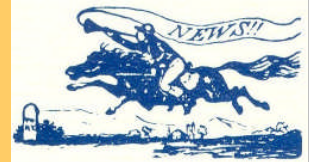


Post Boy



March 2018
Volume 51, Issue 3

MEETINGS 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 A.M. (9 A.M. FOR GOSSIP & TRADING)
[SILVERADA ESTATES CLUBHOUSE](#) LOCATED AT 2301 ODDIE BLVD., RENO

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Announcements

Dave Parsons assisted in getting this issue of the Post Boy published on time. The editor was on a three-week trip overseas to South America and the Antarctic.

The 2018 Membership Directory is available at meetings. If unable to attend a meeting, the directory can be mailed with a cost of \$1.00 for postage. Contact [Paul Glass](#) if a membership directory needs to be mailed.

Barbara Diederichsen is retiring as the Refreshments Coordinator. She keeps the food scheduling list for the meetings and social functions. A volunteer is urgently needed.

Erik Fields reported that there are 3 dealer spots open for the July Greater Reno Stamps and Cover Show. **Nadiah Beekun** mentioned that she would be willing to split a table as her travel plans then are in flex. If interested in sharing with her, please contact her directly. We still need more exhibits for the Show. As a reminder, members exhibiting for the first time are not charged an exhibit fee. If interested, please contact Erik.

The stamp club now owns a HP laptop computer to use in presentations, archiving photos and activities of the club, digitizing all know issues of the Post Boy from 1975, maintaining the minutes of board meetings and all financial records. The purchase was made possible by selling philatelic items from the estate of **Jean Johnson**. The club also purchased the latest Microsoft Office product which includes Office, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Outlook. The complete software package is made available for \$10/year through a purchase made by **John Walter**.

This may encourage members to work with the PowerPoint program to produce professional presentation programs for club meetings.

The club may also purchase a projector to use in presentations. These purchases are in addition to the large projection screen and PA system bought a few years ago.

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Post Boy Reporter

Feb. 10 meeting - There were 29 members in attendance along with 2 guests. The refreshments were provided by **Stan Cronwall**. The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with the usual 10 donated prizes. **Dave Gehringer** won the bonus raffle prize. **Stan Cronwall** won the raffle money of \$17.00.

Gene Smoots reported on the Penny Boxes. **Scott Mathews** and his wife brought a couple of cases of food items to be distributed by the Silverada Estates to some of the needy residents. **John Walter** reported on the recent club purchase of a laptop computer. He found a new HP laptop with 15.6" screen, 4GB memory, 500GB Hard Drive and 1.8GHz quad core processor for \$169. With a carrying case and one-year purchase of Office 365 the total came to \$200. The laptop will be used for auctions, PowerPoint presentations and archiving of club activities and the website. Included also is 1TB of cloud storage as a backup. The club members authorized the purchase of a documentary "Freaks and Errors: A Rare Collection" for the club library for the price of \$14.



The live auction had 55 lots, including 5 donated lots from **Dick Simmonds** and the estate of **Jean Johnson**. The auctioneers were **Gary Atkinson** and **Harvey Edwards** with **Dick Simmonds** and **George Ray** helping. A total of 31 lots sold for \$218.65. **Dave Drake** sold some items to a club member and donated \$20 to the stamp club.



Feb. 24 meeting - There were 29 members in attendance and 1 prospective member. **Gary Atkinson** provided the refreshments.

The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with the usual 10 donated prizes and the Bonus raffle prize going to **Stan Cronwall**. The raffle money of \$15.00 went to **Howard Kadohiro**. The Consignment table had over 80 items for sale and required the addition of an extra table.

The presentation was Part 1 of a pre-release documentary film entitled "Freaks and Errors: A Rare Collection". This film was facilitated by **Harvey Edwards**. The March presentation on March 24 will feature Part II of this documentary. The film told the stories of several collectors and how they began collecting and how they became interested in unusual stamps. One gentleman told how he became so enthralled with a unique colored 2p GB stamp that he paid \$157,000 for it! Another was the Director of The Smithsonian National Postal Museum. She was an early collector of Hindenburg stamps. The museum tells the story of the history of the Postal Service, the story of American culture and identity through postage stamps, and, helps to maintain the national stamp collection—six million objects.

