

# Post Boy



October 2021  
Volume 54, Issue 10

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

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## October is National Stamp Collecting Month

### Announcements

#### October Meetings:

**Oct. 9 – Zoom only** – Saturday at 10 a.m. Zoom instructions will be sent a few days before the meeting.

**Oct. 23 - Zoom only** - Saturday at 10 a.m. Zoom instructions will be sent a few days before the meeting. Scheduled is a philatelic presentation by Heidi Clark, Postmaster, Sparks Post Office.

**Nov. 13 – In-person and Zoom - Auction Bucks auction** – This is the only meeting where you can spend your hard-earned Auction Bucks to purchase real items – philatelic and other “stuff.” Members donate yard/garage sale type items for the auction. A few members usually bring a few bottles of wine or other “valuable” items to spice up the bidding. It’s a fun time for all. Spouses are invited to help spend your bucks.

**Online Auction #13** - Online bidding will start Oct. 12 at noon, ending Oct. 21 at noon. Auction instructions are on the webpage.

<https://renostamp.org/auction> Send images and lot descriptions to **Dave Parsons** at: [NSSSauctions@gmail.com](mailto:NSSSauctions@gmail.com) by noon Oct. 10.

The **October Quiz** is titled “Big Islands, Small Islands.” A great quiz for geography buffs.

The Board discussed and decided to suspend in-person meetings through October because of high COVID-19 positivity rate (over 15%), increased number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Washoe county since August. One club member reported a positive COVID test (with mild symptoms) after being fully vaccinated, after the Sept. 11 meeting. At the Sept. 25 Zoom meeting a few members already received a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine (only a few days after approval).

## Post Boy Reporter

**Sept. 11 meeting** – **George Ray**, **James Steckley** and **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the meeting room. Attendance was 21, with 17 members and one visitor in-person and 3 on Zoom. The visitor, Ken Hopple, is a collector and reminisced about member Al Shay who passed away over a decade ago. Refreshments were provided by Steve Foster and Howard Grenzebach.

**James Steckley** conducted the meeting and displayed ephemera from the 9/11 attack and with a moment of silence to remember those who were lost that day. James has a brochure from Michel's European catalog company on watermarks. If interested in a copy, please contact James.

Two donations were received through **Nadiah Beekun** consisting of a Canadian album and a few other items. They will be included in a future on-line club auction. There were many items on the consignment table for purchase and the free table for pickup.

The raffle had 10 donated items with the Bonus prize won by **George Ray** and the money prize of \$9.00 going to **JJ Johnson**. The door prize of an unopened 2013 Inverted Jenny pane was won by **Howard Grenzebach**.

**Tom Reyman** gave an excellent presentation from his home in Scottsdale, AZ on "Foreign Air Mail Routes and Covers – FAM 1 to FAM 22." Covers and maps were shown of each route with some interesting observations, such as, FAM 3 was the only route within the U.S. – flight from New Orleans to Pilotown, LA then mail transferred to steamers heading to Central and South America. More information on topic on page 3.

**Sept. 25 meeting** – With the increase in the local positivity rate, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19, the in-person meetings are suspended indefinitely. Total Zoom attendance was 17 members.

**James Steckley** reminded everyone this is the 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive meeting via Zoom. **Mike Potter** reported that membership stands at 74.

