

Nevada

P.O. Box 2907

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.



POST BOY

May 14, 2011

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Warm weather has been coming and going. Kind of like trying to get the lawnmower started. Good weather will begin any moment now.

Elections are getting closer every day and we're still looking for people to fill some slots. Two director positions are looking for candidates so you will probably be a shoo-in if you run. The work isn't very hard but the same names have been on the list to the left of this column for a long time. You might be giving a break to someone who needs it. Officer positions that are up for grabs are President and Treasurer. There are three Director positions to be voted on in the coming months where all you do is attend meetings and take direction from the president. Its also the first step in running for the larger jobs (like president). Find **John Walter** for your copy of the nomination form (you can nominate yourself) and fill it out. By the way, John still needs someone to take over the Election Committee for him. You, maybe? All you do is notify the board of impending elections, hand out nomination forms and make sure the ballots are up-to-date. And then, only once a year.

The "My Favorite Things" this month comes from your editor, **Howard Grenzbach** and is all about a letter from Bodie, a small ghost town in California about 140 miles south of here.

Over the past year or so several of the member have kindly donated their time to soaking

stamps for the benefit of the club. If you still have some of those stamps in your possession we would like to see them come back to the club, even if you haven't finished so we can get an idea of how much material is out there.

The **club's picnic** is set for July 23rd (a regular meeting day) and it promises to be a busy day for all of us. That meeting will be held at the Silverada Estates clubhouse. Some of you may remember we had a "Stamp Yard Sale" there in 2009. Its a very nice clubhouse. We will start that day with a meeting then have our picnic. Before we get to that day, though there will be a discussion among the members so we can set an agenda for the day. We will bring our proposed agenda, you may want to bring an idea too.

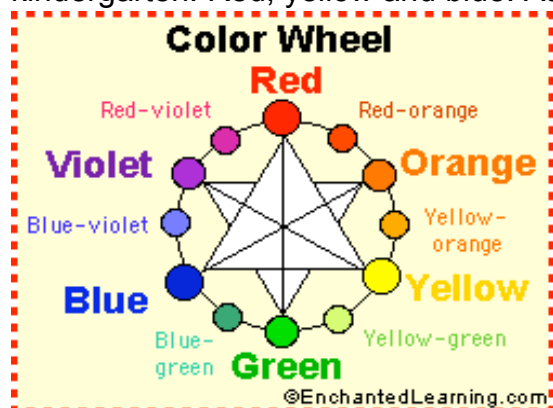
This month the presentation was delivered by **Holabird-Kagin Americana(.com)** of Reno. We were lucky to have Mr. Holabird give the presentation himself. We learned a great deal about the ups and downs of collecting Americana, then found out that we, here in Nevada are a major source for Western memorabilia as we are basically the gateway to the West. As Mr. Holabird said, everything came through Nevada. By-the-way, they have an auction coming up at the Atlantis at the end of June.

WINEPEX Sept 30-Oct 2 at the Marin Civic Center San Rafael. Hours 10-5 and 10-3 on Sun. E-mail Bob Rawlins at rawlins@sonic.net to exhibit.

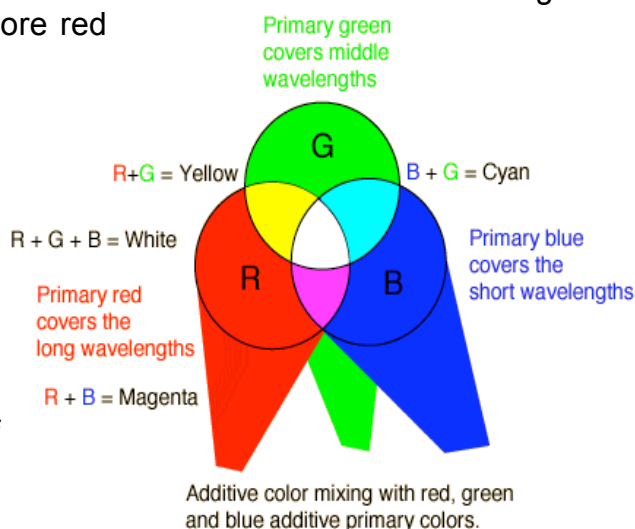
Color

The question of color is a complex and often confusing one when it comes to stamps. What color is carmine, scarlet, red or lake? All are versions of red but how do you know which is which? There are a number of factors that enter into the equation such as available light, age of the colors and your own perception of color. So, let's start with the basics.

