

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/>



N.S.S.S.



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Where did the year go again? I thought it just turned 2006, now it's '07 already. Hope everyone had a safe New Years and got everything they wanted for Christmas. I didn't but I suppose I could shorten my list by a few hundred items.

The Christmas (can I say that?) party was its usual success. **Dick Dreiling's** turkey was grand. Santa visited all at the party and his gifts were accepted with good cheer. The eggnog was tasty and the decorations were beautiful thanks to the efforts of **Karen Gieger** and all the others who pitched in to set everything up and stayed behind to make sure the room was left in good order. Most importantly, special thanks to **Kay Williams** for all her efforts in setting up this party every year. She does a great job. What a grand group of people we have.

Just a reminder, there will be a board meeting this month, after the first meeting. Board members, be prepared. Club members, your attendance is always welcome as is your input. Please come. At This meeting we will be reviewing the by-laws.

On November 11, it was reported that an absentee ballot

had been received in Broward County, Florida. Seems the voters there like controversy. The ballot was sent with a C3a attached to the envelope. In case you haven't been looking at your stamp magazines and catalogs for the last 23 years, C3a is the inverted Jenny worth about 300 thousand dollars. Since the ballot is in the ballot box, it can't be removed for examination by experts so a scan was made for them. The experts are now saying that the stamp is not real. The colors are wrong and the perforations don't look right. I think, when they see it up close, it will turn out to be a cut out from a magazine pasted on the cover. Oh, well! It was good advertising for stamp collecting.

There are no shows this month or next in the local area, except for a couple of bourse only, without exhibits. **NOVAEX** (March 3 - 4) and **FRESPEX** (March 10 and 11) are on the Horizon. Also, the big one, **WESTPEX**, is coming too, on April 27-29. There will be a \$3.00 charge for that one. The Sacramento Philatelic Society will be hosting the **Annual Easter Seals Stamp Show** in April. As soon as the information arrives, I will put it in the Post Boy.

Here is an article I found somewhere on the internet but I don't know where and I am unable to give credit where credit is due. My apologies to the author. Still, its a good article and I have had it on my computer for about two years hoping I would find it again so it could be attributed. Enjoy the article. It's very entertaining.

Weird prices on eBay

I get "Linn's Stamp News" once per week and see in there some quite nutty prices obtained on eBay. The a July 7 edition of Linn's has one such example.

An eBay seller from Florida listed a lot - 2931364399 for a June sale with the subject heading: "UNITED STATES AIRMAIL C3a?"

Now as virtually everyone reading this knows, Scott C3a is the legendary USA 24¢ "Inverted Jenny" airmail stamp of 1918 of which one sheet was found. Scott is \$US170,000 each - hinged!



The recently surfaced "Locket Copy"

Certainly the most fascinating example to come to light is the Inverted Jenny "Locket Copy" which was given by eccentric mil-lionaire Colonel Green (buyer of the entire sheet from the finder Robey) to his new wife, Mabel in a gold locket behind glass.

It had never been offered to the public until Robert A. Siegel Inc auctioned it in NYC May

2002 by order of the Bank of New York. Both lower corners were damaged when the jeweller roughly squeezed this poorly centered stamp into the locket.

The error stamp is gum side back to back with a regular 24¢. It was never removed from locket so the auctioneer "assumed" the inverted centre stamp was MUH!

This auction firm achieved the rather remarkable price of \$US192,500 for another "Inverted Jenny" in their sale 804.

This recent eBay lot mentioned in Linn's however did not start at \$170,000 but started at 1¢.

"NO GURANTEES"

The seller used exactly this description – and the rude cyberspace "shouting" use of capitals and spelling are his.

I HAVE HAD THIS STAMP IN MY COLLECTION FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS, NOW IT IS TIME TO SELL IT, WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET... NO PROMISES, NO GURANTEES..... HAPPY BIDDING.....



Auction Lot Image of Inverted Jenny

There were 32 bidders. Auction opened at 1¢ minimum bid. The first bid was 10¢. Despite the clear warning there were 'no gurantees' (sic)

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The Grinell Missionaries

The Grinell Missionary stamps have spent a lot of time in the philatelic news lately so it's time the Post Boy expounds its two cents worth. The question revolves around whether or not the stamps are forgeries, usually an easy question to answer. The Grinells are a specific group of the early Hawaiian Missionaries. The supply of these stamps are severely limited so determining which are real and which are not become a matter of a lack of information. There is precious little material to work with.

