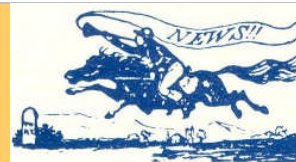


Post Boy



September 2019
Volume 52, Issue 9

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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This month's stamp club meetings:

Sept. 14, 2019 - This is an Auction Day meeting where members can put up to 5 items on the auction table using the [NSSS Auction Sheet](#) with the Minimum Bid. Preceding the auction will be announcements and a raffle.

Sept. 28 - Buy, Sell, Trade Day: Previously known as Member Bourse Day, is an open time for members to purchase a table for \$5 and sell as many items as you want.

Announcements:

The President and Secretary/Editor were out of town the month of August. The club survived as **Gary Atkinson** (former Vice-President) assumed the vacated position again as Vice-President since **John Wetterling** resigned to relocate to Oregon.

The elections took place at the picnic with **Harvey Edwards** placing his name on the ballot for President at the last moment with the understanding he might be gone for personal travel and Corp of Engineer / FEMA projects. **Eric Fields** was elected as Treasurer and **Dave Gehringer** re-elected as a Director.

A big Thank You goes to **Mike Potter** who served as Treasurer the past 4 years. This position probably demands more time than others since he is busy during the meetings (and after) keeping track of the club's monies. He also was busy during the auctions recording each lot and figuring the monies due to consignors. He put in many hours over the last 4 years and the club thanks him for his service.

Howard Grenzebach was the Post Boy Reporter for the August picnic and meeting. Thanks for helping and taking a few pictures.

Dave Gehringer and his wife, Susie, were busy setting up philatelic displays at the South Valleys Library in Reno and the Zephyr Cove Library at Lake Tahoe the past month. Thanks for a job Well Done! The display photos are on page 8 and 9.



Post Boy Reporter

Aug. 10 Picnic - Club members arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Attendance was 20+ since everyone did not sign in. A "Free" stamp table was set up by **Gary Dahlke**. Most items were pages from an old Scott album dismantled by country. **Mike Potter** handled all the grilling of the burgers and hot dogs.

The election was presided over by **Gary Atkinson**. The field was presented to the members and voted on as a group. All present voted "aye" and the new officers and director were voted in: President - **Harvey Edwards**, Treasurer - **Erik Fields**, Director - **Dave Gehringer**.

Aug. 24 meeting - Attendance was 25 members. A new member joined, **Russ Dryer**, and he collects South Pacific and Antarctic issues.

Refreshments were provided by **Gary Dahlke** and **Rose Moratti**. The consignment table was overflowing with sale lots. **Nadiah Beekun** bought the old set of NSSS Scott catalogs (2012) at a reverse auction for \$15.00.

Betty Mudge conducted the raffle which had 10 prizes. The money prize of \$11.50 was won by **Eugene Smoots**.

The philatelic presentation was by **Erik Fields** who gave a brief accounting of the Stamp Show, but since not all figures had come in, profit/loss statement is not available.



Free table at the picnic



Mike Potter at the grill



Paul Glass looking over items on consignment table



(New officers) Erik Fields and Gary Atkinson



Dave Parsons at the consignment table

Certified Mail and Its First Day of Issue

By Patrick Crosby

A stamp collector can complete a Scott U.S. back-of-the-book category with just one stamp valued at 75¢ mint or used. I'm referring to the 1955 Certified Mail stamp (Scott # FA1) which helped the U.S. Post Office Department (P.O.D.) inaugurate Certified Mail service. This stamp and Certified Mail become much more interesting when on cover, like the featured postcard's first day of issue usage.

Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield called the new Certified Mail service a "change in the registered mail service," reducing costs to patrons and speeding delivery on at least 25 million letters a year. Registered mail requires special bundling, recording of information, and security at every handling point. For 15¢ Certified Mail would offer proof of mailing and proof of receipt with no indemnity (insurance) or special security on first-class items that have no intrinsic value as opposed to the minimum 40¢ registry fee.



