

Nevada

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Sparks, Nevada 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
in the NNMC at 1855 Oddie Blvd. in Sparks

<http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/>



N.S.S.S.



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January 8, 2011

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Happy New Years! Now that you've gotten past the local celebrations where, like I did, you probably made a fool of your self, its time to get down to more serious matters. Like remembering to write the new year on your checks.

The Christmas party was its usual success, thanks in large part to **Kay Williams** who has been handling the party for many years now. Kay has asked me to pass on her appreciation of the members who showed up early to set the party up and to those who stayed late to clean up afterwards. **Pat Barraige, Barbara Stanfield and Ed and Arline Davies** all came in early to do the decorating so, a special thanks to them. A vote was taken and next year's party will be held on December 3rd.

After the meeting this Saturday **Dick Dreiling** could use some help tearing down the Christmas display at the Heritage Museum. If you have a little extra time on your hands maybe you can trot down to the museum and lend a hand. It'll give you a chance to see the other displays too.

In this issue we once again have the privilege of a story by our last editor, **Bill Brew**. The story is about a small California town (not far from here) and its on page 7. I think you'll find it very readable and entertaining, just as it always is.

There is an article about cleaning your stamps on page two. This was an experiment using another person's advice to see if it works. The tests have not yet been completed as it was started very late in December. The final results will be carried over in next month's issue. So far, it looks like a winning idea!

On page nine we are visited by Tom Fortunado with an interesting story about the stamps from the last days of British ruled Hong Kong as it was turned over to China in 1997 called "Hong Kong's Philatelic Days of Thunder". Mr. Fortunado is the chairman of the Activities Committee for the APS.

A reminder that Charles White is stepping from the position of Program Director, so we need someone to take his place. No experience is needed to fill this job and there are several people who can help you learn the position. You will be paid in Auction Bucks and prestige.

NOVAPEX March 5-6-11 in the River Oaks Retirement Comm. at 301 Hartnell Ave in Redding

FRESPEX March 12-13, 2011 at the Veterans Memorial Building. 453 Hughes Avenue (1 block east of Clovis Avenue at Fifth Street) Clovis, California

WESTPEX Apr 29-May 1 at the Marriot Airport Hotel on 1800 Old Bayshore Hwy, south of San Francisco. 10-6pm & 10- 4.

Clean Your Stamps

They're dirty

Ever notice how some of your stamps have various kinds of dirt and grime on them. Some have been canceled waaaaayyy too heavily. It would be nice if you could just throw them into the washing machine and clean them up and, just like in the ads the whites would be whiter and the colors would be brighter! Well, that's just fantasy! You cant throw them in a washing machine. That would ruin them.

Then I get an e-mail from a club member in an online stamp club I am part of suggesting the use of ERA. "ERA?", I say to myself. "Isn't that some kind of activist group? Well he answered that question in short order. It is a laundry soap that uses enzymes to fight stains. He believes he had read it in Linns some years ago and enzyme soaps are still around. I have one in my house (not ERA) so I decided to try it.

This is the stamp I decided to try it on. Its an early Grenada, number 8. It had no gum and a bunch of stains, notably along the edges and it was blotchy over all. I put the enzyme soap directly on the stamp and swished it around for a minute or two then rinsed it and put it in my drying book. The result was minimal. The color of the stamp was brighter but the stains were still there. The second time around I added some stamps with heavy cancels and re-soaked the Grenada stamp with them. This time for about thirty minutes. I pulled the Grenada and let the rest stay. The e-mail suggested two or three days for heavy cancels. This time the Grenada showed



very little but some improvement. To the left is the result of the first two soakings. Note the reduction in reddishness which is the color of the stains. Now I will leave the stamp to soak over night. The trouble areas are along the right edge of the stamp, along the perforations and particularly the small dark area you see at about the height of the crown.