The story of the stamps: George H. Grinell, a stamp collector, was approached by an 81 year old man named Charles Shattuck to buy some old stamps. Mr. Shattuck sold his stamps for five dollars. Grinell found a prayer book among the stamps and inside were a group of Hawaiian Missionary stamps. He sold 43 of the stamps to John Klemann of the Nassau Stamp Co. in New York for \$65,000 who, in turn sold 16 of the stamps to Alfred H. Caspary for \$75,000. Caspary, an expert in Hawaiian Missionaries, examined the stamps and determined they were fakes. Klemann returned the \$75,000 and went back to Grinell to get his money back. A lawsuit followed and the stamps were again determined to be fake in a court of law.

Well, they put those stamps out of their misery quickly. Right? Right? Not right. The prosecution argued the merits of the physical properties of the stamps proving they showed enough differences from the real stamps to be classified as forgeries. The defense, however argued that the provenance of the stamps was significant in proving that they are real and it was this argument that has kept the case alive among stamp collectors for all these years. The ownership of the stamps *can* be traced back to the original users.



Grinell bought the stamps from Charles Shattuck who's mother, Hannah Child Shattuck, corresponded with Ursula Emerson, a missionary in Hawaii in the 1850's. There are letters in the archives (I don't know which archives - HG) that prove a correspondence between the two ladies who were also born and raised in Nelson, New Hampshire. Unfortunately, the stamps were cut from the envelopes which were not saved and proof of where they came from was lost.

I have not shown here if the stamps are real or not, I just wanted to relate the story. It would take more pages than this publication normally has. I do have the arguments of their reality from the Mystic stamp company in a PDF for anyone who wants to read it. Send me an e-mail. It's really a good read and only 60 pages long. by Hemmeon, 1912.

<http://doig.net/EthiHome.html>



Everything you ever wanted to know about Ethiopian stamps and probably a lot you really didn't want to know. The surprise is that it is all really interesting. The Ethiopians were never colonized except for a brief period by Italy. Then the British helped them throw Mussolini out on his ear during WWII.



The stamp pictured here (right) shows Menelik II who brought the small kingdoms



of Ethiopia back together to re-establish Ethiopia as a state. Would you like to know how to identify the forgeries of this stamp? He will show you on this site.

To the left is one of a large set (Scott #120-134) that was reprinted by the printer for re-sale. He was given permission by the Ethiopian government. You can read the document and learn the difference between the reprints and originals.

On this site you'll find links to the ministers of the post, the players in Ethiopian philately, a little bit of miscellany and an opportunity to join the Ethiopian Philatelic Society. One of the fun things I enjoyed was map Of Ethiopia that was drawn in 1653. Its a big one. There's also a military joke, but I'll bet you can't find it.

Looks like a pretty good site to visit, particularly if you want to learn about those pesky overprints on the early issues. This site is full of good information about these stamps that I have seen in every collection and it is written by a person who is very knowledgeable. There is also a search engine for the site. Easier to find what you want. If you haven't guessed by now, I like this site and recommend it whether you collect Ethiopia or not

Belize is a small country on the Caribbean side of Central America that used to be called something else when I was growing up.

1. By what name was Belize formerly known?
A) British Honduras B) Palestine C. French Guyana
2. What country lies immediately to the north of Belize?
A) El Salvador B) Mexico C. Guatemala
3. What animal is shown on the three cent value of the Mayan pottery set of 1974?
A) Kinkajou B) Stag C pangolin
4. What American is shown on the 1976 Bicentennial issue?
A) Franklin Roosevelt B) George Washington C. William Wrigley Jr.
5. In what year did Belize become independent?
A) 1973 B) 1978 C. 1981
6. What vehicle is shown on the Churchill issue of 1974?
A) Popemobile B) Coronation Coach C. His hearse
7. A "Crana" is shown on the lowest value of the 1974 definitive issue. What is it?
A) A duck B) A fish C. A Horse
8. What distinguishes the designs of the postage due stamps of 1976 other than the numbers?
A) The borders B) The colors C. The pictures
9. What group of people is shown with Queen Elizabeth II on the 1977 set honoring the 25 anniversary of her reign?
A) Senators B) Futbol players C. Bishops
10. What is the occupation of the people shown on the lowest value of the 1975 Christmas issue?
A) Waiters B. Farmers C. Musicians

Bonus question. What famous General led the fight to take Monte Casino in WWII?

This one doesn't look too bad. Go to the library and use their catalogs to answer the questions. They were written in 1982 so an old catalog will do.

I enjoy doing the Christmas quiz so much, I would like to do it every month. But then, we wouldn't learn very much about stamps, would we?