Dick Simmonds brought in his projector for the film. It was suggested that the Club look into buying its own projector. The Board will discuss this possibility.

Tag - You're It. A Discussion of Philatelic Luminescence

by Dave Parsons

What is Luminescence? Luminescence is the glow of a substance when exposed to UV light.

What does this have to do with stamps? In the late 1950s, many nations were looking for faster, more efficient ways to process ever-increasing quantities of mail. Post-marking and sorting the mail was a tedious, time-consuming task that was mostly done by hand. Machines were developed that could find the postage stamps, flip and turn the mail fed into it and then apply postmarks. To assist this process a nearly invisible substance was added to stamps so that machinery could detect them. Taggants and some inks that glow when exposed to ultraviolet light were added to stamps. A UV light would find the postage stamps that had taggant applied and the machinery would flip the letters so that all the stamps were in the same position and then apply the postmarks.

The United States Post Office began testing of tagging in 1963 on select issues and by 1966 all air post stamps were ordered to be tagged. After January 1967 almost all U.S. stamps were tagged.

What is the difference between phosphorescence and fluorescence? If the luminous coating or ink on a stamp continues to glow for a short time when the UV light is switched off, then the coating on the stamp is phosphorescent.

If the stamp ceases to glow when the UV light is switched off, it is called fluorescent. The luminescent coating applied to a stamp is called "tagging" or "taggant." Once a stamp has had taggant applied, it is referred to as being "tagged," and so is a stamp printed on paper coated with taggant prior to printing.

How do U.S. tagged stamps appear? Two popular tags come from the inclusion of **zinc-orthosilicate** which when exposed to strong **shortwave** UV light glows a bright color that ranges from *yellow-green* to bluish green. **Calcium Silicate** glows an orange-red color (i.e. U.S. airmails Scott# C91).

There are 3 methods for applying taggant to U.S. stamps. Other countries have deployed other methods which will be demonstrated later. The first method employed was **overall tagging**. Overall tagging is a clear coating that is applied to stamps after the design has been printed, but usually before perforation. This is done so that the liquid tagging doesn't flow through the perf holes onto the backs of the stamps. When viewing under UV, there is a haze of fluorescence over the stamp design underneath. This haze tints the design green and often masks the true colors of the stamp. See example 2175a on right.

The second method is **block tagging**. Taggant is applied to the stamp in a block shape, usually covering the design and leaving the margins clear. The blocks can also be small or larger than the design. The rubber mats used to apply the taggant can deteriorate over time causing flaking, cracking or breaks or other anomalies. See 2175 on right.

The third method is **prephosphored tagging**. The taggant is added to the raw paper before the design is printed. The appearance of the tagging depends on whether the paper is coated or not. Prephosphored **coated** stamps have a very solid appearance under UV and are called Solid Tagged.

The coated paper allows the taggant to attach evenly to the surface of the smooth paper. See 2175c on right.



Prephosphored **uncoated** stamps have a mottled or grainy appearance under UV and are referred to as Mottled Tagged. The paper is uncoated, so the taggant soaks into the paper and pools in the fibers in an uneven way. See 2175d & e above.

The same stamps above when exposed to Long Wave U/V have a much different appearance, as shown on the right.

Further examples of these methods are shown below.

Stamps can also be printed with the phosphorescence added directly to the printing ink. The result is a stamp that glows only in certain parts of the stamp design where that ink is applied.



Taggant can also be applied in a band or a stripe that runs across several stamps.

Untagged errors occur when tagging is missing or only partly applied to stamps which should be tagged. These errors are only confirmed in mint stamps as taggants can be removed over time.

How can we determine if a stamp is tagged?

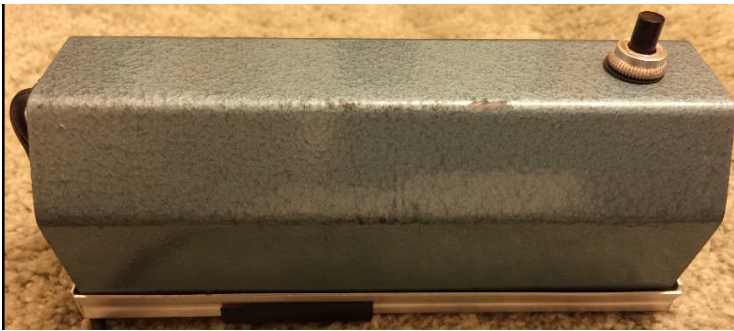
To examine tagging it is necessary to use a UV light. For U.S. stamps shortwave UV (254nm) is needed, but for most Canadian and many foreign stamps a longwave (365nm) UV will suffice.



