

# 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.



March 8, 2008

### Closed Albums

It is with sadness that I must report the passing of **Mildred Eiben**, the mother of Arline Davies and a member of our club for many years. She passed at about 4:00 pm on February 8, 2008. With family in Germany she was attracted to the stamps of that country.

I have finally updated the member's list and have made it available on the internet and at the club meetings in February so that members could check their information and correct any mistakes or add new information such as collecting interest that may have changed over the last three years. If you have any changes please e-mail me ([artfulputz@aol.com](mailto:artfulputz@aol.com)) or bring or send it to the next meeting. We will be publishing the new edition very soon.

Last month we had an interesting program when **John Wetterling** gave us the genesis of his collecting interesting. Great idea for a program. Some of you who haven't given a program yet may want to start by telling us how you got started and how your collection developed into what it is today.

This month's program was given by one of our new members, **Ron Roberts**, a collector of pre-cancels. He talked about his favorite subject and gave us a lot of insight about those pre-cancels. Thank you, Ron. Very educational.

A good number of members showed up for **Terri Edward's** class on exhibiting after the meeting last month. Looks like we may be able

to field a few more member exhibits at the **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** this year.

I have heard a few words about **Al Shay** recently. He has spent some time in the hospital lately but has finally been allowed to spend some time at home. I'm sure he would appreciate a call.

A time and place has been set for the **Club Picnic** this year. It will be held at the Lazy Five on August 15th, just one week before the **Nevada State Fair**. Set your calendars for the picnic and prepare to volunteer some time for our booth at the Fair.

The **Filatellic Fiesta** will be held on March 7th-9th, 2008 in honor of the San Jose Fire Department. 10am to 6pm, Sun 10 to 4. Gateway Hall Santa Clara County, Fair Grounds.

<http://www.filatellicfiesta.org/>  
**FRESPEX 2008** March 15th 10am - 6pm March 16th 10am - 4pm Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Avenue in Clovis, California

**SOPEX 2008** April 5-6 Jackson County Fairgrounds, Take Exit 33 from I-5 to the Padgham Pavillion, Central Point. Contact Donald Cramer, 551-779-4671.

**WESTPEX, 2008**. April 25-28 at the S F Airport Marriot Hotel Fri-Sat, 10 to 6pm. [www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com)  
**Easter Seals Benefit Show** April 5-6 in Sacramento, CA. at 3205 Hurley Way 10-6 and 10-4. By the Sacramento Philatelic Society.

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This notice was a addendum to the Council Courier, the newsletter of the CNCPS (Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies). If you would like to read this newsletter, got to the club website at [www.norcalstamps.org](http://www.norcalstamps.org) and click on the link "Courier Archives" where you can download past and the present issue in a PDF file.

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### **APS Seminar at WESTPEX 2008**

The WESTPEX 2008 Stamp Show, which will be held on April 25-27, 2008 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel, will host a special seminar by the American Philatelic Society for collectors of the United States Washington – Franklin issues. This will be an intensive two-day course to help in the identification of the issue.

The course will be led by Dennis Gilson of the APS, on April 23 and 24 at the show site, to learn how to identify the 2 and 3 cent types, of which there are more than 200 varieties, and how to recognize fakes and forgeries. Although there are no prerequisites to take the course, some understanding about perforations, watermarks, printing methods and papers as described in the Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalog would be helpful.

The course, which will include resource material for participants, costs \$195 for APS members and \$295 for non-members. More information is found in the November issue of The American Philatelist, page 1021, at a link on the WESTPEX web site [www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com), or at the APS web site, [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org). Registration forms are located at the sites and the journal.

The 2008 WESTPEX show will host COPAPHIL, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group, the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, and the Ethiopian Philatelic Society. This is a World Series of Philately show with a 5000+ page exhibition, 75 national and international stamp and postal history dealers, Schuyler Rumsey Auction, meetings and seminars, Awards banquet, Youth area, Western Philatelic Library and the U.S. Postal Service, the premier stamp show on the West Coast.

