

# 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://renostamp.org>

**Volume 45, Issue 11**

**November 2013**

## Nevada Stamp Study Society

Board of Officers

President:

Stan Cronwall

[president@renostamp.org](mailto:president@renostamp.org)

Vice President:

John Walter

[webmaster@renostamp.org](mailto:webmaster@renostamp.org)

Secretary:

Terri Edwards

[secretary@renostamp.org](mailto:secretary@renostamp.org)

Treasurer:

Stuart Clark

[treasurer@renostamp.org](mailto:treasurer@renostamp.org)

Directors:

Charles White

[charles@renostamp.org](mailto:charles@renostamp.org)

Harvey Edwards

[harvey@renostamp.org](mailto:harvey@renostamp.org)

Paul Glass

[membership@renostamp.org](mailto:membership@renostamp.org)

Jean Johnson

[programs@renostamp.org](mailto:programs@renostamp.org)

Nadiah Beeken

[nadiah@renostamp.org](mailto:nadiah@renostamp.org)

Junior Representative

Travis Fey



## Editor's Byline

### November

"I think there is one higher office than President and I would call that patriot."

-Gary Hart

Casey Macken

Editor



I hope all had a great Veteran's Day and will have a wonderful Thanksgiving. I will send this out tonight if the police do not catch me staying late at school. The Christmas Party is December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Remember to bring your plate, knife, fork, glass, napkins, etc. Everything but the food, well bring one dish and let Barbara Dietrichsen know what you are bringing. Philatelic gifts are good and please note if the gift is better for a man or a woman. Dick Dreiling is doing the turkey again. My sister and niece will make sure the lodge is open. I am scheduled to work grading High School Proficiency writing exams so I will not be able to come. Hopefully, I will see you guys in January.

Both meetings in November will be at the Silverada Mobile Estates, thank you again George Ray for arranging it. First meeting is an auction meeting and the second is a consignment meeting, we always need help in soaking stamps for the penny boxes. If you know any group that can use the common stamps please let the board members know. Do not forget the six Scott catalogs to check prices. Thank you to George Ray for storing them for now. We will figure a method for bringing them to the meetings and checking them out for short periods.

Do not forget to sign in each meeting and write down what you do for the club. It does not matter if it is setting up tables and chairs or soaking stamps, write it down for those auction bucks. You also get auction bucks for presentations, exhibits, being an officer so write it down.

It has been another eventful month at NSSF. I hope you all have enjoyed getting together. Have a great Thanksgiving!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Editor's Byline
- 2** A Philatelic Study by Steve Pendleton
- 4** Post Boy Quiz
- 5** Advertising
- 6** Christmas Sign Ups
- 8** The Royal Mail

# — *A Philatelic Study* —

## The European Microstates & Their Boundaries

by Steve Pendleton

I have always loved geography. I even majored in it in college — back when geography meant the study of places rather than how to use a GPS. I always wanted to learn about faraway countries, especially unusual ones. Maybe that's why the European microstates continue to fascinate me.

A microstate — at least here — means a sovereign land consisting of less than 200 square miles. There are only five such places in Europe: Andorra, Monaco, Vatican City, San Marino, and Liechtenstein. (There are seventeen other including the island nations of Nauru, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles, Maldives, Malta, Grenada, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Barbados, Antigua, Barbuda, and Palau.)

I checked the European microstates listings of the *Scott Catalogue* for stamp designs showing their boundaries, and what I found surprised me. Although every state has stamps showing their borders, few of them are typical “roadmap” types. There are the usual ones showing roads or cities, but there are also a number of stamp designs with illustrations showing different buildings (remember these are SMALL countries!), low or high level bird's-eye views, and even aerial photos.

It is easy to limit the study of boundaries — and the stamps that show them — to Europe. That's because all the others are islands or island groups. Of the European states, only one (Monaco) even has a coastline. So how did these places come to exist?