Pictured is a portable SW/LW UV light. Dual frequency models can be found on eBay for \$40+. A SW only model is listed for \$23. Advantages: small, light, portable for field/shows, less expensive. Cons: less powerful, harder to see faint tagging, uses batteries, power output declines with lesser battery output, more delicate.



An alternative is AC powered lamps. These units offer more power. The units to the left are a Spectroline dual SW/LW unit which can be found on eBay for \$100+- used; and lower- a vintage Raytech LS-4 SW/LW model for \$40+.

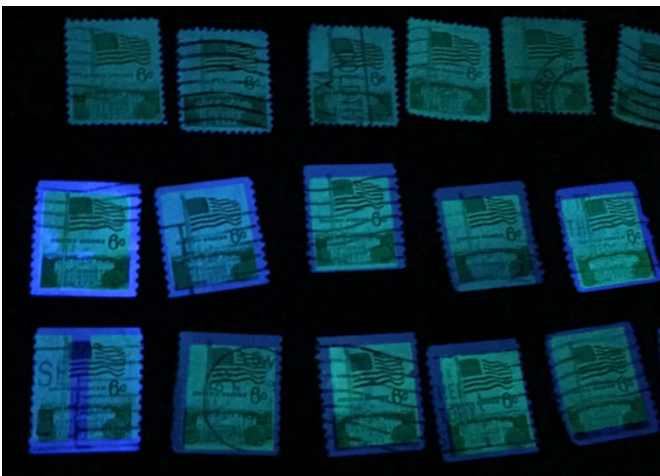


Advantages of these devices are more power output allowing better detection, sturdier, and no need for batteries. Disadvantages are larger size and weight, need for AC plug, and more expensive.

Note: Continued long-term exposure to **the light can damage your eyes or skin**. The light can cause a "**sunburn**" type irritation. Wearing anti-glare or sun-glasses can reduce the effects.

In any purchase it is important to find a lamp with short-wave (254nm) capability for U.S. tagging detection. Long-Wave works for many foreign countries using fluorescence for tagging.

In practice how can this be used? It is possible to look for tagging on a large scale then focus on findings.



The image depicts a grouping of U.S. Scott# 1338 and 1338A exposed to SW UV. Here we can see large block and small block tagging, but also an interesting condition in the lower left corner. Using a powerful SW lamp allows the user to scan large volumes of stamps detecting different tagging varieties. This was especially useful to the author in looking at the many different banding differences in Machin stamps.



The 1338A has been enlarged to show an error in the block tagging. Evidently the mat used to apply the taggant did not line up with the stamp and caused the block to slip to the middle of the stamp. This type of error is common but is interesting to see.



The stamp to the left (U.S. Scott# 1384) shows a block shift error similar to the stamp above.



Canadian Stamps have some bold and beautiful tagging. Most tagging can be seen with a long wave UV. This 1935d Hockey All-Star stamp has fluorescent tagging in the shape of a circle around the inner design. Very bright and easy to see. Canada started tagging stamps in 1962.



Great Britain began tagging in 1960 with the Wilding series. The first commemorative tagging started in 1962. Phosphorescent bands appeared on some of these commemoratives such as the #425p shown at the left. The yellow arrows indicate banding areas, compare to original non-UV photo on the right stamp.



The GB Machin series employed a wide range of tagging varieties. The MH64 stamps here exhibit: left band, center band, and right band tagging.



Luminescence comes in many styles as indicated here. Clockwise from top left: Machin Yellow center band, Red glow from 10¢ U.S. air mail, block tagging on 45¢ air mail, overall tagging for U.S. high value \$4.95 forest stamp and border fluorescence for \$1.25 Canada Year of the Horse.

