

Post Boy



January 2021
Volume 54, Issue 1

Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M. - until further notice

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Announcements

January Stamp Club Meetings:

January 9 at 10 a.m. - Virtual meeting only. Zoom instructions will be sent a few days before the meeting.

January 23 at 10 a.m. - Virtual meeting only. Zoom instructions will be sent a few days before the meeting. Immediately following the general meeting there will be a **Board meeting**. All members can attend.

Urgently Needed - A Quiz Master for developing the Post Boy monthly quiz. Contact John Walter editor@renostamp.org

On-line Auction #5 - Auction lots are being accepted until noon on Jan. 12. Email lot images and descriptions to Dave Parsons:

NSSSauctions@gmail.com

ONLY CLUB MEMBERS may participate.

On-line bidding will start Jan. 16 at noon, ends Jan. 21 at noon.

Auction instructions are on the webpage. <https://renostamp/auction>

2020 Linn's Stamp Poll - For the past few years, our stamp club has voted for the best and worst stamp issues at meetings in Jan. and Feb. The voting ballots were then sent as a club to Linn's. Since there are no in-person club meetings the stamp poll needs to be done on-line. Here is the link: <https://www.linns.com/Poll>

Correction in Dec. issue: The editor neglected to list the contents on page one under Inside This Issue - the box on the left. I hope everyone is reading the Post Boy because I did not get any complaints or comments about this error. Maybe it was just a test. The corrected issue is available on the club website: <https://renostamp.org>

Post Boy Reporter

December 12 virtual meeting

- With increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in the local area only virtual meetings will held until further notice. The meeting was conducted by **Harvey Edwards**. Attendance was 20 with 18 members and two guests, Dale Eggen and Santa Claus. Nobody knows the true identity of our philatelic Santa so it seems like he is real this pandemic year. Thanks to **Dave Parsons** for allowing the club to use his paid Zoom account so we can have these virtual meetings.



Notice Santa signed in as “North Pole.” He was a nice surprise.

Dave Parsons reported on the club online Auction #4 which ended on Dec. 12. There were 102 lots listed with 57 sold for a total of \$430.76. The four club auctions this year had 289 member lots and 142 blue sheet (donated) lots for a total of about \$1,352. Member's lots grossed \$454 and the club lots grossed \$898. The next online auction will start on Jan. 16 at noon and end on Jan. 21 at noon. More information on page 1 and the website.

Harvey Edwards ordered and received some “novelty” valid postage stamps on toilet paper. He says one of those stamps will be in the January auction. **Harry Punkham** rejoined the stamp club after being out of town for a few years.

A virtual raffle was conducted with **Howard Grenzebach** winning an unopened pane of the 2015 Inverted Jenny stamp with a face value of \$12. There are still over 50 undiscovered upright Jenny panes worth about \$50,000 each. I'm sure Howard will let us know if he is so fortunate to have an upright Jenny pane.

There was a lengthy discussion mainly between **Harvey Edwards**, **Dean McKay**, and Dale Eggen about having presentations at our virtual meetings. If anyone has extensive knowledge about using presentations during a Zoom meeting, please contact Harvey. Dean suggested that three volunteers are needed: the presenter using PowerPoint slides (or jpeg files), the moderator (Harvey or the Program Chair), and a producer with knowledge of the Zoom program. One suggestion is contacting UNR to have an intern run the session as a producer.

Dale Eggen, member of the San Francisco Chapter of the Western Cover Society, announced the chapter will have a virtual meeting on Jan. 9 at 11:30 a.m. Contact SFCOFTHEWCS@OUTLOOK.COM for more information. Presentation will be by Scott Prior on Langton's Nevada routes.

Howard Kadohiro and **Harvey Edwards** lead a discussion on Exhibiting and encouraged members to start planning an exhibit even as a Non-Competitive entry. Have a theme or plan and use material to illustrate your story. It's a great way to know your collection and develop more knowledge about it. There was also a discussion on those collecting Nevada history with Dale Eggen and **Harvey Edwards**.

Letter to Editor: In the December Quiz, mention was made of two Christmas Islands. The first was Kiritimati (4 “i”s in the Republic of Kiribati). It provides a bit of interesting trivia.

