

Post Boy



February 2020
Volume 53, Issue 2

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

FREE raffle of an UNOPENED Inverted Jenny pane of 6 stamps. Remember this has a face value of \$12 and if you find an upright Jenny pane the retail price is \$50,000 plus. Come to both meetings in February and participate in the free raffle at each meeting. The unopened panes are from the estate of Stan Cronwall. Every member that signs in at each meeting will receive a free raffle ticket.

Regular club meetings in February:

Feb. 8 - 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. Plus, the free raffle of an unopened inverted Jenny pane.

Feb. 22 - This is a Consignment Day where members can have up to 10 items for sale. After announcements and regular raffle there will be a free raffle of an unopened inverted Jenny pane. The philatelic presentation is yet to be determined.

The stamp club members will again participate in the **Linn's Stamp Poll** voting for best and worst stamps (and designs) of 2019. Ballots and a color page with all the post office releases will be available at the Feb. 8 club meeting. This is the final chance to vote in the stamp poll.



Volunteers are needed for the Program Chair and another for the Nomination & Election Committee. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to fill either of these positions.

The Stamp Show Committee also needs some volunteers. The more members that volunteer the less work there is for everyone.

If you did not renew your membership, your name will be deleted from the club email list for meeting notices and sending the Post Boy. A new Membership Directory is being published this month and will be available at the Feb. 22 meeting.

Reminder: The membership year is August 1 to July 31.

Post Boy Reporter

January 11 meeting - **James Steckley** and **Erik Fields** came early to set up the meeting room with tables and chairs. Attendance was 25 members. The refreshments were provided by **Dave Gehringer**. The refreshment list was passed around so the final 2020 dates can be signed for. **Paul Glass** reported 60 members have paid their dues. A new 2020 Membership Directory will be published in February. **Harvey Edwards** passed around a draft copy so members could update their philatelic affiliations and collecting areas. An email was received from **Marla Wetterling** thanking everyone for their cards, messages and donations to the Sparks Heritage Museum in John's memory.

At the Board meeting estate donations were discussed. The estate of Jack Barriage donated 10 Scott International albums filled with stamps. They will be put in the regular monthly auction, probably a few at a time. The estate of Stan Cronwall donated a handful of unopened inverted Jenny panes. The decision was made to have a free raffle of a pane at the next few meetings starting in February to encourage attendance. Also from the Cronwall estate is a box full of philatelic books. Initially they will be available in the club library so members can check them out. A list of the books is on page 9.

The raffle had the usual 10 prizes with **George Ray** winning the Bonus prize and **Brian Moody** winning the Money prize of \$12.50. The live auction had 60 lots and 2 donation lots. A total of 26 lots sold for \$248.00. The auctioneers were **Mike Potter** and **Gary Atkinson** with help from **Dick Simmonds** and **George Ray**.

January 25 meeting - **James Steckley** and **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **Dick Simmonds** provided the refreshments. Attendance was 28 members and a visitor, **Madeline Sanford** who was a paid member by the end of the meeting. Madeline collects U.S. mint and used stamps. This was a consignment day and the sell table was overflowing with items as usual. **Paul Glass** reported the NSSS was mentioned in the January issue of the *American Philatelist*. **Eugene Smoots** provided multiple penny boxes with thousands of stamps that sell for 2¢ each. **George Ray** received a donation through **Nadiah Beekun** of 17 binders of addressed FDC for years 1977-2011. This donation will be sold by silent auction at the Feb. 8 meeting. Members were encouraged to vote in the Linn's stamp poll for the best and worst stamps of 2019. Your last chance to vote is at the Feb. 8 meeting. **Betty Mudge** conducted the raffle with the usual 10 prizes and the bonus raffle prize went to **Scott Mathews**. The money prize of \$14 went to **Bob Wolf**.

The philatelic presentation was provided by **Dave Gehringer**. He had a great PowerPoint slide presentation on "U.S. Coils - Basics and Beyond." The discussion started with the first patented coil vending machine in 1891. The process of perforating the stamps was difficult at first and pins wore out creating problems. But American ingenuity got the process going in the early 1900s creating many perf. variations. Dave talked about various coil series well into the 21st century with the addition of commemorative coils. It was a great presentation.



