

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

September 8, 2007

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The voting is over the installation is done and school is starting. Drive carefully and watch out for the kids. especially in the school zones. Had a great time at the picnic but I ate too much and have to return to my diet.

The picnic took place this year at the Bartley Ranch park. It is South of McCarran and you cross through a covered bridge to get to it. This park was built around Bartley ranch which was started back in the 1850's when Reno was just a spot in the road competing for attention with other small towns like Huffaker and Steamboat Springs. We were lucky enough to be given the "tour" of a small group of historic buildings that had been spared from destruction by the county by Loren Jahn, who is not only a historian but an artist as well. Good site for a picnic. Very pretty and interesting. I wish more could have shown up but several wanted to go to the APS show in Portland. Not a bad choice either.

Our new president, **Mike Johnson**, was installed at the meeting and while there is no Vice president, Stan Cronwall stepped up to the plate to cover the position whenever needed.

In last month's issue I mentioned the **Filatelic Fiesta** in San Jose and promised some word on when it will be. This is the word. It may be held sometime in February or March as there has been some difficulty finding a venue, a place

to hold it. **Jim Saur** has promised to notify me when the site has been nailed down.

From **Jeanne Paquin**;

I am searching for plastic boxes (size of a shoe box) with a lid for new more useable penny boxes, rather than to continue to use the cardboard boxes. They have become too deep and filled with non-circulating stamps. I want to overhaul the Penny box system to increase usage and encourage more members to check out the boxes. I need at least four of these plastic boxes. Also, if you have large sized containers (Costco cookie box) with lids we could use them to hold donations for soaking and separating stamps.

23rd Annual Humboldt Stamp Show Sept 29 to 30 at 1924 4th ST, Red Lion Hotel in Eureka, CA. Sat 10-5 and Sun 10-4.

WINEPEX October 5 to 7 at the Marin Center (behind the Veterans Auditorium), Avenue of the Flags (on 101 North or South, exit Civic Center-Terra Linda) in San Raphael. 10-6, Sun 10-4.

62nd Annual Eastbay Collectors Club Show Oct 27-28 at 1375 Civic Dr. in Walnut Creek. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Theme is the 70th anniversary of Amelia Earhart's final flight which left from Oakland.

SUNPEX Nov 10-11 at the Community Center Gymnasium on 550 East Remington Ave. in Sunnyvale, CA. 10-6, Sun 10-4.

The CTO

Canceled To Order! That's what CTO stands for, or at least, in the language of the philatelist. I have a list of definitions of this particular acronym that include "Chief Technology Officer" and "City Ticket Office" among others. Since our concern here is with stamps, let's stick to the first definition. A CTO is canceled by the post office and returned to the buyer without having seen postal use. Sometimes it is canceled at the printers and is actually a part of the stamp design

I haven't found much information on the origins of the CTO but they seem to have appeared around the turn of the twentieth century. My earliest known CTO's came from Romania in 1906. These beautiful stamps were issued for the "General Exposition" and sold in post offices for three days. The stamps at the fair were overprinted. After it was all over, the remainders were sold privately in both canceled and mint condition.

It is apparent that CTOs existed before 1906 because the concept of canceling and selling off remainders must have started with the early limited issue of a stamp such as a commemorative. Most of us are in the possession of several of the the King Ludwig issues of Bavaria in canceled condition. The largest part of these stamps were canceled to order and sold to dealers to fill stamp packets. It is difficult to tell the CTOs from stamps that were canceled on a letter. A nice, neat cancel should be regarded with suspicion.

I also have several early stamps in my collection that are canceled but have their gum. It could be the stamp was not well licked and fell off the envelope at a later date or was carefully peeled off, leaving much of the gum behind. There are other reasons that a stamp might retain its gum after being canceled. You've probably had the experience of trying to remove the gum from a stamp and the gum won't come off. Some of the stamps of Bosnia and Herzegovina are like that. And a few other countries, too. A collector friend of mine told me that larger companies sometimes have postage due bills with the post office that they pay once a month or so. In this case a sheet or six of, say, \$5 stamps are brought out and canceled on the spot by the postal employees to cover the money owed. Those don't often get into circulation but he says he's seen them several times. Wonder if they are considered CTO? Hmmmmm.

