



# Nevada Stamp Study Society Post Boy



**N.S.S.S. meets 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/>

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## Nevada Stamp Study Society

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## Editor's Byline

*June It's Summer!*

Casey Macken  
Secretary/Editor

Summer is here, I think. Last meeting we had a great presentation by John Wetterling. Do not forget to sign in your hours for the club in order to get Auction Bucks. We have one application for the election. Vice President, Secretary and two directors are opening.

Elections are coming up and we now have candidates for each position. Now, just because someone has stepped up does not mean that we do not need people to participate on the board. It is the work done by our members that ensures success of the club.

Jean Johnson is in charge of Programs and is working on

## Message from the President

*As we prepare for and participate in our Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, we need to keep in mind that each of us is an ambassador for our hobby. We are its representatives. There are no activities in our hobby that are more important, stimulating or rewarding than sharing it with others.*

*True that our hobby deals with stamps and postal history, but it is really all about people. Our highest priority is to share our hobby with others. This is the driving force behind our annual effort to produce our Show.*

*Our club is thriving when organized philately is in decline. The reason for our success is because our members are open, caring and sharing. We try very hard to share, teach, guide, and mentor.*

*You are the custodian of what you have gathered into your collection with the responsibility for preserving and caring for material so that in the future others will have the same or greater pleasure from what you have put together.*

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getting the Post Master to come to a meeting. That will be great. In July, we will discuss how the Stamp Show goes. We have eleven dealers so it real very important that we have visitors and that the dealers have a good experience.

Are you working on your exhibits? We have 21 frames and only need 9 more and we can confirm the judges. Contact Teri to get information on what you need to do.

Dan Trabke is moving to Hawaii. And for some reason does not want to take his entire stamp collection. Can't for the life of me understand that. Anyway, he has over 50 to 100 albums. Oh, that is why. So if you are interested in enlarging your collection. Talk to him. I will contact him to give us a list of what he has in the Post Boy. He is listed in the directory also.

Remember, to bring in some philatelic items for the raffle. First Day covers you do not want, a page of different duplicates of one of your countries. Some people like envelopes with any post mark, so like back of the book items. How about a box of mixed stamps!

Check with your contacts on possible other locations to meet. The Sparks Heritage Museum is not going to work out and we are happy with NNMC but if you know somewhere else let Stan or John Walter know. Nadiah is working on bookcases to house our library and penny boxes on property. Yeah, more space.

Remember the first meeting is auction sales and the second is consignments. Take Care and keep collecting.

so, either one will satisfy that empty spot in your album. There are also overprints on both of them and you'll 571 need to know the difference



571a

571a in color in order to value them, The overprints command a much greater difference in price. An example is #614 which has the single line of posthorns overprinted on #571 and 571a. In my 2007 Scott, #614 is valued at \$0.70, used and #614a (brown-red) is \$140.00. The long and short of it is #571 is red-brown (brown is the dominate color) and 571a is brown-red (Red is the dominate color).

## Some Notes on Stamp and Cover Preservation

by Arlene Sullivan, RPSC, BNAPS  
[wakarchuk@bc.sympatico.ca](mailto:wakarchuk@bc.sympatico.ca)

(Note- Recipes listed are proven effective and safe!)

It isn't only the moneyed collector of classic stamps and rare covers that needs to be concerned about the proper handling and storage of his collection. No matter what kind of philatelic material appeals to you, there are a couple of things that you can do to ensure that your stamps, postcards and souvenir sheets will last in good condition for many years.

### WHEN YOU BUY - Mould and Mildew

Preservation should start from the moment you inspect your purchases. Look closely - do you see any signs of staining, mould or water damage? Does the album or cover have a musty or sour smell? Is the paper damp, and is it fragile and easily torn? These are signs that the material may be contaminated with mould or mildew. The main problem with albums and covers that carry fungal growths of this kind is that even with a good airing, a dry storage area, and careful handling, mould and mildew can spread to uncontaminated material in your collection and under the right circumstances can cause considerable

## Red-Brown vs Brown-Red

by Howard Grenzebach



571

Colors are confusing but once in a while we find a moment of clarification. In the Scott catalog the stamps you see here are listed under Germany as #571 and 571a. Both of these catalog at twenty cents

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## REGULAR MEETING

NNMC

JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>

10:00AM

Auction meeting

NNMC

JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> 10:00AM

Consignment Sales with Presentation

*As important as the stamps and other philatelic material are, of equal or even greater value is the accumulated knowledge of it.*

*We must take every opportunity to share what we know and what we have. In a rush? Slow down. Don't have time? Make time.*

*The upcoming Show is a wonderful opportunity to put on your ambassador hat with our visitors, with our newer members, and even with our dealers.*