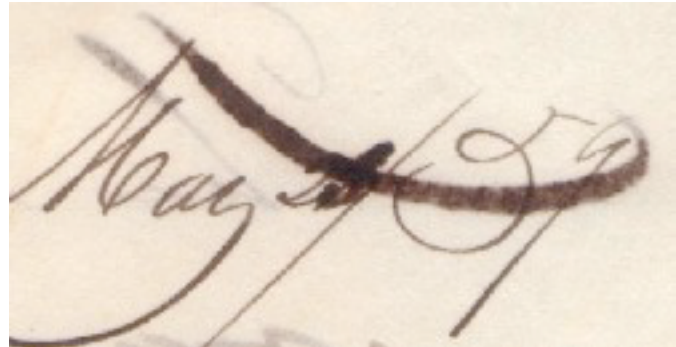
I just talked to Mr. Beill about obtaining a subscription to the Council Courier by our members. Unfortunately, the Council does not have the funds to mail subscriptions to individual members but you can get it in your e-mail regularly by writing to Ron Beill at the above address or contact me and I will pass your e-mail address on to him. In the meantime, I can print the newsletter and bring it to the club meetings.



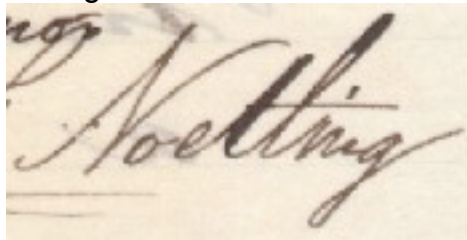
I bought this cover at the auction meeting in February from Bill Brew. Nice looking cover and from before the Civil War. The stamp is #26, issued in 1857. Can't tell if it's die I or II because the perfs fall at either end of the outside framelines and cut them off at top and bottom and the right side of the stamp has been trimmed. as

was often done at the time. Though the stamp was perforated for ease of separation, people were used to cutting them apart and continued to do so for some time. The letter was sent from Belleville, Illinois to SelinsGrove, Pennsylvania. It was a letter to a brother. The date at the letterhead appears to be May 23, 1857. If it was sent at the time it was written, this would be an EKU (Earliest Known Use) as the EKU in my 2005 US Specialized catalog is September 14, 1857. Questions come to mind.

Here is the date at the top of the letter. The cancel shows a "23" under the right side of the stamp. "May" is pretty clear in the date at the right, so is the "5" in the year. The "7" may be a seven but might be a "9" as well. I have searched for similar numbers in the body of the letter but have found nothing, so far. Next step.



This cover has been around for more than a hundred and fifty years. It is possible that the letter became separated and another put in in its place so I have made some visual comparisons. The ink on the letter appears to be substantially the same as the ink on the cover. To compare the handwriting I found a word that is on both documents and set them side by side. The word was the name of the addressee and the signature at the bottom of the letter. I see little difference. It seems the two were



written by the same person so the letter and cover match. Now, about that number. I want it to be a "7" so I can have the EKU but will have to prove the person writes a seven that way and not a nine. then I need to know who is responsible for determining if it is the earliest known use. Maybe Bill and I could get our picture in Linns!

<http://www.wreckandcrash.org/>

# Shropshire Philatelic Society



The meetings take place in the Shirehall, Abby Foregate in Shrewsbury. Hmm, do I detect a bit of the old country here? Perhaps a taste of the uppercrust? I don't think this is in Boston but rather somewhere in England. Shrewsbury is the village where Charles Darwin hailed in 1809. It is located in the county of Shropshire, northwest of London about 2/3 of the way to Liverpool. The site is full of information, mostly about British stamps and postmarks. It also seems a very friendly club



The stamp to the right was found on their site under a page called "Plates". It is identified as a photographic forgery with a fake black maltese cross cancellation. Apparently these fakes were made around 1957. Several are listed on the site and they are trying to trace all that exist. Perhaps you can help? Also on this page are examples from each of the plates used to print the penny blacks and two of the reds along with information about the plates and their use.

There is much more to see, though, than penny blacks. A link to the club's coming programs will let you see how often they meet and what they will be discussing in the next few months. If you're interested

in looking at a collection I believe they will impress you. Click on the button that says "Collections" and you can take a walk through the webmaster's collection of space stamps. But, if you set your sights a little higher, there is John Lennon's collection, the IT Pickering collection of maltese cross postmarks and even the Royal Collection. I think the webmaster's in good company.

A chat about stamps with an Englishman (or woman) could be quite enlightening, informative and jolly good fun. Try the "Interactive" button where you can get a free e-mail account too. There is also the message archive to see, if you're not inclined to chat.