A patron would pay for first-class postage and the Certified Mail fee, then he would receive a numbered receipt. The mailed item would be entered into the ordinary mail stream (unless airmail or special delivery) with a two-part Certified Mail label, one part adhered to the envelope. When delivered, the carrier or postal employee was to have the receipt portion signed by a recipient, then remove the receipt portion where rouletted and return it to the delivery post office for filing. If the patron had requested a return receipt (showing when, where, and to whom an item was delivered) it would have been noted on the mailed item and a fee of 7¢ would have been paid for in postage. If the patron did not pay for a return receipt but later needed delivery confirmation, he could request it from the delivery post office for up to 6 months for a 10¢ fee. However, after June 30, 1957 a return receipt fee was required for any confirmation.

The 15¢ Certified Mail stamp was only to be used to pay the fee for the service – it had no other postal validity. However, the stamp wasn't required for the service fee, any postage stamps or meter stamps would do. The Certified Mail stamp essentially became obsolete in just over two years when the fee increased to 20¢ on July 1, 1957. Certified Mail was only a domestic service and not for the international mails (this caused P.O.D. headaches and items without return addresses were sent to the dead letter office).

Before the stamp was issued on June 6, 1955, postmasters were advised to post a copy of the Certified Mail instructional notice to their bulletin board, give information to the press, and notify all local stamp clubs about the stamp issue. In addition, for every postal truck a post office had, two posters advertising the new service would be sent, one for each side of a truck, and were to be used for the first 15 days of June. The P.O.D. said, "Collectors shall refrain from requesting hand cancellations since covers will be machine canceled so far as practicable." It seems that First Day of Issue hand cancels were used for proper cancellation of blocks of four.

The 15¢ Certified Mail stamp and service were available only in Washington, D.C. beginning on June 6, 1955, and the rest of the country had to wait until June 7th. The P.O.D. requested that ordinary size envelopes be used for first day cancellation requests, sent to Washington, D.C. with 3¢ postage attached, and the envelope unsealed so that the mailer's portion of the certified mail form could be enclosed. So, having the first day cancel on a postcard, as shown, is unusual but, unfortunately, does not come with the mailer's receipt. The P.O.D. stated, "...each cover must have a 3¢ stamp affixed, or if airmail service is desired a 6c stamp, when submitted". The sender of the featured postcard attached the 3¢ requested, even though the postcard rate was only 2¢. A P.O.D. amendment on August 2, 1955, stated that effective immediately any mailable matter of no intrinsic value may be sent as Certified Mail, so for sure a postcard or postal card would be allowed

at the first-class card rate. Notice how the 3¢ stamp is creatively tied by the machine cancel – it is tied only to a strip of selvage left attached to the stamp (which is a plate number single).

The featured card is also interesting as a first day cover because it wasn't sent back to the sender but was actually used for a message, addressed to a collector friend. The P.O.D. required that a horizontal open space be on the left side of the envelope for the Certified Mail sticker, which the sender of this card did not do. Some first day cover cachet makers artistically provided for this space.