Madeline Sanford joined at the Jan. 25 meeting.



The Two Million Dollar Stamp Collection

by Gary Atkinson

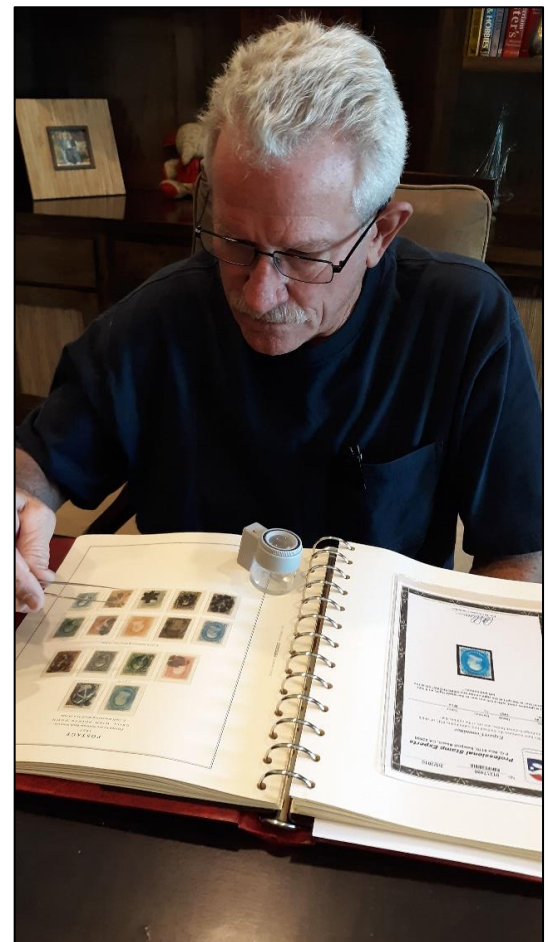
Stamp shows are wonderful experiences. A service that is usually offered is a free evaluation of a collection. After all, the dealers must first buy new material to have material to sell. This service is performed by both club members and the dealers. Usually the material brought in for evaluation is a collection from childhood or a collection that was inherited. All evaluators try to put an encouraging spin on each collection, but if the collection had limited value when it was collected, it probably has limited value even though it may be 50 years older.

At our recent stamp show an elderly gentleman, in his early 90's, walked in with the help of a cane and was followed by his son carrying a box. He said he used to be a collector, but he hadn't looked at his collection for over 60 years. When we removed the lid to the box, we noticed there were a couple of 3 ring binders containing several pages from a U.S. stamp album before 1900, miscellaneous material, and a stack of glassine envelopes about 1 inch thick. We checked the album pages first and noticed that one of the pages was from Scott #86 to 101 and most of the spaces were full. Upon further examination, we noticed that they appeared to be mint AND, on the back, there was a grill. With this information we checked the catalogue price and found that a Scott #101 in mint condition catalogued for \$14,500 and his was never hinged. Others on the page had values from \$1,000 to \$9,000. These were just a few of several hundred stamps in the collection. It took some time to determine this and the gentleman was getting tired and couldn't stay much longer. We continued to look at the glassine envelopes and found a 3 cent rose from the 1860's. It was mint and had a grill on the back that looked larger than most grills but did not cover the entire stamp. We measured the grill and two of us agreed on the size. We then checked the catalogue and determined that this stamp with that grill was Scott #82. There are 4 known examples of this stamp, all used, and the used examples have a catalogue value of \$900,000! We also found a used example of this stamp that had the same size grill. We took the stamps to a dealer who confirmed our identification. What a find! Was it real or a great forgery? We explained to the gentleman and his son that what he had might be very valuable but would need to be expertized. To sell the material it would need to be placed up for auction at a large auction house.

The gentleman was getting very tired at this point and he and his son had to leave. We had less than 20 minutes from start to finish to evaluate the collection and explain how they might go about getting a better evaluation if they wanted to sell the material. Although some of the stamps might be forgeries, there was enough material that we saw -- but were unable to examine in depth -- to estimate that there could be a few million dollars of great material in that one little box. It just goes to show that we can't judge a collection by its size or presentation. What a truly exciting 20 minutes! We didn't get their names or addresses. The only way we will know if the Scott #82's are real is if, in 2 or 3 years, the inventory reported by Scott increases from 4 to 6.