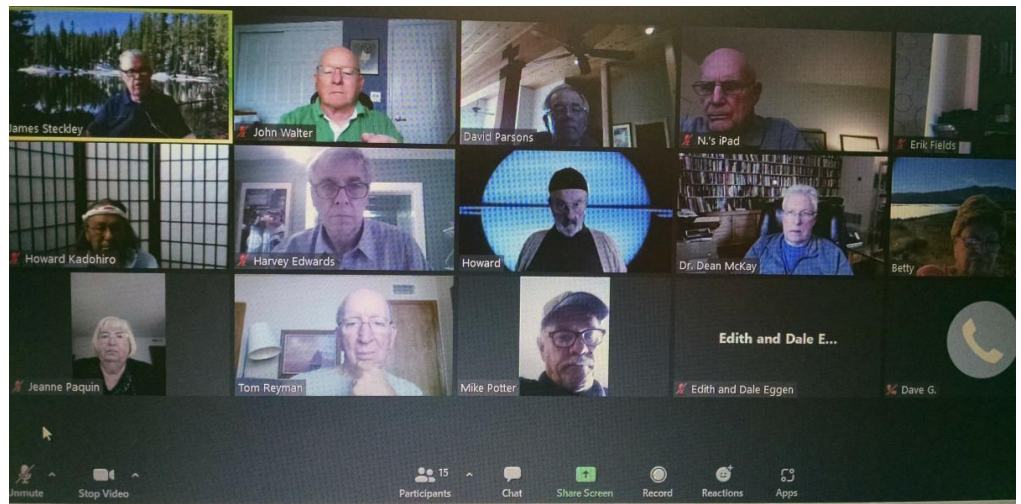
**Dave Parsons** reported on the Sept. on-line auction – 62% of the 85 lots sold for a total of \$423.00. So far, the club had 12 auctions that grossed just over \$11,000. The Oct. auction will start Oct. 12 and end Oct. 21. More sellers are needed. If you have items no longer needed or want to sell your duplicates, this is a great way to sell. A few suggestions for needed material was for U.S. revenues and "unusual" countries, e.g., Latvia.

**Jeanne Paquin** received a few anonymous donations with a 1940 Michel catalog of Europe, a stock book of German stamps, a Canada album, and some covers. All will be in the Oct. auction.

A few members have already received their Pfizer booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

**James Steckley** discussed using Bestine to help dissolve the adhesive from high-denomination U.S. stamps. An article on page 6 describes his method and some sample stamps with backing removed.

The door prize of an unopened 2013 Inverted Jenny pane was won by **Jeanne Paquin**.



Screen shot of Zoom attendees at Sept. 25 meeting.

## Foreign Air Mail Information on the Internet

Here is some reference information on the presentation given by **Tom Reyman** at the Sept. 11 meeting. There is a lot of information and inexpensive covers available on the subject. Most covers are philatelic in nature with rubber stamp cachets and special post office cancels.

<https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/airmail-route-maps.pdf> 9 pages with maps.

<http://www.aerodacious.com/FAM.HTM>

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/fad-to-fundamental-airmail-in-america-airmail-object-show-case-stamps-and-covers/foreign>

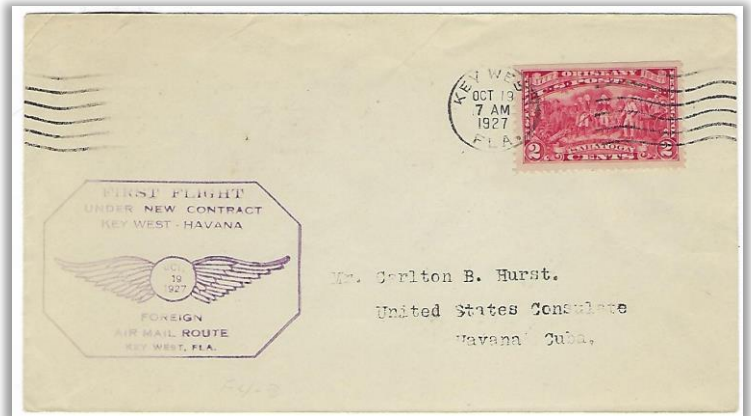
<https://stampsarter.org/learning/PostalBulletin/AirMailMaps/ForeignAirMailMaps.pdf>

The main reference for Tom's presentation was the American Air Mail Catalogue, Volume 3, Sixth edition published in 1994. It is from the American Air Mail Society (AAMS) and is available through the APS. All route maps in Tom's presentation came from this volume.

Below are some cover images from **Tom Reyman's** collection and shown in the presentation.



FAM 1 – New York City to Montreal, Canada  
Oct. 1, 1928



FAM 4 – Key West, Florida to Havana, Cuba  
Oct. 19, 1927



FAM 8 – Brownsville, TX to San Salvador, El Salvador  
Jan. 15, 1930



FAM 10 – Miami, FL to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Oct. 15, 1930



# The United States Postal Agency in Shanghai, China

By Patrick Crosby

There was a United States Postal Agency in Shanghai, China, from 1867 to 1922 which was used by U.S. businesses operating in China and by residents who wanted to contact friends and relatives in the U.S. A long ship journey across the Pacific Ocean was the main means of communication and beginning July 1, 1903, U.S. domestic postal rates were allowed for any mail in either direction between the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai and the United States or its possessions.

