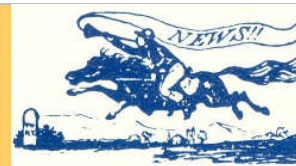


# Post Boy



March 2016  
Volume 49, Issue 3

MEETS THE 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM AT THE  
SILVERADA ESTATES CLUBHOUSE LOCATED AT 2301 ODDIE BLVD., RENO

## Officers:

**President - John Walter**  
[president@renostamp.org](mailto:president@renostamp.org)

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## President and Editor Comments:

By John Walter

The Post Boy is receiving some great articles from the membership. I hope you find them interesting and educational. Two articles were written because of the Show-and-Tell presentations on Feb. 27. This issue has a wonderful story entitled "You Have the Right to Remain Silent." The April issue will have an interesting story on the Recalled Legends of the West pane.

The Linn's Stamp Poll ballots were sent the last week in Feb. It's a nice way to have our club's name mentioned in Linn's Stamp News.

At the Board of Directors' meeting on Feb. 27, Dave Gehringer was appointed the club's librarian. He allowed the library, about a dozen boxes, to be stored in his "man cave," which is actually a large insulated garage/barn in Minden. Please contact Dave if you want to borrow any of the material. A complete list of the books, pamphlets, etc., are on the website. <http://renostamp.org/library.html>

The membership directory was sent to the printer and copies will be available at the March 12 meeting.

Megan Orient, the APS Stamp Show Director, will be coming to Reno for a site visit the 3rd week in March. Paul Glass has volunteered to be the liaison with the APS for the 2017 AmeriShow, March 3-5, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. We hope to have most of our members help with the show.

Just a reminder, the 2016 nominations for elections are starting now. There is a need for someone to Chair the Nominations Committee. The positions that need nominations are: Vice-President, Secretary (both are two-year terms), and one Director (a three-year term). The nomination form is on the website: [http://renostamp.org/pdf\\_files/2016-Nomination-form.pdf](http://renostamp.org/pdf_files/2016-Nomination-form.pdf)

The Board is reviewing and updating the [Auction Bucks awards](#) for the different club activities. Member input is also solicited. Please share your ideas and comments with any of the officers or directors.

The Board will seek input from the members at the March 12 meeting on the Holiday Party. Currently the party is held in the evening in early December. Some members have expressed concern about driving at night, esp. if the roads may be slippery. One suggestion is to have an afternoon holiday party, probably Dec. 10, 2016 at the Silverada Clubhouse in the afternoon. The clubhouse doors are locked at 5 p.m. Come with your ideas!

## Post Boy Reporter

**Feb. 13 meeting** - The meeting was well attended with 29 members present. A new member joined, **Vern Watts**, who collects primarily U.S. issues. **John Walter** brought the meeting refreshments. **Betty Mudge** conducted the raffle with the usual 10 items and a bonus prize. **Howard Grenzebach** won the 50-50 money drawing of \$13.



There were 49 items in the auction plus 8 Blue Sheet (donated) items. The auctioneers were **Mike Potter** and **Charles White**. The auction assistants were **George Ray** and **Richard Simmonds**. Even with 57 items, the auction was completed in less than an hour. A total of 34 lots sold for \$227.50, with 18 successful bidders.



**Feb. 27 meeting** - The second meeting of the month was also well attended with 26 members. **Harvey Edwards** brought home baked items for the refreshments. **Betty Mudge** conducted the raffle that had 10 items and a bonus item won by **Bob Wolf**. **Bob Wolf** also won the 50-50 raffle money of \$12.50.

**John Walter** announced the First Class Forever postage rate will decrease to 47¢ on April 10. He advised to wait until that date to purchase Forever stamps, thus saving 4%. Harvey Edwards report on the Reno Stamp Show - July 23-24 - has nine dealers so far.

The philatelic program was a Show-and-Tell with four presentations. **Dave Parsons** showed his first cover he received when about 10 years old. The cover was from Liberia which Dave continues to collect. The cover was exhibited at the state fair, for which he received a Blue Ribbon. He also showed a first day cover cancelled on his first birthday. He says he doesn't remember that day.



**Dick Simmonds** told a fascinating story of his involvement in space shuttle experiments and his design of a Apollo-Soyuz space cover for the Russian launch in 1975. See the complete story starting on page 5.

