet is shown on an eight cent stamp of 1971?
A) Walt Whitman B) Emily Dickinson C) Sarah Orne Jewett
2. How many stars are on the flag stamp issued in 1968?
A) Forty-eight B) Forty-nine C) Fifty
3. Who is on the four cent value of the 1938 definitives?
A) Thomas Jefferson B) James Madison C) James Monroe
4. Simon Bolivar was on a 1958 stamp. What country does he come from?
A) Venezuela B) Bolivia C) Argentina
5. The man who served as secretary of State longer than any other is on a 1963 stamp. Who was he?
A) John Jay B) Condoleezza Rice C) Cordell Hull
6. A block of four stamps saluted the 1982 World's Fair. Where was it held?
A) San Antonio, Tex B) Seattle, Wash C) Knoxville, Tenn
7. The president of what country was featured on the first Champion of Liberty stamp?
A) Philippines B) Venezuela C) Poland
8. What was the denomination of the 1965 stamp honoring the International Telecommunications Union?
A) Six cents B) Eight cents C) Eleven cents
9. Sidney Lanier appeared in a 1972 stamp. What was his occupation?
A) Poet B) Editor C) Candlestick Maker
10. When the five cent James Monroe stamp was issued in 1954, what was the first day city?
A) Fredericksburg, Vir B) Alexandria, Vir C) Richmond, Vir

For a 10 Bucks bonus. According to "Author Unknown", a stamp is no thicker than what?

Number five will give you a small problem, but the rest are easy. Hope you did well on the quiz.

The bonus question comes from another part of the Post Boy so you will find the answer somewhere in these pages unless, of course, I get a bee in my bonnet. Then, I may make the question impossible to answer. Nah.

1. B. # 1044 shows Independence Hall where John Hancock placed his famous signature on the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
2. C. John Philip Sousa, who wrote "Stars and Stripes Forever" appears on Scott #880, the 2c red found in the Famous Americans series.
3. A. On September 15, 1810, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla shouted the famous "Grito de Delores" calling for Mexican independence from Spain. #1157 celebrates the 150th anniversary of that cry. Mexico drove the Spaniards out eleven years later.
4. B. In my youth I was fortunate to live in the town (Mainz) where the first printing of the Gutenberg Bible took place. It was also the first book to be printed. (# 1014)
5. A. Released to celebrate a hundred years of American tennis, #U569 was issued on August 31 of that year.
6. A. Four hundred and fifty years ago (from 1971) sheep were introduced to the American continent. #1423 notes that event on a stamp picturing a ewe and lamb.
7. A. UX 52 shows the Coast Guard flag and a face value of four cents. Weren't those the days!
8. C. #1548 portrays Ichabod Crane being chased past a dead tree in front of a full moon by the headless horseman from "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow".
9. B. The set was started in 1954 but the five dollar stamp (#1053), showing Alexander Hamilton, wasn't issued until March 5, 1956. It was printed in black!
10. A. On America's first pictorial stamps (some say first commemorative), the ship is the S.S. Adriatic. Twelve cents is the letter rate between the US and UK.

Bonus: Pony Bob Haslem was mentioned in Bill Brew's article about the Pony Express race held here in Reno. Bob was a champion Pony Express rider.

It wasn't too hard to write the questions and, I hope, not too hard to answer. There must be more information about the S. S. Adriatic but all I could find is that it was part of the Black Ball line that sailed between Liverpool and New York. Does anyone know why it deserved a stamp?

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The Luxury of Travel

(Islands of the South Atlantic)

By Jack Searles

Published in the Olean Stamp Club Newsletter, APS Chapter 1442



Recently, I had a convergence of thoughts. While driving along, enjoying the freedom of movement and travel, I was thinking about the purchase of stamps I recently made for 25% of catalogue value. My mind began to wander and my creative thoughts began to flow.

You know, we are lucky. If you or I want to travel to another state or city or town we simply hop in our cars and away we go. This is truly a wonderful luxury that does not occur in many parts of the world. One of those places where this luxury of travel does not occur as regularly as here in New York State, is Tristan da Cunha.