## Stamp Shows

### NAPEX

Jun 1-2 Virginia

<http://www.napex.org>

### INDONESIA '12

Jun 18-24 Jakarta, Indonesia

Contact Kees Adema

Email: [keesandulla@yahoo.com](mailto:keesandulla@yahoo.com)

### NSSS Stamp Show

July 21-22 Reno, NV

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

### APS STAMP SHOW

August 16-19 Sacramento



damage. Fungal growth weakens paper, making it fragile and harder to handle, and can cause staining and color changes in stamps and paper. Under conditions of dampness and sluggish air circulation - basement or attic storage, for instance - fungi can spread incredibly quickly and cause the loss of a collection in a matter of weeks. So avoid purchases that show the signs of mould and mildew contamination. Always wash your hands after handling these kinds of pieces to prevent spread of the fungal spores to uncontaminated material.

### Paper Condition

Take a look at the color of the stamp, too; is it faded or darkened? These are signs of paper deterioration that could have occurred for a number of reasons - usually improper storage. Exposure to sunlight, cigarette smoke, emissions from automobiles or coal plants, and even handling of the stamps with fingertips instead of stamp tongs can cause changes in the paper that weaken the bonds that hold the paper fibers together. Pin holes and tears can then occur with even gentle handling.

Exposure to even small amounts of acid from atmospheric pollutants or handling can cause "oxidation" of the stamp ink. Acidic compounds will also cause paper deterioration, so be aware that changes in ink color can mean changes in paper quality, too. Orange inks of the Victorian period seem to be particularly susceptible to this kind of color change - examples of the 3c small Queens of Canada, for example, can be almost black.

### Special Cases

It also pays to know something about the printing and gumming of the stamps you are purchasing. For instance, "Ostropa" souvenir sheets issued in 1935 in Germany (Scott B68) are often found mint without gum. A gummed sheet in this case is not a very good buy as the gum was formulated with sulphuric acid which over the years has caused the paper of gummed sheets to deteriorate. Collectors who knew this soaked the gum off of their copies to preserve the paper, making the mint no gum sheets the preferred collectible. Know your stamps!

### OK, MY STAMPS ARE HOME, NOW WHAT?

There are three simple rules to always remember when working with your collection:

1. Never use your hands to handle your stamps if you can use tongs.
2. Always use storage materials designed for use with philatelic material.
3. Don't smoke, eat, or drink around your stamps, or store

them in areas where people are smoking, drinking, or eating.

Why tongs? Your hands may be clean, but even freshly washed hands carry traces of oils and acids given off naturally by your skin. Repeated handling of stamps with your fingers will leave residues on the stamps, and over time these will build up and cause paper deterioration and staining. The gum on mint stamps is also easily disturbed by finger tip pressure. Proper use of tongs prevents paper acidification and can save that valuable mint gum!

(This also applies to handling covers. While most modern material is never going to be worth enough to really worry about, old and/or valuable covers should always be handled with cotton gloves to avoid contamination with oils and acids.)

And why not store your stamps in baggies and old vinyl binders? While this may be the cheap way to go, watch out for inappropriate materials that may come into contact with your stamps and covers. The vinyl on binders, for instance, can give off chemicals used in the polymerization process - chemicals that even in small amounts can dissolve some kinds of inks, trash paper, and cause ink and gum transfers to the vinyl surface. A similar problem can arise with photocopied pages that may be in contact with your mounted stamps. Be careful with any kind of plastic or chemically treated material, including paper, that is not sold by a reputable dealer for philatelic purposes; the added expense of purchasing good quality storage bags and pages is very small compared to the loss of your collection by improper storage.

As for the third rule, no, I am not trying to nag you into not enjoying a smoke while you sort those colour varieties. Keep in mind, though, that cigarette smoke will discolour and damage paper eventually, and leave a smell that is impossible to get rid of. (Get a non-smoking friend to check your catalogues to see what I mean.) Try to limit exposing your collection to cigarette smoke and to any other kind of atmospheric pollutant such as car exhaust, coal plant emissions, and industrial effluent. Not easy, I know, but even keeping windows closed (or open) can help. Regular airing of your albums will also help to preserve them.

Avoid eating or drinking around your stamps, too. Grease spots and pop stains are not only unsightly, they also attract insects that can destroy an album in a surprisingly short time. Spilled coffee can also turn those expensive mint unhinged stamps into landfill in only a few seconds of inattention. Better to keep the food and drink in the kitchen.