Over all if a canceled stamp has gum, it may not be a CTO and if it has no gum it could still be one. The value of a CTO varies. According to Scott they are usually worth about ten percent of the postally used stamp and sometime the value stated in Scott is for CTOs. While CTOs are the bane of some purists, many of us would not have the stamp if we could only have a postally used stamp.



The CTO has been around for many years and there were quite a few on the market, but after World War II the countries of the eastern bloc, behind the Iron Curtain decided to issue "used" stamps for the benefit of stamp dealers and collectors all over the world. Young stamp collectors of the free world spent their nickels, dimes and dollars as well as their francs, marks and yen to buy from this new source of collectable material. Millions of sets of stamps showing locomotives, cars, flowers and even pets were sold in packets to young collectors who quickly enlarged their collections for pennies beautiful, large stamps that were bright and colorful and even still had the original gum intact. Imagine, "used, never hinged" was now possible, and collectible. These stamps are still available to us and you can find dozens in the penny box from the DDR, Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary, all with nice gum and clean corner cancels.

The message wasn't lost on other countries either. A good source of revenue to enhance the services of the government for the people or maybe, just to line the pockets of a dictator. Many of the Arab countries started taking advantage of the market and started printing "Art" stamps featuring works of the great artist, all of whom had long since passed away and didn't have to be paid. Great used stamps for a fair price and none of them postally used. As a matter of fact many of them came from the printer with the cancels already neatly in place. Most of the stamps never saw the country of origin. The printing contract was put out to the lowest bidder, often in France or Germany and sent directly to the packet makers or stamp companies that would, in turn sell them to their customers.

In more recent times the smaller countries like Grenada and Vanuatu found that such a lucrative market could not be passed up. This writer has a collection of Grenadian stamps in a Scott album. The first fifteen or twenty pages are devoted to the first hundred years while the next hundred pages cover the next ten years. Countries were even invented where more beautiful stamps could be issued for us to collect. You'll notice the appearance of the "Grenadines". Grenada is surrounded by hundreds of uninhabited or sparsely inhabited islands that the main country decided to call the Grenadines and issue stamps for them. St. Vincent has also followed suit. The stamps issued for these islands couldn't be used by the few people that live on them if they wrote a thousand letters a day to each other and themselves. If they did do that they would never have time to read them. So why all the stamps? They're for you and I, my friend.

Guess what? It's not only small countries that need added income. From July 1, 1847 to July 24, 1947, nine hundred and fifty definitive and commemorative stamps were issued in the United States. In that last year (1947), there were seven commemoratives and a souvenir sheet issued at a total cost to the collector of thirty-six cents. Fifty-five cents more for the airmails. The US doesn't sell CTOs but it does sell the modern equivalent. More stamps (and varieties) than are necessary for use in the postal system. Why do they? Same reason other countries sell CTOs. The collectors are willing to pay for them. They complain to Linn's. They complain to The American Philatelist and then go out and buy some more.

<http://www.gps.nu/exhibits/blue-flea/index.html>

The Blue Flea and its Travels or The Notopfer Berlin Tax Stamps

If you ever wondered what a blue flea is just take a look at the picture of the stamps to your right. That is a “blue flea”. In fact, it is two of them. They were issued in 1948, during the Berlin Airlift to help pay for that monstrous event. Airplanes were loaded with the necessities of life to be flown in to the city of Berlin that lay deep within the the confines of the “Iron Curtain”. The Soviet Union wanted to oust the western allies from the city and closed the roads and rail lines to all travel from the west. The object was to starve the west out. Let Bonn be the capitol. Berlin would be Soviet! It didn’t work. The Americans organized the airlift that flew supplies of food, coal, oil, Christmas presents and anything that might constitute the necessities of normal living through a narrow



air corridor between western Germany and the DDR. The airlift continued from June of 1948 until September 1949, three months after the Soviets gave up and lifted the blockade. The blue flea continued to extract a tax from the German population to pay for the airlift until March 31, 1956.



Why the “blue Flea” you ask? Because it was blue, of course and also because it was a pesky little stamp that was on everything. The German postal worker named it themselves. Every cover going into Berlin or, for that matter, anywhere else in Germany had the little stamp attached in addition to the regular postal rate. The Berliners were the only ones that didn’t have to pay the required 2 pfennig tax. Nor was it charged for mail going out of the country

You’ll be glad to know that much of this is explained in the site I am sending you to this month. It is a stamp exhibit that is found on the German Philatelic Society’s website (there are others too) and is presented by George Rath. This is a good opportunity for you to see an exhibit up close and study how it is put together. Not only do you learn all about this obnoxious little stamp but a bit about the postal history involved, the forgeries (forgers will forge anything), the errors, the rarities and varieties but how to show them off. It a good exhibit and a good site to go to. I hope you enjoy it.