Tristan da Cunha is a remote, almost circular island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean discovered by the Portuguese explorer Tristao da Cunha in 1506. Tristan was formally annexed by the British during August of 1816. It has a whopping population of about 300 souls.

This island is the largest island in the Tristan group, composed of a series of smaller uninhabited islands, named Nightingale, Inaccessible, Middle and Stolenhoff, respectively. So what about the freedom of movement on Tristan? Well, the Royal Mail Ship St. Helena calls at Tristan only once per year, on its January/February voyage. Of course, that's the summer season for them. According to reports, the RMS St. Helena only stays for two to three days per year, during which passengers get ashore only if the weather is obliging.

But this is not the end of my story because you see, Tristan da Cunha is a dependency of St. Helena. St. Helena was also first claimed by a Portuguese navigator. He was Juan da Nova Castella, sighting land on May 21, 1502. The island was named for Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. After its discovery, this island was used by the Portuguese as a fresh water stop for their fleets returning from the East Indies.

During this time, its location was a closely kept Portuguese secret, until 1588 when that the English navigator Thomas Cavendish located the island. The secret was out! From that year forward the island was intermittently used by the Portuguese, English and Dutch. In 1633, the Dutch formally annexed the island but did not occupy it.

Occupation of the island had to wait until May, 1659 when the English East India Company claimed the island under a charter from Charles II. The first inhabitants of the island were company employees, English settlers and slaves from South Asia, the East Indies and Madagascar.

Still unable to place St. Helena? Well it is actually quite famous! You see, Napoleon was exiled to this land in 1815. With this famous dignitary came a large garrison of British soldiers and naval ships on constant patrol in case of a rescue attempt. When Napoleon died in 1821, almost all of the garrison was withdrawn.

But St. Helena has been visited by many other dignitaries, like Charles Darwin in 1836 on the homebound leg of his voyage on the Beagle. Dinizulu, the son of Cetwayo of Zulu War fame, and his entourage were confined on the island, as were 6,000 Boer prisoners of war during the Boer War.

With its up and downs, St. Helena survives with a current population of 5,800 individuals. The island economy has become almost totally dependent upon a single commodity, New Zealand flax, used as ropes and string. St. Helena is also serviced by the RMS St. Helena.

While this has all been interesting - to me at least - it is still not where I want to be. Rather my destination is another dependency of St. Helena located almost exactly in the middle of the South Atlantic, namely Ascension Island. Like St Helena, Ascension was first spotted in 1501 by Juan da Nova Castella, but the finding went unrecognized. The official discovery of this island had to wait for Alfonso d' Albuquerque, who in 1503 rediscovered the island on Ascension Day.

Currently, this island has a population of about 1,350 individuals, of which 850 are St. Helenians, 100 Americans and 350 are British (165 of which are members of the Royal Air Force). Both the US and British Air Forces maintain a presence on this island.

So what does this have to do with stamps? Well, it was a wonderful deal on Ascension Island stamps at 25% of catalogue value that sent me on this trek. After all, you can't own Ascension Island stamps and not know where it is located - can ya??!! Well, look for it in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, almost exactly between South America and Africa, far off the coasts of Brazil and Angola, respectively.

Now that we have arrived at Ascension Island, what about its philatelic history? Well, the stamps of Great Britain stamps in values ranging from 1/2d to 1s were used on Ascension Island prior to 1922. In that year, Ascension Island became a dependency of St Helena, and stamps of St. Helena overprinted "Ascension Island" were used for postage. Since the end of World War II, Ascension Island has participated in all the colonial omnibus issues.

All told, my catalogue tells me that through 1994 this island has issued a total of 574 commemorative and regular issue stamps, plus 6 postage due stamps. There is only one post office on the island, located in the town of Georgetown. Flora, fauna, and historical events are common themes on these very collectable British Commonwealth stamps.

Oh - and guess what? You can visit Ascension Island via the R.M.S. St. Helena which makes its rounds annually. So much for the luxury of travel!