1. A. It seems that last year's question #1 was indeed an easy one. Out of 14 people who turned in the quiz, 14 of them got it right. The correct answer is either A, true or B, true. I would suppose this exceptional coincidence may happen again.

2. A. Of course, this question applies only to the quiz in the Christmas issue and not to other issues. The correct answer is A, Probably not true and B Get real.

3. B. I'm feeling a little silly about this one. I had an answer that would give you a little useless information about our favorite holiday. I found it on the computer page I gave you last month. It seems to have disappeared. Not the site but the information.

4. A. Again, information from the Christmas site that I can't find now. However, I do remember that this is true. Because the church demanded it, Christmas was, for a time outlawed in Great Britain and colonies. They got around it by declaring it a "Winter Holiday" ..

5. B. Well, I guess I'm an idiot. Traditionally Christmas stamps have been ready for sale in the post offices all over the country (ours) sometime in November for the "Holiday" season in December.

6. A. Remember Gene Autry's song? "Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight." Bet you got that one right.

7. C. The first Christmas stamps were issued with neutral themes such as a tree or wreath. #1321 broke that mold by printing a stamp of a painting of Madonna and child by Hans Memling.

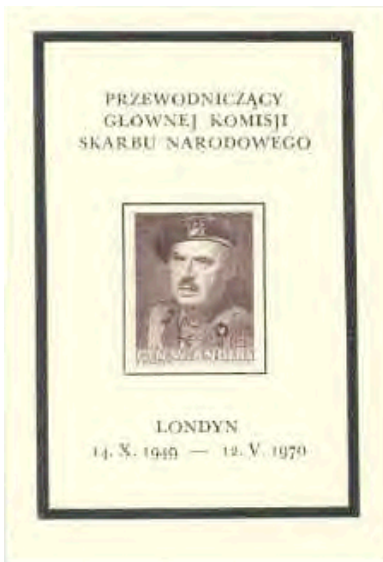
8. C. Yep! The people liked it so they did another. Same artist, same painting, bigger stamp!

9. A. I took a while but Santa showed up on a stamp in November, 1972 on #1472.

10. A. I know I had a good Christmas and I certainly hope you had a wonderful time too. If you put an answer to this question then "You got it!".

Bonus: Oops, there wasn't a bonus question, was there!.

I have a sneaky feeling that everyone who turned in a quiz this month scored well. If you still have it bring it into the next meeting, or the next.



Private issue on the death of General Anders in 1970

Polish II Corps

We like to tell a lot of Polish jokes about how backward and ignorant the Poles are but if you look at your history you will find that they are anything but an ignorant and backward people. Of course, we all know jokes are just jokes and I doubt anyone believes that about the very admirable folk from this eastern European country. In the next couple of issues of the Post Boy I will present two articles about these heroes of World War II and the stamps that were issued as a result. First we will take a look at the Polish Second Corps.

After German forces attacked Russia in the summer of 1941, a Polish army was raised to help fight against the nazis. That army was led by General Władysław Anders (a commander in the Polish calvary) who had been captured by the Soviets when he fled east

from the advancing German forces when they invaded in 1939. He had been held for over a year in the famous Lubianka prison in Moscow until his release in 1941 to lead the Polish troops who had also been released from the Russian gulags. After the embarrassment of a lack of uniforms, being under fed and training with wooden guns in Russia, he moved his army to Iran and on to North Africa where his soldiers were properly equipped and fed by the British. The Polish II Corps was formed with General Anders commanding.

Monte Casino, in Italy, is an a Abby that sits on a hill overlooking the village of Casino in the valley below. It is in a strategic position and blocks the roads to Rome. The abby was built in the 6th century and has been razed and rebuilt several times in its history as a result of being in that strategic position. By May of 1944 the Allies had made three attempts to capture Monte Casino and were repelled each time. General Anders and his Polish II Corps were sent in for the fourth attempt. After three days, 1000 Polish troops killed and 3000 wounded, the Polish flag was flying over the Abby and the Germans had been routed. It was the Polish army that led the allies up the coast and into Rome to end Italian participation in the war.

When General Anders left the Soviet Union, he brought a large contingent of Polish citizens with him. Some joined his army but most were sent on to London where they formed the Polish government in exile along with a contingent of non-combatant soldiers. After the war, almost all chose to stay in exile rather than return to a homeland dominated by the Soviet Union. Had they returned, there is little doubt that most would have gone to the Russian gulags and General Anders would have been executed. General Anders continued to head the Polish government in exile until his death in London in 1970. He was never able to return to his homeland.

