

Post Boy



October 2020
Volume 53, Issue 10

Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M. - until further notice
Limited in-person meeting at Silverada Estates Clubhouse, 2301 Oddie, Reno.

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NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

Announcements

Regular virtual club meetings in October:

October 10 and October 24 - Both meetings will be virtual using the Zoom app. Instruction to log into the meetings will be sent a few days before each meeting. Notify **Harvey Edwards** if you wish to attend in-person at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse. Masks & social distancing is mandatory.

Volunteers are needed:

The Post Boy needs someone to develop quizzes each month starting in the spring of 2021. The **Quiz Master** receives Auction Bucks for time spent putting the quizzes together.

A **Donation Chair** is needed to coordinate and accept philatelic items that can be auctioned or sold on consignment (Buy Now). The only requirement is access to the Internet and hopefully a way to scan or photograph items for auction. Multiple members can share duties and responsibilities.

First On-line Club Auction: All 67 lots sold plus some Buy Now lots for a total of \$343.

The 2nd online auction is underway until noon Oct. 8. Questions email: Dave Parsons NSSSauctions@gmail.com
<https://renostamp.org/auction>

Mark your calendar for the **2021 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show**, July 24-25 in the International Bowling Museum at the National Bowling Stadium, Reno. **Erik Fields** wants your thoughts on a theme for the show.

Please stay safe. Use facial covering when out-and-about along with social distancing. Don't forget frequent handwashing is essential. Keep working on your favorite hobby. The club wants to hear about your philatelic endeavors when we can meet again in-person.

Post Boy Reporter

September 12 virtual & in-person meeting - Six members met at the Silverada Clubhouse with the usual electronic equipment (two laptops, extra monitor, large projection screen, projector, PA system, plus no-touch thermometer, hand sanitizer and masks). A total of 20 members (including the six on site) were in attendance. Thanks to **Dave Parsons** for allowing the club to use his paid Zoom account so we can have these virtual meetings. **Tom Reyman** suggested a cover contest drawing from a list of about 15 categories.

Harvey Edwards has about 25 show cancel covers for each day (July 25 & 26) still for sale at \$2.00 each. Harvey discussed new stamp releases for the COVID-19 virus. He also mentioned the many consumer scams circulating via the Internet and phone calls.

A volunteer is needed to coordinate the donations. **George Ray** is having problems with his knees and does not have Internet access. Donations are now spread around among four members. A few members have been attending virtual philatelic virtual shows and presentations which include the APS Show, SEAPEX, APS Stamp Chat and the Collector's Club of New York.



Harvey Edwards conducting the Sept. 12 meeting.

Starting on Sept. 13, the stamp club had an online auction ending Sept. 23 with 70 donated items. The Auction Master, **Dave Parsons**, is accepting member items for the next auction. Email Dave at NSSSauctions@gmail.com to get your items in the next auction.

September 26 virtual & in-person meeting - **Harvey Edwards** conducted the meeting with 10 in-person attendees at the Silverada Clubhouse and 10 members via Zoom. Discussion ensued about having combo meetings like today. The Internet connection is still a problem with low bandwidth. **Dave Parsons** reported on the 1st online auction ending Sept. 23 - all 67 lots and multiple Buy Now lots sold for a total of \$343.

We have a new member, **Debbie Grugal**, who lives in Gardnerville. One visitor came before the meeting started. She wanted to sell some inherited stamp albums and a few other items.



Some of the members at the Sept. 26 with masks and social distancing.

The Auction Bucks auction is on hold. It normally is held the first meeting in November. **John Walter** reported members submitted 5 articles for the Post Boy. What a nice response. **Harvey Edwards** submitted a cacheted cover for the cover contest by the Canadian Stamp News. Members told of their participation in virtual stamp activities - virtual stamp shows with exhibits and presentations, plus many online stamp chats and YouTube videos.

The First Commemorative Postal Issue

by Patrick Crosby

Did you know that a post boy, the namesake of our monthly *Post Boy* journal, appeared on the first United States, and perhaps the world's first, commemorative postal issue of any type? He is shown on a galloping horse along with a multi-line telegraph and an express train with mail car, showing how far U.S. communications had come by 1876. But this is not an adhesive postage stamp like the 1893 Columbian Commemorative series, this a stamped envelope.



Two colors of the 1876 Centennial envelope, red on commercial size envelope, and green on personal size envelope.