I have also attached a picture of me looking at the same page of used grilled stamps from my collection. I'll trade for his mint, never hinged any time!

Gary Atkinson is the current Vice-President of NSSS. He collects classic U.S. stamps.



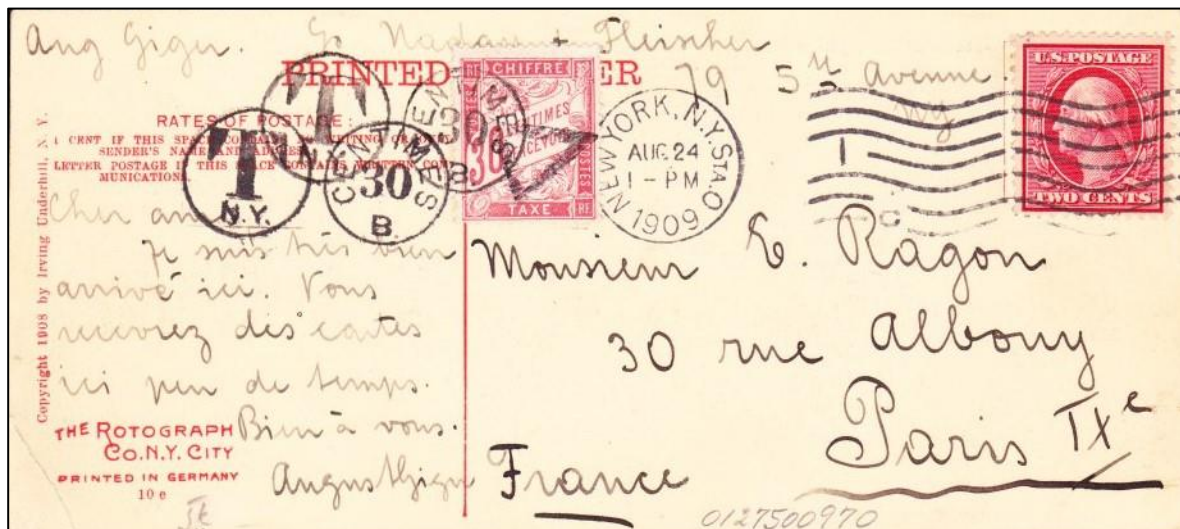
The Singer Building and Postal History

By Patrick Crosby

In Skyscrapers, a very tall book, Judith Dupré states “The forty-one story Singer Building shattered all records for the new heights made possible by steel-frame construction. Its theatrical silhouette signaled the birth of the skyscraper as a symbol of capitalism.” The base of the building was 12-stories and took up an entire block, and the tower above was narrow because the architect, Ernest Flagg, wanted the tower offices to be less dependent on artificial light and for the streets below to receive light and air. The steel-frame construction was a must after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Completed in 1908, this was the headquarters of the Singer Manufacturing Company.

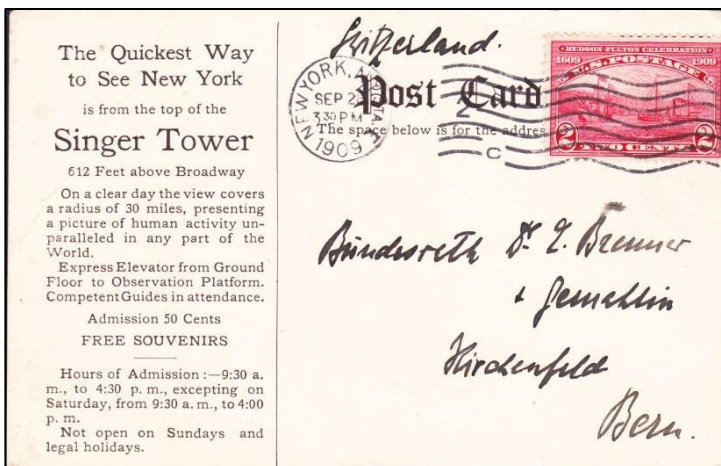
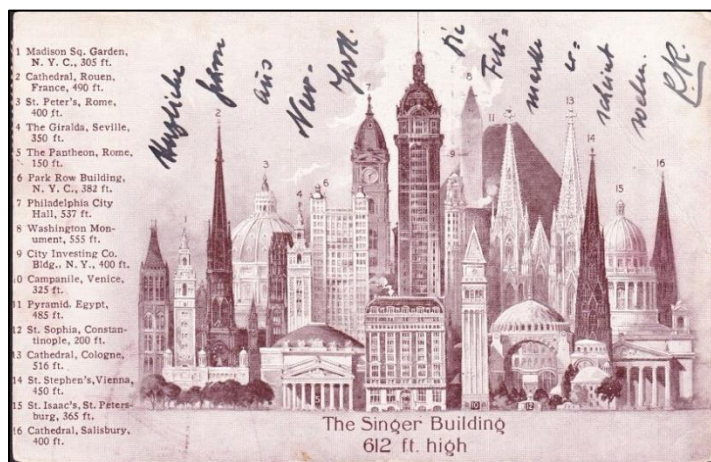


