

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.



May 10, 2008

Closed Albums

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Johnny Griffiths was one of our newer members and had only been with our club for less than a year. He passed away last September.

Our meetings at the temporary location, Northeast Reno Community Center, 1301 Valley Road, seem to be working out very well. We met in a new room this month and will be seeing a third room at the next meeting. In the meantime we are still searching for a new place to meet should the museum no longer be able to accommodate us. Keep your eyes open.

Kay Williams would like to thank everyone for all the cards and food and just for thinking of her. She still has a cast on but it will be removed soon, hopefully by the next meeting. She tells me her wrist is feeling much better and we may see her this Saturday. Glad you're feeling better, Kay.

The **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** is doing well. We have filled all the slots for the tables and have even started turning away prospective dealers. This year we will have a table for the Saint Pierre and Miquelon Post Office as well as our own USPS table. Remember to buy your new issue US stamps at the show to show support for Rick. The income has been low for the

post office and they have cut back on our free mailings. Advertising counts and this is one way to increase our reach to other collectors. Contact **Harvey Edwards** to pick up a few flyers to advertise our show at the mall or any of the shows you may attend.

The program was given by **Teri Edwards**. In the spirit of promoting exhibiting among our members she brought her award winning Penguin exhibit and showed us how she put it together and sprinkled it liberally with hints from the judges. Thank you, Teri.

There is time left to enter your exhibit in the COALPEX show in Walnut Creek. Go to <http://www.norcalstamps.org/shows/2008.html> and click on the entry form. It will download a PDF with the form.

COALPEX, June 14-15, 2008 will be held at the Walnut Creek – Civic Center Assembly Hall, 1375 Civic Dr. It is brought to us by the Contra Costa County Philatelic Society.

Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show will be held on July 12-13, 2008 at the National Bowling Stadium, 300 N. Center St. from 10-6 and 10-4. See our website at: <http://home.earthlink.net/%7Erenostamp/id6.html>

Easter Seals Benefit Show

We tried to get a group together to go to the Easter Seals Benefit Stamp Show in Sacramento. The idea was to rent a bus and party all the way to the show and brag about the good deals we found on the way back. That wasn't to be but we did manage to get several of us to car pool to the show. That worked out just fine. Keith Chilson, Douglas Weast and myself went down in my car and had a great time even though we arrived an hour early. John Walter was also at the show (we missed connections) and gave us these great pictures.



As you can see, the tables were very popular among the attendees. Good deals were to be had at the dealers tables as well. I was able to buy quite a few glassine envelopes for small change. Doug and Keith made several rounds too. We all found good deals. And the doughnuts were good too.

I will beg forgiveness later (Easier to be forgiven than get permission) but found no restrictions on the article, nor was an author identified. This article was blatantly stolen from an Australian website who shall not remain nameless. It is called Stampez (<http://www.stampez.com/>) and I thank them for the use of their article..... and whatever else I might plunder from them.

Early Stamps of the Syrian Region

Post offices were maintained in Beirut by several European powers from the late nineteenth century to World War I and stamps of the appropriate Levantine period were used. In 1905 – 1906 during temporary shortage of the normal issues, both France and Britain produced one-piastre provisional stamps, which were limited to use in Beirut. In 1909 the Russian post office adopted a series overprinted 'Beyrouth' in French, but reverted to the Russian Levant general series the following year.

French forces occupied Rouard Island, off the coast of Syria, in January 1916 and various French stamps, suitably overprinted, were introduced that year. The stamps up to 40c were issued without a further surcharge, but higher denominations were surcharged for use on letter mail. After World War I the island was transferred to the territory of the Alaouites.

The district of Asia Minor on the borders of Syria and Turkey was occupied by French troops at the end of World War I. Various Turkish postage and fiscal stamps of 1901 – 1917 were overprinted 'Cilicie' in block letters or cursive script and released between March and May 1919. Subsequently stamps were overprinted to denote 'French Military Occupation'.