Scott #113

A post boy on the 2¢ stamp (shown) is from an 1869 postage stamp series that also included the scenes of The Landing of Columbus and The Declaration of Independence. However, these are considered to be regular, definitive stamps and not commemoratives.

As part of the United States' 100th anniversary celebration of independence, Philadelphia, PA hosted the 1876 Centennial International Exposition of American Cultural and Industrial Progress. The exposition was an overall success with 30,864 exhibits of products, art, and manufacturing from almost every country in the world.

Back in 1871 when planning started there was apprehension over Great Britain since, we had secured our independence from them. Surprisingly, Great Britain and her colonies provided 3,584 of the exhibits! The exposition opened May 10 and closed November 10, 1876.

Instead of an adhesive stamp or a postal card, the USPOD (United States Post Office Department) decided to issue a commemorative envelope which would be printed and available only at the exposition. Future demand necessitated additional production in Hartford, CT, and nationwide distribution upon the request of postmasters. There were two sizes of the envelope, both 3¢, which was the current first-class letter rate. The smaller size was considered to be for personal use and the stamp was printed in green. The slightly larger, commercial size envelope was in red.



1876 Centennial Watermark with "U" around "S" and "1876"



Earlier watermark also found on Centennial Envelopes with "US" intertwined with "POD"

For the collector of stamped envelopes, the 1876 Centennial Issue includes very few types – Scott shows four and the UPSS (United Postal Stationery Society) catalog shows ten, three of which are rare oddballs. Not only were there just 2 sizes, but they were only issued on high quality white paper. By contrast, the previous 3¢ issue came in seven sizes and envelope paper colors included white, amber, fawn, cream and blue. For the most common Centennial covers the value range is \$30 to \$50 used and \$60 to \$100 mint.

There were two watermarks used, as shown in the scans. UPSS Watermark 3 was especially prepared for these Centennial envelopes. UPSS Watermark 2, in use since 1870, also was used on both sizes. A watermark is a pattern impressed on wet paper and can be seen later by looking through the envelope paper to a strong light. Watermarks were a USPOD requirement for security purposes, and sometimes changed to identify an envelope manufacturer.



Double line under "POSTAGE"

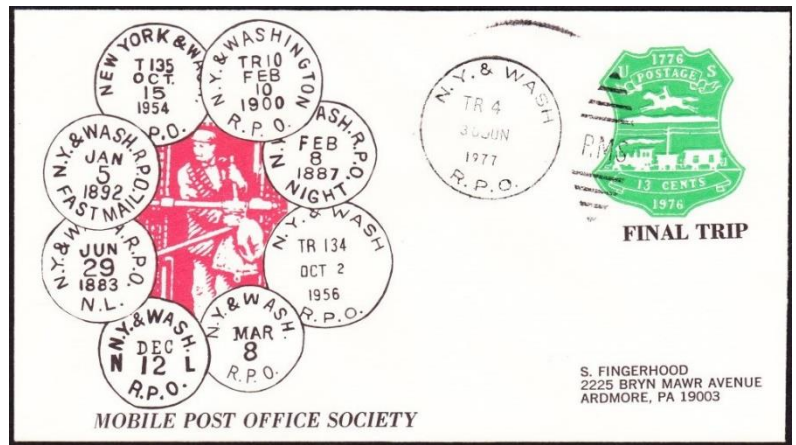
Seven to ten working dies for printing were prepared using a single master die, but some of the working dies ended up printing a single line under "POSTAGE" and the other dies produced a double line. Both Scott and the UPSS recognize these as separate dies. Find the double line die on a red envelope and you're rich – it is known only mint and valued in the UPSS catalog at \$56,000! (Now, where did I put my copy?)

When first seen in the mail stream there was confusion as to whether these Centennial envelopes were legitimate. It was the first stamped envelope without a portrait, and it was on a shield-shaped background, plus the USPOD in Washington, DC had given little notice of its issuance. The used example, shown on the right, is postmarked from Washington, IA and the sender mistakenly addressed it to Troy, NY. Then somehow Troy, NY knew to redirect the envelope to Troy, OH and used an inappropriate "Forwarded" hand stamp.