This card postmarked in 1909 shows a panoramic view of the New York Waterfront and the tallest building, to the left of center, is the Singer Building (or Singer Tower). The card is 2¾” tall, but at 6-3/16” long it is too long to receive postcard rates (maximum was 5-9/16”).



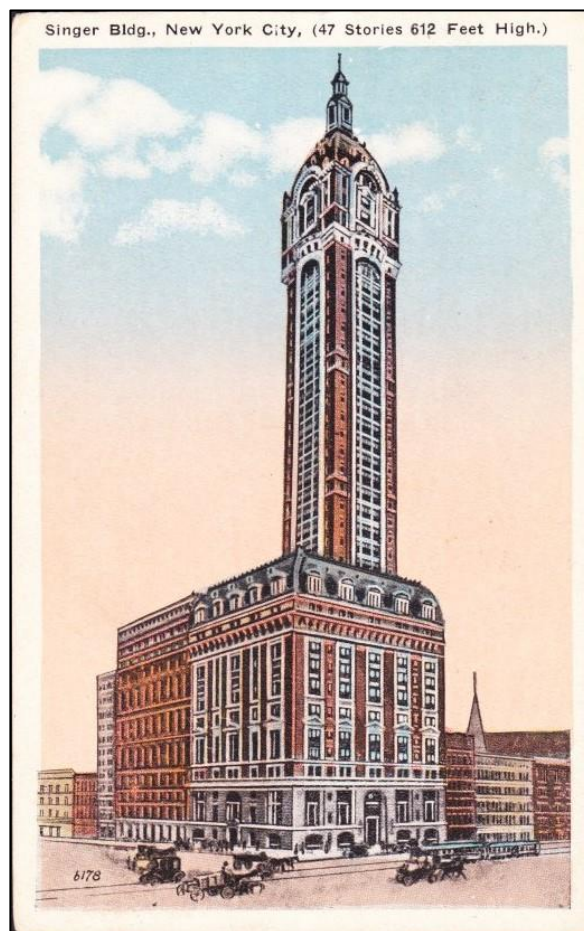
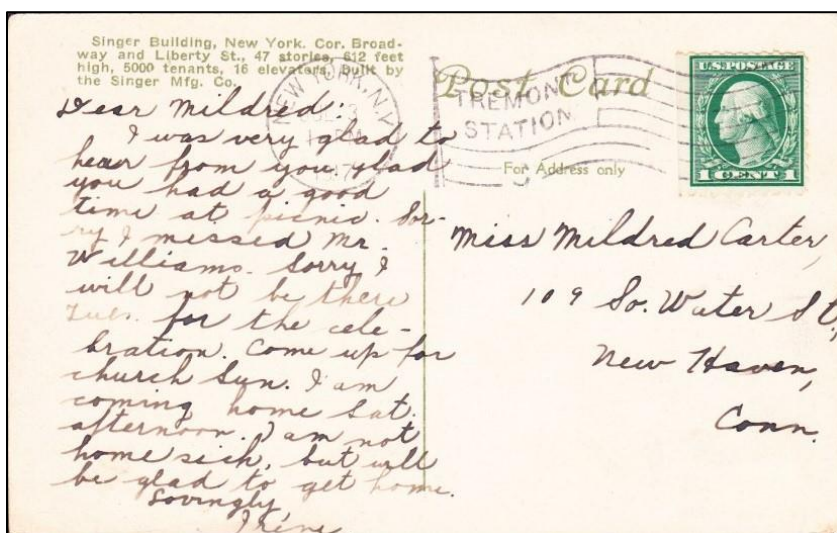
The producer knew this and states that if sent as printed matter (note the required “Printed Matter” at the top) 1¢ was the rate whether domestic or foreign--but there could be no hand written message anywhere on the card, only the return name and address. But since the sender wrote a message and the card was