Luminescence opens up a new way of looking at stamps that from casual observation look the same. The collector can expand horizons by considering the differences associated with phosphorescence and fluorescence. More detailed information about tagging and also the use of UV in detecting forgeries/repairs can be found in a paper entitled "The Story of Fluorescence" which can be viewed at <http://www.raytechultraviolet.com/support/pdfs/downloads/StoryofFluorescence.pdf>

Thanks go to Angore at Stamporama, TBR stamps on eBay, and Janet Klug at Linn's for articles detailing luminescence.

Dave Parsons is a member and his collecting interests include U.S. used and BOB, Mint U.S. Commemoratives, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa and Liberia. He can be reached by email at da.parsons@gmail.com.

NOTE: This article is a summary of presentation given on January 27, 2018 at the NSSS meeting.

Vassar Post Office Display

John Walter and **Stan Cronwall** put up a new philatelic display at the Vassar PO for the month of March and April. The March theme is "Spring Is....." which shows Wildflowers stamps. April, of course, is "Time To Pay Ball" with a baseball theme.



Ever Heard of Sparrigummi or Vollgummi? by Stan Cronwall

No they are not new flavors of gummi bears, or the fun cartoon-like characters for the upcoming summer Olympic Games in Tokyo Japan in 2020.

Nope, guess again.

After WW II there were shortages of almost everything in European countries. Believe it or not that included the makings for the gum to go on the adhesive side of postage stamps.

Sparrigummi was an effort to economize stamp production by applying the adhesive in a golf ball pattern which used only half as much gum. If your stamp was vollgummi it has gum across the entire reverse side.

This how a stamp with sparrigummi appears:



Reverse of stamp values 3pf to 8pf (Scott# 16N 1-5)

Check your post war mint stamps from Thuringia in the German Soviet Zone of Occupation. This is the set issued starting October 1, 1945 and continuing through January 1, 1946.



Complete set of Scott #16N 1-8 (including the imperfs of 16N 7a and 8a)

If your Thuringia stamps from this set are on cover or card, or otherwise used chances are you will never know if they were sparrigummi or vollgummi. (Licking or otherwise moistening the gum destroys the “evidence”)

But, if you want to start hacking through the weeds surrounding Thuringia in the Soviet Zone of Occupation, you will be tasking yourself to deal with 14 different paper types and gum combinations for this set alone.

I’m told this is the kind of thing that separates a true collector from an amasser. Good luck and happy hunting.

Note: These stamps, plus extra values, were purchased at the stamp club meeting on Feb. 10, 2018.

Stan Cronwall is a member and his 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.

March Quiz on Spain

By Stan Cronwall

1. At the 1907 Madrid Industrial Exhibition, stamps featuring King Alfonso XIII and Queen Victoria Eugenia were on sale. Interestingly, they were?
a. Not for foreign use b. For use only in Madrid c. Not valid for postage
2. In 1938, a set of six stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued for use on a proposed submarine mail service between Barcelona and Mahon, Minorca. The stamps were also valid for ordinary mail. How many voyages were made between the ports for this mail service?
a. 73 before the outbreak of WW II b. One c. 36 before WW II began
3. Around the world countries have issued stamps celebrating strange events probably best known only to their natives. One of most unusual was the Spanish stamp of December 4, 1979 which was issued to mark?
a. The 2nd International Olive Oil Year b. The Chivalry Festival of San Juan c. The Fire Walking Festival of San Pedro Manrique
4. In 1938, a set of four stamps (Scott 668-671) was issued that featured the emblem of the fascist Falange. During the Spanish Civil War, the Falange organization was a part of the victorious Nationalist forces led by General Francisco Franco. Franco incorporated the Falange in his new government and adopted the yoke and arrow symbol as a part of the new Spanish flag displayed just below the wing on the right side of the eagle. Historically the yoke and arrow was the symbol of what?
a. The organization of industrial workers b. The monarchy of Ferdinand & Isabella c. The regency of Duke de la Torre
5. Spain has issued several Special Delivery stamps. The most often used feature graphic representation has been?
a. Icarus b. Pegasus c. A Centaur
6. A set of two stamps plus a four stamp souvenir sheet were issued in 1981 dealing with Madrid's Postal Museum. Which of the following subjects was not featured on the souvenir sheet?
a. Antique Letterboxes b. Postal Code Inauguration c. 1850 Mail Coach d. Automatic Letter Sorting Machine
7. Spanish hero El Cid (1040-1099) was featured on stamps issued 1936-1940 with the design carried into later issues, as a sculpture on a stamp in 1962 and again as an artist's portrayal 1999. His actual name was?
a. Cosme Damian Churruca b. Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar c. Juan de Tassis y Peralta
8. Sometimes the subject matter featured on a country's air mail stamps doesn't seem to make sense relative to the use of the stamp. This is particularly the case with the Spanish air mail stamps of 1983. The two stamp set features?
a. Jai Alai & Bull fighting with a cape b. A Portrait by El Greco & Basque Ball Game c. Bicycling & Bowling
9. To commemorate the passing of famous painter and engraver Francisco de Goya y Lucientes a stamp set was issued on June 15, 1930. Scott stamps 397-399 featured the following reclining nude figure?
a. "Wife of the Bookseller of Carretas Street" b. "Isabel Cobos de Porcel" c. "La Maja Desnuda"
10. In 1996-98 Spain issued stamps honoring Popular Personalities (Scott 2860, 2895 & 2896, and 2943 & 2944). Which of these world famous athletes was not included?
a. F-1 and Indy 500 Driver Fernando Alonzo b. NBA Basketball Player Pau Gasol c. Professional Tennis Player Rafael Nadal