During the hours 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., Reno time, while most of the world celebrates one of two calendar days, Wednesday OR Thursday for instance, thanks to Kiritimati the celebration covers one of three days simultaneously, Wednesday, Thursday AND Friday.

The Republic of Kiribati is the only nation to be situated in all four quadrants (four hemispheres) of the world. Not many people have even heard of Kiribati. It just takes a stamp collector!

Miss the meetings! **Will Egger**

Editor: Pronounced “Ki-ris-mas,” Kiritimati Island has the largest land area (125 square miles) of any atoll in the world. Captain Cook named the atoll Christmas Island when he arrived on Christmas Eve in 1777. The Republic of Kiribati is an independent island nation in the central Pacific Ocean, gaining its independence in 1979 from the United Kingdom. The capital, South Tarawa, is the most populated area.

The permanent population is just over 110,000 (2015), more than half of whom live on Tarawa atoll. The nation comprises 32 atolls and one raised coral island, Banaba. The nation has a total land area of 313 square miles which is dispersed over 1.4 million sq. mi.

Kiribati's easternmost islands, the southern Line Islands are south of Hawaii. Kiribati is the only country in the world to be situated in all four hemispheres.



Small map show Kiribati islands spread across the four hemispheres. Kiritimati Island is in the right upper area, just above the Equator.

Larger map shows Kiribati nation in relation to other Pacific Islands and Oceania.

Scott catalog description - “Kiribati, former Gilbert Islands, consists of the Gilbert, Phoenix, Ocean, and Line Islands.” Scott numbering for Kiribati starts with #325 following numbers for the Gilbert Islands. Alas, there is no Scott #1 for the Republic of Kiribati.

On the right is a 1999 Christmas stamp commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. Scott #754



Fake Cancel on a New Year's Postcard

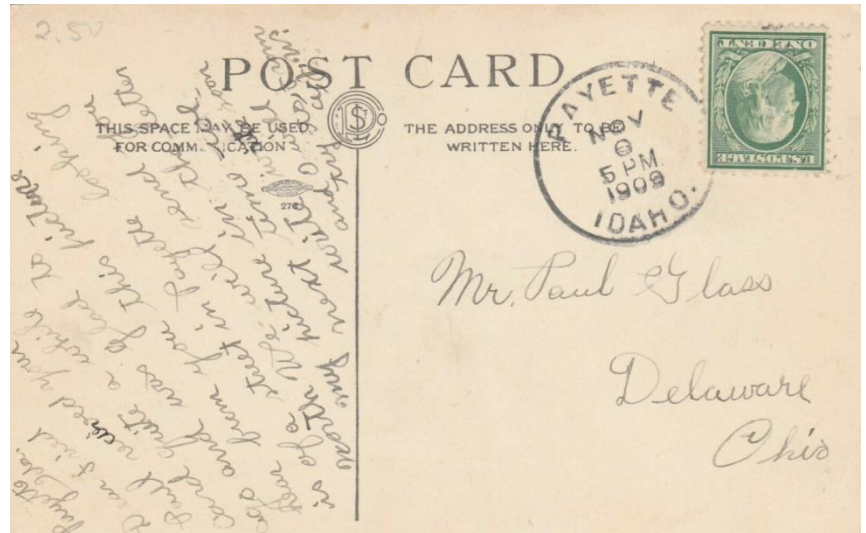
By Patrick Crosby

Why would someone create a fake cancel for Payette, Idaho, on a postcard for the 1909 New Year? Perhaps the answer is nobody knows. But the "December 28, 1908" card is still interesting.



New Year Greeting on back of fake cancel post card

Compared to actual contemporary Payette, Idaho, duplex handstamp cancels, as the one shown here, on the right, from November 6, 1909, the layout of the obviously hand drawn circle date stamp (cds) is different on the fake cancel. Whereas real post office cancels from Payette for the era show "IDAHO" at the bottom of the dial, the fake cancel shows "IDA" after "PAYETTE."