going to France, the letter rate of 5¢ was required. But he only paid the usual 2¢ foreign card rate. So being 3¢ shy and this deficiency being doubled per Universal Postal Union regulations, the addressee was charged 30 French centimes as evidenced by the handstamps and a black triangle precanceled French 30 centimes postage due stamp (Sc. J34).



The view on the postcard to Switzerland (above) shows the Singer Building higher than the rest of the world's landmark structures. It was the world's tallest building for only 6 months. Also mailed in 1909, this card advertises an Express Elevator ride to the Observation Platform of the Singer Tower. The sender writes a short message on the view side and pays the correct 2¢ postage with a nice Hudson-Fulton Celebration stamp (Sc. 372, cat. \$8.50 on cover) that was issued only 3 days earlier.

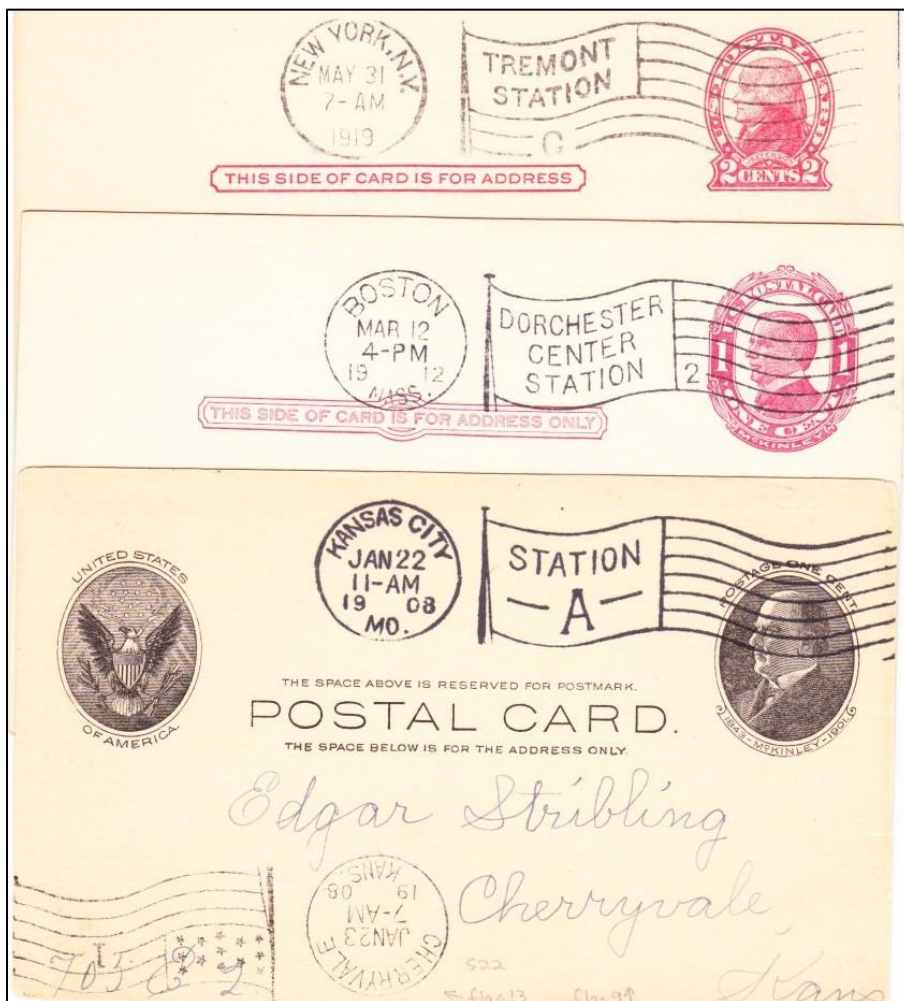
The third card (on the right and below) features an unobstructed view of the Singer Building. The vertical lines running up the tower can also be seen in the first card shown above, which helped me identify the building.



