

Post Boy



May 2021
Volume 54, Issue 5

In-person & Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M.
Silverada Estates Clubhouse, 2301 Oddie Blvd, Reno

Officers:

President - Harvey Edwards
president@renostamp.org

Vice President - James Steckley
vp@renostamp.org

Secretary - John Walter
secretary@renostamp.org

Treasurer - Erik Fields
treasurer@renostamp.org

Directors:

George Ray

Dave Gehringer

dave@renostamp.org

Howard Kadohiro

howardk@renostamp.org

Howard Grenzebach

howardg@renostamp.org

Dave Parsons

davep@renostamp.org

PB Editor & Webmaster

John Walter

editor@renostamp.org

<https://renostamp.org/>

PO Box 2907,

Sparks, NV 89432

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Announcements
2. Post Boy Reporter
3. Returning Members
4. Something to Die For?
6. Penny Boxes & Books
7. Quiz - Syria
9. Vassar Post Office Display
10. Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Announcements

May Stamp Club Meetings: In-person and online

May 8 at 10 a.m. - For in-person meetings COVID-19 precautions (facial mask, social distancing and use of hand sanitizers) will be in effect. Zoom instructions will be sent a few days before the meeting.

May 22 at 10 a.m. - Zoom instructions will be sent a few days before the meeting.

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.

In anticipation for the show, start to plan an 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. This year will have non-competitive exhibits plus My Favorite Thing pages. Contact person is **Dick Dreiling** for exhibiting information.

Online Auction #9 - Online bidding will start May 11 at noon, ending May 20 at noon. Auction instructions are on the webpage.

<https://renostamp.org/auction>

Send images and lot descriptions to Dave Parsons at:

NSSSauctions@gmail.com Auction lots must be received by May 9.

Bylaws revision: Please make sure you read all the way to page 10. **Harvey Edwards** explains the Why, What, and the Vote the members need to take at the June 12 meeting for revisions and an addition to the Bylaws.

At the April 24 Board of Directors meeting, the decision was made to purchase equipment so the club can continue both in-person and virtual meetings on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

Club elections are coming August 14. Nominations are needed for President, Treasurer and two Director positions. A volunteer is needed as Nominations & Elections Chair. Nominations forms can be obtained from **John Walter**.

Post Boy Reporter

April 10 virtual & in-person meeting – The meeting was conducted by **Harvey Edwards** using a new remote-controlled web camera, bluetooth speaker and micropone along with the screen projector. Attendance was 22 members (15 in-person and 7 virtually) and one visitor, Eileen Siewert from Truckee, CA. The attendance included two members rejoining, **Harry Pinkham** and **Jeanne Paquin**. Both were gone from the local area for a few years and are now back in town. **Marge Glass** made a brief appearance to drop off philatelic publications from **Paul Glass**. Thanks to **Dave Parsons** for the use of his Zoom subscription for these virtual meetings. This is our 25th virtual meeting and today starts with combined in-person attendance.



Harvey Edwards getting his laptop ready with a second monitor and the projector on the far table.

Dave Parsons reports online Auction #8 starts April 13 and ends April 22. There are 67 auction lots posted on the website. **James Steckley** says some stamp donations will be in the in-person meeting raffle. **Eric Moody** thanked the members for condolences and donations to the Sparks Heritage Museum in honor of his brother, Brian.

Erik Fields reported the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show is progressing with 8 committed dealers. Exhibits will be non-competitive along with My Favorite Thing pages. Eric also reminded members who pay for auction lots to list the lot numbers along with the payment amount to ensure there is an audit trail.

John Walter reports **Eric Moody** has volunteered as quiz master for the Post Boy. New Post Boy articles are always needed. John updates the website main page after each meeting. **Harvey Edwards** presented the nomination certificate for the Dreiling Award to **John Walter**. A photo with the plaque was taken at the meeting and added to the award article in the February Post Boy. https://renostamp.org/post_boy/articles/2021/Dreiling_Award-2020-JohnWalter.pdf

The raffle drawing for an unopened 2013 Inverted Jenny pane (\$12 face) was won by **Erik Fields**. The in-person meeting had 10 raffle prizes with the bonus raffle won by **Howard Grenzebach**. **Eric Moody** won the 50/50 raffle of \$6.00. Harvey showed a slide of online courses offered by ATA and APS and a list of upcoming stamp shows.