Great Britain was the first country to operate a postal agency in Shanghai and had the most business interests. In 1843 a British settlement was allowed by the Chinese government in Shanghai, which was a port city off the East China Sea/Pacific Ocean and an inlet of the Yangtze River which provides access to the interior of China. The British administered their area and were not subject to local laws. Following were the United States and France, and eventually up to 19 countries had their own "concession" areas in Shanghai, whose land remained under Chinese sovereignty. It is thought the various nations paid a lease fee for their settlements.

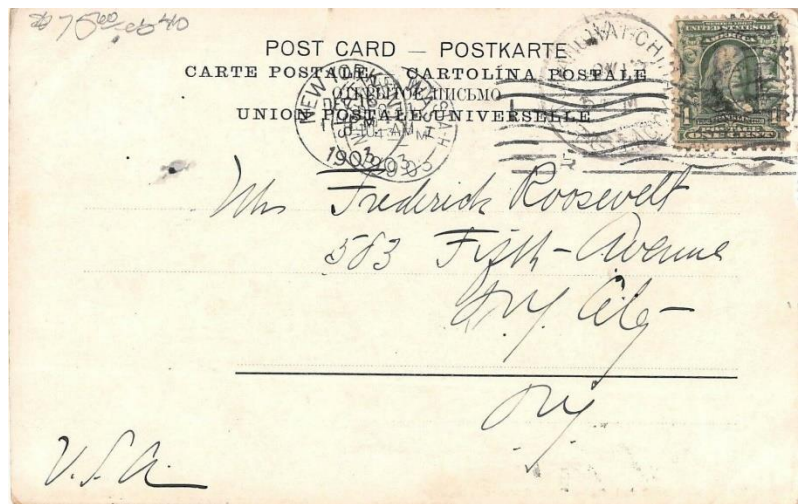


The featured postcard was mailed May 25, 1906 in Claremont, NH, to the Institute of St. Joseph in Shanghai. The 2¢ stamp pays the 1¢ U.S. domestic postcard rate and the card probably travelled via Seattle, WA or San Francisco, CA. The U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai applied a handstamp reading "Shanghai, China U.S. Postal Agency Rec'd JUL 2/6". Final delivery to another part of Shanghai is evidenced by a double ring handstamp reading "Shanghai Local Post JUL 2/06". The private Shanghai Local Post was likely due the other 1¢ of the postage paid.



On the postcard's view side is a scene at Hampton Beach, NH, casino area with trolley cars (Electric Railway) and a bandstand. The sender is part of the postcard craze of the time, and she writes that she would like to receive a similar kind of view and says, "I like them better than faces." The stamp is folded over the top of the card, and this is probably a quirk of the collector, similar to the French very often placing the postage on their postcards on the view side.

Shown also is the address side of a postcard mailed from the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai November 12, 1903, to New York City with a Seattle, WA, and two New York, NY, postmarks at the 1¢ rate with the current 1¢ U.S. stamp.



From 1919 to 1922 the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai surcharged 16 different values of the then current Washington and Franklin stamps to be used only at the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai for mail to anywhere in the U.S. or its possessions. Each stamp was surcharged at twice the stamp's face value, which reflected its value in local currency. So, a 1¢ green stamp surcharged "Shanghai 2¢ China" paid the corresponding 1¢ U.S. domestic postcard rate. These stamps are listed in Scott's U.S. Specialized catalog as Sc. #K1 to K18.

I found the featured postcard at our July Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show and paid \$10. I was surprised later when looking at the same period Shanghai items for sale on the internet that sellers were asking more like \$125 to \$350 per item! I look forward to finding out more about the U.S. settlement in Shanghai along with the Shanghai Local Post and Shanghai Municipality Local Post, which issued stamps and postal stationery. It is certainly a fascinating historical era beginning with the First Opium War (1839-1842) after which Shanghai became one of five Treaty Ports in China where foreign merchants could deal with anyone. The era continues into 1922 and the emergence of communism in China, the Japanese invasion of Shanghai in 1932, and by the end of 1941 all foreign settlements had been occupied by the Japanese.