The postal history on the address side of the 1917 card above has to do with the American Postal Machine Company flag cancel from the Tremont Station post office in New York City. Only one other post office in the United States (Fordham Station, NYC) used this style of flag.

Although not scarce, it pops out to a machine cancel collector as compared to the usual style larger station area as shown on the cards on the right. A common style of flag cancel is shown inverted on the bottom card used as a receiving postmark.

Perhaps because of an article by Charles M. Ripley in 1907 before building completion entitled "A Building Forty-Seven Stories High" the Singer Building is often attributed with forty-seven above ground floors instead of forty-one. Once the tallest building ever built, in 1968 the Singer Building was the tallest building ever to be razed.



References:

Judith Dupré, *Skyscrapers* (New York, NY: Black Dog and Leventhal 1996)

Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996* (Portland, OR: CAMA Publishing Co. 1996)

Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011* (Bellefonte, PA: American Philatelic Society, 2011)

Emporis.com/buildings/102519/singer-building-new-york-city-ny-usa

En.wikipedia.org, search Singer Building and Ernest Flagg

Frederick Langford, *Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia*, 4th ed. (Pasadena: Frederick Langford, 2008).

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.

February Quiz - Mexico

By Stan Cronwall

Most of us know where Mexico is located. For those who don't, it is in the extreme southern part of the North American continent south of the United States. Officially it is the United Mexican States - a federal republic. By size it is the fifth largest country in the Americas, with a population of about 120 million. Today it ranks 15th in world GDP and 11th in buying power. By 2050 it is forecast to be 7th largest in GDP.

1. A set of 8 stamps first issued in 1926 for the Pan American Postal Congress was overprinted in both 1930 and 1931 except for the 2-centavo red in 1931. The original 8 were also printed on un-watermarked paper for presentation to delegates to the Universal Postal Congress at their London meeting in 1929.
What color was used for these special presentation issues?
a. The same as the issued set b. Black c. Blue d. Red
2. Scott has some stamps of Mexico placed in a category seldom seen in their catalogs, "INSURED LETTER STAMPS". The graphics on these stamps certainly leave no doubt as to the message they intended to convey. Which of the following illustrations are not used on these stamps?
a. Padlock b. Safe c. Registered Mail Bag d. Messenger on a motorcycle e. Vault
3. Mexico continued to issue Air Post stamps long after many nations ceased issuing this type of postage. How many Mexican Air Post stamps does Scott recognize?
a. 378 b. 150 c. 636 d. 541
4. Artist Diego Rivera designs are used on a set of two stamps and a souvenir sheet issued in 1966 to publicize the upcoming 19th Olympic Summer Games to be held in Mexico City in 1968. The souvenir sheet has two imperf stamps similar to the basic set, but with one exception. What is the difference?
a. No Gum b. Printed on watermarked paper c. Perfs are simulated
5. The Palace of Fine Arts (also known as the National Theater) has been featured on five Mexican stamps beginning in 1923 and then to commemorate its 50th, 60th, 70th and 80th anniversaries. The 1923 1 peso stamp had two versions. What was the difference?
a. One was red-brown & black and the other red brown & blue
b. The Dome has an eagle on Type I, but no eagle on Type II
c. The building is shown under construction on one and completed on the other
6. Mexico's population is largely Catholic. However, Christmas was not celebrated on any stamps until 1977. The initial few years had basically non-religious images of poinsettia, candles and decorations. The first time there was any visual reference to the Nativity was in 1979 showing a shepherd holding a staff with a star and his sheep. Somehow Scott got the description wrong when it came to the Air Post version. They describe the visual as?
a. A boy with his sheep b. Sheep under a star in the east c. A girl and a Christmas Tree
7. The International Year of Physics was commemorated on a stamp in 2005. Is the person shown riding the bicycle really Albert Einstein?
a. Yes b. No c. Your imagination has run amok