Then, my own favorite page, one which I will refer to from time, the reference page. I found a philatelic encyclopedia that you and I may contribute to, magazine articles, a philatelic translator and a philatelic library that can be downloaded in PDF. And, as usual, I haven't mentioned all the pages on this site.

What can I say? This is a very good site that has won awards and I think, will win your philatelic heart. Go for a visit!

For the time being I thought it would nice to try something different. Over the past several months the Apfelbaum stamp company has been running a large ad in Linn's. Each of the ads highlights an Apfelbaum customer, then presents a question to the reader. Some of the questions are pretty tough and some relatively easy. If you know the answer and send it in, you might win a set of Zepps. The following is a set of questions asked in these ads.

1. Which country first used fluorescent security markings in 1967?
2. During which war did the idea of microfilming messages to save weight on air transportation begin.
3. Which are the oldest stamps still valid for postage?
4. The gum used on the back of penny blacks was composed of  
A) Potato starch    B) Wheat Starch    C) Acacia Gum    D) All of the above
5. The thinnest paper used for printing stamps is a form of tissue called "Pelure"  
A) True                      B) False
6. Name the only country to issue all of its stamps in the same colors, green, white and red?
7. The worlds first triangular stamp was issued in September, 1853 by which colony?
8. Which country issued the first postcard in 1869?
9. Who sent the first airmail letter in the United States?
10. Which country was the *second* to begin using stamps?

Bonus question: What is the meaning of CNCPS?

Here is the deal. Since these are tough questions, I will award 100 Auction Bucks if you can answer one to three questions (I can do that). I will give an additional 25 auction bucks for each correct answer over three. Since I do not have the answers to the questions, you will have to back up your answer. I will accept anything out of a book of course, or it may take a consensus among the answerers. We can cross that bridge when we come to it. If you can't answer any of them right away, remember, you have a 50-50 shot with number 5 and a one in three with number 4. It's worth a guess.

And the bonus question? That one's just for fun this time.



How surprised was I when I noticed that a lot of people scored very well on a test I thought was going to be tough (January's). Maybe it was because I sent the answers out in red. Those of you who don't get the Post Boy on the internet were at a disadvantage because of the lack of color so you get 110 bucks for your answers! Now, here's February's answers;

1. B. U.S.P.S. are the initials of the United States Postal Service.
2. A. Since Florida's Dog Control is in Florida and The Federal Data Commission has nothing to do with stamps, it must be First Day Cover. By the way, the other two are also known by their initials, FDC!
3. C. NH refers to Never Hinged. You are probably also familiar with the initials MNH which means Mint, Never Hinged
4. B. Well, oh gosh, it wasn't organic gum because the post office doesn't care about stuff like that so it must have been Original Gum!
5. A. Perf, as we all know is short for perforation. Just to remind, the perforation is the holes punched into the stamp to make separation easy. The teeth are the part between the holes that stick up after the stamps are separated.
6. A. CTO means Canceled To Order which refers to stamps that are canceled but never used to send mail. These stamps are sold cheaply to dealers who in turn sell them to us for much more than they're worth!
7. B. IMPERF refers to stamps that have no perforations and have to be separated with scissors. Often early stamps but not always.
8. A. Perfins are the initials punched into a stamp to identify the owner of those stamps. They were used by businesses to control the use of stamps so that the employees wouldn't take them for personal use. Perfin stands for PERforation INitials.
9. C. WMK refers to the Watermark, a part of the stamp that is intentionally thinned in a manner that creates a design to help protect against forgeries.
10. C. If you said "no glue", you would be almost right. "No Gum" is the correct term in this case. Glue is what you use when the gum comes off and you need to mail a letter.

Bonus question. On page 8, Winick Snippets tell us of "back in the day of five cent cigars" when it was delivered on Sunday much to the chagrin of residents who couldn't believe it was happening. They didn't want their bills early!



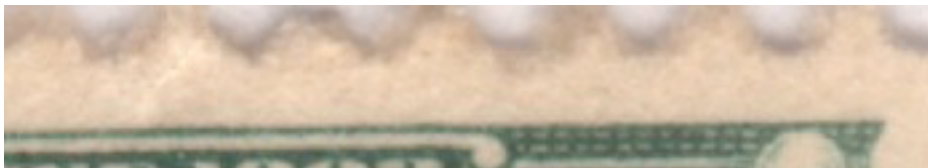
**US #300, MNH**, in good condition. SCV 30.00.  
Opening bid, only \$6.00.