Post Card with legitimate cancel Nov. 6, 1909



Enlargement of fake cancel

When the postcard is held to a strong lamp the circle of the fake dial can be seen continuing under the stamp. Apparently the faked cds was drawn on the card before a used, common Scott #300 was applied, then the circle was again completed on the stamp. The killer (or obliterator) part of the duplex cancel on the stamp does not flow over and cancel the card – in philatelic language, the stamp is not tied to the postcard (except in this case by the fake cds). Also, in the lower left part of the stamp can be seen an arc which was part of the cds of the stamp's original cover.

However, there is what may be a clue as to why a cancel was faked on this postcard. As of February 16, 1907, what we now call “glitter” cards, which were often produced using mica or glass, were forbidden in the mails because they could injure postal personnel and damage postal equipment. A clarification of this ruling effective April 26, 1907 allowed “glitter” cards if properly coated or if enclosed in an envelope. It would not make sense for “glitter” cards to be commercially produced for the 1909 New Year since they were no longer allowed “as is” in the mails. The sender of this fairly plain postcard likely made it a New Year’s card using a readily available glue pen and gold-colored mica. The postmark was drawn, the stamp added, and then he/she dropped the card in an envelope for mailing. When the card was separated from its mailing envelope, the addressee could still see it was from their friends or family in Payette, Idaho, who went out of their way to creatively say HAPPY NEW YEAR!

References:

The Daily Postal Bulletin, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C., Vol. XXVIII, No. 8224 (February 20, 1907) and No. 8233 (April 27, 1907).

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.

Vassar Post Office Display

By John Walter

The two display cases were changed to reflect the following themes: Happy New Year, Valentine’s Day, President’s Day and Black History and Heritage Month. This should keep me out of the post office for two months.



U.S. Army Carries the Air Mail 1934

By Tom Reyman

In the mid-1920's, the United States Post Office Department decided to improve and expand the delivery of mail by airplane. Under the leadership of Postmaster General Walter Brown, a call for bids was made to commercial airline companies for them to carry domestic mail by air along defined routes. The first five contracts for what became known as Contract Air Mail (CAM) routes were awarded on October 7, 1925 and the first flight occurred on February 15, 1926. Postmaster Brown continued to complete further contracts until by 1930 there were 34 CAM routes across the United States.

The airlines flying these routes were subsidized by the Post Office at a rather high cost. Even though the service provided by the airlines met expectations, it was rightly pointed out that three corporations (General Motors, the Aviation Corporation of America-AVCO, and Boeing-Pratt & Whitney) dominated the rights to these routes to the exclusion of any new companies and this situation was the result of decisions made by Postmaster Brown. After objections were raised in the U.S. Congress about the high costs and the lack of competition, the U.S. Attorney General rendered an opinion against the existing arrangements.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt stepped in and on February 9, 1934, cancelled the existing contracts and asked the U.S. Army Air Corps to provide the air mail service. Even though the Army did not have adequate aircraft or pilots trained in that type of flying service, the Army agreed to take on the task. The air routes were modified to streamline the service, resulting in 15 routes being flown by the Army. Salt Lake City, Chicago, New York, and Atlanta were designated as "hubs" to distribute mail in each region of the country.

Under the newly appointed Postmaster General, James Farley, the first Army flights began at midnight on February 20, 1934. While the service by the Army was generally good, the lack of proper equipment, inadequate training, and bad weather in the Spring of 1934 resulted in more than expected airplane crashes and pilot injuries and deaths. These results led to negative public opinion and in May 1934, contract airmail service through commercial airlines was reestablished with a new set of contract carriers.