One of the booths at the exposition was for The Remington Arms Company, who had teamed up in 1873 with an early developer of the typewriter. The first big commercial showing of the typewriters was at the exposition. People waited in line at their booth to have a letter typed, and also to admire the skill of the pretty typists. Until about the end of June a fair attendee could have a personal letter written. Then, to speed things up, form letters were used with only the salutation, closing, and date actually typed. This cost 25¢ and included a 3¢ Centennial envelope with a typed address. Both these letters and the typed envelopes are highly collectable. The envelopes could be dropped in one of 50 pillar mail boxes throughout the grounds or at the Centennial Post Office. All these would receive a circle dated "Centennial" handstamp and a cork killer. There were also two railway mail cars at the fair where mail could be dropped and they would receive a "Centennial R.P.O." handstamp, which is now rare. At the time there was a social stigma attached to printed letters, being considered impersonal, if not insulting, whether for personal or commercial use. It was another five years before the typewriter took off.

What higher compliment is there than to be copied? Yes, there are forgeries, but I refer to a 13¢ 1976 Bicentennial envelope, respectfully called the Centennial of 1876 Envelope. Shown is an example used to mark the occasion of the Final Trip of the last Railway Post Office route. The cachet shows the different post markings used over the years on this route. So this 1976 envelope commemorates the 1876 commemorative envelope and was used to commemorate the last Railway Post Office. Whew!



13¢ 1976 Centennial Indicia of 1876 Envelope

Thanks to my wife, Mary Beth, for the photos of the watermarks and to John Walter for his constantly expanding layout and editorship skills.

References:

Wm. H. Maisel, United States Commemorative Stamped Envelopes 1876-1965, Lutherville, MD: Wm. H. Maisel, 1974, 3-13. (This booklet is still available from UPSS.org)

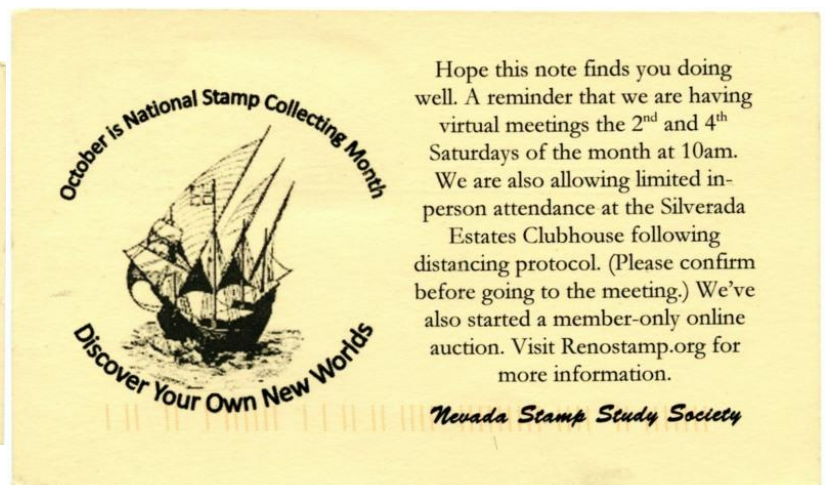
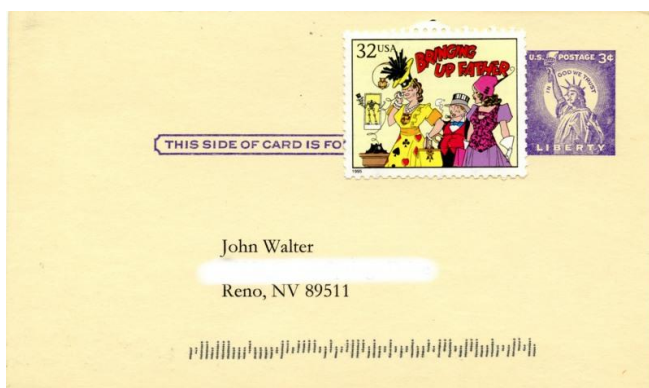
William J. Bomar, Postal Markings of United States Expositions, North Miami, FL: David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., 1986, 7-10.

Undersander, Dan, editor, Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes, Letter Sheets, and Wrappers of the United States, Chester, VA: United Postal Stationery Society 2018.

Scott 2019 Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers, Sidney, OH: Amos Media, 2018.

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.

3¢ Liberty Postal Card Sent to Members



Harvey Edwards sent this postal card to members reminding them of National Stamp Collecting month. The postal cards were donated by **Dave Gehringer**.