When mixing inks (or paints) we use the primary colors as we learned in kindergarten. Red, yellow and blue. As you can see by the color wheel (left), if you mix red and blue, you get violet. By varying the amounts of color used the color itself changes. By mixing all three colors evenly, you get black. Brown comes from adding a bit more red



In light the results are a bit different. The primary colors are red, blue and green and by mixing the three together you get white. The secondary colors are cyan, magenta and yellow. The color of light you use to illuminate the stamp you are looking at will affect the color of the inks (or paints).



When inks are mixed to print a stamp, a certain color is obtained and the formula is written down so the color can be repeated should the ink run out before the run is completed. This is where the problems of color begin for the collector. In the early days of printing measurements were not very accurate and the results reflected that inaccuracy. Red might become scarlet or even vermillion. Even accurate measurement might still cause changes if the inks hadn't been handled properly. One of the inks may have been left in the sun too long or sitting on top of a heated surface. Most any outside influence can alter a color and, of course, the printed product.

Once the stamp has been printed there are more events that can alter the color such as the amount of pollution in the air. The products that pollute modern air, even back to the time of the first stamp, are usually chemical in their nature or, at best, just plain dirty. Chemically charged air can alter the basic structure of the ink. Iron is a

metal often found in early inks. When its oxidized it turns dark. Sulphurization is another way chemicals affect the color of a stamp. Soot and dust can destroy the brightness and freshness of the post office issues. Tea, coffee or soda pops carelessly spilled will also affect the color.

Chemicals and pollution affect the basic color of the inks but what about the way you look at a stamp? Here is a whole new array of problems. For instance, how do you perceive color? I suspect we are all different but that difference will be minor unless you are color blind and color is not too important to you. What will affect your perception of color is the type of light that is your source of illumination. Incandescent light has a warm red-yellow color while fluorescent lights are green but can be and usually are balanced for other colors. "Natural light" can be found in the sun. This is what nature adjusted our eyes for. Most stamp dealers have special lights on their tables that produce light whose color is adjusted to sunlight so you can see a stamp under natural conditions.

"But," you say, "Everything looks fine when I'm in a room with fluorescent or incandescent light!" That's because your brain compensates for the different colors. You actually see the color of the light but your brain doesn't accept it. When you move a stamp from one light source to another, like from room light to the dealer's light, you will see the difference.

Color charts are made by all of the major stamp companies and provide us with an explanation of the color choices they give us in their catalogs. The first color chart was made by Stanley Gibbons and consisted of real stamps to represent each of the colors. The following year they chose to use a single stamp of their own making as there were not sufficient real stamps to meet the demand for color charts. Since that time companies have come out with a variety of color charts that compete to be different in size, shape and style. The accuracy of the charts are questionable at best. They may be able to answer some questions like what is the difference between red-brown and brown-red but that may not translate to determining the stamps of the same color.

The next problem with color charts is the electronic transmission of color. The use of electronics in printing has allowed colors to be more consistently repeatable. But, is that repeatability consistent from machine to machine? That would depend on the characteristics of each machine and how the machine(s) are calibrated. In other words, is the color of this newsletter the same on your computer as on mine?

At this point I have given you quite a bit of information about the problems with color in stamp collecting. It's a bit overstated though. While these problems exist they aren't as serious as it may seem and color charts are very useful tools in our hobby. Perhaps this subject warrants a discussion day at one of our meetings. We may be able to solve some of these problems and uncover a few that haven't been mentioned here. Whaddayathink?

<http://www.apsit.com/mapstamp.htm>

Latvian Collecting

After WW I there was a shortage of paper and just about everything else. At the end of the war Latvia declared itself to be an independent country. As the German army withdrew its troops the Latvians re-occupied their own land and began the job of setting up a new government. Part of that government was the post office. Stamps representing their country were printed in the Schnakenburg Printing Works in Riga which later became the Latvian Government Printing Office. The only paper available was left behind by the German occupiers in the form of military



maps. This site is a very comprehensive discussion of those stamps and the maps they are printed on.

This page is part of a larger site that includes information on tourist postcards from the thirties and Latvian postal codes in 2004. You can also convert the Cyrillic letters to western. For those of you interested in the military aspect of philately, go to; "fieldpost cachets from 1919-21." They appear to be for sale but you will have to contact the site owner (Bill Apsit) to find out. He has provided a link to his e-mail.