#### References:

- Scott 2019 Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers. (Sidney, OH: Amos Media, 2018).
- Scott 1990 Standard Postage Stamp Catalog. (Sidney, OH; Scott Publishing Co., 1989), volume 4, Shanghai.
- Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011. (Bellefonte, PA: American Philatelic Society, 2011), p. 9. [Available from APS].
- Kenneth A. Wood, This Is Philately. (Albany, OR: Van Dahl Publications, 1982), esp. Treaty Ports.
- Rodney A. Juell, Lynn R. Batdorf, Steven J. Rod, eds., Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting. 2nd ed. (Katy, Texas: United States Stamp Society, 2016), p. 295.
- Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia. (R.R. Donnelley & Sons, 1986) esp. Shanghai and China.
- En.wikipedia.org; search Shanghai, Shanghai International Settlement.

**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.



# Self-Adhesive Stamp Removal Made Easy

By James Steckley

The removal of self-adhesive stamps has been a topic of conversation for a long time, so I recently had occasion to explore the process.

The tools necessary are a pair of scissors to trim the stamp's paper away on three sides leaving a little extra on one end to handle it during the process. Also, the less paper you have, the less solvent you will use. A small bottle of baby or body powder (it goes a long way) to cover the back of the removed stamp, an eye dropper to enable a bit of control when dispensing the solvent and a small piece of paper or chipboard on which to work, making sure that the surface on which you are working will not be affected by the solvent being used.

The solvent I use is Bestine, a product for thinning or reducing rubber cement. I'm sure there are others but this one seems to work well, act very fast and does not have a strong odor. It is, as many solvents are, very flammable so care needs to be taken when and where you use it. Because it evaporates so fast it is best to keep the lid on, at least loosely, when not filling the dropper.



1. With the stamp on its face, dispense enough solvent to cover the paper.
2. When the paper becomes translucent (in about 15 seconds) and you can see the outline of the stamp, turn it over and bend the paper a bit and with tongs lift the stamp off and place it face down ... obviously!
3. Most of the adhesive will remain on the paper but enough remains on the stamp to be very sticky. Then drop the small paint brush into the powder and the bristles will fill up. Place the brush on the stamp and brush it to the edges. Holding it with tongs, brush off the excess powder and the job is done! The entire process should take less than a minute.

You will find that some of the older self-adhesives are more difficult to remove as the glue used is different from the glue used today. I discovered this on the 2015 issue of Flannery O'Connor Scott # 5003. Removing self-adhesive stamps from plastic or corrugated paper such as Priority Mail envelopes can be a bit more challenging.

The front paper of a corrugated material should be removed otherwise; a lot of solvent would be wasted. I used a small pen knife to aid in the separation and then carefully peeling it off the corrugated part of the paper.

On plastic it is a bit more difficult. Placing the stamp face up, apply the solvent to the face and wait. When you can peel up a corner of the stamp, slowly try to remove it. I found that another few drops of solvent between the stamp and the plastic will aid in the total removal. The use of the powder is the same.



Some of the finished high-denomination stamps after backing removal.

I found the process so easy, that I sat for hours removing stamps. It doesn't take much to excite a stamp collector! Good Luck!

**James Steckley**, our current President and Donations Chair, is a member since 2018. His main collecting interest is U.S. Revenues.

**Editor:** Another product to loosen the stamp adhesive is Pure Citrus which has an orange smell (air freshener), is 100% natural and is cheaper than Bestine. One downside is it comes in a spray can (non-aerosol) which makes it difficult to use over a small area, like the back of one stamp. The procedure is the same as James describes above. I bought my Pure Citrus at Home Depot a few years ago (and it still works).