April 24 virtual & in-person meeting – The meeting was conducted by **Harvey Edwards**. There were 22 members present, 16 in-person and 6 virtually. This was the first in-person meeting for **David Morton** and first virtual meeting with **Ken Pinkela**.

Mike Potter reported there are 70 members, including some family memberships. **Erik Fields** reported the club treasury has about \$12,000. **Dave Parsons** reported on the completion of the online Auction 8 – 64% of the 67 items sold for a total of \$3,045.75. The gross sales from all 8 online auctions were \$8,825. The club income from all the auctions was \$2,001. The Board approved \$500 for the purchase of a remote-controlled HD webcam and Bluetooth speaker/microphone for use at our meetings. Combined with the PA system purchased a few years ago, making the combined meetings (in-person and online) possible.

Erik Fields reported on the stamp show. Nine dealers have committed so far. PSE needs a room to make a presentation on expertizing.

James Steckley has received some large albums with U.S. and worldwide stamps. They will be in an upcoming auction.

There were 10 raffle prizes for the in-person meeting and a Bonus raffle prize went to **Nadiah**

Beekun. The 50/50 raffle money of \$5 was won by **Howard Grenzebach**. The raffle of an unopened 2013 Inverted Jenny pane (\$12 face) was won by **Gary Atkinson**.

Harvey expressed his frustration in obtaining new issue stamps from the Carson City post office. Everyone was reminded of multiple seminars and classes from APS and ATA and virtual presentations sponsored by various philatelic clubs around the country.

The meeting program was presented by **Steve Foster** showing multiple covers with letters of three families. First were the letters from Helen Wallenda, the high wire act family – The Flying Wallendas. Next was some letters to Ensign Hill, USN, in 1919 mentioning the Spanish Flu. The last group of letters, starting in 1859, told the story of Jane Hick's journey from England to Australia (her marriage there) then moving to Sacramento, CA. The letters were written by her mother in England. All interesting family stories from over a century ago.

Returning Members

Two members who moved out of the area for several years have returned and rejoined our stamp club in April.

Harry Pinkham retired after 22 years in the USAF. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam. His collecting is mostly U.S. mint and Canada. Harry is a civil war buff and is an avid reader.

Jeanne Paquin returned to the Reno-Sparks area after moving to Las Vegas for a job. She will be living in Sparks. Jeanne collects U.S. mint stamps, First Day Covers, Canada, and Great Britain.



Some of the members at the April 24 meeting. Masks and social distancing were practiced.



Something to Die For?

By Stan Cronwall

Looking for a collecting niche that will last you until the very end? How about a non-traditional topical that has no dead end. Okay, enough already with the bad puns.

Let's get serious about a possible new venture in collecting. Ever considered looking into the philatelic symbols of someone's passing? Yes, the covers, cards and stamps that have been used going back to the very earliest years in the history of letters, cards and notifications when communicating with others regarding an individual's death.

The first use of mourning covers dates to the mid-1700's used almost exclusively by royalty and the upper classes. The idea originated in Europe, but by the mid-1800's with reduced postal rates, and machines that could mass produce cheap envelopes, their use expanded both in Europe and the U.S.

The idea then spread to many parts of the world. In fact, there are examples of mourning covers from about 265 countries (some of which no longer exist).

The covers are usually and most often readily identified by black edged envelopes. Some borders are thin while others are quite thick. Many times, the contents consist of black edged cards of condolence or black edged stationary. The covers come in a wide range of sizes and styles.

Popularity of mourning covers declined abruptly in the 1930's, although they remain somewhat in vogue in parts of Europe.



Above is an image of a U.S. mourning cover from the end of the World War I time frame.



