

# 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.



April 12, 2008

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Well, I hope we've seen the last of this winter. Its been long and cold with just a few good days to play golf.

First things first. Last month I reported that the **Club Picnic** would be held on the 15th of August. That was wrong. It will be held on August 16 on Saturday.

One more error to report was on page 4. I gave last month's Wreck and Crash Society's e-mail address instead of the Shropshire Society's which is <http://philatelics.org/Eallan/shrop/index.html>. My apologies to the Shropshire Society.

The **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** is coming soon, a little earlier than last year, on July 12 & 13. Now is the time to start letting freinds and other stamp collectors know about it. You can pick up some advertising cards and posters at the next meeting.

**Peter Gutter** (pronounced Goo-ter) gave us an enjoyable program this month in which he discussed tagged stamps, grading, perforations and how he evolved into the stamp business. Good program. Very interesting. Thank you Peter.

**Paul Glass** would like a little help with a program he is involved in with the Boy Scouts. There will be two sessions explaining stamp collecting to them on April 12 and May 3rd, both at 9:00 am. The sessions will be held at 1114 Prater Way in Sparks. Call Paul at 425-8909 or email him at [pglass@charter.net](mailto:pglass@charter.net). Maybe we can introduce some new

collectors to our hobby.

Our president, **Mike Johnson**, has taken the time to find out what the cost may be to rent a bus to take us to the stamp shows that are mentioned below. A bus would be reasonable if we have 40 people at \$28 each. So far 15 have signed up for the **Easter Seals Benefit Show**. We may find a van more to our liking.

### A note on the Penny Boxes

You've likely all noticed the sleek new Penny Boxes. They seem more manageable than the big cardboard boxes. They are sorted into U.S. and World wide to make it easier to sift for treasures. Still a bargain at 1¢ per stamp for youths, and 2¢ for adults. We'll keep the contents rotated as new material is made available by donations, from outside the club and from members. However, to keep order, if you have any donations, please give them to **Jeanne Paquin** or **Zoleinna Schar**. It'll earn you auction bucks (as does soaking stamps).

**Annual Easter Seals Benefit Show**, put on by the Sacramento Philatelic Society. April 5-6 at the Easter Seals Society center, 3205 Hurley Way. Stt, 10-6, Sun 10-4

**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 San Francisco Airport Marriot Hotel Fri-Sat, 10 to 6pm.  
[www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com)

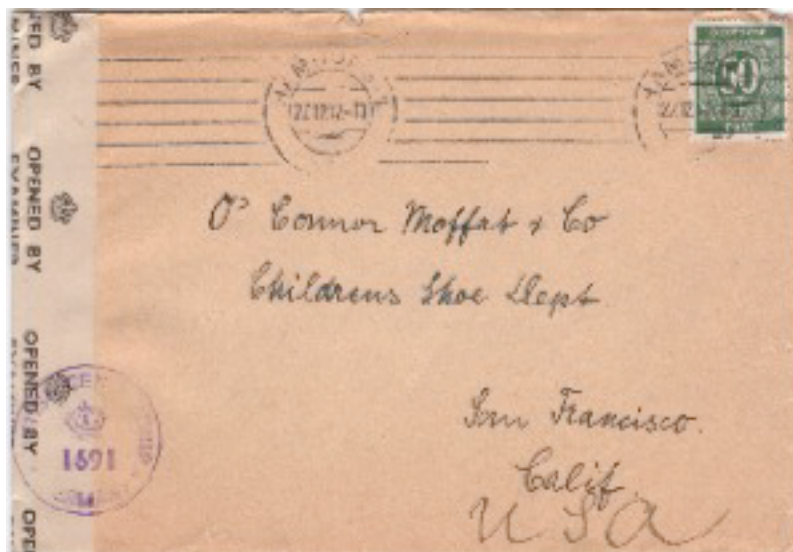
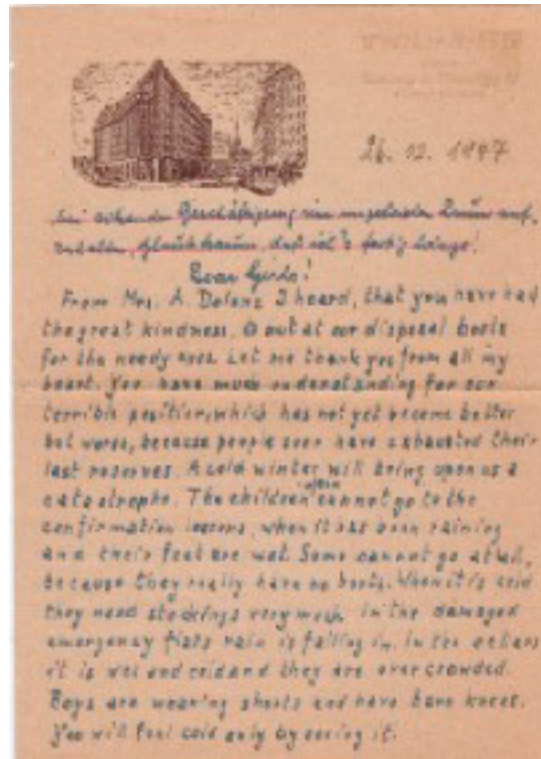
# A Letter From Germany