**Stan Cronwall** showed some World War II post cards printed for us by the Spanish "Blue Division" which fought with Germany against the Soviets on the Eastern Front near Leningrad. (Sounds like a Post Boy article in the making.)



**Vern Watts** discussed the recalled Legends of the West pane from 1994. He displayed the USPS hardcover book with the stories behind the stamp images. Along with that **John Walter** showed first day covers and first day cancelled postal cards from the three first day cities: Laramie, WY, Lawton, OK, and Tucson, AZ. A complete story about the recalled pane will appear in the April Post Boy.

Program Chair, Nadiah Beekun, is trying to arrange having one of the local postmasters for the March 26 program.

## Pillar-Style Mail Boxes in Hong Kong

by Stan Cronwall

Reminders of its colonial past are seen everywhere in Hong Kong. The harbor, Victoria Peak overlooking much of the city, and one of the main streets in the business district are still named in honor of Queen Victoria.

Parks, prisons and schools retain their names of British monarchs.

Last fall, there was an article in Linn's about how the People's Republic of China (PRC) is planning to make over the traditional pillar-style postal boxes remaining from Hong Kong's pre-1997 colonial period.



The PRC hierarchy apparently is not happy about the people of Hong Kong and their lack of "appreciation" for being "rescued" from their colonial past. They put forth the silly argument that the old pillar-style boxes are "confusing" to the people.

With the transfer of sovereignty in 1977, the pillar style boxes changed from red as in the United Kingdom to green. The new Hong Kong Post logo was also added, as in the picture to the left.

As of October, 2015, Hong Kong had 1,148 free standing post boxes. There were only 59 pillar style boxes remaining in service. Most of these carry the royal insignia of the reigning King or Queen from the

time they were installed.

The UK Royal Mail set up Hong Kong's mail service in 1841. Two pillar-style boxes remain from the long reign of Queen Victoria. These bear Queen Victoria's coat of arms and both are in local museums. Seven have the cypher of King George V, two from King George VI (the current Queen's father), 46 from Queen Elizabeth II, and one with the Scottish crown. The different cyphers are illustrated on the Hong Kong stamps below.



The one with the Scottish crown (the \$5 value stamp) dates from the first boxes made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. These bore the cypher, "ER". This generated protests in Scotland because Queen Elizabeth is the first Queen of Scotland and the United Kingdom to bear that name. Elizabeth I having been Queen of England only.

As of this writing, Hong Kong postal authorities under pressure from the PRC have not announced what additional steps may be taken to mitigate the "confusion" they claim exists.

*Stan Cronwall collecting interests include Germany: Third Reich 1933-45 and the areas it occupied (stamps covers & cards). He also collects U.S. World War II Patriotic Covers and Cards; Civil War Patriotic Covers (both U.S. and CSA); U.S. Naval Covers; DDR stamps; and, Post WW II Soviet Zone Hitler Head Obliteration stamps, covers & cards.*



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Alexandra Kroenauer

by Dave Parsons

To inform the NSSS membership about their fellow members, the Post Boy will spotlight different members in an issue. This is a good way to find out about collecting interests and the background of the member.



This month's featured member is Alexandra Kroenauer. Alexandra was born in South San Francisco, CA before moving to Austria and then on to Nevada. She now resides in Reno.

Alexandra is a new member of the NSSS joining the club in January 2016. Alexandra became interested in collecting stamps after inheriting her grandfathers' collection. She is feeling her way around the stamp world and developing a sense of what she would like to collect. Currently she has many stamps from Austria, Hungary, and First Day Covers.

Alexandra's now works for Microflex, a glove manufacturer, as an account manager. Prior to that she was employed by Alere.

When asked what her dream stamp (under \$5,000 CV) would be, Alexandra didn't have anything in particular in mind. She did say she liked sets. So in light of this fact and because she lived in Austria,



we have selected the 5-stamp 1863 Embossed set from Austria with Scott numbers 17-21. The stamp to the right appears to be the second stamp in this set and of course Alexandra would like them to be Mint. This set comes in below the \$5k threshold.

Alexandra has a son, 13, living with her in Reno. In addition to stamp collecting, she is going to school. Alexandra really values her sleep these days!

