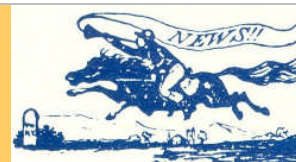


# Post Boy



April 2018  
Volume 51, Issue 4

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

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.

Thanks to **Dave Parsons** for getting the March Post Boy sent to the members. He also sent the meeting notices for the past three meetings.

**Barbara Diederichsen** retired as the Refreshments Coordinator. She made sure refreshments were provided at every meeting for over 10 years. Taking over this important task is **Marla & John Wetterling**.

Elections this year are for the following positions: Vice-President, Secretary, and two Directors. Nomination forms are available at the meetings. All nominations must be submitted by the July 14 meeting.

The 2018 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show is July 28-29 in the museum at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno. Exhibits are needed. If you need help with an exhibit contact [Dick Dreiling](#), the Exhibit Chair.

This is a good time to start making new "My Favorite Thing" pages to exhibit at the stamp show. **Stan Cronwall** has an article on the subject starting on page 3 with an example of one of his favorites on page 4.

**Dave Gehringer** reported on the Youth Stamp Program. The club will have a stamp collecting display at the Minden Library during the month of August. On August 18 from noon to 2 p.m. the library meeting room is reserved for a talk and give-a-ways of stamps and album pages to library patrons. The library will do the advertising in their monthly calendar. Please contact Dave if interested in helping with the program.

Looking at the April calendar I noticed that both Arbor Day and Earth Day are celebrated on April 27 and 22 respectively. The USPS issued only one stamp for Arbor Day (Scott #717), that was in 1932. Earth Day was celebrated on stamps twice, a block of 4 stamps in 1995 (#2951-54) and in 1999 (#3189a), a single stamp on a pane in the Celebrate the Century pane for the 1070s.

Other countries have numerous issues for both events. Why does the U.S. have so few issues for something so important?



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## Post Boy Reporter

**March 10 meeting** - There were 25 members in attendance along with one new member- **Tuck Vosburg**. Welcome Tuck!. The refreshments were provided by **Bob Wolfe**. The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with the usual 10 donated prizes. **Zoleinna Schar** won the bonus raffle prize. **Dave Gehringer** won the raffle money of \$14.00.

**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. **George Ray** reported the donations of several bags of stamps, most of which are headed to the Penny boxes. Former member Jacque Bloomquist has dropped membership due to memory issues. Her son, Rick Jones, a Reno businessman recently passed away. **Erik Fields** noted that we have 3-4 exhibits for the July show and room for 2 more vendors.

**John and Marla Wetterling** have volunteered to coordinate the refreshment/Picnic/Christmas event food lists. They are assuming the job from **Barbara Diederichsen** who had been the volunteer for years. Thank you Barb for all your time and effort in this duty! **Gary Atkinson** has agreed to be the Post Boy reporter for the next few meetings. Thanks Gary!

The live auction had 59 lots, including 6 donated lots from **Dick Simmonds** and the estate of **Jean Johnson**. The auctioneers were **Gary Atkinson** and **Erik Fields** with **Dick Simmonds** and **George Ray** assisting. A total of 23 lots sold for \$203.75.

The March 24 meeting will feature Part II of the Errors and Oddities video. **Nadiah Beekun** indicated that the Reno Postmaster or executive assistant may come to the April 28 meeting. If not, **John Wetterling** will discuss "Descriptions of Stamps on the Web".

**March 24 meeting** - There were 31 members in attendance. **Chip & Lydia MacLeod** provided the refreshments. The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with the usual 10 donated prizes and the bonus raffle prize going to **James Goyer**. The raffle money of \$14 went to **Scott Mathews**. The Consignment table had about a hundred items plus 10 donated items for sale, with many items being sold.

**Eric Fields** gave a report and update on the Reno Stamp & Cover Show on July 28-29, 2018 at the Bowling Stadium. **Eugene Smoots** had boxes of stamps from the Penny Boxes, on each table. Stamps are only 2¢ each. **John Walter** updates the website each month with meeting notices and adding the current issue of the Post Boy. **Nadiah Beekun** "booked" the Reno postmaster to speak at the April 28 meeting.