The site has a rather dry look to it but there are many interesting pictures of stamps and other philatelic items to see, scattered around the pages as well as a great deal of early Latvian history.

Like the stamp to the right, whatever was at hand was used to pay postage until regular Latvian stamps found their way to the post offices.

Though I find the appearance of the site to be uninspired, a lot of thought went into creating a site that conveyed a great deal of information about the times these people suffered through and the difficulties that brought unusual solutions to problems created by war. Good site!



Nicaragua. We like them, then we don't. We can travel there but the political situation is considered unstable. Should you decide to go there, they have a "CA4" agreement with El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala so you can travel to these countries without additional visa requirements. Hmmm, might be a nice place to visit.

1. In what year were the first stamps of Nicaragua issued?
A) 1860 B) 1862 C) 1864
2. What Managua city building is shown on the 1930 series of eleven stamps?
A) City Hall B) Post Office C) Police Station
3. What famous philatelic pioneer is the subject of a 1950 issue?
A) Rowland Hill B) Stanley Gibbons C) Owney
4. What American clergyman appears on a 1959 stamp?
A) Joseph Smith B) William Penn C) Cardinal Spellman
5. What soccer star appears on a 1970 issue?
A) Pele B) Hernan Crespo C) Rivaldo
6. The re-election of what president is marked by a 1975 set?
A) Anastasio Somoza B) Luis Somoza C) Daniel Ortega
7. What means of transportation is shown on the two-cent stamp of 1978 honoring powered flight?
A) Airplane B) Balloon C) Zeppelin
8. A Goya painting of what saint appears on the 1978 10-cent Christmas stamp?
A) Peter B) Paul C) Gregory
9. What two American astronauts are pictured on a 1967 stamp?
A) Shephard & Glenn B) McDivitt & White C) Armstrong & Aldrin
10. The presidents of Mexico and Nicaragua are shown on a 1968 stamp. Who are they?
A) Ordaz and Schick B) Ordaz and Ortega C) Ortega and Ordaz

Bonus question: Is "Cyan" a real color?. True or False?

This one can be a small problem if you forget about the airmail stamps. Now, how do you feel about running for one of the offices in our coming elections? Sorry, no points for that question.

I was watching a program on TV about what happens if all the humans disappear. It seems the Dutch dikes break (without constant repair) and much of the Netherlands returns to the sea.

1. C. While you might think the first stamp would include a king with a "I" after his name, it was William III who adorns the Netherlands first stamp.
2. B. Wilhelmina became Queen when her father died in 1890 when she was at the tender age of ten. However, Queen Emma ruled as regent until Wilhelmina turned eighteen and took the crown in 1898. She passed the crown to her daughter, Juliana, in 1948 after celebrating her Golden Jubilee.
3. C. A miner is shown on #331 issued for the 50th anniversary of the mining industry in the Netherlands.
4. B. 1962 was the silver (25h) wedding anniversary of Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard. It was celebrated on # 389-90.
5. A & B. Actually there are two sports represented by #s513-14 and they are tennis and soccer. Either answer will do.
6. B. Benelux was organized in 1948 as an economic union for the free trade of goods among the participating countries, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium. The stamp, issued in 1974 was #518.
7. B. Martinus Nijhoff studied literature in Amsterdam and law in Utrecht. His poetry was a combination of old and new forms with a clarity of word that included mystical content. #B264-68.
8. C. The Laughing Child was painted by Frans Hals, a contemporary of Rembrandt, who was described as a baroque artist. He lived so long he outlasted his style.
9. A. The three men pictured on #s 594-96 were Alexander Lohman, Pieter Troelstra and Pieter Oud. All three were politicians
10. B. Suriname is a country on the north coast of South America surrounded by Guyana, French Guiana and Brazil. It has been independent from the Netherlands since 1975. You probably know it best for its Bauxite (raw aluminum) and Bob Jones, once a religious cult leader.

Bonus question. In a dyslexic moment I wrote "psotcrossing" and meant postcrossing. It is true, you can send postcards all over the world to strangers.

The land of Rembrandt is an interesting country. Hope to visit some day.

Chalky Paper

We all hear about chalky paper but, what is it and how do you tell when you have it? Some stamps were only issued on chalky paper so those are easy to spot. Quite often those were the higher values of a set. Its use was quite popular in Great Britain and their colonies (several other countries too) usually starting at 2 shillings or more. Sometimes the stamp was printed in both chalky and ordinary paper as with the two stamps below from the Nyassaland Protectorate. Can you tell the difference?