While the Soviets were in power in poland, I found no mention of General Anders in Polish stamps and one reference to the battle of Monte Casino in 1984, on the 40th anniversary. One stamp was issued, #2623, of a memorial cross dedicated to the fight. Stamps, such as the one above were either privately issued or issued by the government in exile.



Scott 3K18 was issued by the government in exile in June of 1944 for use on ships of Poland.

Philatelic adventures in Jamaica

Jack Searles



As many of you know I particularly enjoy stamps issued by the British Commonwealth of Nations. About nine years ago, my wife and I won a trip to Jamaica. We looked forward to this trip and of course and had a great time, promising upon leaving that like Macarthur that “we would return”. Well, recently we had the opportunity to return to beautiful Jamaica. As always, an important part of any vacation for a stamp collector is the opportunity to pursue your hobby. Naturally, I was interested in the stamps of Jamaica. While I have collected Jamaican stamps for some time it’s a real adventure to purchase stamps at face value directly from the source. Stamp collecting in Jamaica as I understand from our tour guides is not particularly popular as a hobby. This is probably in part because Jamaica is really a “third world” country where the average income is \$2,000 US per year. Sugar, bananas, bauxite and of course tourism are the biggest sources of revenue to this island country off the coast of Cuba. While we were visiting, the Finance Minister for the country indicated that increases in tourism had offset the increases in the cost of gas for the country.

We stayed in Montego Bay, one of the tourist destinations on the island and the home to one of the countries 2-3 “official airports”. The Jamaican dollar trades at 1 Jamaican dollar=\$.025-\$.03 US.



The Montego Bay Post Office is a large bustling Post Office with a Philatelic counter. There is one employee that has all of the philatelic material. If you arrive at lunch you will be informed that she will “soon come” to show you the stamps. After a half an hour she did come and regaled me with an array of available stamps, much to the chagrin of others waiting in line. **On Piece** is usually not listed in the catalogs. On piece should have the entire postmark visible and should be from an envelope (or other type cover) that was sent through the mails. The exceptions are stamps on a piece of paper that was not mailed but collected for the cancel. Usually this applies to special (e.g. event) cancellations or city cancels. On piece stamps should have no more than a 15% premium over the value of the used stamp. Stamps on a piece of paper are given only the used value of the stamp.



While stamps can be purchased at the local hotels, to see/purchase an array of available stamps you have to venture to a post office. I visited two post offices while in Jamaica, one in “urban” Montego Bay and one in rural St. Leonard's (in the heart of the cockpit country of the Maroons— descendants of Spanish slaves set free when the country was invaded by the English and with which the English have a self-government treaty similar to those with some Native Americans in the US).



The stamps, scenery and people of Jamaica make it a wonderful place to visit particularly when one leaves the miserable late winter weather of Western New York to visit the balmy 85 degree year round weather of Jamaica.

Remember, when traveling explore your hobby!

whatever in the part description above, the final 2 bids were at \$US100 each, and I presume the winning bid was the one made earliest at that price level.

Two collectors each bid \$US100 on this turkey!

Now \$US100 for a genuine "Inverted Jenny" is the buy of the century.

However, offering \$US100 for this Turkey gets my "dumbest bidder of this decade" award – and the 2 top bidders share that prize equally!

Just look at the illustration that was attached to the auction lot. The genuine "Inverted Jenny" has close margins, is line perforated and many have straight edges.

This clumsy dog of a fake is simply a colour photo very roughly cut from an auction catalogue or magazine, and glued (sideways!) over a 1¢ Canadian stamp.

Linn's did not identify the stamp used, but the sharp eyes of the Canadian owner of www.ezstamp.com seems certain that it is the vertical 1973 1¢ Canada definitive stamp depicting Sir John A. Macdonald.

You can see from the eBay scan parts of the orange design are still poking out under the "invert" that on the original were top and bottom that on this fake are at left and right.

The very distinctive yellowed phosphor "tagging" strips on left and right of the 1¢ can be clearly seen under the "Inverted Jenny". Now you would think every collector over the age of 5 years would have picked this silly fabrication, but not so it seems.



This 1c stamp turned into \$US100

The seller said in Linn's (a month after the Auction) he would have refunded the money if asked. Whether he would have/did who knows?

In this case the seller really bears little blame as had the item sold for 1¢ or even 10¢ he would have been out of pocket after listing fees were deducted. The lot heading "UNITED STATES AIRMAIL C3a?" was highly deceptive. The BIDDERS are the ones who amazed me.

My experience is that eBay are interested in commission and they only get that from goods sold, and in a case like this would likely not insist on any refund given the clear description.

As my dad used to say: "A fool and his money are soon parted".