At the same time I began soaking the Grenada stamp I decided to see if the claim that it will also reduce a heavy cancel was valid. I chose two stamps to test. The first is a one cent Franklin from the 19th century. The other is Newfoundland 174. Both have moderately heavy cancels that are bad enough to reduce the value of the stamps and make them less desirable to a collector. I feel sure E. Rawolik (of Linns) would dismiss them as being damaged and having no value. Pictures of these stamps will be found on the next page.



before



after

This is the Franklin stamp (before) but I can't identify it until I clean the postmark enough to be able to see the details that are mentioned in the Scott. I tend to think of the stamp as having been mailed at Chesapeake Bay as the cancellation looks very much like a crab, though I doubt that it is.

Below is the stamp from Newfoundland. There is nothing notable about the postmark except to say it is a mess. There is no discernible date or town/city name. But even if the entire cancel is removed this one's value won't improve much. There are nibbled perfs, a creased corner at the upper left and a tiny tear above the king's head.

The stamps have now been soaked for more than twelve hours and the results can be seen in the "after" pictures. You may not be able to see much unless you enlarge the page. The first thing I noticed is the stamps were brighter. This would be because the dirt is gone and we have whiter whites and brighter brights, just like we're supposed to. I have also noticed a lightening of the cancellation marks. The difference is not extreme but it is definitely there. The writer of the e-mail said that after two or three days the postmarks will be extremely lightened or gone all together. Considering the relatively short time these have soaked, at least two more days is warranted but with a sharp eye on the Franklin. That is a cancel I wouldn't want to lose.

before



after



As you can see from the scans the difference in the before and after results are not huge and further soaking may remedy that. It is possible there may be different results using a different brand of soap with different enzymes that, hopefully, will attack different kinds of stain. One more note on the Grenadian stamp. After having left it in the solution longer and applying a bit more soap, the dark stain on the right side of the stamp has been reduced. With a little more time, it may be gone. I just hope the stamp doesn't fall apart after so much time in the water.

<http://ingraham.ca/bob/index.html>



A few years ago (in June of 2003) I took this page to British Columbia where Bob Ingraham had a website called Ephemeral Treasures. A few days ago I decided to visit again and see if he was still there. He was. And his website has evolved. He began the old page with "Stamps and covers are artifacts which reveal our past.". I thought that was neat and quite insightful.

The page has changed over the years and the structure is a little different from when I first wrote it up. He talks about himself and his collection on the opening page now and keeps it brief then sends you off on several philatelic (mostly) journeys that you ride through on the tip of his pen. Well, actually that would be his computer's word processing program (but that doesn't roll off the tongue as well). The front page does have a nice picture of him, with one of his exhibits.

The first story is about a letter from Vancouver, BC where he now resides, to Silver City New, Mexico, where the author grew up. It was from a chinese in Chinatown to another in an American Chinatown. It all took place in 1941. There is a small lesson in Chinese writing here for you and a bit of history of the development of Vancouver.

There are several other stories and all you need do is click on the link. They include stories of the author's youth in New Mexico and his and other's time in war. He was injured in Vietnam. He also invites you to join the British Columbia Philatelic Society or, at least, come to visit at one of their meetings.

While this site is not highly educational in the field of philately, it does remind us of why we collect stamps. And, it might just get you a little teary-eyed too as you reflect on your youth with him.

Back, again to the good old USA. I want to remind everybody, as I do from time to time, that the questions come from a book written for the APS by Bill Olcheski called "100 Trivia Quizzes for Stamp Collectors." It was written in the seventies so the questions don't involve newer stamps.

1. The US issued a series of stamps in 1934 that came to be known as "Farley's Follies." What was the subject of the series?