Above is an image of a Spanish military censored cover dating from the time of the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930's. It obviously is from a pro-Franco supporter.

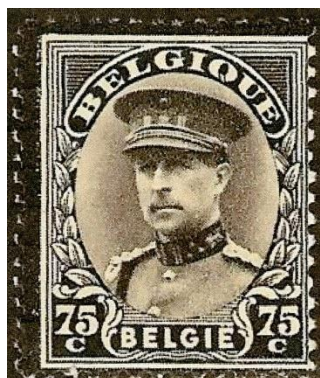


Another, or at least a related collecting possibility, is the area of mourning stamps. Being a German collector, I immediately think of the six stamps issued to mark the passing of World War I hero and then German President Paul von Hindenburg on August 2, 1934. On the left is the set of six stamps issued September 4, 1934 which were carried forward from the longer series issued in 1933 with the difference being the black border overprint to mark Hindenburg's death.



Greece issued two different sets of memorial stamps within about a year and a half time period. The first set was released on December 21, 1945 to mark the death of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who passed April 12, 1945. Note the overprinted stamps with the black border.

The second release was three of the four stamps in the Greek King George II definitive issue of January 24, 1937 (Scott 391-393) surcharged. The stamp images show these were re-issued with black borders and the surcharge amount shown in the upper left-hand corner (Scott 498-500).



Another two black bordered memorial stamps are from Belgium. The first was to mark the passing of King Albert I who ruled for 34 years guiding his country through WW I and its recovery. He died on February 19, 1934. The original issue with his likeness (Scott 228) was issued June 1932. The memorial issue with the black border overprint (Scott 256) was released March 10, 1934.

The second is a set of eight Belgian stamps (Scott B 170-177) which memorialize their beloved Queen Astrid, first wife of King Leopold III and mother of three including two future Kings of the Belgians. She died tragically in a car accident in Switzerland on August 29, 1935. She was only 29 years old. On the right is shown a B 174 pair.

Several other nations have issued mourning stamps to honor those who have gone before. Among these are Austria, the Philippines, Hungary and Finland.



If this subject holds any interest for you, there are collector groups devoted just to this discipline. Keep in mind there are about 265 countries with mourning covers out there. Spread your wings. Get on the web and fly a little.

Stan Cronwall passed away in October 2019. His collecting interests included Germany: Third Reich 1933-45 and the areas it occupied (stamps, covers & cards).

Penny Boxes & Books

By John Walter & Betty Mudge

The club has a huge assortment of donated stamps that are for sale to members at 2¢ each. **Betty Mudge** maintains the foreign or worldwide stamps. Numerous hours were spent by some members to separate the stamps by countries, as listed below. If you are interested in looking at any of these stamps, contact Betty in advance of a meeting. The country boxes can be taken home for careful examination and returned the next meeting. Email Betty at: postboyquiz@renostamp.org or call: 775-972-8237

Gene Smoots maintains numerous boxes of U.S. stamps which also can be taken home to sort through. The U.S. stamps are also only 2¢ each. Call Gene at: 775-359-8570.

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Ajman | Ghana | Norway |
| Angola | Great Britain | Pakistan |
| Argentina | Greece | Panama |
| Australia | Grenada | Peru |
| Austria | Hong Kong | Philippines |
| Belgium | Hungary | Poland |
| Brazil | India | Portugal |
| Bulgaria | Indonesia | Romania |
| Canada | Ireland | Russia |
| Ceylon | Israel | San Marino |
| Chile | Italy | Singapore |
| Republic of China (Taiwan) | Japan | South Africa |
| People's Republic of China | Korea, North & South | Spain |
| Czech Republic | Lesotho | Sweden |
| Denmark | Malaysia | Switzerland |
| Egypt | Mexico | Thailand |
| Finland | Mongolia | Togo |
| France | Netherlands | Turkey |
| German Democratic Republic | New Zealand | United Nations |
| Germany | Nicaragua | Yugoslavia |

In addition to the Penny Boxes, members can borrow books from the club library. **Dave Gehringer** is the librarian. He can bring books to a meeting for a 2-week loan or longer if arrangements are made. The list of library books is on the club website: <https://renostamp.org/library.html>

The club received 15 large boxes filled with books from the estate of Stan Cronwall. Many are non-philatelic but very useful for research. Since Stan specialized in collecting Germany - Third Reich material, there are many books that can be useful if you are interested in this area of collecting.