## Would you buy a stamp from this man?

Well, I must confess. I am the man that would sell you this stamp for a very nice price. Look at it. It has all the gum on the back, though it's a little disturbed at the bottom of the stamp. All the perfs are there and none are pulled or excessively short. The centering could be better but it's about normal for the issue. The printing is clear and strong.

I looked at it briefly and was about to put it on the auction board, but for a little less money and let you decide what it's worth. I even had the auction sheet printed up. I valued it as hinged (\$12.00) and offered it for \$4.00, but something about it made me take a closer look. Something didn't seem right about it.

I took the whole auction page and placed it on my scanner, a Canoscan N650U, and hit the preview button. Then I adjusted the scanning area to a size slightly larger than the stamp itself and changed the file size to 1200 dpi. and hit the "scan" button. This blew the picture of the stamp up to a size about one and a half times the size of my computer screen. Here is some of what I saw.



At first I notice some darkening around the edges of the perforations and wonder what might cause this. Shadows maybe? But the "shadows" go a little beyond the edges, especially on that one in the middle. Then I remembered my own words. The gum on a regummed stamp might spill over the edges. So I looked at the rest of the stamp and found a number of remnants of a cancel. It appears that the stamp was washed and regummed, maybe to be sold as mint. On the other hand, maybe it is just a light cancel and when the stamp got damp, some of the gum washed over the edges. In any case, I'm going to wash the stamp and put it in the penny box. Do you need a nice, used Scott number 300 one cent Franklin? Maybe you can find another stamp or two while you're there!



## Is This Stamp For Real?

How often do we check the perforations on our stamps to make sure it is the right to fit that space in the album. Often we just take the dealers word for it and that dealer is just as human as we. Maybe he didn't check either or made an error when he did. Even when we do check it out if we don't look closely enough, that rare stamp may not be what it seems. Its an unfortunate aspect of our hobby that while most of us are seeking that elusive perf 10, there are others that want to help us (and their pocketbook) out by "creating" it for us. How can we tell?

There are three ways to alter perforations. From 1).imperforate to perforate, 2).perforate to imperforate and 3) to change existing perforations. In almost all cases real perforations are made on a perforator of some type and the perforations are even, parallel and the holes are the same size. These are the clues to look for. When the imperforate stamp is perforated, the holes may not be lined up evenly. The perforator being used may be home made or the perms might even be made one hole at a time. Often the forger is making one line of perms at a time and getting them parallel to opposite side of the stamp is nearly impossible. Another practically impossible task is to match the hole size of the original perforator. Look at the size of the perf tips. Are they too wide? Sometimes they will be wider than the holes because the hole, itself, is too small.

Straightedge stamps are considered undesirable to many collectors, though, since there are fewer of the various styles (left, right, top bottom and corner), they should command a premium. These are perforated by the forgers to enhance their value and salability. Look at the perf tips. If they are straight edge on one side, so is the stamp. Another give-away is the line printed at the edge of the sheet. Look for that at the tip of the perf.

The re-perf calls for a little close up work. Ever notice how great the difference is between an 11 and 11 1/2 perf on the 'ole perf gauge? Perf tips won't line up, The forger has to work with the same problem. He gets around it by using "jumbo" margin stamps and re-perfing inside the margins, thus cutting away inside the old perms, However, he is limited by the size of the margin and can't remove all the old perms. Some of the old perf hole is left behind and you can see it if you use a magnifying glass and look carefully. Somewhere you will find a scalloped edge on the tip of a perf and the forgery is discovered. All of the other above mentioned "tells" apply as well.

A good forger can turn a perforate stamp into an imperf and get away with it, provided he uses the right type, works with jumbo margins and is careful to cut inside the old perforations and leave nothing of them behind. Most forgers aren't that careful. To avoid this problem buy pairs, imperfs with wide margins or buy corner or edge of the sheet stamps. Look for the left over perf hole or improper stamp type, color shade or printing type for the imperf issue. Don't buy imperfs with margins that are cut too close.

Check for forgeries of all kinds. Don't leave behind a legacy of the criminal's art. Leave a collection of good, sound stamps for the children.