### STORING YOUR COLLECTION



The enemy of stored collections is water in the atmosphere - either too much or too little. Depending on the kind of climate you live in, you may need to either increase or decrease humidity in the room where you store your collection. Generally homes in temperate climates that use central heating provide good conditions for storing stamps. If you are comfortable, your stamps probably are too. It may be worth investing in air conditioning, a humidifier, or a de-humidifier if your budget warrants to maintain a suitable environment in your home. Be especially careful if you are storing your stamps in a basement or shed, or in an attic. If there is any hint of dampness, or if the temperature is high, move your collection to another space. Make sure your family is aware of this, too; I would guess more collections have been destroyed by inappropriate storage than by any other cause.

Take the time to go through your albums and boxes once every few months even if you are not currently using them. This allows the stamps to air, and gives you the chance to inspect them for any problems that may be developing.

#### FIRST AID

The following "recipes" are supplied for use in arresting or reversing some common problems that may arise with stamps or covers in your collection. **NOTE WELL: If you are not willing to lose the stamp or cover, DON'T EXPERIMENT WITH IT! IF WHAT YOU HAVE IS PRECIOUS OR VALUABLE, PLEASE LOOK INTO PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATION.** I would tend to try and preserve only those covers and philatelic items that will die an imminent death anyway. The German "Ostropa" sheet cited above is a case in point; the gum is so acidic on these that if they haven't rotted away already, they are darn close.

These recipes are all water based and non-toxic, but please observe some basic precautions. If you have the faintest doubt that anything on the cover or stamp may run in aqueous solutions (water), leave them alone! Ink can be tricky, as can cancellations. Watch also for wax seals and other attachments, as these too can come loose with handling combined with just a little moisture. When mixing and handling solutions, don't use kitchen utensils, as they may have traces of food or grease on them - invest in a few new, clean, spoons, containers and sprayers. Use distilled water; tap water may contain minerals or salts that will react with your cover or stamp. Use fresh solutions, too, as old solutions may not work (especially hydrogen peroxide). Spray solutions outdoors, or at least in a well ventilated area, and don't breath the spray in. And last, but very important - make sure your cover or stamp is dry before storing.

Checking paper for Acidity

Determining the acidity of paper can be roughly tested by using bromocresol green, an indicator dye. Touched to the paper, the dye remains green if the paper is neutral, yellow if acidic, and blue if alkaline. This dye is in bottles or felt tipped pens through scientific or archival supply houses. Be careful, as this will stain.

#### Deacidification of Paper

The chemicals used in these methods are relatively harmless (they are closely related to baking soda, and the active ingredients in proprietary antacids!) but as in anything be careful with the solutions, test them on something you don't want first, and make sure you follow the recipe. I imagine that a pharmacist or archival supply house might be able to give you a supplier for these chemicals. If you can't find these chemicals, I see no reason why plain old baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) would not be a good substitute.

Recipe 1 - Make up a 0.12 percent solution of calcium bicarbonate in distilled water. Soak the sheet in the solution for half an hour, then remove, blot off excess solution, and dry between pressing boards. This process neutralizes the acid content and leaves an alkaline residue as a buffer against further contamination.

Recipe 2 - Make up a 10 g per litre solution of magnesium bicarbonate and use an atomizer bottle (spray bottle) to spray a fine mist of solution onto the paper. Do this in open air or a well-ventilated area. This method is preferred for fragile items that may not take much handling.

#### Reversing "Oxidation" on Stamps

A gentle bath in a two to three percent hydrogen peroxide solution will restore the colour in stamps that have lead based inks that have darkened due to exposure to trace amounts of acid. If the colour does not change after a half an hour or so, "oxidation" is not the culprit. This treatment works for restoring colour to the 3c small Queens of Canada. By a different chemical mechanism it will also restore the colour of the "muddy waters" variety of the Canadian 1898 Map Stamp. Research the stamp pigment before using hydrogen peroxide, as vegetable based dyes used in later years may be irreversibly bleached by this treatment.

#### SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

They may be "just stamps", but even the most basic collection is worth handling properly. I hope these tips and recipes help you keep your collection in good condition. Remember, years from now a novice collector will appreciate a well preserved copy of even a common stamp. Good handling and storage techniques now will ensure a supply of quality stamps for the future.

## Philatelic Biography

Here is the biography I mentioned in April's Post Boy. Remember answer in complete sentences; add why even though I did not ask. Send to me by email, snail mail (use a nice stamp) or hand it to me and wait to see it in the PB.

1. Name
2. What do you collect?
3. How long have you been collecting?
4. What item are you most proud to have?
5. How do you organize your stamps? Albums boxes etc.
6. How many containers of stamps do you have?
7. What do you want to sell the most?
8. Where do you get most of your stamps?
9. Have you ever exhibited? Would you?
10. What is your biggest pet peeve about the post office and collecting stamps?