First, what is it? Paper is coated with a chalk-like powdered substance then it is pressed in to create a smooth surface. This surface is hard and dry and receives the

ink in a cleaner way than its more porous cousin. The purpose of this chalky surface was to prevent people from washing the cancels and illegally re-using the stamp. As you can see from last month's article, it is not wise to wash or soak these stamps.



Chalky paper



Ordinary paper

to check to see if it could have been printed on chalky paper. If its on an envelope, keep it, its more valuable that way. If it stuck to a piece of paper, carefully dampen the paper (not the stamp) and remove it as soon as it will come off the stamp.

OK, there are both varieties of chalky and ordinary paper, now what? First, take a look at the pictures above. The one on the left is labeled "Chalky". Since the chalk is pressed into the paper providing a harder surface to print on, the print is usually much finer and clearer than unsurfaced paper that might soak up and slightly blur the ink. Another characteristic of chalky paper is that small holes will occur (in the ink) when gasses trapped under the surface are released. It will take a good magnifying glass to see these holes and then they may be too small to be visible. Since the chalky paper is just ordinary paper with chalky powder impressed into the surface, it will feel thicker and harder than ordinary paper. The surface will also appear smoother. If you hold the stamp to your dry lip it will feel noticeably cooler and smoother than ordinary paper.

Now that you're aware of several ways to tell chalky paper from ordinary, there is one more way that is much easier but, unfortunately, destructive. If you touch silver to the paper it will turn dark or black at that point. The test is unreliable. If the touchpoint turns black it may be chalky paper or it may not. In any case, you have a stamp with a mark on it. Avoid this approach.

Kinder Kards



Kinder Kards are postcards issued in Germany before and during World War II. They depict children in various aspects of war.

On page nine of this August publication is an ad from Stan Cronwall in search of Kinder Kards. I thought you might like to see a couple of them and learn what they are. "Kinder" is the German Word for child or children and "Kard" is, well, I bet you know what that means!

When Hitler took power in 1933 he began putting the country on a war footing and, at the same time, back to work. He started shifting factories over to making the tools of war. He rebuilt the Navy. He drafted men into the army and began training them to "defend" their borders.

Then he created the Hitler Youth. The purpose of the "Youth" was to replace the Boy Scouts, an English invention. The Hitler Youth provided a training ground for soldiers of the future and a supply of cannon fodder for the take-over of Europe. The final result was that the Youth was the last resort of a dying Third Reich as the Allies tightened the noose in 1945.



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Wanted; the 1949 Silver Wedding issue. Have you seen this stamp? There are several like it from various British colonies. I need about half of them to complete my collection.

Contact Howard at (775) 677-7143 or
artfulputz@aol.com

For Sale; Stamps and Covers at my online store at [Wensy.com](#). Type "artfulputz" in the search box. click on "user" then "go". You'll have to join but its easier than eBay. Most prices start at 1/3 of Scott. Contact Howard at artfulputz@aol.com

WANTED: Germany Third Reich postcards from the **Carl Werner Studios** - B/W or color, photo or illustrated, mint or used. Paying \$35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or stlaine@aol.com

WANTED: Germany Third Reich postcards from the **Eric Gutjahr Studios** - B/W or color, photo or illustrated, mint or used. Paying \$ 35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or stlaine@aol.com

WANTED: Germany Third Reich postcards from the **Heinrich Hoffmann Studios**. (Hoffmann was Hitler's personal photographer) - B/W or color, photo or illustrated, mint or used. Paying \$ 45.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or stlaine@aol.com.

WANTED: Germany Third Reich illustrated postcards by the artist **Wolfgang Willrich** - B/W or color, mint or used. Paying \$ 35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or stlaine@aol.com

WANTED: Germany Third Reich "Kinder Cards" mint or used. These are cards showing children "playing at war" usually with some junior sized weapon, helmet and/or uniform. Most are color but some can be B/W. Most are illustrated, but some are photography. Paying \$35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or stlaine@aol.com.



Wanted; Covers of Switzerland from 1882 to 1907 (later is OK) that used the "Standing Helvetia" as postage. Contact Howard at (775) 677-7143 or artfulputz@aol.com

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My Favorite Things

An easy way to get started on your first full frame exhibit. Just show us what you like on one page and tell us a little about it.