The date is December 26, 1947. World War II had come to an end a little more than two years before. There are still reminders in the form of damaged and destroyed buildings and damaged and destroyed lives. A Pastor sits at a small table in one of those damaged buildings and starts to pen a letter, beginning in his native language. He crosses that out and restarts in English, "Dear Girls, From Mrs. A. Dolenz I heard, that you have had the great kindness, to put at our disposal boots for the needy ones. Let me thank you from all my heart."

Germany lay in shambles, thanks to one little man with a funny mustache. Food money and clothing were scarce. The pastor continues, "You have much understanding for our terrible position which has not become better but worse, because people soon have exhausted their last reserves. A cold winter will bring upon us a catastrophe. The children often cannot go to the confirmation lessons, when it has been raining and their feet are wet. Some cannot go at all because they really have no boots. When it is cold they need stockings very much. In the damaged emergency flats rain is falling in. In the cellars it is wet and cold and they are overcrowded. Boys are wearing shorts and they have bare knees. You will feel cold only by seeing it."

The times were grave and so little was available. He continued, "That is only a small part of our want and need. We are living near the harbour in a region of poverty and misery. There will be a sad Xmas festival."

The letter was, obviously, a thank-you note written on December 26th and mailed the following day to a small American company called



O'Conner Moffet & Co. in San Francisco.

The pastor had just a bit more to say before he signed off, "We thank you the more for your kindness. God be with you and bless your Xmas festival!.

With kind regards, Yours,  
Walther Scholz, Pastor"



The German mark, at the time, was worth about 24 cents and it cost half that amount to mail the letter to the US. The cover is franked with Scott #551, 50 pfennig, dark green early post-war issue and canceled with a roller cancel.

After the war, many more shortages cropped up such as paper. It was common to recycle what ever was available. In the case of this letter, what was available was a military map of the Middle East. I can see "Saudi Arabia" and Bhagdad at a quick glance. The war and its end produced a ready supply of military maps that were no longer useful to the armies. The civilian population turned them into envelopes.

The postcard below was included with the letter. It is, according to the back, Hamburg, Innen-Alster. It is a "real photo" postcard (as opposed to a half-toned print) and reflects, in its composition, the paper shortage. The cardstock it was made from is barely thicker than the paper the letter was written on. It is a picture of what is obviously the "harbour" area mentioned in the letter and was probably taken before the war.

The Marshall Plan was in effect to help the Gemans recover their economy and rebuild the country after the overwhelming devastation it suffered. Still, it was the aid and comfort of people like those from the shoe department of the O'Conner Moffat & Co. and from all over the world that helped them recover their soul.





<http://www.swiss-stamps.org/>

## American Helvetia Philatelic Society



Perhaps you will read the article on page 7 of this publication and noted that it is about Swiss feldpost. Much of the information I have came from this site and the rest from an article by Christopher Brunström who may be a member.

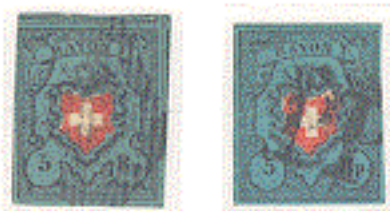
The first page opens with several links to other pages on the site. There is much to see and you may, by the simple act of looking at this site, want to become a member of it.

