

# Post Boy



Monthly newsletter of the Nevada Stamp Study Society

January 2022  
Volume 55, Issue 1

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

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## Happy New Year 2022

**Meetings – January 8, 2022** – In-person and Zoom meeting. After the usual announcements there will be a **live auction**. Each member is allowed up to 10 auction items.

After the regular meeting, there will be a **Board meeting** of officers and directors. Members are encouraged to attend.

At the first meeting of the month, please bring a can of food that is donated to the Silverada Estates for those less fortunate.

**January 22, 2022** – In-person and Zoom meeting. After the usual announcements there will be a philatelic presentation. The title will be announced at the January 8 meeting and via email.

**Both meeting will have coffee and refreshments.**

**Both meeting will have a raffle** – usually 10 prizes which are donated by members. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$1.00. The final raffle drawing is a 50-50 drawing of the ticket proceeds.



The club will continue with an **Internet Auction** each month. Auction #15 is accepting lots now. Send an image(s) of the auction lots with a description and minimum bid to Dave Parsons; [NSSSauctions@gmail.com](mailto:NSSSauctions@gmail.com)

All lots must be received by noon Jan. 9 with the auction starting Tuesday, Jan. 11 at noon and ends Jan. 20 at noon.

Members will start the voting for best and worst U.S. stamps in the Linn's stamp poll at the next three meetings. Ballots available at the meetings.

## Post Boy Reporter

**Dec. 11 Christmas Party** – **Barbara Stanfield** and **Eric Fields** arrived early to set up and decorate the tables. **Jeanne Paquin** prepared the turkey and ham. **Donovan Sehr** brought his family. **Scott Hansford** had most of his family at the party. The attendance was 23. There was plenty of food including desserts. More pictures on the NSSS website: [https://renostamp.org/holiday\\_party2021.html](https://renostamp.org/holiday_party2021.html)



Gift table.



Food table.



Santa, John & Kirsten Walter.



James Steckley in back, Ken Hopple opening gift.



Donovan Sehr opening gift.



Terri & Harvey Edwards with Santa.

# Removing Non-Soakable Self-Stick USPS Stamps from Paper

By Michael Clynne

(Editor: The following article is a follow-up to the October Post Boy article by James Steckley "Self-Adhesive Stamp Removal Made Easy.")

I believe that in the future the modern U.S. (and probably many other countries like some of the most recent Danish and Swedish issues) self-adhesive stamps will be difficult to obtain in good condition. This is because the self-adhesive gum (PVA) migrates into the paper over time and becomes discolored and brittle when it devolatilizes. The only way to prevent this migration is to completely remove the self-adhesive. Removal from paper and application of talcum powder or some other substance does not mitigate the long-term problem. The removal process must be done with stamps on envelope paper within a few years because the gum migrates that quickly into the paper and bonds with it resulting in thinned stamps upon any attempt at removal. I have found that the sooner they are removed, the better and easier it is.

Below I describe my process for completely removing the self-adhesive gum from modern US stamps. My process is somewhat similar to the that described on the APS website but with several critical improvements.

## Introduction

The process described removes used U.S. and foreign non-soakable or difficult to soak self-adhesive stamps from paper. The result is a perfectly flat stamp that is mountable in your album with a hinge or mount and will never stick, become brittle or change color. The process actually works better than water soaking because the stamp paper does not swell or curl differentially and stamp inks do not crack, chip off or become dulled. It is, however, more work and I typically only remove one of each stamp for my collection or high denomination stamps. The process is similar to that described by Peter Butler (American Philatelist, October 2010, p. 910–913). The major difference is that I use isopropyl alcohol instead of Bistine and I completely remove the PVA which eliminates the need to apply talcum powder to mitigate the sticky PVA.

## Materials

1. Isopropyl alcohol, 99–100%, available from any scientific supply house and many pharmacies and grocery stores. Do not use normal rubbing alcohol as it generally contains 30% or more water.
2. Lintless paper wipes. I use Kimtech brand made by Kimberley Clark, but a variety of other companies make a similar product and any absorbent, thin, lintless paper wipe will do. These are much stouter than Kleenex or other facial wipes. I cut the wipes into 1–1½ x ¾ inch strips.
3. Self-adhesive backing paper. I prefer to use a one-inch strip from the backing that covers the adhesive on small USPS priority mailing boxes because it is thick, and I have many of them.
4. Standard printer paper. I used the back side of recycled old draft manuscripts.