She enjoys being in NSSS, as the members are very friendly and have been helpful to her in her stamping endeavor.

If you wish to contact Alexandra, her email is [akroenauer@yahoo.com](mailto:akroenauer@yahoo.com).

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## Vassar Post Office Display for March and April



John Wall and Stan Cronwall changed the display cases at the Vassar PO. The display case on the right is on the Love stamps with a St. Patrick's Day post card and a couple of Easter cards on the bottom.

The display on the left is about baseball in April.



# **You Have the Right to Remain Silent, ...**

By **Richard C. Simmonds, D.V.M., M.S.**

The title of this article reflects my introduction to Postal Inspector Wanda M. Conklin on July 9, 1976.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1975 the Soviet Union launched an unmanned satellite on a Vostok rocket. The satellite was one of a series of satellites designed to study the effects of the weightlessness of space on living fauna and flora. The flight was officially designated as Kosmos 782.

A number of the biological experiments on board Kosmos 782 were joint US/USSR studies, involving both American and Soviet scientists as co-investigators. Ten of the eleven American studies were being managed from the NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) at Moffett Field near Mountain View, California. At that time, I was the Ames manager for the Kosmos project.



One of the Public Information Officers (PIO) at ARC and I decided that we needed a commemorative cachet of the mission and decided that we would use the Apollo-Soyuz stamps jointly issued by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and the mission patch – all of which were in the public domain. In addition to the PIO and myself, a local philatelist friend agreed to go in with us to pay for the printing, stamps, etc. (all expenses were paid for out of our personal funds). Our intent was to put two of the Apollo-Soyuz stamps on each envelop and postmark the cachet on the date of launch on one stamp and the date of recovery on the second stamp.

One problem with our plan was that the Soviets would not tell us that launch or recovery had occurred until the day after the event (although, as an active duty Air Force officer at the time, I was able to obtain “unofficial” and classified knowledge of the launch and recovery events thanks to our Air Force satellite monitoring systems).



We decided to approach the Postmaster in Mountain View (the “parent” post office of the base post office) and request permission to post facto hand cancel the cachets with the correct dates. Our request was approved and we successfully produced 178

cachets.

Each of my “co-conspirators” received about 30 of the cachets, the printer received 4, and I retained the remainder for distribution as token commemorative gifts to various U.S. and Soviet participants in the project. (I estimated that at least 50 or so were distributed to Soviet personnel in Russia prior to my interview with Inspector Conklin). None of the cachets were sold for profit as of my interview with Inspector Conklin. (I am not aware if any have been sold since then).

The local philatelist who participated in this effort later wrote an article describing what we did for a philatelic newsletter called the “Explorer” (Mar/Apr 1976). In response to the article, he received a number of requests for the cachets from “Explorer” readers who he did not know and denied them all. Apparently, one of the readers who’s request was denied complained to the U.S. Postal Service that we had violated Federal law by post facto dating the cachets; thus, my interview with Inspector Conklin.



After completing her investigation, Inspector Conklin informed me that the Postal Service had decided not to prosecute us (1) since we had done our “dastardly deed” believing that it was legal (we had received the local postmaster’s approval) and (2) if we would surrender all of the cachets for destruction. I indicated to her that their proposal contained a serious flaw, i.e., there was no way that we would be able to ensure that all of the cachets would be retrievable. (I had not kept an account of who I had given them to either in the U.S. or the U.S.S.R.) And, if some were not recovered and the Postal Service made a big deal out of the matter, the cachet covers not recovered would likely soar in value. (I had estimated that their commercial value was maximally \$5.00 to a very few specialty collectors). My suggestion back to her was that the Postal Service simply forget the whole matter. She responded that she would report my concerns back to her superiors and would get back to me.