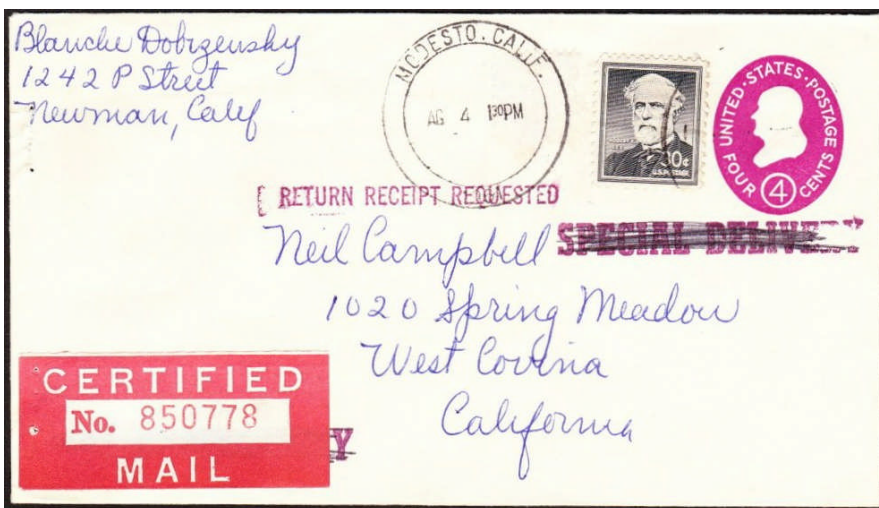
Certified Mail started at the end of the Prexies era, that is, the 1938 presidential definitive series, which is popular among U.S. postal historians. Besides postage stamps being used to pay for first-class postage and the Certified Mail fee, stamps were also used on the same covers to pay for return receipts, restricted delivery, and special delivery, if requested.

In searching "certified" at www.PostalHistory.com I spotted 9 different Prexies (out of 30 total) used on Certified Mail covers. Also collectible are the Liberty Series definitives (which began 1954) and include the 30¢ Robert E. Lee stamp shown here on cover. The 30¢ paid the then 20¢ Certified Mail fee and 10¢ return request fee. From the scribbled out "Special Delivery" handstamp it seems the sender decided he didn't need speedy delivery (also costing 30¢), but instead wanted confirmation of mailing and delivery.

Today Certified Mail service is still popular, but costs \$3.50 instead of 15-cents. The featured card cost me \$5.00.

Most of the information provided is found in the P.O.D.'s *Postal Bulletins* for 1955 and *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011* by Henry Beecher and Anthony Wawrukiewicz.

Patrick Crosby is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society and collects U.S. postal cards, especially used, including first days; the 1886 Grant Letter Card (or Sheet); UC16, the first U.S. aerogram; and postal history on business or picture post cards.



Where the Hell is Heligoland – and What Do We Know About It?

By Stan Cronwall

Well, to begin with, Heligoland is an island – albeit a rather small one only about 2.4 kilometers long by about a kilometer at its widest running from northeast to southwest. It is really an archipelago with an adjacent even smaller island, Dune. It is part of Germany about 40 kilometers north of Wangerooge Island (the who/what?) near the Weser River and about equal distance from the islands at the mouth of the Elbe River.

Your friendly Scott catalog calls it Heligoland, but it is often spelled Helgoland. Either way, it is one and the same by any name.

It has been part of Germany since 1890 when it was acquired from Great Britain in the Heligoland-Zanzibar Treaty signed July 1, 1890. Germany gained the small but strategically located two island archipelago of Heligoland which its new navy needed to control the Kiel Canal then under construction and the approaches to the Elbe River. (In any case, these islands were probably indefensible for the British in light of Germany's emerging naval power)

In exchange, Great Britain gained lands in southern Africa that were essential for the construction of the railway to Lake Victoria, and Germany's pledge to not interfere with British activities vis-à-vis Zanzibar.

Anyone looking to begin collecting a country with only a few issues, Heligoland is one for your personal "short list". During the time it was a British possession (1867 to 1890), there were only about 20 postage stamps issued. However, there were as many as eight printings of a single denomination and a large volume of reprints known as the Berlin, Leipzig and Hamburg Reprints. (For more information on the stamps, their reprints, and postal stationery see Wikipedia)



Here is an image of Heligoland Stanley Gibbons #4 stamp issued in 1867-68.

The stamps are embossed with a silhouette of Queen Victoria except for the four highest values which have the Heligoland coat-of-arms. The issues were printed in the Prussian State Printing Office in Berlin and were denominated in the Hamburg Schilling until 1875 when both the German Empire and British values were shown. These are known as the Farthing/Pfennig issues.

Now on to more contemporary times.

For me as a German niche collector specializing in the period 1933-1945 and to a lesser degree in the post WW II era, there are two stamps of interest.