## Process

Cut envelope corner so there is a narrow margin around the stamp. Place the stamp corner face down on clean sheet of printer paper folded in half. Fold a Kimwipe strip into quarters so it is about ¾ x 1 inch. Wet with alcohol and wipe the back of the envelope corner for a few seconds. When it is thoroughly wet peel off the paper from the stamp so that the stamp does not bend. The PVA glue on the stamp will be extremely sticky. Place the stamp on a sheet of clean printer paper face down and cover 1/3 or so of it with a piece of self-adhesive backing paper. Hold the stamp down on the printer paper with a finger on the backing paper. Gently wipe the stamp with the alcohol wetted Kimwipe, always from the middle toward the edge. Move the stamp to a new spot on the printer paper, rewet a fresh surface on the Kimwipe and



keep wiping until all the PVA is removed. The stamp will dry in a few minutes and no longer be sticky to the touch (blowing on it evaporates the alcohol more quickly). Turn the stamp around and repeat with a new Kimwipe surface to remove the remaining PVA.

## **Hints**

Wipe your fingers with alcohol regularly to avoid transferring PVA to the front of stamps. If you find that fingerprints are appearing on the front (printed side of the stamp) shift to a thicker backing paper and/or reduce the amount of alcohol that you are using.

When it looks like all the PVA is gone, let the stamp dry (blowing on it speeds drying) and hold it so light reflects off the back. If any PVA is left, you will be able to see shiny areas. Alternatively, lay it face down and place a piece of dry Kimwipe on it, which will stick to any remaining PVA.

Practice on duplicates or unwanted stamps until you get the hang of the process. The Kimwipe gets saturated with PVA fairly quickly, especially early in the process so change the wiping surface often. Some glue is transferred to the printer paper, so move the stamp often and systematically across the paper.

Alcohol partially smudges most canceling inks, so avoid letting the front of the stamp get wet. Ditto for some printing inks, so work quickly, but carefully. Stamps with large areas of black ink and the new priority and express mail stamps are particularly susceptible to dissolution so work carefully with them. Do not get them too wet and blow on them to evaporate excess alcohol regularly. The process works for most, but not all, foreign self-adhesive stamps. If in doubt, test first!

## **Additional Comments**

There are other solvents that also work, including 100% methyl and ethyl alcohol, acetone, and Bestine (which contains heptane), as well as many advertised products for example Unglue or citrus oil products. Any product with heptane as a major ingredient will work. I prefer isopropyl alcohol because it is easy to obtain, cheap, pure, non-toxic (but do not drink and use with adequate ventilation), evaporates quickly, leaves no residue, and is effective for most stamps.

By the way, isopropyl alcohol can also be used to inspect watermarks and even to dry stamps, because it is completely miscible with water. Take a wet stamp (blot it first with a Kimwipe) and dip it in the alcohol in a small watermark tray. Blot and then wave it in the air for 10-20 seconds with tongs. As the alcohol evaporates it takes some of the water with it. Repeat several times until you have a dry stamp. The only caveat is that you need to be careful with the few stamps that have fugitive inks (especially aniline and purple).

## **Some additional comments and correspondence from the author.**

I will be happy to answer any questions that may arise. What this process really needs is a U-Tube video that shows exactly how to do it. I have been adding self-adhesive stamps to my collection for over 15 years, basically since the non-soakers came out. I also have a process for removing any stamp that curls so much in water that the ink cracks, for example the 1996 Olympic stamp. This is caused by the coating on the paper that does not expand like the rest of the paper when the stamp is wetted. They must be soaked in such a way that they remain flat during the entire process. Finally, I have a process for drying soaked stamps so that they come out completely flat with no wrinkles- it even works for souvenir sheets or flattening previously wrinkled stamps.

I have found that the time necessary for stamps to be no longer easily removal is variable. I have successfully removed some that are nearly 20 years old but had difficulty with some on a few years old. My

interpretation is that it has to do with the porosity of the paper that the stamp is on. As I said before the sooner you remove them the better. I have bought stamps from APS circuits with powder and the SA is normally easily removed from them. We don't know yet what the modern SA stamps will look like when they age, but they will age. Even if they don't discolor badly, the paper will become brittle. Just look at the labels on your old computer disks (if you still have any).

*Michael A. Clynne <[mclynne@usgs.gov](mailto:mclynne@usgs.gov)> is an APS member and belongs to the Golden Gate Chapter of the Scandinavian Collectors Club. He collects used Scandinavia and U.S. and specialize in Department of the Interior official mail. He received the recent Post Boy from Herb Volin.*

(Editor: Michael and his wife made a video of the process he uses to remove all the stamp adhesive. It will be on the NSSS website when available.)



**Here are some high denomination U.S. stamps with the self-adhesive removed from the back. No sticky residue.**



All the stamps are from the collection of John Walter.



## Remailed in B Flat

By Patrick Crosby

When I see a postage stamp attached to a prepaid government postal card (supplementary postage) it sparks my attention in a good way. But when I see a card where the stamp is missing my heart drops. The featured postal card provided both emotions. It was mailed twice and that is why 1¢ postage (Sc. 279) is added. The missing stamp was from the first mailing and probably removed for a good reason – to avoid confusion and cluttering for the card's second mailing.