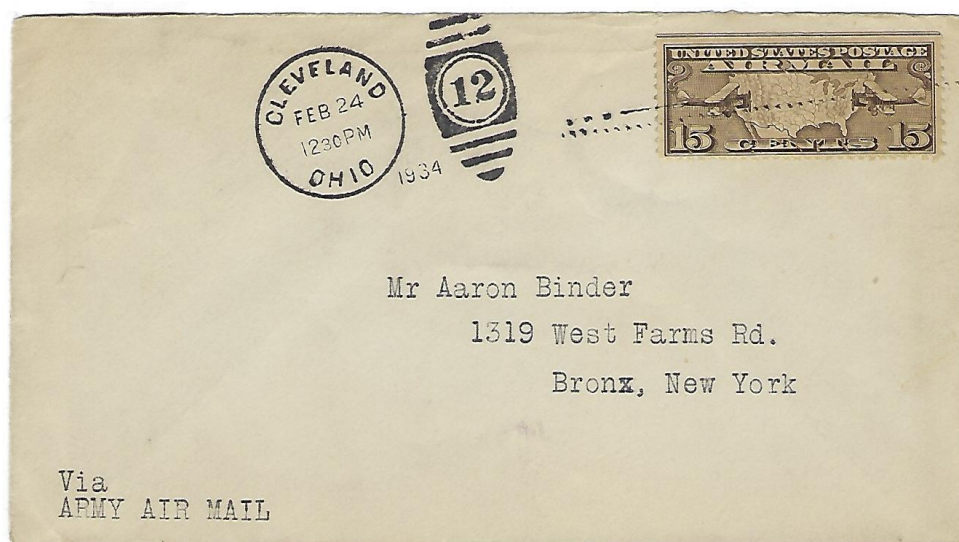
The three covers shown are from the era of flights by the Army Air Corp.



The Eastbound First Flight cover from Los Angeles to New York was postmarked on February 19 at 9:30 in preparation for the initial flight at 12:01 AM on February 20.



The Westbound cover from Newark, New Jersey to Los Angeles, California (near Venice, California) was postmarked at 9:30 AM on February 20.



The third cover from Cleveland, Ohio to the Bronx, New York (arriving at Newark) carries a 15¢ air mail stamp (Scott C8) first issued in 1926,

References:

- American Air Mail Catalogue, Volume 1, Seventh Edition, 2014; Pages 2-3
- R.E.G. Davies, Fallacies and Fantasies of Air Transport History, 1994 - "Legalized Murder (1934)", Pages 41-50

Tom Reyman is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member whose collecting interests are U.S. FAM covers, general Air Mail covers, Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail stamps and covers, and Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) covers.

The Penny Back

By Emmanuel GPS with Wikipedia's help.



The Penny Black was the **world's first adhesive postage stamp** used in a public postal system. It first was issued in Great Britain on May 6, 1840. It features a profile of Queen Victoria. In 1837, British postal rates were high, complex and anomalous. At the time it was normal for the recipient to pay postage on delivery, charged by the sheet and on distance traveled. By contrast, the Penny Black allowed letters of up to half an ounce to be delivered at a flat rate of one penny, regardless of distance. The idea had at least been suggested earlier in the

Austrian Empire [now Slovenia], Sweden, and also perhaps Greece.



When the young Queen Victoria was presented with the idea, it was explained to her and shown a sheet of this stamp. Her first reaction to this innovation was very negative. She was allegedly heard to say: "This is utterly disgusting; you mean people will lick my face?"

The portrait of Victoria was engraved by Charles Heath and his son Frederick, based on a sketch provided by Henry Corbould. This portrait of Victoria remained on British stamps until her death in 1901, although by then she was 81 years old. All British stamps still bear a portrait or silhouette of the monarch somewhere on the design. They are the only postage stamps in the world that do not indicate a country of origin; the monarch's image symbolizes the United Kingdom. A two-penny stamp printed in blue [toepence blue] covering up to an ounce was issued a week later on May 8, 1840.



The Penny Black lasted less than a year. A red cancellation was hard to see on the black design and the red ink was easy to remove; both made it possible to re-use cancelled stamps. Stamps were also used as currency allowing people to purchase flour, bread & other staples. In February 1841, the Treasury switched to the Penny Red and began using black ink for cancellations instead, which was more effective and harder to remove.

The stamps were printed in imperforated sheets to be cut with scissors for sale and use. The total print run was 286,700 sheets, containing a total of 68,808,000 stamps. Many were saved, and in used condition they remain readily available to stamp collectors [about \$100.00 on eBay]. The only known complete unused sheets of the Penny Black are owned by the British Postal Museum.

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 every one of the stamps shown in this article.