Some of the members at the March 24 meeting as Harvey Edwards sets up the audio-visual equipment for the video on "Freaks, Errors and Collections."

# Where Do I Find a “My Favorite Thing” In My Collection

By Stan Cronwall

About once every six months or so a cover, stamp or postcard bubbles up to the top of that mysterious pile or uneven stack of stuff on the table or desk where you work on your collection. Maybe the stack has become top-heavy and part of it spills off on the floor and this item appears, or there is something else you are frantically looking for and disturb “the order” of that stack of detritus and voila an old friend reveals itself.

There it is. It’s an item that doesn’t fit anywhere in your chosen album(s) and there really isn’t any place you can put it or create a spot because for you it truly is a “one-off”.

You liked it when you bought it whether by mail, from your favorite dealer, or at a show. Be it love or lust, you just had to have it whether it was affordable or a real budget buster.

Maybe it was a shot across the bow challenging you to get into new collecting area. Maybe it was just so darn intriguing or cute or colorful or interesting that whatever the cash outlay, you just had to have it.

That is exactly what a “My Favorite Thing” is.

Before it “disappears” again, put it to one side preferably in a prominent place so you won’t accidentally bury it for another few months or years.

Now, make some notes trying to create for yourself and anyone viewing this curious item just how you went about acquiring it and if there is a back story as to why it has been relegated to being a “one-off” rather than a keystone to a promising collecting area, or centerpiece for an exhibit.

It could be as short as a sentence or two, or become a real story. Since nobody really knows but you, and maybe even you have forgotten, put on your best Ernest Hemingway hat and spin a yarn.

My guess is that having done just one, you’ll be spurred on to do more.

Just think, after having one under your belt, or sash of your robe, 15 more and you have the stuff for a one-frame exhibit all by yourself.

Be honest, there are more “My Favorite Things” in that stash of unsorted and unfiled treasures. Take a few minutes and I’m sure you will find another.

Whether your last move was two months ago or fifteen years, you probably were faced with what to do with some of that same pile back then. It probably went into a plastic bin or found refuge in a cardboard box that once housed 24 bottles of Old Fort Pitt, or Pearl, or Narragansett, or Lucky Lager or Rainier, or Hamm’s, or Grain Belt, or Blackened Voodoo, or whatever brewery was close by. Then, carefully you labeled it for the move with a ballpoint or Magic Marker, “WORK ON FIRST”.

But, that never happened. Instead it was shuffled into a closet, under the table or desk, or maybe into the bowels of some closet only to reappear months or even years later.

Then what happens. Back up on the stamp table/desk work area, and again largely ignored until now.

Before the new Show Chairman or the Exhibits Chair starts appealing to us to come up with some new material for the “My Favorite Things” exhibit frames, and urging some of the more reluctant people in the group to try doing an exhibit, why not beat them to the punch by starting now to search for that hidden gem you have secreted away, and unwind a tale about it that will make us all envious of your prize.

You can do it. Some of us have braved these waters and have the scars to show for it. And, it is fun. One example of a My Favorite Thing page is on the next page.

**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).



## A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

These covers were cancelled on the last day of service (June 11, 1938) in the now submerged Post Office in the town of Saint Thomas.

As the waters behind the new Boulder (now Hoover) Dam lapped at the steps, the Postmaster reportedly threw his cancelling device out into the waters.

If the long drought in Nevada persists, the device, the Post Office Building and perhaps what remains of the entire town, may rise ghost-like out of Lake Meade:



# America's Ugliest Stamp

by John Walter

Granted this is a matter of opinion but the U.S. Scott# 2521 is certainly a strong nominee for the title of "America's Ugliest Stamp."

The Postal Service issued its nondenominated Make-Up Rate stamp on January 22, 1991, in Washington, DC. One of these stamps, plus 25¢ of additional postage, equaled the F-stamp rate. It could be used only in conjunction with

other denominated or letter-rate stamps because it did not contain the phosphorous ink necessary for processing on Postal Service automated cancellation equipment.