## October Quiz – Big Islands, Small Islands

By Eric Moody

1. In the 1880s this commercially important island off the east coast of Africa was sought after by Britain and by Germany, the latter for part of its German East Africa colony. In 1890 it became a British protectorate, a sultanate whose first postage stamps were overprinted India and British East Africa issues. The island is  
(a) Mayotte (b) Mafia (c) Zanzibar (d) Madagascar
2. This tiny Atlantic Ocean island, situated midway between Africa and South America, is now part of Britain's St. Helena colony. It was a strategically important naval, air and communications station during World War II and in the decades following. The island, whose first stamps appeared in 1922, is  
(a) Ascension (b) Tristan de Cunha (c) South Georgia (d) Wake Island
3. Home to descendants of some of the *HMS Bounty* mutineers, this South Pacific island is noted for its unique pine trees (shown on many stamps, beginning with the island's first issue in 1947). This present-day External Territory of Australia is  
(a) Pitcairn Island (b) Norfolk Island (c) Christmas Island (d) Tokelau
4. A smaller island off the coast of a much larger one, it was originally named Van Diemen's Land. Its first stamps in 1853 (Scott #1-2) carried this name, which was soon changed to  
(a) Reunion (b) Ceylon (c) New Caledonia (d) Tasmania
5. An autonomous Swedish-speaking province of Finland since 1921, it consists of a group of islands in the Gulf of Bothnia between Finland and Sweden. Issuing its own stamps since 1984, it is named  
(a) North Ingermanland (b) Aland (c) Svalbard (d) Faroe Islands
6. At one time the home of the now-extinct Dodo bird (its skeleton is shown on a 1997 stamp – Scott #844), this Indian Ocean island is  
(a) Madagascar (b) Diego Garcia (c) Mauritius (d) Reunion
7. Once boasting one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World" (a colossal statue standing at the entrance to its harbor), this Greek island in the Aegean Sea was occupied by Italy (1912-1943) and Germany (1943-1945), and had its own stamps during these years. It is  
(a) Samos (b) Crete (c) Rhodes (d) Andros
8. Composed of one tiny Pacific Ocean island, this country's land mass has been steadily diminished over many decades by extensive mining of phosphate deposits - an enterprise depicted on a number of its stamps (Scott #41, 60, 109, 120-123, etc.). The 8 square mile island, which doesn't even have a capital city, is  
(a) Tuvalu (b) Nauru (c) Palau (d) Tonga



9. These two islands, occupied by the United States following the Spanish American War, used over-printed U.S. stamps in 1899.  
(a) Cuba and Wake (2) Samoa and Guam (c) Cuba and Puerto Rico (d) Puerto Rico and Samoa
10. This Caribbean island is shared by two European nations, France and the Netherlands. The Dutch part, which is an “autonomous component” of the mother country, issues its own stamps, while the French portion – an Overseas Territory - uses stamps of France. It is  
(a) Martinique (b) Montserrat (c) Curacao (d) St. Martin
11. Constituting one of the few remaining French possessions in the Americas, these small rocky islands lie off the east coast of Canada. Many stamps of this “overseas territorial collectivity,” such as Scott # 136-139, 328-339, 346 and 600, celebrate its vital fishing industry. The territory is  
(a) Wallis and Futuna (b) St. Pierre and Miquelon (c) Quebec Shoals (d) New Hebrides
12. Only one island nation calls itself simply “island” on its stamps. This country is  
(a) Ireland (b) Greenland (c) Taiwan (d) Iceland

The October quiz is worth 120 **Auction Bucks**. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to **Betty Mudge** at the next in-person meeting or email to:

[postboyquiz@renotamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renotamp.org)

**Sept. Quiz Answers:** 1. c 2. d 3. a 4. b  
5. d 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. d 10. a 11. c  
12. b 13. C

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## Buy Want Sell Trade

**Buy and Sell** - almost anything philatelic and ephemera. This includes stamps, post cards, FDCs, photos and documents of mining, and Western interest. Plus selling philatelic supplies. Contact member **Nadiah Beekun** at (775) 762-4905, <http://www.RenoStamps.com> or email: [classicnevada@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:Mark@goldrushpaper.com).

**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](mailto:potter0465@sbcglobal.net).

**Wanted:** U.S. Navy hospital ship covers. Contact member **John Walter**, email: [walter60@gmail.com](mailto:walter60@gmail.com).

**Wanted:** Articles for the Post Boy newsletter. 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](mailto:editor@renostamp.org)

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

## Vassar Post Office Display

The wall display cases at the main Reno post office on Vassar Street was changed the last week in Sept. Two themes on display: Nevada Day – October 31 and National Stamp Collecting Month.



The Nevada Day display case naturally had all Nevada related material.

The other display case showed some stamp album pages.

All postal patrons must pass this display wall to get to the postal clerk counter.

(The photos are taken at an angle because of severe light reflection if taken straight on.)

The Carson City library will also have a display for the month of October. The setup day is October 4. The photos will appear in the November Post Boy.