8. Mexico has had several Formula 1 racing drivers including today's Sergio Perez. The only one to be a victor was Pedro Rodriguez twice in 1967 in South Africa, and in 1970 in Belgium. Formula 1 racing was the subject on a stamp for several years in the 1980's and 1990's. How many different stamps were issued on this theme?
a. 10 b. 2 c. 5 d. 7
9. On May 29, 1929 certain proofs or essays of the 1928 Air Post stamps were sold at the Post Office in Mexico City. They were printed in different colors than the regularly printed issues. There were 7 perf varieties and 2 imperf in a total of 225 copies. The intent was that they were for collectors, but the majority were actually used on air mail that was sent out that day. What were the colors of these proofs/essays?
a. Dark Blue & Claret b. Blue & Red Brown c. Olive Green & Violet d. Scott does not report the colors
10. A souvenir sheet and 10 stamps were issued for the 1992 Summer Olympic Games held in Barcelona. Which of these sports were represented on the stamps?
a. Baseball b. Greco-Roman Wrestling c. Basketball d. None of these

Bonus Question:

In the 1930's into the 1950's, artist Francisco Eppens Helguera designed a number of stamps in a bold Mexican Art Deco style. Perhaps his most famous design was a man being attacked by a giant mosquito. This image appeared first in 1939 on a Postal Tax Stamp that was obligatory on all mail. The money was used to aid in a drive against malaria. The stamp was re-issued in 1944 and 1947. Of the three issues, which were watermarked?

- a. All three b. Only RA 16 c. Only RA 19 d. Both RA 16 & RA 19

The February 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 February meetings or email to post-boyquiz@renostamp.org

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

Silent auction at Feb. 8 meeting

A silent auction consists of 17 binders of addressed First Day Covers complete for years 1977 through 2011. Each cover is mounted on a page with a write up of the subject matter. All covers are clean and in very fine condition.



Stan Cronwall estate donation

Here is a list of the books/publications donated by Elaine Cronwall from Stan's estate. For now, the books will be in the NSSS library and available for loan by members only. **Dave Gehringer** will keep track of the books loaned out.

The 1936 Olympic Games: A Philatelic History by James F. Danner
A History of America in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps by Chris West
A History of Britain in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps by Chris West
Catalog of Displaced Persons Prisoners of War Concentration Camps and Ghetto Stamps by Stereo Stamps
Confederate States of America: The Special Postal Routes by Lawrence L. Shenfield
The Concise Catalogue of Embroidered Silk Postcards by John Westland
Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Hand-Book 1959 by the Dietz Press
Handbook of Carpatho-Ukrainian Philately by Jay Carrigan and Ingrid Kuzych
The One-Cent Magenta by James Barron
Patriotic Envelopes of the Civil War by Steven R. Boyd
The Penny Post: 1680 - 1918 by Frank Staff
The Postal History of Austria: 1938 - 1946 by Keith Trammer
Postcards of the Wehrmacht Volume One by Matthew A. Roth
Post Dates by Kenneth A. Wood
Put A Stamp on It! by Herman Herst, Jr.
Railroad History on American Postage Stamps by Anthony J. Bianculli
Stamp Counterfeiting: The Evolution of an Unrecognized Crime by H.K. Petchel
The Stamps of the NSDAP (Nazi Party) and its Sub-Organizations by Martin Erler

Also included:

Two Michel *German Postal Stationary Catalogs 1999*
Minkus *Germany Stamp Catalog 1970*
After the Battle #126 (British History Magazine)

Some of these publications were used by Stan to develop many of his 17 philatelic exhibits shown at the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Shows over the years.

Vassar Post Office Display by John Walter



The philatelic display at the Vassar post office was changed on January 30. The two frames have material for Valentine's Day with Love stamps and covers, plus another frame with Black History & Heritage Month and President's Day material. Talked with a new postal clerk who was directing postal patrons by the display. She asked if I was with the postal service and why was a "customer" moving the floor display case around. It turned into an interesting conversation about the postmaster allowing the stamp club to set up and maintain revolving displays every 4-6 weeks using the locked wall display cases. I also invited her to volunteer to help with the USPS table at our stamp show on July 25-26.