### **Andorra**

Although it is only encompasses 180 square miles (about half the size of New York City), it isn't hard to see why Andorra is a nation. Tucked away on the south side of the Pyrenees Mountains, it is a natural fortress. The boundaries with France (to the north) and Spain (the rest of the way around) consist of a series of mountains with heights reaching to more than 8,700 feet. There is only one pass with a road leading to France and a valley entrance leading to Spain. Much of the country's interior is also mountainous. Once a major hindrance to the people, they now provide skiing opportunities and thus major tourist dollars. The heart of Andorra, however, lies in the valleys of the Valira River and its tributaries. Although less than two percent of the land is arable, agriculture remained the mainstay of the country's economy until the advent of tourism following World War II. The only major town, Andorra le Vella, is the capital of Andorra. The last independent survivor of the “March states” (buffer states created by Charlemagne to keep the Moors from France) the borders of the principality are among the oldest in the world. Andorra has maintained at least semi-independence since the 800s, and its borders were officially established in 1278. These correspond with the traditional boundaries of the original six valley parishes (now seven). It is interesting to note that the principality has never had an actual “prince” of its own. Under the thirteen-century feudal system, the co-rulers of Andorra were established as the head of the French State and the Bishop of Seu d'Urgell (a Spanish border town).

It wasn't until the passage of Andorra's first constitution in 1993 that a parliamentary co-principality was set up whereby the “co-princes” remain heads of state in what are now largely honorary positions. Andorra does not have its own postal system. Stamps are issued by the Spanish and French postal administrations. Both have issued stamps with map designs, but the Spanish have issued more. The first Andorran map appears on two stamps with the same design issued by Spain in 1951 (Scott 49, 10 pesetas) and 1953 (Scott 48, 4 pesetas). These were the high values of the 1948–1953 definitives set. The maps are a standard type and show towns, rivers, and some relief features. In 1978 the Spanish Administration released a souvenir sheet of four values commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Spanish postal service in Andorra.

### **Liechtenstein**

This is a country that was purchased, but its story reaches much farther back in time. People had lived in the upper Rhine Valley in the Alps for thousands of years, but not as independent entities. During the Middle Ages, however, two tiny counties arose on the eastern shores of the Rhine in western Austria: Schellenberg and Vaduz. They were very minor and poor territories, but Vaduz had a very valuable possession — a seat in the Royal Diet in Vienna. Schellenberg consists of a group of villages on both sides of a range of hills. Vaduz lies south of Schellenberg and consists of a stretch of flat farmland, then a valley and mountainous areas going north and south. The Rhine forms a border with Switzerland, while a range of the Liechtenstein Alps forms the eastern border with Austria. By the seventeenth century the two territories were being governed by the von Hohenem family, but by the late 1600s they had fallen into financial difficulties. The immensely wealthy Austrian family headed by Prince Johann Adam Andreas of Liechtenstein was able to purchase first Vaduz in 1699, to obtain the Diet seat, and then Schellenberg in 1713. The two joined fiefdoms became an independent principality within the Holy Roman Empire in 1719 under the name of Liechtenstein. The modern nation operates as an independent monarchy.

### **Monaco**

It seems almost unbelievable that a country as small as Monaco (less than one square mile, which makes it the second smallest country in the world — only Vatican City is smaller) could even *have* a border. The country consists of a rocky promontory (which, when fortified, provided the reason for the existence of the principality) and a strip of coastline a few hundred yards deep and a few miles long. Part of it is filled-in land that was dredged from the Mediterranean. Probably first settled by the Phoenicians, the first major fortress (the Rock of Monaco, now the Prince's Palace) was built by the Genoese in 1215. Genoa controlled the promontory until 1297 when François Grimaldi (*il Malezio* — “the cunning”), posing as a Franciscan monk, gained entrance to the citadel with a sword hidden under his robe. He killed the guard and let his own men inside where they seized control of the fortress. Grimaldi died childless and was succeeded by his cousin and stepson, Rainier. This is Rainier I. Monaco was secured as a possession of the Grimaldi family in 1419 by a