Contemporary French stamps were overprinted O.M.F. (Occupation Militaire Francaise) or T.E.O. (Territoires Ennemis Occupes – Occupied Enemy Territory) with values surcharged in Turkish currency. The 10c of the former French Levant was overprinted T.E.O. and surcharged 20 paras at Beirut in 1920. Examples are known with the 's' of 'paras' inverted. Cilicia was returned to Turkey in 1921 and distinctive stamps withdrawn.

French and French Levantine stamps overprinted T.E.O. or O.M.F. were issued in Syria in 1919 – 1920, surcharged in Egyptian currency (milliemes and piastres) or Syrian currency (centiemes and piastres). The last stamp issued under the military occupation was the 2.50 piastres.

In 1923 France received a mandate from the League of Nations over Syria and the area then known as Great Lebanon. Various French stamps overprinted 'Syrie – Grand Liban' were issued between September and December 1923 and were withdrawn when separate issues were adopted for each territory at the beginning of 1924.

The first distinctive series of Syria was issued in March 1925 and featured famous landmarks in the cities of Syria. Some provisional surcharges were made in 1926 and several stamps were overprinted in 1929 for airmail purposes.

<http://www.stamphelp.com/>



STAMP COLLECTING NEWS & HELP for Collectors

Are you a beginner in stamp collecting? That's what this site purports to be for but I have found it to be useful for those of us who may be little more advanced. Its also a good place to go and return to the basic from time to time.

Frank Mardle is the owner of this site and does the writing for it..... so you may blame the bad grammar on him (or so he says). Actually the site is well constructed and, as far as I can tell, the grammar is just fine. Mr. Mardle is from the UK and spent his time there as a stamp dealer. Now he is retired and works in a photography shop in Florida where he has relocated.

The purpose of this site is "to encourage stamp collecting in the children and get them off the game computer!!!" To do that he has made some pages on how to start a collection and how to display it. Where to find a club and how to soak stamps. But



let the children's pages fool you. You can learn how to use an ultraviolet lamp and how to tell the difference in printing types. If you go to "Postal History" you are reminded that it is for children. Still interesting stories and covers to be read and seen there. You can also see "recommended dealers, Stamp Shows and a site on photography. I rather enjoyed the page on Bracknell Postal History and Postcards. That's Mr. Mardle's hometown.

This is a good, noncommercial site intended to encourage children and one you might want to recommend to any you have in your family or circle of friends. The only small bit of commercial endeavor is that Mr. Mardle may wish to buy a cover from you. By the way, to the left is him with his wife. I don't know where the picture was taken but it looks like Saint Augustine to me.

Enjoy the site, I'm sure you'll return every now and then. I know I will.

So now we go to the exotic Island of Ceylon, a British possession or protectorate or whatever. In any case, it is no longer in the hands of the British and is no longer called Ceylon. The weather outside is iffy this month, so pick a good day and do this one on the front porch and enjoy the passing parade.

1. In what ocean is Ceylon located?
A) Mediteranian B) Indian C) South China Sea
2. Who appears on the first stamps of Ceylon?
A) Queen Victoria B) Edward VIII C) George V
3. What industry is featured on the 2 cent stamp in the set issued in 1938-52?
A) Pineapples B) Copra C) Rubber trees
4. What animal appears on the fifty cent issue of the same set?
A) Tigers B) Giraffes C) Elephants
5. What staple food appears on a 1966 issue?
A) Pineapples B) Rice C) Tea
6. On May 22, 1972, Ceylon changed its name. What is it now called?
A) Sri Lanka B) Bangladesh C) Vanatu
7. D.S. Senanayake appears on a single stamp issued in 1966. What is his claim to fame?
A) First PM of Ceylon B) Diptheria cure C) Rugby hero
8. The opening of an airport in what city was marked by a 1968 stamp.
A) Colombo B) Kandy C) Jaffna
9. The eradication of what disease was the subject of a 1962 issue?
A) Small Pox B) Measles C) Malaria
10. A girl picking what crop is the subject of a 1 rupee issue of 1964-69?
A) Pineapples B) Rice C) Tea

Bonus question: Who occupied Rouard Island, off the coast of Syria?