The stamp was designed by Dick Sheaff and printed on an offset press by the American Bank Note Company.

For some strange reason the USPS used 17 words to say, "four cents." Postal Service spokesman Art Shealy said at the time, "It's not a very pretty stamp, we admit that up front." Agreed!

The makeup stamps were supposed to bridge the gap between the old first-class rate and the new rate. The idea was for people to paste them next to the 25¢ stamp.

The 2017 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamp & Covers* has the price as the minimum value 25¢ whether mint or used. No premium value for ugly stamps.



## A Denominational Problem

It takes time to ship stamps to local post offices, and the Postal Service did not know what the new rates would be. So the agency decided not to put a denomination on the makeup stamps, thus making them usable no matter what the new rates were.

Once the 29¢ price was approved, Mr. Shealy said, the Postal Service could not just ship out its inventory of unsold 4¢ stamps. He said the Postal Service calculated that it needed two billion makeup stamps, but had only several million 4¢ stamps in its warehouses.

Interesting question: "How many of these stamps were simply thrown away by non-collectors since they have no value on them?" The USPS solved the make-up rate problem with printing of the Forever stamps starting in 2010.

Anyone else want to nominate a stamp in this category? Any country will do.

**John Walter** is a member and collects U.S. used postal stationery, Japan, People's Republic of China, some U.S., and U.N. stamps.



## Spot-the-Difference!

by Stan Cronwall

Ecuador postal tax stamps: Discover one stamp that is different from the others.... People, and especially kids enjoy hunting down differences. For example most kids are huge fans of 'Where's Wally?' books, and maybe we stamp collectors could take a note or two from the success of these titles when trying to make wider a audience more interested in stamps. Spot the difference?



Answer, the second stamp of the first row is the different one here. The design is taller, and the inscription on the footer is different.

Anyone else up for the challenge for Spot-the-Difference in stamps? Send your puzzle to the editor.

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## Your Time to Write a Post Boy Article

Do you see something different or unusual in the stamps you collect? Do a little research and a short write-up for fellow club members to enjoy. The last two articles are perfect examples of common stamps, but each has their own story to tell. Can you invent a story line about some of your stamps or covers?

Maybe a favorite character from your childhood days – from comic books to Disney cartons. From Boy/Girl Scouts, classic cars, airplanes, trains, to destinations on family vacations. There has to be something interesting in the stamps and covers we collect.

Quite a few items were purchased in auctions and consignment sales in the past three months. A short story of why the item was purchased would be of interest to all. What about the items won in the meeting raffles? There are quite a few articles that can be written with 10 raffles prizes per meeting times six meetings so far this year.

## **April Quiz on Tonga**

### **By Stan Cronwall**

Tonga (also called Toga on some issues) is a group of islands in the southern Pacific Ocean south of Samoa. It is a Kingdom in the British Commonwealth also known as the Friendly Islands. Under the terms of the Anglo-German Agreement of 1899, the islands became a British Protectorate. This quiz attempts to walk you through the various interesting shapes of Tonga's stamps.

1. The first set with a different shape were the round issues of 1963 (Scott 128-133). These commemorate the 1<sup>st</sup> Gold Coinage of Polynesia and were embossed on gilt foil. The paper backing was inscribed in salmon-color with the words "Tonga" and "The Friendly Islands". The stamps were re-issued in 1965 (Scott 140-145) with surcharges. What color were the three highest face value overprint surcharges on the regular issues?

- a. Red                      b. White                      c. Black

2. In 2001, a serpentine die cut, self -adhesive strip set of five stamps was released. This set (Scott 1054 a-e) depicted various fruits including a banana. The first use of the banana shape was a self-adhesive stamp set issued in 1969 (Scott 222-226) with a peelable backing. How many bananas were shown on each stamp?

- a. A whole lovely bunch                      b. One                      c. Two

3. The first sets of Tonga Air Post stamps were based on the regular "Gold Coin" issue from 1963. Then in 1964 a new set were issued (Scott C 7-10) in a die-cut shaped map. The map was an outline of?