The German “M” stamp

By Emmanuel GPS



“How prepared are you to go to war? Did you bring the stamps?” This could have been a conversation between Churchill and Roosevelt. When the allied troops landed in my birth country of France on June 6, 1944, they had more than tanks and guns, they also had stamps to replace Germany’s showing swastikas and the face of Hitler. The “M” stamp was printed in the USA and carried to Europe to be used once the territories were liberated.

With the occupation of Germany by the Allied powers postal services returned but were administered under different authorities. AM Post (AM = Allied Military) stamps were provided by the American and British occupation services during 1945 as the first step to restore mail service in their jurisdictions. Talk about planning to win!

United States stamp collectors can easily miss a fascinating byway of the output of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the stamps designed and produced by the BEP during 1943-45 for use in Allied-occupied Europe. These stamps are easily found today. Virtually all of the mint examples catalog under a dollar. These AMG stamps are not listed in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*. Only a few used high values are difficult to find.



However, beyond the basic stamps, there are color varieties, perforation varieties, paper varieties, sizes, interesting marginal markings and plate and seemingly random design varieties. This makes these stamps great fun to track down and collect. Nevertheless, there is a thriving specialty society, the Allied Military Government Collectors' Club, formed in 2012 <http://www.amgcollectors.org/>. An important focus of the Allied authorities' administration of German territory was the so-called “denazification” program. The canceled stamps and covers are collected as they are more rare than the mint stamps.

EmmanuelGPS@gmail.com, a native Frenchman, is a past Director and life member of <https://www.rotary-onstamps.org/> and the lead person of the Inverness (California) stamp club where he resides. He owns these posted stamps.

Philosateleia Raffle Winner

By John Walter

I have been a subscriber to Kevin Blackston's monthly stamp blog for a few years. Each month he has a "giveaway" prize to a subscriber who responds to his most recent blog. I was the winner for September.

In the September blog he writes: "I recently acquired multiple mint sets of the Winston Churchill memorial stamps issued by the Bahamas in 1966. I don't need all of them, so one set will be the subject of this month's giveaway!"

He further describes the set as "Bahamas Scott 224-227 Winston Churchill, set of four, mint. Includes ½p, 2p, 10p, and 1-shilling values. Gum may show tiny disturbed spots or other minor blemishes." A nice set of stamps.

But the way Mr. Blackston sends the giveaway is unique. He prints his own local stamps which he uses on all his outgoing mail. On the right is the "cover" with my raffle prize.

I want to describe the interesting elements of this fascinating cover.

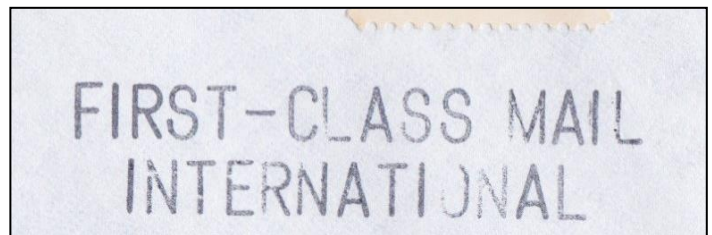
First is the clear sprayed-on postmark from the Rio Grande District in San Antonio with the "Thinking of You" cancel.¹

What is this at the top of the cancel? An enlargement did not help, but removing my eyeglasses revealed the words "Mail a smile."

The postage stamp used is from the recently issued (June 13) Enjoy the Great Outdoors set issued at Incline Village, NV. The next stamp is Kevin's Philosateleia Local Postage with an American Flamingo and the value of 1s with a cork cancel. First Day for the local was June 22, 2020. Pretty nice so far.

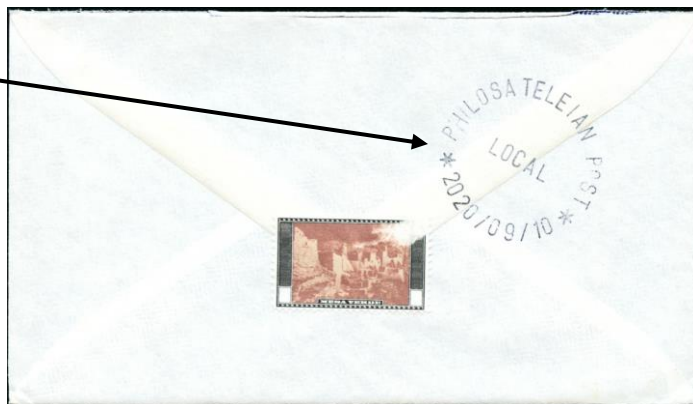
But what is that handstamp below the local postage stamp "FIRST-CLASS MAIL INTERNATIONAL" with the last word crossed through? It turns out that is Kevin's new handstamp for International mail debuted on January 6, 2020.