To dispose of some of the books, they will be offered periodically in the club auction or can be purchased at a nominal price. Dave will bring some books to each meeting to see if members have any interest.

May Quiz – Syria

by Stan Cronwall

Message from Stan: *You are likely to know more about the areas, topics and countries covered in the Post Boy quizzes than I do. Personally, I use these as a self-teaching tool to learn more about them. At the same time, I hope to ignite or re-ignite some interest on your part for learning about them or even perhaps to tickle your fancy enough to consider venturing into these different collecting waters. I have wanted to do a quiz on Syria for several years but, getting through that ball of snakes in the early years was too much. Finally, I decided to commit whatever time was needed to get it done. This quiz took more than 6 hours to develop so I hope you will enjoy it.*

Editor: *Stan Cronwall passed away in October 2019. Before he passed away he authored a number of Post Boy articles and quizzes that are still in the queue for publication. Next month's quiz on Brazil will be Stan's last quiz.*

Now on to Syria. What we now know as Syria has a long history of being footballed around after the area had been a part of the Turkish Province of Sourya. The area was conquered by a combination of British and Arab forces in late 1918 and later partitioned. Turkey had been allied with Germany during WW I, so after cessation of hostilities, the area was broken up and placed under the control of several groups.

The British assumed control of the Palestine and Transjordan regions; the French occupied the sanjaks of Lebanon, Alaouites, and Alexandretta; while the remaining territory including the vilayets of Damascus and Aleppo was established as an independent Arab kingdom. It was this entity that issued the very first Syrian stamps.

French forces from Beirut deposed the king in 1920 followed by two years of military occupation until Syria was mandated to France in 1922. Autonomy replaced the mandate in 1934, but full independence was not achieved until 1946.

In 1958, Syria and Egypt merged to form the United Arab Republic. Syria left this union and became the Syrian Arab Republic in 1961.

Let's begin our philatelic journey with the Scott numbered issues of 420 A and 420 B showing the Hall of Parliament in Damascus.

1. What were the colors of the 1961 stamps that featured the Roman Arch of Triumph at Latakia
 - a. Olive gray and dull green
 - b. Blue green and orange
 - c. Gray brown and dull red brown
2. The air post stamp issued by the Syrian Arab Republic after the dissolution of the UAR in October 1961 has one confusing element.
 - a. The arch at St. Simeon's monastery shows the letters UAR.
 - b. It shows flags of both Syria & Egypt
 - c. The visual is an arch linking Syria & Egypt
3. Including the Syrian Arab Republic semi-postal stamps of May 1968, how many of this kind of stamp were released.
 - a. 4
 - b. 16
 - c. 12
4. In 1968, the regular issues including two designs A 108 and A 114 both had two common visual elements.
 - a. Oil derricks & pipelines
 - b. Pipelines & oil tanker ships
 - c. Derricks & tanker ships