The first is a Nazi-era semi-postal (B 176 stamp on the right) issued August 9, 1940 to commemorate the 50th year anniversary of when the island became a part of Germany. The stamps look to me like a big pile of rocks in a body of water and is described by Scott as "Rocky Cliffs of Heligoland. But it is a whole lot more. Read on . . .



Helgoland/Heligoland had been a German fortress during WW I. After the war, it was disarmed and in theory neutralized. However, in the 1930's the head of the German Kriegsmarine, Grand Admiral Raeder had plans for restoring it as a vital base protecting the approaches to the German navy's North Sea ports. It was ideally positioned for heavy coastal artillery batteries, and as a base for torpedo boats and submarines.

During 1935 - 1936 period, saw construction of the first flak batteries which became operational in 1937. Heavy naval gun batteries were added. The neighboring island, Dune, had both flak and coastal artillery guns as well as two airfields.

In 1940, construction began on the first U-Boat bunkers in Germany. When completed there were three bays with one having the capability of lifting a U-Boat completely out of the water.

Heligoland was honey combed with underground facilities including magazines for weapons, storerooms for supplies, and even a hospital. Additional heavier caliber flak guns were added as well as various radar positions to detect both air and naval enemy units.

On April 18, 1945, the British RAF Bomber Command targeted the islands with more than 950 planes. Anything above ground was devastated, while the underground chambers remained in good condition.

The islands were evacuated shortly thereafter.

Following the war, the British used the islands as a bombing range from 1945 to 1952. At one point, the Heligoland islands were being considered as an atomic bomb testing site. This was ruled out when the Bikini Atoll was selected.

The bigger island entered the history books again in 1947 when the British Navy created one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions ever. More than 6800 tons of captured German munitions were piled up and within the bunkers and set afire. Included were 4,000 torpedo heads, 9,000 depth charges and more than 91,000 shells.

As a result of the April 18, 1947 explosion, part of the island sunk. People living on the nearby German mainland had been advised to leave their windows open to minimize damage from the concussive force, and the shock waves were recorded as far away as Sicily.



On December 20, 1950, two students and a professor went to the off-limits island raising German and other flags. They were arrested, but this began a movement agitating for the return of the islands to Germany. The cause was taken up by the German Parliament and the archipelago was returned to Germany by agreement on March 1, 1952. The Federal Republic of Germany issued a stamp (Scott 690 on the left) commemorating the return on September 6, 1952.

Today, the islands enjoy interest as a tourism site, especially the area around the crater-like depression caused by the 1947 munitions explosion.

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.

September Quiz on Finland by Stan Cronwall

Finland is now a republic after being a Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire from 1809 to December 1917 when it declared its independence. It borders on the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland.

Early issues under the Russian Empire depicted a Coat-of-Arms featuring a rampant lion. Later, in 1891, the design changed to the Imperial Arms of Russia. The first issues (1917) from the new Finnish republic returned to the rampant lion graphic.