Before that date Kevin "was using a handstamp reading 'Via Air Mail / Par Avion,' but since there is not actually a specific airmail rate from the United States, the change in wording seemed appropriate."²



But wait, there is more to this cover. On the back is Kevin's new local Philosateleian Post postmark which debuted on June 20, 2020.² Along with that local postmark is a Cinderella stamp with the word "Mesa Verde." He describes the new postmark:

"The old format included the date in two-digit year/month/day format with the word words "PHILOSATELEIAN" and "POST" above and below the date, respectively. In contrast, the new format wraps "PHILOSATELEIAN POST" around the top of the postmark with the word "LOCAL" in the middle, and the full date in four-digit year/month/day format at the bottom."²



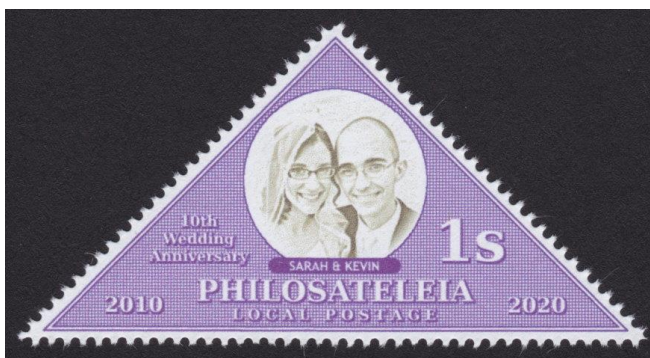
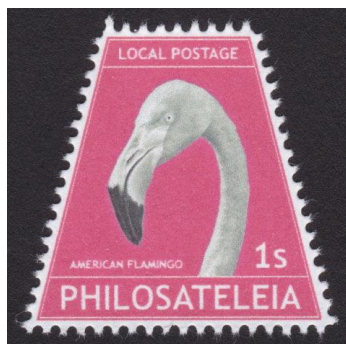
Kevin's website is a treasure drove of free album pages. Each quarter he publishes album pages for the new U.S. stamp issues. <https://www.philosateleia.com/album/>

References:

1. Jay Bigalke, editor Linn's Stamp News, Philatelic Forwards, January 13 and Sept, 15, 2020 issues.
2. <https://www.philosateleia.com/blog/>

John Walter is the editor of the Post Boy and stamp club webmaster. He collects U.S. used postal stationery, Japan, People's Republic of China, some U.S., and U.N. stamps and covers.

Addendum:



These are two of the latest Philosateleia Local Postage stamps produced by Kevin Blackston. The one on the right is for his 10th Wedding Anniversary. He sells the local postage stamps for a nominal fee. He also has a First Day of Issue cover mailed to himself when a new local postage stamp is issued.

October Quiz - Cuba

by Stan Cronwall

I have made two trips to Cuba in search of my first car – a 1953 Chevy Bel Aire convertible painted French's mustard yellow with Naugahyde (imitation leather) seats and interior to match. Yes, it was used and abused meeting an untimely demise T-boned by yellow cab at the intersection of Turk and Hyde in San Francisco. Alas, never even saw one in Havana.

Cuba is the largest of the West Indies islands. It consists of four archipelagoes and the main island of Cuba which is the largest in the Caribbean at more than 44,000 square miles. It is 93 miles south of Key West and located where the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea meet. The nation has a population of about 11 million. Cuba is a founding member of the United Nations and member of the Organization of American States.