5. Syria issued stamps with special shapes in 2013, 2014 and 2015. The Scott catalog tells us that these values are for the stamps with the surrounding selva whether used or mint.
 - a. True b. False
6. Two stamps were issued in July 1973 featuring the river diversions and dam projects. These projects were for which rivers?
 - a. Euphrates & Tigris b. Euphrates only c. Euphrates and Upper Nile
7. In its history under various mandates, and controlling governments through 1978, Syria has issued over 500 air post stamps as well as air post semi-postals with relatively few dealing with actual planes and airports. But, in February 1977, a regular issue featured a commercial airplane flown by Syrian Airlines. The type of aircraft was?
 - a. Russian Tu 144 b. Lockheed L 1011 c. Boeing 747
8. Moscow hosted the 1980 22nd Olympic summer games. (These were the ones the U.S. missed attending thanks to President Carter). That July, Syria issued a strip of five stamps plus an imperf souvenir sheet. What were the events shown on the souvenir sheet?
 - a. Judo & Boxing b. Weightlifting & Fencing c. Wrestling & Shooting d. None of these
9. The current President of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, first appeared on a Syrian stamps in 2000 honoring his installation as President following the death of his father Hafez al-Assad. The next time he appeared on stamps in 2001 they were issued as a horizontal pair. What distinguished one stamp from the other?
 - a. The values b. The portrait pose c. The color of the frame & values
10. In 2010, Syria marked World Post Day with a stamp that featured 3 air mail envelopes. What identifies these as air mail covers?
 - a. The alternating blue and red borders b. The values of the stamps c. The depictions of planes

Bonus Question: The 2014 World Cup Soccer Championships were held in Brazil. This event was celebrated by Syria with a vertical pair of stamps. The top stamp is distinguished from the bottom by what?

- a. The values only b. The values and shirt colors c. The scores of the matches

While you quiz whizzes dig around in the Scott Catalog for the answers, your Post Boy quiz master is outta here. Perhaps one or two of you have been infected with the need to plow through the early stamps of what became Syria. Good luck!

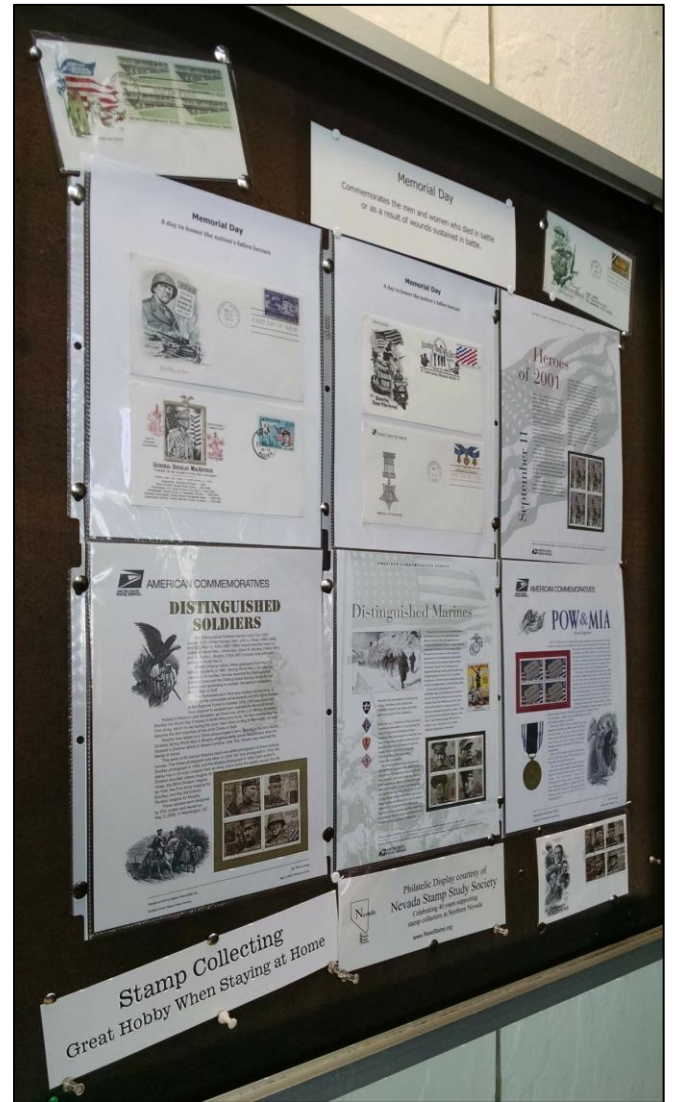
The May quiz is worth **110 Auction Bucks**. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to **Betty Mudge** at the next in-person meeting or email to postboyquiz@renostamp.org

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

Vassar Post Office Display

The post office display was changed on April 2. One frame had the theme for April "Time to Play Ball." The other frame had stamps and covers to remind everyone of Memorial Day on May 31.