Its nice to be able to go to an exotic island whenever you feel like it. That's the beauty of stamp collecting. This quiz shouldn't tax your brain too much (though I tried to throw a few curves in the answers) and the bonus is always easy. So, another quick 100 auction bucks for you. And, yes, Kandy really is a city in Ceylon!

The Cook Islands are spread over a large expanse of ocean. By the European reckoning (the metric system) its over two million square kilometers as you will see in the first answer. The islands themselves are pretty small and you could probably hold your breath while you walked across the width of one of them. They are also quite beautiful with white sands and clear blue lagoons.

1. B. While the 15 islands are spread out over an area of more than 850,000 square miles, the islands themselves comprise only 91 square miles with 90 miles of coastline.

2. A. Unfortunately, the tale of Tinirau is a bit long for this space. Suffice it to say, the fishing god can appear as half man, half fish or, well.....you don't want to see his other appearance!

3. B. According to my Scott the 15 cent value shows the high jump for the Mexico Olympics issue in 1968 so all answers are right.

4. C. Two hundred years ago Captain Cook sailed into a bay off one of the islands. He wasn't the first though. The Spaniards got there first but didn't explore.

5. A. Historic sailing vessels of the Polynesians are shown on #357-63. some of them were probably used when the Polynesians first settled the Cook Islands.

6. B. This particular set (#369-71 plus a S/S) celebrates the marriage of Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips. Princess Elizabeth was a Queen by now and Prince Albert comes in a can, but you know that from childhood days with a telephone!

7. A. In 1979, they chose to illustrate Christmas tree ornaments for their Christmas issue.

8. A. The Apollo II, its adventures and the crew were honored on a four stamp set, #5320-35 and a souvenir sheet.

9. C. This beautiful set of stamps (#199-220) was overprinted for use in government offices (official use).

10. A. They weren't the first and certainly won't be the last, but the stamps issued for the 3rd South Pacific games were all triangles (#254-63).

Bonus question. It is the nature of fieldpost (or feildpost) to give GIs in the field a free connection to home. Stamps are not required!

It didn't hurt at all, did it? That's what my mother used to say as she was taking me to the doctors office (back in the day when they had such things). Actually, these quizzes aren't painful. You just burn a few brain cells and learn something new.

Bits and Pieces

In the April 14th issue of Linn's, Stan Cronwall brought my attention to an article on page 3. A mystery writer it seems, is also a stamp collector. His name is Lawrence Block and he has, among others, written a series of four books. The most recent of the four is called "Hit and Run" and is preceded by "Hit Man", "Hit List " and "hit Parade". Why would this be important to us? There is a sub-theme of accurate philatelic information that runs throughout the novels and the hit man is a stamp collector. A "philatelic" edition is planned for the release of this last issue. Go to WWW.lawrenceblock.com.



On page six of this newsletter (the answers page), the short answer to the second question was "fishing". I don't usually give short answers because I find it interesting to research some of the answers. In checking this answer on the internet I found a site I feel some of you would like to visit. The site is called "Jan's Cook Islands Home Page" and she has also created pages on Polynesia and Oceania. Interesting sites at; <http://www.janeresture.com/cookislands/index.htm>. There are maps and lots of pictures and other related site to find there too.