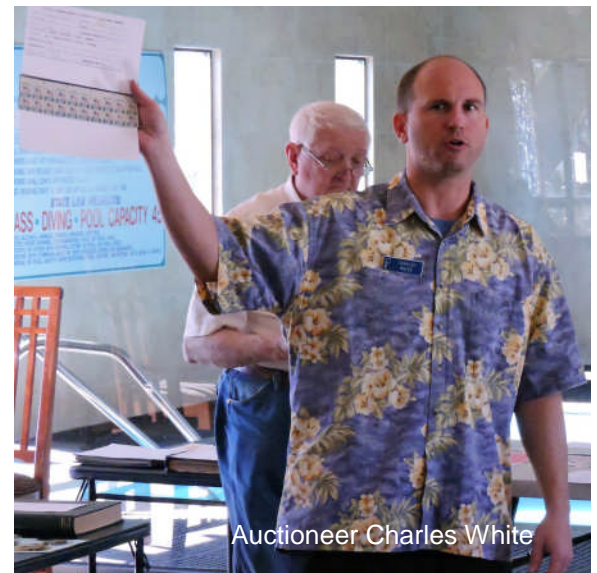
Dick Simmonds

To date, in 2016, I have yet to hear from Inspector Conklin or any other Postal Service representative regarding the final disposition of this case!

*Dick Simmonds presented this fascinating cover story at the NSSS meeting on Feb. 27. He is currently trying to locate one of "his" covers to scan for a memento. (See the want ad on page 8 of this newsletter for a mock-up of the cover.) Dick collects U.S. and Topical ( Space & Veterinary Medicine). He is a veterinarian and retired from active duty Air Force in 1985 (six+ years of his Air Force career was spent detailed to NASA).*

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More pictures from the February meetings.



Auctioneer Charles White



## March Quiz from Belgium

by Stan Cronwall

1. What three Belgian monarchs are shown on the definitive 10 franc value from the 1915-1920 set?
  - a. King Leopold I, King Albert I and King Leopold II
  - b. King Albert I, Queen Elisabeth, and King Peter III
  - c. King Peter I, King Leopold II, and Queen Astrid
2. In 1962, a commemorative single stamp was issued to honor the victims of the German WW II concentration camps. What was the subject of the illustration?
  - a. A section of barbed wire fence with a barracks in the background.
  - b. Two hands reaching skyward - one encircled in barbed wire.
  - c. ghostly apparitions of two inmates.
3. What two youth organizations have their emblems featured on the single stamp issued in 1957?
  - a. Girl Guides and Boy Scouts
  - b. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
  - c. Patrol Boys and Girl Guides
4. A souvenir sheet issued in 1976 features which monarch?
  - a. King Albert
  - b. Grand Duchess Charlotte
  - c. King Baudouin
5. An early commercial jet (Caravelle) appears on a 1963 stamp which honors what airline?
  - a. TransWorld Airlines (TWA)
  - b. SABENA
  - c. BOAC (British Oversea Airways Corporation)
6. A 1958 definitive stamp was issued to honor which famous Belgian violinist and composer?
  - a. Eugene Ysaye
  - b. Henri Pirenne
  - c. Georges Hubin
7. A single stamp was released in the fall of 1969 which featured three American astronauts. Who were they?
  - a. John Glenn, Alan Shepard and Eugene Cernan
  - b. Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and John Swigert
  - c. Neil Armstrong, Mike Collins and Buzz Aldrin
8. A set of two stamps issued in 1959 marked the 500th anniversary of the birth of what Pope?
  - a. John I
  - b. Adrian VI
  - c. Albertus IV
9. In 1966, the self portrait of what Belgian painter was featured on a single definitive stamp. What was the name of the artist?
  - a. Rik Wouters
  - b. James Thirar
  - c. Constant Permeke
10. To mark the 50th anniversary of the economic union of Belgium and Luxembourg, a special stamp was issued in 1972. What was featured on this stamp?
  - a. One coin from each country
  - b. The flags of both countries
  - c. Two hands clasped