Both post office wall display frames are changed every 4 – 6 weeks.



2021 PIPEX Stamp Show May 7 - 9, is completely virtual this year. The show is advertised as the first virtual APS World Series of Philately event. Over 10 presentations & seminars are offered over 3 days. Exhibits are online for viewing. The show and all the events are free.

The website is: <http://pipexstampshow.org> The show sponsors are the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, the Oregon Stamp Society and Portland Philatelic Exhibitions.

Proposed 2021 NSSS Bylaws Revisions

By Harvey Edwards

I'm taking this opportunity to provide members information on WHY the bylaws are being revised and WHAT the revisions are (and are not). And then, at our June 12 meeting, you will be asked to VOTE on accepting the revisions.

First the WHY. The NSSS has long been a 501(c)(7) nonprofit organization. As a 501(c)(7), we are required to "file" taxes annually with the IRS and failure to do so three years in a row jeopardizes the organization's status. That information was not conveyed from Treasurer to Treasurer over the years and NSSS lost its status. NSSS clarified Treasurer and Secretary duties in its 2019 bylaws revision to identify the NSSS's filing requirements. Unfortunately, we missed the grace period to be reinstated as a 501(c)(7).

The NSSS Board of Directors (BOD) saw this as a time to reapply as a 501(c)(7) or to apply as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. In reviewing the bylaws in this light, the BOD identified weaknesses in the bylaws that should be addressed, whether the NSSS is a 501(c)(7) or 501(c)(3).

The WHAT. The proposed 2021 Article I and Article X revisions expands details of the organization's objective and dissolution. Proposed Article XII is a new article that provides guidance on record retention. The wording for the proposed revisions and addition to the bylaws located near this article.

The VOTE. The bylaw approval process requires that proposed revisions be approved by the BOD, be publicized in the Post Boy and then approved by the general membership. The BOD approved the revisions at its April 24, 2021 meeting and are being published in the May Post Boy. Members may provide comments at the regular club meetings or via email any time prior to the vote.

The articles will be voted on individually (3 ballot items). An "aye" vote will be in favor of passage and a "nay" will be against. The vote will be taken at our first meeting in June (the 12th). Members wishing to vote but not able to attend the meeting may cast their ballot via email or regular mail. Emails should be addressed to secretary@renos-tamp.org. Ballots cast by regular mail should be sent to Secretary, Nevada Stamp Study Society, PO Box 2907, Sparks, NV 89432 and should be received by June 5th to ensure being counted. Be sure to identify your vote as being for/against All Articles or the individual articles (Article I, Article X, and Article XII).

Proposed revisions to NSSS bylaws

ARTICLE I Name and Objective

The organization shall be known as the NEVADA STAMP STUDY SOCIETY, INC (The SOCIETY). Its purpose is to educate, develop, and enhance the study and collecting of stamps in the community. It is our belief that the collecting and studying of stamps helps foster the understanding of history, civic pride, patriotism, global responsibility, as well as being a pastime that enriches the mind and improves the quality of life.

ARTICLE X Dissolution of SOCIETY

In the event of the dissolution of the SOCIETY, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds, and the balance of all money and other property received by the SOCIETY from any source, after the payment of all debts and obligations of the SOCIETY shall be used or distributed exclusively for purposes within the intendment of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code as the same exists or as it may be amended from time to time.

ARTICLE XII Record Retention

Records shall be maintained for at least 5 years after they are made. At the end of the record retention period, the board shall review said records to determine whether they are to be archived or destroyed. Such records may include, but not limited to, tax forms, financial statements, bank statements, meeting transaction sheets, receipts of club purchases, vendor contracts, budgets, event reports, etc. The Society's newsletter (The Post Boy) will be retained and archived indefinitely. When appropriate, the newsletter may be archived with other organizations such as the American Philatelic Society.