# Philatelic Biography

1. **Name:** John Walter
2. **What do you collect?** I collect stamps from the following: People's Republic of China (to 2000), Imperial China, Japan (to 1977), U.S. and U.N. I collect postal stationery from P.R. China, Japan, U.S. and U.N. My special interest is in U.S. aerogrammes sent to overseas addresses. Plus, I have a few albums of worldwide stamp issues.
3. **How long have you been collecting?** I started to "collect" probably 40 years ago.
4. **What item are you most proud to have?** There are many items that interest me. Monetary wise are the issues of Imperial China and the P.R. of China. Then there are the U.S. aerogrammes sent to an orphanage in Goa, Portuguese India that I purchased from a collector in Pennsylvania. I also have a binder with postmarks from around the U.S.
5. **How do you organize your stamps? Albums boxes etc.** My stamps are placed in albums. The postal stationery are both in albums and some cover boxes.
6. **How many containers of stamps do you have?** Well, if by containers you mean albums, quite a number - probably over 50. Postal card and cover boxes number around 20.
7. **What do you want to sell the most?** I have sold and plan to sell some more of my duplicate P.R. China stamps.
8. **Where do you get most of your stamps?** My stamp material has come from many sources - dealers (stamp shows, bourse and mail order), national auction houses, postal services, and stamp club members.
9. **Have you ever exhibited? Would you?** No, I have never exhibited. I would love to exhibit when I can find the time to write-up some of my treasures.
10. **What is your biggest pet peeve about the post office and collecting stamps?** The biggest gripe I have with the post office is that circular city postmarks are no longer used routinely on mail. Mail is now sent to "processing plants" for sprayed-on markings" that cannot be read.
11. **Philatelic publications I subscribe to include:** Linn's Weekly Stamp News, The American Philatelist (APS), Japanese Philately (ISJP), Chinese Philately, and Postal Stationery (UPSS). I also have a good collection of auction catalogues relating to my collecting interests.

# ADVERTISEMENTS

**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 it's easier than eBay. Most prices start at 1/3 of Scott. Contact Howard at [artfulputz@aol.com](mailto:artfulputz@aol.com)

## ClassicNevada

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**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](mailto:stlaine@aol.com)

**Wanted;** the 1949 Silver Wedding issue. Have you seen this stamp? There are several like it from other British colonies. I need about half of them to complete my collection. Contact Howard at (775) 677-7143 or [artfulputz@aol.com](mailto: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. Call Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or [stlaine@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:stlaine@aol.com)

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**[eddavies@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eddavies@sbcglobal.net)**

WANTED - US Aerogrammes addressed and used to overseas locations. Needed: UC42, UC44, UC44a, UC46, UC49, and UC52 to UC62, UC63a and UC64 Paying up to 100% of SCV John Walter [john@walter-us.net](mailto:john@walter-us.net)



## Post Boy Quiz-Colors

June- \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

1. What color would a stamp be if the Italian catalogue called it “Verde Mela”?  
A. green                      B. apple green                      C. lime green
2. The French word “noir” describes a stamp that is what color?  
A. black                      B. dark                      C. brown
3. A stamp called “Azul” in Spanish would be what color?  
A. blue                      B. yellow                      C. lilac
4. What is the Italian word for “brown”?  
A. browo                      B. bruno                      C. biondo
5. A German catalog would call it “Weinrot”. What color is it?  
A. wine red                      B. rosa                      C. claret
6. The Spanish word “Gris” describes what color stamp?  
A. gold                      B. gray                      C. green
7. “Rouge, Rot and Rosso” all refer to what color stamp?  
A. rosa                      B. rusty                      C. red
8. The German word “Gelb” describes what color stamp?  
A. gray                      B. green                      C. yellow
9. What would “flesh” colored stamps be called in French?  
A. chair                      B. nude                      C. nuet
10. What The German word “Zitronengelb” refers to what color or stamp?  
A. Gray                      B. citron                      C. white

Bonus question:

What is the background color of the stamps on the right on page 3?

## Answers to May's Post Boy Quiz

1. Pope Paul VI
2. A horse-drawn ambulance
3. Timber
4. Carrier pigeon
5. United Nations
6. Skiing
7. Gandhi
8. Valparaiso Volunteer  
Lifeboat Service
9. Grapes
10. Antarctic

Hi all,

I have an idea for an exhibit but I need stamps. Yes, I have the penny boxes and I am going through them but would some of you like to sell your duplicates really cheap to me.

In my exhibit I need stamps with landmarks, place, items, or famous people. In other words, things you would see if you went to these countries. I am looking for the following countries: France, Texas, Nebraska, (yes, I know they are not countries), Ethiopia, Mexico, Japan, Canada, China, Italy, Belize, and Greece. I need about 20 stamps each. Contact me at [stampsarefun@yahoo.com](mailto:stampsarefun@yahoo.com)

Thanks Casey

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