Bonus: A souvenir sheet issued in 2005 shows scenes from a 400 year old book about Don Quixote. Three of the four scenes show him alone on horseback. The fourth scene depicts?

- a. Quixote freeing a young boy tied to a tree
- b. Quixote and Sancho Panza together riding a wooden horse
- c. Quixote and Sancho resting by a pond
- d. None of these

The March quiz is worth 110 Auction Bucks, including the bonus. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at either of the March meetings or email to post-boyquiz@renostamp.org

Feb. Quiz Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. b, 4. b, 5. a, b, c & d, 6. c, 7. a, 8. c, 9. b, 10. a Bonus: a, b, c, & d

Buy, Want, Sell, Trade

If you would like to have an advertisement in the Post Boy, please email editor@renostamp.org.

Wanted - German Post World War II Hitler Head stamps that have been "obliterated" or masked. Mint or used, ... singles or more ... just stamps or used on cover or postcards. Contact member **Stan Cronwall** email: stlaine@aol.com

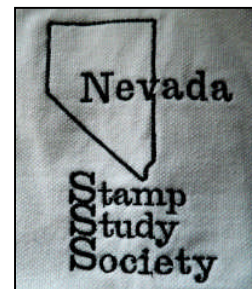
For Sale: From the Jean Johnson estate. Great Britain MNH from about 2004 to 2006. The items include sets, FDCs, and presentation booklets. The prices are about 1/3 of Scott catalog. Contact **Betty Mudge** 972-8237 or email bjmudge2004@yahoo.com.

For Sale: From the Jean Johnson estate. Selling less than face value MNH U.S. from about 2000 to present with singles, blocks and panes. Contact **George Ray** 359-9296

Buying : Stamp Collections Worldwide & United States, Large or Small Estate. Postal History , Post Cards , Ephemera, Stock Certificates, Checks, Old Business Ledgers and Billheads, Mining Lumber, Staging & Express, Pony Express, California Gold Rush. Photographs 1840's - 1920's , California & Nevada Oil Paintings, anything Rare from California or Nevada History... Contact member **Mark Baker** 530-417-1117 or Email Mark@golddrusherpaper.com.

For Sale: U.S. Plate # Blocks MNH from 1930 on. Later years Plate # Blocks 15% off face value. Want lists requested for specific plate numbers/positions. Contact member **George Ray** 359-9296.

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. Contact member Dave and Susan Gehringer (925) 408-6807 or ds-ginger@sbcglobal.net or. They will need your 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 (775) 762-4905, <http://www.RenoStamps.com> or email: 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.

Wanted: U.S. aerogramme: #UC49, and UC52 - must be used and addressed to an overseas address. Also needed is FDC of UC63a. Contact member **John Walter**, email: walter60@gmail.com.

Wanted: Advertisements for philatelic items you may be seeking for your collection or an exhibit. You may be surprised by the items our members may have lurking in their collections. Also wanted are advertisements for items or duplicates you want to sell. Contact the editor (775) 851-7968 or editor@renostamp.org.