The first link is "Pictorial Survey of Swiss Philately". That link won't take you there but rather to a different place on the first page. There you will find the link that will take you to the survey. If you have AOL, I recommend that you download FireFox and use that as your browser. It works much better for this site.

If you want to learn more about Swiss stamps, you will find a large number of past publications of the Society available in a PDF format. that date back to 1938. First, it helps to download the table of contents to find what you are looking for. The newsletter is named "Tell" after William Tell, the Swiss national hero.

Perhaps you have a question? The link is "Ask an Expert". I used it several years ago and received a prompt and courteous reply. I used that information on page 7. Look at the exhibits page too. You may find some ideas on setting one up for yourself. If you are looking for some Swiss stamps for your collection, there are auctions held on a regular basis but you have to be a member to buy or sell.

This is a very impressive site and there is much more to see than I have shown you here. Take a few minute from your surfing time and spend them here. I think you will be pleased with the information you find and just looking at the stamp that you and I wish we had in our collections. Enjoy the site. Its a winner.



Back to Bill Olcheski's book. "100 Trivia Quizzes for Stamp Collectors! After that last one, it's times to give our brains a little break. I think you'll find this one much easier than last month's quiz but, perhaps not quite as interesting. This one is about the Cook Islands.

1. How many islands make up the Cook Islands?  
A) Fifty                                  B) Fifteen                                  C) Five
2. The "god" of what sport appears on a 1963 issue?  
A) Fishing                                  B) Boxing                                  C) Horse Racing
3. What sport appears on the fifteen value of the set marking the Olympic games in Mexico City?  
A) Fishing                                  B) Sailing                                  C) Diving
4. What anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage of Discovery is marked by a 1968 set?  
A) One hundredth                                  B) One hundred fiftieth                                  C) Two hundredth
5. What means of transportation is shown on a 1973 set of seven stamps?  
A) Historic sailing vessels                                  B) Early aircraft                                  C) Trains
6. What member of the British Royal family is shown on a twenty-five cent stamp issued in 1973?  
A) Princess Elizabeth                                  B) Princess Anne                                  C) Prince Edward
7. What is the central design of the 1979 Christmas stamp?  
A) Tree ornaments                                  B) Crucifixion                                  C) A sleigh
8. What space ship is the subject of a 1979 stamp?  
A) Apollo II                                  B) Apollo XII                                  C) Apollo XIII
9. What use is made of the overprinted 1967-69 flower issue?  
A) Air post                                  B) New rates                                  C) Official use
10. What shape are the 1969 stamps marking the South Pacific Games?  
A) Triangles                                  B) Diamonds                                  C) Free-form

Bonus question: Does Swiss Feldpost require stamps?

Just to remind, the bonus question is always taken from the body of the Post Boy, so you will find that answer somewhere on the other pages of this issue. Have fun with the quiz and enjoy the gentle ocean breezes as they waft across the beautiful pink sand beaches.

This was probably one of the toughest quizzes that have graced these pages. Also one of the most interesting. The response surprised me and the answers were very intelligent.

1. I received four answers to this one. Russia, Sweden, Canada and Cook Islands. John Walters gave the only reference from the Stanly-Gibbons catalog. It was Cook Islands on July 31, 1967.

2. It was WWII and was known as V-Mail. The letters were written on pre-printed envelope sheets, limiting the size of the letter, then transferred to microfilm to save on space and weight during shipping.

3. Most said it was the US definitive issue of 1861 but one rogue mentioned the Penny Black of 1840. He may be right. I don't believe England devalues their stamps. Worth more investigation. Stampez.com, a British site (from John Walters), says the US stamps are the oldest still valid stamps.

4. D. All of the above were types of gum used at different times. John Walters gives this reference; *The Postage Stamps of Great Britain 1840-1853*, published by RPSL.

5. A. True. Pelure is a very strong paper that you can see through (sort of). Everyone agreed on this one.

6. Last year I wrote an article about Heligoland so I thought the answer would be easy, after a little thought. It was Heligoland. All of their stamps are in green, white and red.

7. This one was the easy one. The Cape of Good Hope issued the first of these classic stamps on September 1, 1853

8. **Austria** - The idea of a postcard began with Germany in 1865. However the first postcard wasn't sent until Dr. Emanuel Herrmann wrote and published an article about the use of postcards. The Austrian Post Office was impressed enough to issue the first postcard on October 1, 1869. John Walters gives this reference; [primaryresearch.org/PRTHB/postcards/intro](http://primaryresearch.org/PRTHB/postcards/intro).