1. The Finnish Coat of Arms from the grave of King Gustav of Vasa was featured on a long set of 20 different stamps issued between 1968 and 1978. There were two versions of the basic design. A 194 and A 194 a. The “a” version differed in what way from the basic design?
 - a. The face value
 - b. It was the last issue in the set
 - c. The blue “machined” design element surrounding the Coat-of-Arms
2. Christmas has been celebrated on Finnish stamps since 1973. Among the more unusual releases was a die-cut shaped set of three in 2013. These designs were very much like those seen 100 years or more before. The designs depicted are:
 - a. Reindeer, Angels & Elves
 - b. Santa’s Sleigh, Snowflakes & Birds
 - c. Boy with a Christmas Tree, Children Hugging & Angel
3. A souvenir sheet was released in early January 1999 which featured a single stamp showing the 1998 Formula 1 Driving Champion. Who was this second Finnish driver to achieve this elite status?
 - a. Keke Rosberg
 - b. Mika Hakkinen
 - c. Kimi Raikkonen
4. The first Finnish Air Post stamp was issued in 1930 overprinted for use on mail carried on the airship “Graf Zeppelin” on its return flight from Finland to Germany September 24, 1930. If you have one of these overprinted “1830” rather than “1930” rejoice – you have something of value. However, forgeries do exist, and are almost always on Scott 205 rather than Scott 178. The scene depicted on these stamps is:
 - a. Harbor of Lappeenranta
 - b. Lake Pielisjarvi
 - c. Lake Saima
5. In 1990, a single stamp was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Winter War which pitted Finland against the Soviet Union. Note that this was prior to the outbreak of WW II. The invading Russian forces were soundly beaten which reinforced Hitler’s belief that his forces would be victorious in any future conflict. The main graphic on the stamp is?
 - a. Troops in Winter White Camo Uniforms
 - b. A Snowflake
 - c. Destroyed Fortifications
6. Easter of 2002 was celebrated with a single, self-adhesive stamp which had what seemingly unusual central graphic element?
 - a. Kid Cartoons of Rabbits & Birds
 - b. A Witch Riding a Broomstick with a Teakettle
 - c. Modern Art Rendering of a Chick & Decorated Eggs
7. A single stamp joint issue in 1988 commemorated the 350th anniversary of the New Sweden Settlement in America. The stamp was in a horizontal format in order to provide enough room to show European settlers with American Indians, the Swedish ships, and a map of the settlement. The joint issue was shared by what countries?
 - a. Sweden, Finland & USA
 - b. Finland, Sweden & Norway
 - c. Norway, Sweden & Denmark
8. In 1938, a stamp was issued to celebrate the tercentenary of Swede-Finn cooperation in colonization. Specifically, this stamp deals with the colonization of which U.S. state?

- a. Maine b. Maryland c. Delaware

9. In 2013 Finland abruptly broke with most traditions when it issued a set of four multi-colored self-adhesive stamps with two having a vertical format and other two being horizontal. All had the same face value. The design subject matter was quite different from most other issues from any country. The design feature is?
- a. Castle Moats & Drawbridges b. Outhouses c. Swamps of the North
10. One Finnish athlete won three Gold medals at the 1988 Winter Olympic Games held in Calgary, Canada. He was featured on a stamp issued in April of that year. All three events were in the same general discipline which was:
- a. Ski Jumping b. Speed Skating c. Downhill Skiing

Bonus Question: In most countries, semi-postal stamps are issued for largely charitable purposes or raising funds to benefit a specific cause or need.

Finland issued a semi-postal stamp in 1931 featuring a variation on the Russian Empire Coat-of-Arms seen on early stamps. In the philatelic world, this stamp came to be known as "Pro Filatelia". This issue was intended to assist the Postal Museum of Finland in the purchase of a special collection. This collection consisted of what material?

- a. Early Stamps of all Nordic Countries b. Finnish Postal Stationery with Emphasis on "Entires"
c. Imperforate Helsinki and Vasa Issues

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

Aug. Quiz Answers: 1. c 2. b 3. c
4. c 5. b 6. b 7. c 8. a 9. a & b
10. c Bonus: "Any answer gets credit"

Zephyr Cove Library Display

The stamp club was invited to have a philatelic display for the month of September. The display was set up by Dave and Susie Gehringer.



South Valleys Library Philatelic Display

The stamp club was invited to have a stamp collecting display for the month of August at the Reno South Valleys Library. Dave and Susie Gehringer set up the display using the three display cases.



Buy, Want, Sell, Trade

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

Wanted - Members to purchase a table at the Sept. 28 meeting to sell items. The table is \$5 and no further cost to sell as many items as you can.

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.

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.

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

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

Wanted: Articles for the Post Boy newsletter. Many of the stamp club members purchase auction and consignment lots at meetings. How about a short article on why the item was purchased and a scan of the item. Let us know why you bought a certain item. Submit article to editor@renostamp.org

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.