treaty with France, where the Grimaldis owned vast estates (which, however, were not part of the principality). Monaco *did* own the neighboring towns of Menton and Roquebrune, but in 1861 Prince Charles III brokered a deal to sell the towns to France in exchange for recognition of Monaco's independence. The Grimaldi family (by birth or by marriage) continues to rule Monaco today. Monaco is divided into "villes." Monaco-ville is the original fortified rock pinnacle, which now includes a small residential area and the palace. La Condamine is the port area. A filled-in area next to La Condamine is called Fontevielle. Monte Carlo is the eastern side of the promontory and contains the famous casino. The country is small enough that a single stamp can show the entire land area. A popular and pretty spectacular view of Monaco from the plaza in front of the Royal Palace has been reproduced on dozens of Monaco stamps. Two other map stamps are unique to Monaco among the microstates. That is because they are hydrographic maps. A 1967 stamp features the harbor and waters off Monaco (Scott 672) and clearly shows the state as well. A somewhat similar map is found on Scott 804, issued in 1971. Another unusual map stamp (Scott 2104, issued 1998) is specifically related to the Grimaldis. One of the princes was of a scientific bent and founded the Oceanographic Institute, headquartered in Monaco. A series of seamounts in the Atlantic — named after the ruling family — is shown on this stamp. Each of them must cover far more area than the principality itself. A number of other stamps use low-level aerial views (either drawings or photographs) to show parts of the country.

### **San Marino**

Two of the European microstates are surrounded by a single country. One of these is Vatican City. The other is San Marino, which is among the oldest countries in the world. Tradition holds that San Marino was founded in 301 a.d. by Marinus the Dalmatian, a Christian stonecutter fleeing religious persecution, who founded a small community on the top of the forbidding Mount Titano. He was later canonized as St. Marinus. The country is the sole survivor of the independent states that arose in Italy in the Middle Ages and endured until the founding of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861. The thirteenth century city-state consisted of the Mount Titano fortress; however, in 1463 Pope Pius II granted San Marino the towns of Fiorentino, Montegiardino and Serravalle. (Later that same year the town of Faetano joined San Marino on its own.) The country's boundaries have remained stable since then, in part because the challenging terrain and the limited resources offered by the small amount of arable land. This has helped keep San Marino out of the numerous wars that have plagued the Italian peninsula. At only twenty four square miles, San Marino is about one-third the size of Washington, DC. It is said that Napoleon, recognizing the ancient status of the republic, offered to give it additional territory. To its credit, the Sammarinese government declined his offer and continued to maintain a largely neutral position in a volatile region. This policy has allowed the republic to remain as a place of sanctuary for individuals such as Giuseppe Garibaldi in 1849 and more than 100,000 refugees during World War II. Like Monaco, San Marino is small enough to show much, if not all, of the country in low-level aerial depictions. Stamps that feature this perspective include a panoramic view of the fortress city on Mount Titano issued in 1958 (Scott 411) and a pair of stamps offering a mountainous profile of San Marino after details from a painting by the Florentine Renaissance master Domenico Ghirlandaio (1449–1494) (Scott 906–907). A more modern depiction of the countryside can be found in a block of four stamps issued in 2001 in celebration of the founding of the republic (Scott 1515). Prominently featured on all are the three peaks that form the eastern edge of the city.