9. It was George Washington who, in 1792, handed his letter to the first balloonist in the US, Jean Pierre Blanchard, who carried it 46 miles to New Jersey. And another John Walters reference; [latc.com/2004/07/14/comment/comment1](http://latc.com/2004/07/14/comment/comment1).

10. Brazil was the second to issue postage stamps. Reference; [iangibbonsmith.com/stamps/index](http://iangibbonsmith.com/stamps/index).

Bonus question. The CNCPS is the club your club belongs to, the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies.

I wonder if I can find more quizzes like this one!

# Swiss Feldpost

I am sitting here wondering what to write about, when I am handed this article about the Swiss feldpost. For those of you who don't know, feldpost is the German (in this case Swiss) word for fieldpost. Fieldpost is the the Army's way of handling mail for the soldiers without revealing their whereabouts. Each unit is assigned a number that follows them where they are assigned. The mail is sent to that number rather than an address. The Swiss have a habit of remaining neutral in most wars so we know where they are. They're in Switzerland!

The stamp shown to the right is known as a "Soldier's stamp" and was not issued by the military. Feldpost does not require a stamp. These were privately issued, usually by various military units. This particular one was created by a medical unit. The purpose of these stamps was to raise money for the soldiers. Military pay in the Swiss army wasn't very high so this often served as beer money or for the occasional emergency. All stamps issued had to be approved by the Swiss post office in Bern and were declared by them to be charity labels not postage stamps

The first stamps were first created in 1915 as a gift and were given to two units as souvenirs. A year later at a party given to raise funds for the soldiers, similar stamps were sold and canceled by the feldpost office. The idea caught on and was continued in World War II. Some units made so many stamps the post office stopped approving them and began restricting each unit to one stamp a year.

There are a few collectors who specialize in these stamps and you will, on occasion, see them in an auction. Still they're not expensive and could be a new area for you to begin.







<http://www.jacksstamps.com/philart.html>

## Where in the world are: Mozambique Company, Nyassa and Laurencio Marques?

**Jack Searles**

Where in the world are Mozambique Company, Nyassa and Lourenço Marques? Well, if you guessed Africa you are correct! All of these are former Portuguese Colonies on the southeastern cost of Africa. The Mozambique Company was a private company that by 50 year royal Portuguese charter acquired and exercised extensive rights in the Mozambique districts of Manica and Sofala between 1892 and 1942. The territory was under the direct control of the company until July 18, 1941. In 1942, the stamps of the Mozambique Company replaced by those issued directly by Portugal. During the time stamps were issued 207 regular issues, seven semi-postal, fifteen airmails, forty postage due one newspaper, and four postal tax stamps were issued.







Nyassa issued stamps between 1897 and 1929. The “county” was also administered by a private company under charter with the Portuguese Crown. In 1929, the Nyassa Company’s rights reverted to Portugal. This company governed a district in northwestern Mozambique. Between 1898 and 1921 a total of 125 different stamps were issued with an additional nine postage due, one newspaper, three postal tax stamps and three postal tax due stamps issued.



The stamps of both the Mozambique Company and Nyassa are widely collected with many depicting animal life from the region.

Lourenco Marques is a district in southeastern Mozambique. Stamps were issued for this district between 1895 and 1920. In 1920 the stamps for this district were

replaced by those of Mozambique. During the time stamps were issued, however, 161 regular issues, twelve semi-postal and two newspaper stamps were placed in circulation. The stamps used for Lourenco Marques are almost exclusively stamps used in the Portuguese Colonies, with the name of this district imprinted upon them.



The stamp issuing statuses of these three “countries” are considered by Linn’s Stamp News to be inactive.

Up until June 25, 1975 Mozambique was a Portuguese colony. On this date Mozambique gained its independence from Portugal. It now operates as a multiparty republic with the primary languages being Portuguese (official) and various Bantu languages.

**Sources used:**

Infoplease Online at <http://www.infoplease.com>

Linn’s Stamp News Online at <http://www.Linns.com>

Scott Publishing Company. 2000 Standard postage stamp catalogue. Sidney, OH: AMOS Press, Inc.

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