**BONUS question:** Belgium has issued semi-postal stamps. The first was issued to commemorate what battle?

- a. Ypres
- b. Bastogne
- c. D-day Landings

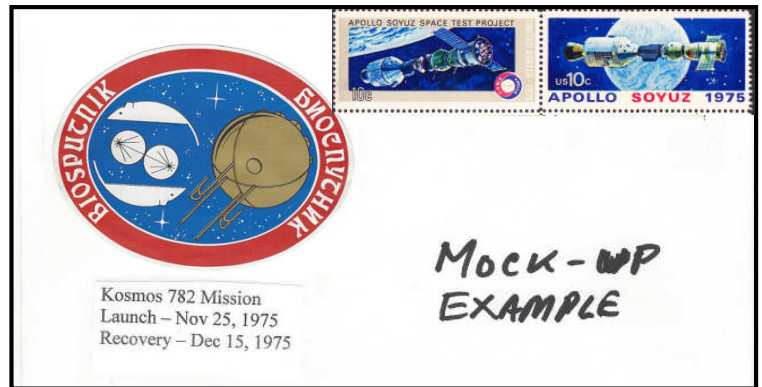
With the bonus question, this month's quiz is worth 110 Auction Bucks, if all your answers are correct. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at the February meetings or email to [postboyquiz@renostamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renostamp.org)

<b>February Post Boy Quiz Answers:</b> 1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c, 5. b, 6. a, 7. c, 8. b, 9. a, 10. b. Bonus: c
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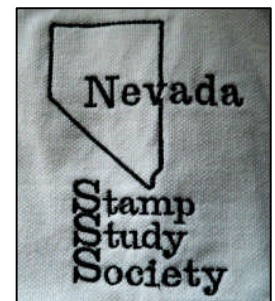
## Buy, Want, Sell, Trade

If you would like to have an advertisement in the Post Boy, please email [editor@renostamp.org](mailto:editor@renostamp.org).

**WANTED:** Apollo-Soyuz cover for Kosmos Mission 782. From a comment made to me at a previous Stamp Club Meeting, one of our members has an original commemorative cover for the 1975 Joint US-USSR biology research space mission (see rough mock-up picture of the cover on right). As the US manager for that mission, I would like to have a high-resolution scan of the cover. If you have the cover, please contact member - **Dick Simmonds**, Cell Phone (775) 972-3810; E-Mail: [rsimmonds@unr.edu](mailto:rsimmonds@unr.edu).



**For Sale:** Monogrammed shirts with the Nevada Stamp Study Society logo for \$25. The monogram can also be placed on a shirt you provide for \$15. Right now the shirts are dark blue with white monogram or white shirt with dark blue monogram. Members regularly wear the monogrammed shirt at meetings. With the upcoming Reno stamp show and the APS AmeriShow next March, it's great advertising for our club. Contact member **Dave and Susan Gehringer**, [ds-ginger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ds-ginger@sbcglobal.net) or 925-408-6807. Need shirt size and color when ordering. Cropped logo from a shirt is on the right.



**Buy and Sell** - almost anything philatelic and ephemera. This includes stamps, post cards, FDCs, photos and documents of mining, and also Western interest. Plus selling philatelic supplies. Contact member **Nadiah Beekun** at Classic Nevada, 28 W. 2nd Ave, downtown Reno, (775) 762-4905, <http://www.RenoStamps.com> or email [classicnevada@yahoo.com](mailto:classicnevada@yahoo.com).

**Wanted** - pre-1950's, picture postcards from Scotland, preferably castles and abbeys. Contact member **Marla Wetterling** (775) 575-1337 or email: [opusnrosebud@att.net](mailto:opusnrosebud@att.net).

**Wanted:** U.S. aerogrammes: #UC46, UC49, and UC52 - all used and addressed to overseas locations. Also needed is FDC of UC63a. Contact member **John Walter**, email: [walter60@gmail.com](mailto:walter60@gmail.com).

**For Sale** - Large collection in its entirety: Confederate States of America, Canada, U. S. Postal Cards and Postal History, plus much more. Most items were purchased via the Internet. Paid over \$11,000. Will sell all for \$3,000. Contact member **Micky Uhl** at (775) 378-3458 or email: [malcolmuhl52@yahoo.com](mailto:malcolmuhl52@yahoo.com). Micky lives in the Silverada Estates.

**Wanted:** Articles for the Post Boy newsletter. Are you curious about an item you saw or purchased from the consignment table or purchased in an auction? After doing the research why not write a short article for the PB. Did you win a raffle prize at a meeting and wanted to find more information on one of the items? A short write-up about your find will benefit all the club members. Submit article to [editor@renostamp.org](mailto:editor@renostamp.org)

**Needed:** There is a need for someone to report on the club meetings as the **Post Boy Reporter**. A few pictures always help. See page 2 of this newsletter for a sample of the reporting.