Where the heck (or expletive of your choice) is that? This time a quiz on the locations of various countries that you may have wondered about. I took this test and got most of them right, or at least close, but some of them threw me! They might throw you too. Watch out!

1. Where is Bahrain?
A) Indian Ocean B) Persian Gulf C) Himalayan Mountains
2. Where is Grenada?
A) Off the coast of Spain B) South America C) West Indies
3. Where is Burundi?
A) Central Africa B) Himalayan Mountains C) Indonesia
4. Where is the Isle of Man?
A) Irish Sea B) British Channel C) Eden
5. Where is Angola?
A) South African Coast B) Between India and Pakistan C) North of Spain
6. Where is San Marino?
A) N Central Italy B) Between France & Italy C) Mediterranean
7. Where is Cape Verde?
A) Near Madagascar B) Tip of Spain C) Off the West coast of Africa
8. Where is Bhutan?
A) North of China B) Himalayas C) Indonesia
9. Where is Dominica?
A) Next to Haiti B) Eastern Caribbean C) Central America
10. Where is Andorra?
A) East of Switzerland B) Between France & Spain C) Central America

Bonus question. The “Notopher stamp has a nick name. What is it?

This one might be worth trying again only next time with “dead” countries or even “fantasy” countries. Do you know where Ghadames or Fernando Po is? Hmmmm. May have to find some very old maps to answer those kinds of questions.

The book these questions was copywritten in 1982 (by Bill Olcheski) so the answers come from the Republic of China (Taiwan) point of view.

1. A. Sun Yat-Sen was the subject of the 1944-46 definitives (#s 565-73). He was the revolutionary leader who established the Republic of China based on his three *People's Principles*, nationalism, democracy and socialism.

2. B. While MaoTse-Tung is often credited with running the Japanese out of China, the Nationalists formed a coalition with the Communists. Chaing Kai-shek was the generalissimo of the armed forces that did the deed. # 722-27.

3. A. Sun Yat-sen was called the father of democracy in China and was pictured with Abraham Lincoln on #1248-49 as "Leaders of democracy".

4. C. The spiny lobster is pictured on #1315 to promote mail order service for consumer goods. Hmmmm, I guess the Chinese might like to get their lobsters in the mail.

5. A. A basketball player dribbles the ball across the floor on # 1377, issued to celebrate the 2nd annual Asian Basketball Championship in Taipei.

6. B. In 1968 the Olympics were held in Mexico City. #1578-81 were issued to celebrate those Olympics. The low value (\$1.00) shows a Man hurling a javelin.

7. A. Squirrel was the answer here but the sheet in question was issued on December 1, 1971 not '72. There are two sheets, each with a block of four stamps. Since the question was wrong everyone receives credit for a correct answer.

8. B. A set of two stamps were issued on September 9, 1973 to celebrate a Chinese victory in Little League Twin Championships in Gary Indiana and in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Little League emblem is portrayed. #1845-46.

9. A. The stamp was issued on December 1, 1973 for the 1974 New Years and shows a tiger walking down a mountain. #1854-55.

10. A. A young boy (Chu Yin) reads his lesson by the light of fireflies trapped inside a paper lantern on #1946, issued on July 16, 1975.

Bonus question. If you volunteered you got this one right. Same if you couldn't.

The Chinese have always been good friends of the United States. Let us all hope that friendship continues.

We may consider ourselves fortunate that one of our newer members, Daniel Peinado, who would like very much to become an exhibitor himself, went to the show and took notes on the judges critiques. Our own exhibitors and other wannabes may benefit from his willingness to share his work. Daniel wrote the piece below, I only checked the spelling. Thank you, Dan.

THEME

- * Ensure that your exhibit tells a single, cohesive story. Do not exhibit a mere collection or "collage" of philatelic matter.
- * Limit your exhibit topic to a scope which can be sufficiently captured; expand the scope if there are insufficient materials to tell a story.
- * If submitting a single-frame exhibit, follow the "one-frame rule": the exhibit's entire story must be told in that one frame.