- A) Presidents B) National Parks C) Territories

2. What American president appears on a 1964 commemorative?

- A) Woodrow Wilson B) FDR C) Herbert Hoover

3. Toleware from what state is shown on the 1979 American Folk Art issue?

- A) Indiana B) Pennsylvania C) Idaho

4. Cordell Hull is shown on a 1963 commemorative. What was his job?

- A) Sec of State B) Sec of the Treasury C) Sec of the Interior

5. Fort Snelling appears on a 1970 anniversary stamp. In what state is it located?

- A) Minnesota B) Pennsylvania C) Indiana

6. Who is on the twenty cent 1938 definitive?

- A) James A Garfield B) T Roosevelt C) Lincoln

7. What is the denomination of the Palace of Governors issue of 1960?

- A) 1 cent B) 1 1/4 cent C) 1 1/2 cent

8. What method of transportation is shown on the five cent parcel post stamps of 1912?

- A) Plane B) Train C) Automobile

9. In the famous American series of 1940, what is the color of the Horace Mann stamp?

- A) Red Violet B) Purple C) Blue Green

10. What four areas are singled out for the beautification series of six cent stamps? Cities, streets, highways and;

- A) Parks B) Playgrounds C) Public Buildings

Bonus question: In what year did a California town succeed from the Union? Hint; it was long before North Carolina did!

This one was the Christmas quiz. Usually the easiest quiz of the year. Hope you took this one.

1. Egg nog should be served cold. It has eggs and milk in it. It often is served without alcohol. I've been drinking it since I was six! We don't have "noggins" anymore, except on our shoulders, but that's what they were served in many, many years ago.

2. George must have had a great time when Christmas came around. His eggnog contained Rye, Rum and Whisky in good quantity. He even added Spanish sherry.

3. One of the Christmas issues this year consisted of four all different stamps with pictures of pine seeds (three were cones) and they were forever stamps.

4. The Second US Christmas issue, this year featured an angel playing a lute and wearing a green smock! The painting was done by Melozzo da Forli sometime in the 1400s. He's pretty good. No Botticelli but not bad.

5. Pakistan is a Muslim country so they didn't issue a Christmas stamp this year. However, Wahid Zia, a Pakistani pictured many very nice Christmas stamps from many other countries on his site.....in Pakistan.....nice guy!

6. Italy is a Catholic country (predominately) so they issue Christmas stamps. Germany isn't Catholic but they are Lutheran so they issued Christmas stamps too. Malta, being British (once) is Anglican but Anglicans are Christian so they issued Christmas stamps as well!

7. The British like their cartoons too. Wallace and Grommit were the characters on the British Christmas stamps this year. Wallace and Grommit are very popular in Great Britain. Like the Simpsons are here.

8. Grommit (the dog) was given a blue sweater. The bones are a part of the design. I'm willing to bet Wallace's mum made it for him and put a bit too much into it because it looked to be about two sizes too large for the poor dog.

9. There was lots of "stuff" at the Auction Bucks auction this year. Harvey Edwards auctioned it and Dick Simmonds passed it to the winners.

10. This year we went to the Heritage Museum to decorate a Christmas tree and the area around it and we went to club's Christmas party at the Masonic Temple as we do every year. You should join us. We have lots of fun.

Bonus question. If you answered the "first question" correctly, you get the ten bonus bucks. If you didn't answer it or got it wrong you get nothing. I wouldn't know who to give the bucks to! The first question is, what is your name? It is at the top of the page.

The Little Town That Couldn't

by Bill Brew

There is a small town in Northern California who's council is made up of strong minded individuals. They had been elected by people of the same stature. The town had its bars, businesses, stables, Inns, barns, restaurants, a cemetery and a post office.

It was well known for its wild week-ends, when the miners had been paid and they were ready to celebrate. It became a rowdy town and ready community. Yep! The town was called "Rough and Ready", California.