### **Vatican City**

The smallest and newest of the microstates also has some of the most beautiful map stamps depicting its territory. Vatican City wasn't created as a nation until 1929, although its roots lie in the ruins of the Roman Empire. For many centuries the Roman Catholic Popes ruled a large area in the middle of Italy called the Papal States. When the last remaining area around Rome was taken over by the Kingdom of Italy in 1870, the Popes, in protest, remained within the walls of St. Peter's Basilica. It wasn't until the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini took control of the Italian government in 1929 that things changed. In an effort to gain the support of the Catholic Church, Mussolini signed the Lateran Pact (also known as the Lateran Treaty). Its three provisions included the *Treaty of Conciliation*, which established Vatican City as an independent state. The area of sovereignty included the church of St. Peter's, the plaza in front of it, the Papal Palace, a small section of offices, the Vatican Museums, and the Papal Gardens. The *Financial Convention* compensated the Holy See for the loss of the Papal States, and the *Concordat* spelled out the ecclesiastical relationship of the church and Italy. For visitors, it is both easy and difficult to gain entrance to Vatican City. If you want to see the church or the museums, you simply cross a white line painted on the pavement. To enter the office area, however, you need to show permission — and you are checked by mediievally-garbed but modern Swiss Guards. Otherwise, the "borders" consist of fortress walls built in the Middle Ages. A block of six stamps issued in 1986 as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Campaign (Scott 773a-f) shows a building by building map of Vatican City. (You would think it was small enough to show on one stamp, but this gives you a lot of detail.) A more ornate map is shown on a souvenir sheet issued in 2009 to mark the 80th anniversary of the Vatican City State (Scott 1410). Vatican City also has released several stamps with low-level views. These include a pair celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Lateran Pact. The two values each show the same design, which features Pope Pius XI and a view of Vatican City (Scott 174–175, issued 1954). The 50th anniversary of the Vatican City State in 1979 saw the release of a set of seven stamps, one of which (Scott 657) features an aerial view of Vatican City. This was essentially a stripped-down version of the design from a set of special delivery stamps issued 1933–1945 (Scott E3–E8), one of which is illustrated for comparison. In 1979 the Vatican even issued an aerogramme. It has a fairly detailed map showing buildings and state walls on the left side of the envelope, and was issued to note the 50th anniversary of the Lateran Pact. **Taken Together** Consider the views on these stamps — and the history of the states they represent. You can't help noticing that, tiny as they are, they too have had an impact on modern history.

# Post Boy Quiz

November-\_\_\_\_\_ Your Name

LEGORCIHAPA

				○						
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

NIIDAN COANE

		○								
--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

MAEL'

○					'
---	--	--	--	--	---

ROCAL

			○	
--	--	--	---	--

DEEHIVH

			○			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

NEVWO TAMS

								○
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

LEHSING

			○			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

TEWSE TOPSEATO

												○	
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in 

○
---

 boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

Created by [Puzzlemaker](http://Puzzlemaker) at [DiscoveryEducation.com](http://DiscoveryEducation.com)

# Advertisements

**For Sale;** Stamps and Covers at my online store at [Wensy.com](http://Wensy.com). Type "[artfulputz](http://artfulputz.com)" 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)

## Classic Nevada

### Stamp & Supplies

Buy & Sell Stamps, Postcards, FDCs and Photos and Documents of Mining + Western interest **Nadiah Beekun - Philatelist**  
151 N. Sierra, Reno, Nevada 89501 inside the [Antiques & treasures Mall](#), [Check out our website; Renostamps.com](#) (775) **762-4905** [classicnevada@yahoo.com](mailto:classicnevada@yahoo.com)

Alpine Lock and Key Inc  
405 S Wells Ave  
Reno, NV 89502  
775-345-2574



**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 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)

**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)

**Davies Stamps** Worldwide  
Stamps & Supplies Discounted  
[Arline & Edward Davies](#)

**Owners**  
1631 Picetti Way (775) 835-0195  
Fernley, Nevada 89408  
[Stamps2go.com.com](http://Stamps2go.com.com),  
[Stamporama.com](http://Stamporama.com)  
[eddavies@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eddavies@sbcglobal.net)

## BENNY'S BIN

### Art Deco Jewelry

One of a kind Odds & Ends  
Victoriana

Jacqueline Bloomquist  
151 N. Sierra Reno, NV  
89501 inside the Arts &  
Antiques Mall

[Taura J\(Casey\) Macken](#)

[stampsarefun@yahoo.com](mailto:stampsarefun@yahoo.com)  
is looking for used US stamps for  
2012/2013 to trade