ORGANIZATION

- * Combine the Title and Exhibit Plan as a single page. While the Title should obviously appear at the beginning of your exhibit, the Exhibit Plan outline should appear at the beginning, as well.
- * Employ "chapter" headings to show the organization of the exhibit.
- * Seek balance. Try to have roughly equal amounts of materials in each chapter, on each page and among types of philatelic matter. For chronological exhibits, try to represent all time frames on a roughly equal basis; if not possible, explain gaps.

MATERIALS

- * For topical exhibits, seek more diversity - in types of philatelic matter, countries represented and vintages.
- * Expand the scope of subject depictions in thematic exhibits. Do not limit your philatelic material to precisely strict depictions of the subject.
- * Ensure that you include adequate materials to support assertions and conclusions stated in the exhibit.
- * Call attention to philatelic matter which is rare or otherwise special.
- * Be very judicious in use of non-philatelic material. If included, it must be limited and "propel" the story told by the philatelic material.
- * Do not leave blank spaces reserved for items missing from your collection.

TEXT

- * For explanatory text, use 12-point font. Do not use bold font.
- * Let the philatelic matter tell the story. Keep text blocks smaller, placing less emphasis on the explanatory text. Explain the relevance of matter exhibited but do not use as much explanatory text as you might expect to see on an exhibit at a museum, library or school.
- * Do not include catalog numbers.

DISPLAY

- * Where necessary, mask or "window" larger items like souvenir sheets and covers to conceal irrelevant matter, focus attention, reduce the size of items and/or "lighten up" a page.

Stamp Collecting on TV

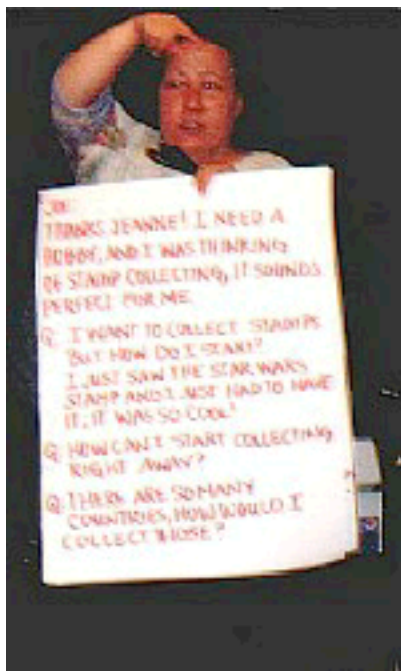
The show was to be started at 7 in the evening so I arrived early. A bit too early because no one was there. I stepped out for a few minutes to look around. When I returned everyone had shown up and the place was buzzing. Cue cards were being prepared, cameras put in place. "Chairs, we need more chairs". They had the table set up but because it was tilted forward things kept sliding off and changes were quickly made. The background was being set up, pictures of stamps hung with care then rearranged to suit the lights and cameras. Microphones were located out of site on Jeanne Paquin and Joe Tyler, the hosts, and, finally, the show was ready to begin.



Smile, Jeanne and we'll get this thing started



An angel in white on camera #1



Words To live by



Setting up the table. I prefer watching



That's betterLet's get this thing started



Jeanne in her element with Joe



Last minute change. New cue card person.



Joe Tyler, the host of this and many other shows

At last the show gets under way. While the participants feel a little nervousness there is also a sense of relief that it finally is under way. Now all they have to do is remember their lines. The cue cards make that easier.

Special thanks for friends who were commandeered as aides for the show. Dick Dreiling's daughter, Theresa, Anjie and Allan Moon who were kind enough to man the cue cards and spend their time setting up the background (the backdrop is Dick Dreiling's) and help out with the set decorations.

The show went smoothly enough or as well as could be hoped for. Small mistakes were made but nothing very serious. There was a little talk afterwards about the show. When it would air. will it fit the time slot allotted then pats on the back for a job well done. Then came the work of taking it all apart. The pictures of stamps were packed away to be sent to Rick Barberi with a thanks to him and the USPS for letting us use them. All other equipment was sent to appropriate cars and we all went home, quite pleased with ourselves at having finished the fourth show about stamps. By the way, the studio where the show was done, SNCAT, is a member of Artown!



Mr. Peter Gutter of Gutter Pairs was kind enough to donate his time and equipment to help the show.



While important people talk, I write.



Past presidents, Dick Dreiling and Stan Cronwall donated their time, equipment and expertise



A little after-show critique in hopes of making the next one better.

A DVD will be available in the club's library.