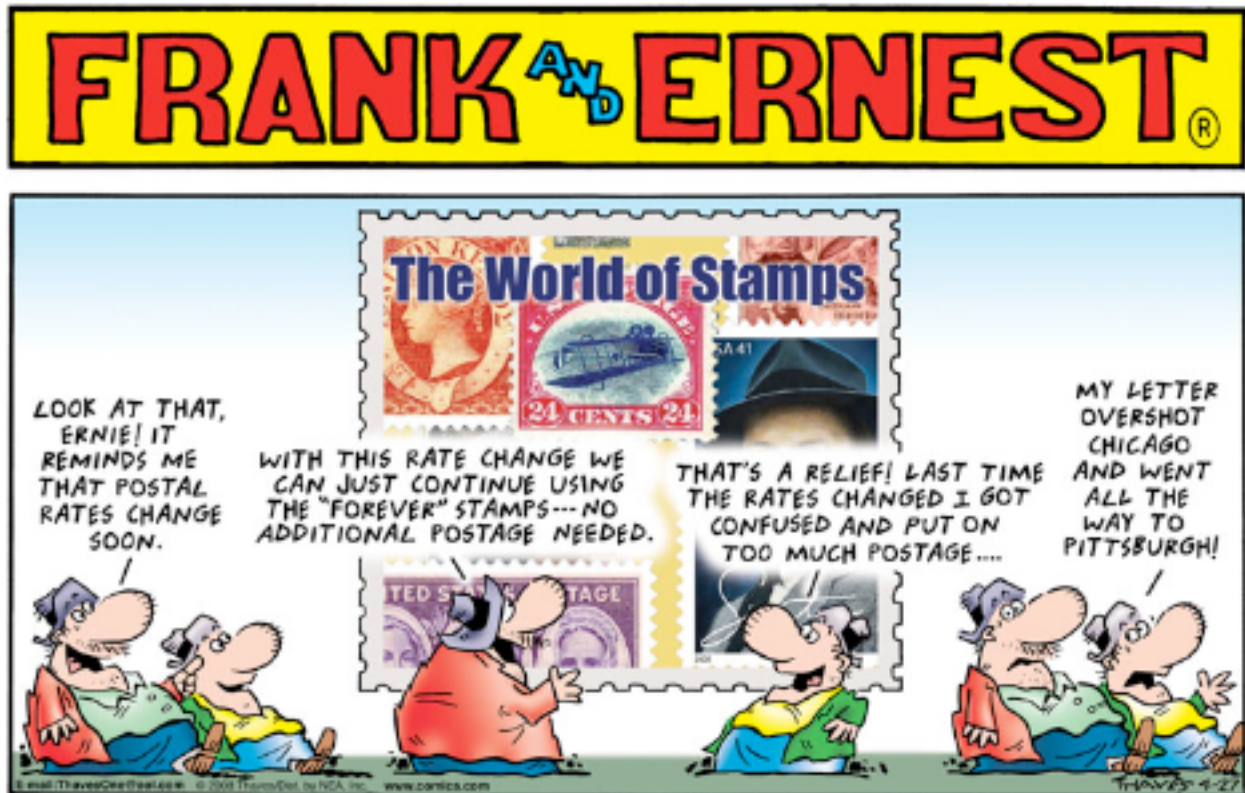


Another article I found in Linn's March 24th issue is by Carlson R. Chambliss and is about the standing Helvetias. Remember the class on making pages on the computer? It included a small album of the same stamps. I've been trying to fill the album ever since. If you have some extras on hand I might be willing to trade for them. I found a few at the Easter Seals Benefit Show but still have a lot of empty spaces. They would probably sell well on the auction string, if I get to the meeting.



Again, back to Linn's. If you read the letters to the editor, and who doesn't, there has been a lot of carping about the USPS's decision to eliminate the soluble layer of paper between the self-stick gum and the stamp. This makes it more difficult to soak the new issues of US stamps. In the more recent issues some collectors have come up with a possible solution. Why not return to the old fashioned lick-'em and stick-'em gum? With president Bush's proclamation that the world is, indeed heading towards global warming it makes sense to go back to a time when the extra layer of paper wasn't needed as a backing for the stamps, nor is a water soluble layer needed. Perhaps the post office needs to be convinced that it should operate a little "greener" and do its part to save the earth. After all, as one letter writer said, "How long does it take to lick a stamp?" Who could complain about a "green" post office?

I saw this in the Reno Gazette-Journal comics last Sunday (4-27-08) and thought those of you who don't usually read the funnies might enjoy it.



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This is a great way to remind us of the raise in postal rates we will be seeing later this month. I'd be willing to bet (if I were a betting man) that all of you can identify all of the stamps Mr. Thaves included in the Cartoon, except, maybe, the one in the upper right corner.

I sent an e-mail to Tom Thaves, the creator of this cartoon, and he was kind enough to give me permission to add this to the Post Boy. Thanx, and a tip O the hat to Mr Thaves.