The people demanded their whiskey and the bars maintained an ample supply. The source of this was from neighboring cities and counties. This was satisfactory to Rough and Ready. What did bother them was a new tax on the mining claims placed by the Union. After a short meeting, in June of 1850, the council sent a notice to the Union that Rough and Ready wanted to succeed from the Union and, thus, the town became, "The Republic of Rough and Ready". This new community lasted until the fourth of July (approximately one month). To celebrate this day, the new country requested a supply of liquor from its normal places but, they were refused because Rough and Ready was not part of the Union. When the townspeople heard about this a meeting was promptly called to order. After another short deliberation they sent notice to the Union that Rough and Ready was ready to re-enter the Union. This was accepted and the townspeople were supplied with their order for liquid refreshments.

So, another part of history was born.

Today, Rough and Ready is still there and has become a tourist attraction with its own post office. The first post office was discontinued in 1942, but a new one was established on June 16, 1948 as a fourth class postal station.

Rough and Ready is located about sixty miles from Reno. Take US 80 to highway 211, in the Grass Valley area. It makes a nice place to visit and a good stop for lunch.

Editor's note: A copy of a First Day Cover issued in Rough and Ready is on the next page. And, so that you're not too Horrified, the creases are in the copy of the FDC I was sent, not in the cover itself. - Howard



This is a copy of a first day cover issued on June 16, 1948 in Rough and Ready at the time the new post office came into being.

Hong Kong's Philatelic Days of Thunder

by Tom Fortunato

Chairman, APS Chapter Activities Committee

stamptmf@frontiernet.net

The last few days of independent Hong Kong were a philatelic once-in-a-lifetime opportunity or a nightmare, depending on one's point of view. The "thunder" came from collectors and speculators alike lining up at 22 post offices for the latest stamp issues.



To the left is the last philatelic issue from British Hong Kong. This souvenir sheet was sold only between the hours of 8-2 on June 28. Although difficult to see, it bears the royal cypher of QEII, making it invalid for postage by 12:01

AM on July 1, the time of the official transfer of the territory to China. The special postmark was available on a hand-back basis for collectors July 28 at all post offices and July 29-30 at special philatelic branches. There was a limit of 10 per person for this sheet.

The first issues of Chinese Hong Kong were spawned on July 1 along with the commemorative postmark (if desired) depicted here. It, too, bore a HK \$5 stamp in a souvenir sheet, worth about US 65 cents at face value. Only 20 souvenir sheets per person could be purchased. Six additional stamps of various denominations were also on sale.



Hong Kong stamps continue to be popular throughout the Far East, especially in its new motherland, China. With a bustling secondary market for new Hong Kong issues, often at rates of 5-10 times face value, is it any wonder that the Hong Kong Post Office



Hong Kong's New Flag

warned patrons that stamp values can eventually go down as well as up?

By the way, the entire Hong Kong region received torrential rains for more than a week after their day in the spotlight. Hope all collectors there are storing their treasures in a dry place! Happy stamping!

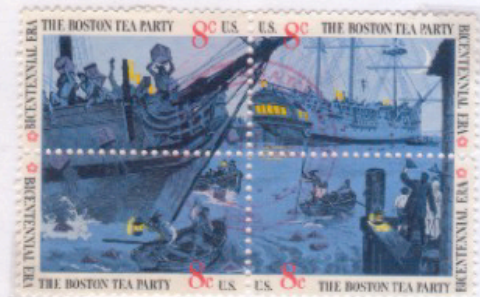
For additional details, go to the Hong Kong Post web site:

<http://www.info.gov.hk/hkpo/forth.htm>

MY FAVORITE STAMPS



AS A COLLECTOR OF SINGLE USED U. S. STAMPS
I BECAME FASCINATED BY BLOCKS.
ESPECIALLY WHEN
THEY CREATE A COMPLETE PICTURE.



I HAVE ABOUT 25 BLOCKS. THEY ARE MORE
VALUABLE WITH THE POST OFFICE MARKINGS,
BUT I LIKE THE SYMMETRY OF FOUR
IDENTICAL STAMPS. IT SHOWS MORE DETAILS.



STAMP COLLECTING IS CONTAGIOUS
BE CAREFUL OR YOU WILL START
COLLECTING