This quiz will by-pass the earliest years of Cuban stamps when it was a possession of Spain and making attempts to gain her freedom. Let's begin in 1898 when the Treaty of Paris forced Spain to relinquish its rule to the U.S. in trust for its inhabitants. The first stamps under this new administration were U.S. stamps surcharged in Black, "CUBA 1 c. de PESO"

1. As one would expect of an island nation, Cuba placed special emphasis on Air Post stamps. The last new Air Post issue came in 1993. At that point, how many stamps of this type had been issued?
a. 107 b. 183 c. 225 d. 326
2. The Cuban Revolution which established the current regime, marks its Day of Liberation as January 1, 1959. A stamp commemorating the day was issued 28 days later. What is the main illustration on this issue?
a. The Castro Brothers & Che Guevara b. A soldier of the revolution & the flag
c. Map of Cuba & a rebel fighter d. Rebel attack on Moncada Barracks
3. Postal Tax Stamps were used to raise funds for the benefit of the National Council of Tuberculosis fund for children's hospitals, and separately to help build a proposed Communications Building. Two issues were not for these purposes. When were these issued?
a. 1957-1958 b. 1938-1939 c. 1942-1943
4. The 17th Olympic Summer Games were held in Rome August 25 – September 11, 1960. Two regular issues to commemorate this event were released September 22, plus two Air Post issues and a souvenir sheet. What Olympic athletes were shown on the imperf stamps in the souvenir sheet?
a. Boxer, runner, marksman & sailboats/sailors b. Basketball player, wrestler, hurdler & volleyball player
c. Baseball player, shot putter, football/soccer player & equestrian
5. Strangely, the 80th anniversary of International Air Mail Service from Cuba was not commemorated on an Air Post stamp, but rather on a regular issue souvenir sheet in 2007. It is not unusual for Cuban stamps to be catalogued as imperf while the actual design is printed with simulated perfs. Is this the case with this issue?
a. Yes b. No
6. All Cuban goods have been embargoed by the U.S. since a February 7, 1962 proclamation by then President John F. Kennedy. However, according to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department, used Cuban stamps can be imported and sold without limitation. Unused stamps may be imported for personal use, but not resold.

So how does Scott arrive at the catalog Mint and Used pricing for Cuban stamps. They can use foreign auctions and sales for Mint stamps, and their usual sources for Used. Do you imagine that they also have to resort to several dimly lit rooms full of swamis, or other seers gazing into crystal balls, or maybe it is the old fashioned stick a wet finger in the air?

In any case, collecting Cuban stamps has to be a challenge.

Any Mint stamps after Scott 702 are subject to the embargo, as are any Air Post after C 221. E-Bay refuses to allow any deals for these Mint stamps to be transacted.

What other Mint Cuban issues are subject to the embargo?

- a. CB 1 b. CE 1 c. E 32

7. SEMI-POSTAL issue B 3 has an almost surreal image as the main graphic element. What is the hand extending upward out of the farmer's field holding?
- a. An industrial plant b. A river boat c. A piece of agricultural equipment – a combine
8. An early member of the Revolution and close associate of the Castros was a man honored time and time again on Cuban stamps. No, not "Che" Guevara who seems to appear almost every year. It is Camilo Cienfuegos who mysteriously "disappeared" in what was first reported as a small plane crash. The first time he appeared on a stamp was in 1960 marking the first anniversary of his death.
- The most recent stamp featuring Cienfuegos was as a part of the sheets and souvenir sheets issued in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 2008. His stamp featured what activity?
- a. Agrarian Reform Law b. Dissolution of the Bureau to Repress Communist Activities
c. Granting Cuban citizenship to Ernesto "Che" Guevara d. Creation of the Cuban Ministry for Sugar
9. In 1960, an Air Post issue was released to mark the 30th Anniversary of national air mail service. The stamp featured symbols of mail service in the 1930's and 1960's with a single engine plane and a satellite. The stamp also showed an earlier stamp design from 1927 A 44 "Arms of the Republic" which was surcharged and re-issued in 1930 as Air Post C 3. What was the color of the surcharge?
- a. Black b. Green c. Red d. Orange
10. A rather spectacular souvenir sheet along with a set of seven stamps was issued to commemorate the 1982 World Cup Soccer Championships in Spain. The sheet has a single stamp which shows?
- a. A "bicycle" kick for a goal b. A soccer ball and players feet c. A "header" for a goal

BONUS: In 1982, seemingly there was some kind of hiccup in the Cuban decision-making apparatus, or the ap-paratchiks regarding what subjects should be shown on stamps. We have just seen that a set of seven stamps and a souvenir sheet was issued to mark the World Cup Soccer Championships.

Then eight months later, another set of four stamps and some miniature sheets were issued for the same event. Is this true, or is your Quiz Master again "pulling your leg"?

- a. True b. False

The October quiz is worth **110 Auction Bucks**.

Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at the next in-person meeting or email to postboyquiz@renostamp.org

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