January Quiz - Philatelic Abbreviations & Terms by Stan Cronwall

If you have been a stamp collector for more than a half hour, you are probably familiar with the abbreviations and terminology of the hobby. Well, maybe not so much. Read on:

1. What does the abbreviation N.G. stand for?
a. No Gum b. Noir Gum c. Neutral Gum - that is no color
 2. In the philatelic world, the word “albino” is used to describe a rare occurrence on stamped envelopes. What is this rarity?
a. The cover failed to take any ink b. The design impression is on the cover, but there is no ink
c. The only color that will print is pink
 3. The abbreviation “Imperf.” means imperforate. But what does imperforate mean?
a. The stamp is perforated on the top and bottom only b. The stamp is perforated on the left and right sides but not top or bottom c. The stamp has no perforations
 4. In stamp collecting, what does the term “transit” mean?
a. The stamp has the same visual element on both sides b. The stamp visual is shown upside down on the reverse side c. You’ll never know because the reverse side is covered by gum d. This is just a weird idea dreamed up by the quiz master
 5. Many country collectors often expand their interest beyond the simple acquisition of each new issue and, also collect FDCs. What does this abbreviation stand for?
a. First Day Cover b. Franked Day Cover c. Final Day Cover
 6. What does the term “rouletting” mean?
a. A form of gambling in casinos b. Adding a red ink overprint to a stamp c. A process by which slits are cut between stamps to ease separation.
 7. The abbreviation “Wmkd.” means watermarked. What does watermarked mean?
a. Designs which are impressed into the paper on which stamps are printed? b. Stamps that are damaged in the process of being soaked off background paper c. Minor stamp flaws created by worn printing plates
 8. Which of these philatelic terms is used to describe a pair of stamps when one is upside down in relationship to the other?
a. Matasello b. Tete-Beche c. Se-Tenant
 9. What is the term for stamps that are no longer valid for postage?
a. Invalid b. Demonetized c. Dead Postage
 10. What is the term for a pattern pressed into stamp paper that makes it difficult to remove cancellation ink?
a. Watermark b. Emboss c. Grill
- BONUS: Stamp colors that run when wet are referred to as?
a. Bleeders b. Fugitives c. Runners

The January 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

Dec. Quiz Answers: 1. a 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. c 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. a 10. c Bonus: b & d
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Buy Want Sell Trade

For Sale: Black Showgard & Prince stamp mounts mostly in strips, many different sizes. Contact member **Mike Potter** at (775) 359-9419 or email: potter0465@sbcglobal.net.

For Sale: The entire estate of **John Wetterling** which consists of mostly Swedish material along with some U.S. and other countries. The catalog value is roughly \$50,000 with \$3,000 to \$4,000 in U.S. There is a large quantity of stamps including binders, notebooks, pages, and singular stamps, booklets, postcards, postal history and lots are already in order by Scott catalog. For those who remember John, he did many stamp club meeting presentations on things like rocket mail, balloon mail, ship mail, etc. Somewhere in the collection is a Hindenburg postcard which was his favorite most recent find. **Marla Anne Green** is selling everything for \$10,000, nothing is being held back. Please text Marla at 775-223-4181 if you are interested or have questions. She will rent a U Haul to be delivered to Northern Nevada. She currently lives in Klamath Falls, OR.

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 **Nadia 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: U.S. aerogramme: #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. Now that everyone has been home for a few months and looking at or working at your favorite hobby, how about a short story on some of your favorite items, recent purchases, country or topic you are working on, etc. Submit article to editor@renostamp.org

2021 Reno Stamp & Cover Show is scheduled for July 24 and 25 at the Bowling Museum in the National Bowling Stadium, 300 Center Street, downtown Reno.

Of course, the show depends on CDC and state guidelines regarding the COVID pandemic. Will the social distancing guidelines be relaxed? Will we still be required to wear masks/facial coverings? Will the venue have capacity requirements? A lot is unknown at this point in time.

But in anticipation for the show, start to plan a show exhibit now. Need advice about exhibiting? There are many members who have successfully exhibited and are willing to answer any questions or help in any way. Contact person is **Howard Kadohiro**.