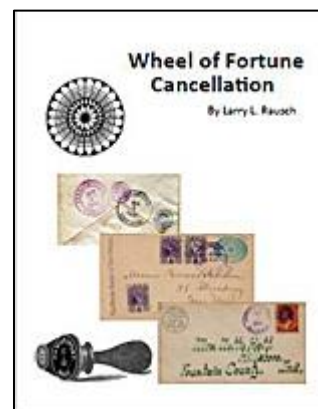
Other upcoming library displays already scheduled will be in July at the Carson City Library; August and September at the South Valleys Library in Reno; and, also in September at the Zephyr Cove Library.

If anyone wants to help with the displays, please talk with John at any of the club meetings. It's always nice to have an extra set of eyes during the setup.

The photo of the display cases can only be taken at this angle because of severe glare from the overhead lights and sun light from the window immediately in front of the display.

Free Stuff on the Internet

If you are interested in fancy cancels, Larry Rausch is offering a free 136-page work with color images on **“Wheel of Fortune Cancellations.”** The free download is on the Rochester Philatelic Society website. You can also download and read the latest society newsletter. I looked for Nevada cancels since Nevada is on the list for a cancel from Ely. Going to that page lacks an image of the cancel. The study also has the history of the canceling devices with illustrations.
<http://www.rpastamps.org/wof.html>

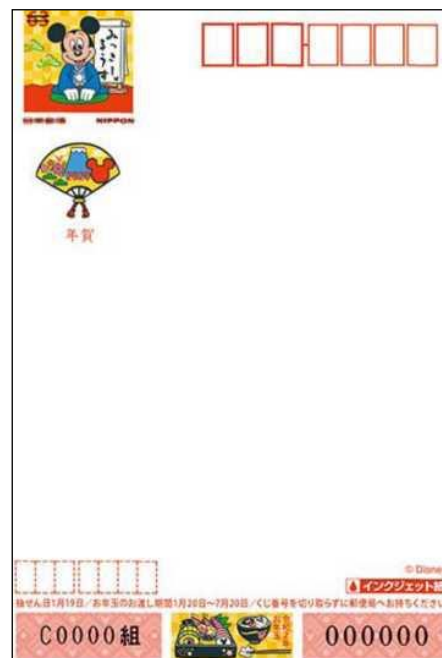


Free U.S. album pages from 1847 to 2019 by Kevin Blackston: <https://www.philosateleia.com/album/>

FREE membership is available in the **Disneyana on Stamps Society**. Members receive access to the quarterly online journal *Disnimation*. Also available is a complete checklist of Disneyana on Stamps from 1968 to 2018; free want ads; up to date information on new issues; back issues of *Disnimation*; ATA news; updates of the *Handbook of Disney on Stamps*; and more. The society publishes information not only on Disney stamps but also all the Superheroes, and Star Wars characters. Since it is an online/Internet group, the registration is done on the website.

On the right is the latest Disney New Year card issued on 1 Nov 2019 as part of the Japan 2020 New Year suite of postcards. It depicts Mickey in Japanese clothes celebrating the Lunar New Year. The pre-printed stamp shows Mickey Mouse as the word rat and mouse are the same in Japanese. The original postcard design is denominated 63 yen and contains a hidden Mickey.

<https://disnimation.wixsite.com/doss>



The Postcard Album website is great for researching information on many German publishers of old picture post cards. Take a look at some of the picture post card research features, historical background, major German postcard printers/exporters, logo's and trademarks, postcard finds and trivia etc. Old issue of The Postcard Album are free pdfs. <http://www.tpa-project.info/>

Modern Fake Stamp Forgeries created from stamp issues produced by The Format International Security Printers. From the website creator: “In late 2014 I discovered large quantities of fake and forged stamps and souvenir sheets of issues that were printed in the 1970's and 1980's by the Format International Security Printers are being flooded onto the market via online auction sites like ebay, Delcampe, Bonanza and Amazon.” The author updated his website with new information in 2019 including some expertizing certificates on the fake stamps.

<http://www.golowesstamps.com/reference/formatprinters/Modern%20Fake%20Stamps/mod-ern fake stamps.htm>