## Christmas Party Sign up

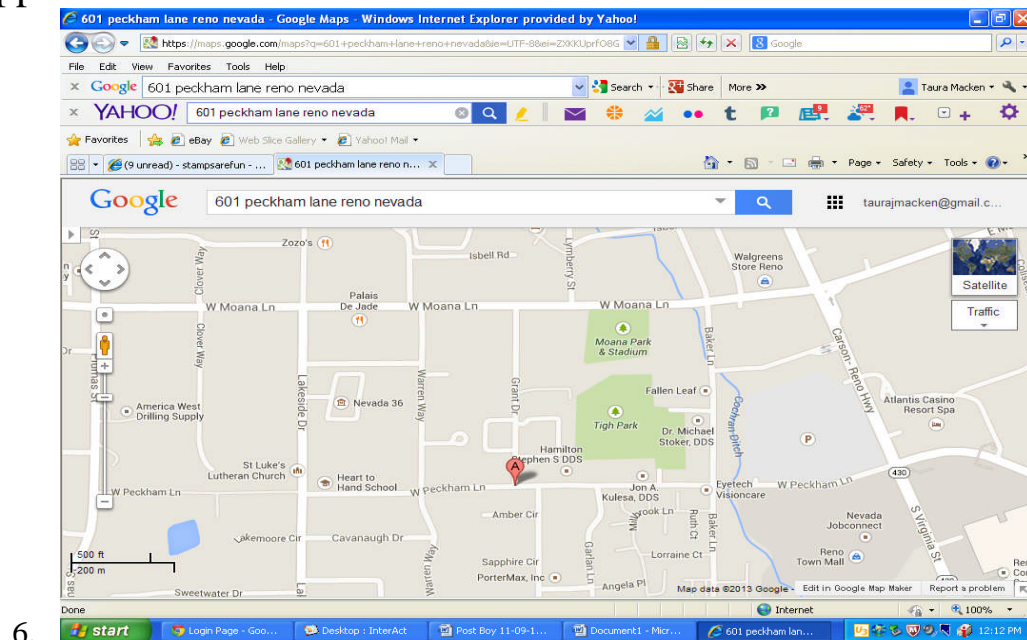
**The Christmas Party is on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Peckham Lodge from 6pm to 9pm. Do not forget to bring to share along with the proper serving utensils, their own plates, cups/glasses, utensils, napkins and the beverage they want to consume; adult or otherwise.**

Also, to participate in the gift exchange, they need to bring a wrapped gift in the \$10-15.00 range marked as male, female, or unisex.  
Philatelic items are fine.

To help with the set-up, people should contact Barb Dietrichsen at ([barb809@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barb809@sbcglobal.net))

After the party, we will also need help on striking the chairs, tables and decorations.

1. Dick Dreiling is again providing the turkey and gravy.
2. Sides
3. Salads
4. Desserts
5. Appetizers



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## REGULAR MEETING

SILVERADA MOBILE ESTATES

NOVEMBER 9TH

10:00AM

Auction

SILVERADA MOBILE ESTATES

NOVEMBER 23RD

10:00AM

Consignment Sales with Presentation

## Stamp Shows

### FILATELIC FIESTA 2013

November 15-17, 2013 San Jose, CA

<http://filatelicfiesta.org>

### PENPEX 2013

December 7-8, 2013 Redwood City, CA

<http://www.westpex.com>

### PENPEX 2013

December 7-8, 2013 Redwood City, CA

<http://www.westpex.com>

### Sacramento Gold Rush

#### Paper

January 25-26, 2014

Rancho Cordova, CA

La Quinta Inn



Answers October

I tried to copy it but it did not work. Good luck.

# The Royal Mail

The share price of **Royal Mail** recently soared after it was floated on the stock market in the biggest privatization in Britain since a sell-off boom in the 1980's and early 1990's.

Around 690,000 people applied for shares, and investor's were able to trade their shares on the internet despite crashes on overloaded websites.

Despite being given 10% of the shares in **Royal Mail**, postal workers voted to strike in November.

Return Address  
NSSS  
PO Box 2907  
Sparks, NV 89432

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
00000

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State 98765-4321