- a. All the islands in the group                      b. The main island                      c. The only inhabited islands (36) of the 169 total

4. Another unique shape is seen used for the higher values in a long set issued in 1972 (Scott 297-311). The die-cut shape on release paper is?                      a. A shell native to Tonga                      b. A coconut                      c. A watermelon

5. You may think it peculiar even for a nation already releasing adhesives with odd shapes, but in 1969 Tonga issued stamps with an oil derrick included in the design. But, there is some basis in fact for the designs on both the regular issue set (Scott 232-236) and airmail set (Scott C 63-67). To begin with, there are oil seeps in Tonga.

The prospect for and then actual high oil prices spurred exploration around the world. Shell Internationale and Magellan Petroleum among others did reconnaissance exploration in the Southwest Pacific area in the boundary area between the Indo-Australian and Pacific plates. Did the tests actually produce viable amounts of oil and/or gas in Tonga?                      a. Yes                      b. No

6. Unless I'm reading it wrong, Scott has major error in the description of the stamp shown as Scott C 97-98. There was no watch left behind on the moon. On the 4<sup>th</sup> NASA Moon Mission Apollo 15, Mission Commander David Scott lost the crystal from his NASA/Government issue Omega Speedmaster on his second walk and substituted his own Bulova Chronograph for his third walk. There are images of him wearing his Bulova when saluting the flag.

These stamps as well as the re-issue in 1972, and both sets of Air Post Official Stamps with the same basic design have peelable backings. What is shown on the backing paper?

- a. The King's Portrait                      b. A Picture of the Bulova Accutron                      c. An Advertisement

7. Tonga was the first nation to issue palladium coinage. This combined with the coronation of King Taufa'ahau IV on July 4, 1967 was celebrated on a set of round stamps (Scott 175-181) embossed on palladium foil. The same basic design was carried forward on sets with surcharges (Scott 203-209, C 40-46, CO 21-24). In total, how many stamps had this basic design?                      a. 25                      b. 15                      c. 22

8. Whale watching is an important part of Tongan tourism. Whales have been featured in the design on a set of regular issues (Scott 407-411) in 1977 and in 1978 on a single stamp in an Endangered Species series (Scott 444). What type of whale is featured? a. Blue b. Humpback c. Sei
9. The British Royal Family visited Tonga in March 1970. The stamp issued to mark this event shows both the Tongan and British Royal Families against a blue representation of a crown. Which of the British royal children is included in the picture? a. Prince Charles b. Prince Andrew c. Princess Anne
10. The five stamp set of 1977 air post stamps (Scott C 209-213) shows Queen Elizabeth II and Tongan King Taufa'ahau IV laughing. Who told the joke? a. The King b. The Queen c. Who knows – royalty never laughs

**Bonus Question:** This is an exception to the Tonga stamp “shapes” focus of the quiz to this point.

Regular Tonga issue (Scott 488) was issued in October 1981 in commemoration of the Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana and the centenary of the Friendship Treaty between Great Britain and Tonga. The stamp was surcharged in silver and re-issued in April 1982 as Tonga's only semi postal (Scott B 1) to generate funds for what reason? a. Aid for the disabled b. Aid for the elderly c. Cyclone Relief

The April quiz is worth 110 Auction Bucks, including the bonus.

Please complete the quiz and give your answers to **Betty Mudge** at either of the April meetings or email to [postboyquiz@renostamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renostamp.org)

<p><b>March. Quiz Answers:</b> 1. c, 2. b, 3. a, 4. b, 5. b, 6. a, b, c, d, 7. b, 8. c, 9. c, 10. a, b, c Bonus: d</p>
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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).*

**For Sale:** Packs of Scott & Prinz mounts of various sizes for \$5 per pack. These are strips that can be cut to size. Contact member **Mike Potter** at 359-9419 or email: [potter0465@sbcglobal.net](mailto:potter0465@sbcglobal.net)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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@goldrushpaper.com](mailto:Mark@goldrushpaper.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.

**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](mailto:classicnevada@yahoo.com).