Oddly, the 1¢ Jefferson postal card (Sc. UX14, UPSS S15) paid the correct rate and so by adding the (later removed) stamp the card had been overpaid. The original postmark of Dec. 8, 1898, Station B and its barrel shaped killer show blank portions where the stamp had been.

As of July 1, 1898, a remailed card (also called double-mailed) was allowed at the 1¢ card rate, whereas previously the letter rates of 2¢ or 3¢ was required. So the featured card has the correct postage added for the second use on Dec. 21, 1898. Each time the card was mailed it was hand-stamped with the same received (REC'D) marking device, the time and date changed, both being received the same day mailed.

The Christmas of 1898 was right around the corner, so it was a practical time to have Public School 14's pianos tuned. Before this postal card was ever mailed it had moved around a bit. The Brooklyn, NY, Board of Education had a form printed on the reverse of postal cards just for piano tuning! They dated the card November 10<sup>th</sup> and delivered it (outside the U.S. mails) to Albert Caswell, who was the Director of Music. He signs on the reverse left side in light pencil, and "Caswell" is signed in a way that the "C" encompasses the name (this is notable later). There is a "Director of Music" handstamp under his signature.

Instructions were for the pianos on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of P.S. 14 to be tuned, and the card to be returned to Miss M.A. Simmons, music teacher. The pianos were tuned ("Attended to...") November 24<sup>th</sup> and the tuner was "Bassman". Miss Simmons reports "Work examined Dec. 5, 1898 and found satisfactory except the B flat, 3<sup>rd</sup> line treble, piano 2<sup>nd</sup> floor does not always sound when played."



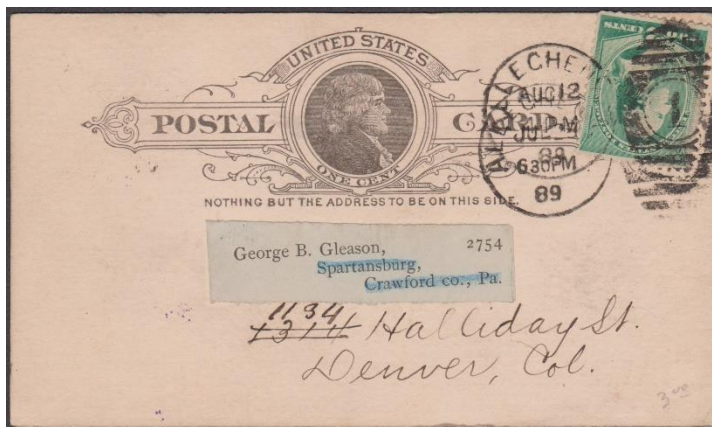
Now, for the first time, the card is put in the mails. It goes back to the Director of Music for the school system, Albert S. Caswell, who has a piano tuner come out again and the tuner writes in pencil (then enhanced by pen) "Dec. 16/98" for "Attended to" and signs A. Werka (?).

The card is left again for Miss Simmons who checks the piano and writes, "examined Dec. 19, 1898, and found satisfactory." For the second time the card is mailed to Mr. Caswell who approves in blue crayon "OK" with his initials, the "C" encompassing the "AS."

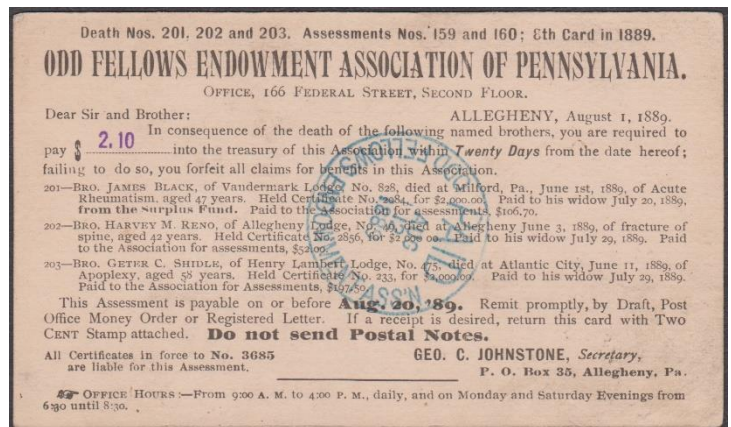
Oh, how I wish there was a third postmark from November 10<sup>th</sup>, but there is no sign of one. This would have meant the card was mailed correctly three times.

U.S. postal cards that are remailed are uncommon, and most of these are from fraternal organizations for dues assessments, like for a death benefit policy. I have seen examples of these from 1874 to 1952. Even less common are cards that were held too long for forwarding, cards used for magazine and newspaper subscriptions, and novelty cards. Used in any other way, like when the B flat would not strike on the school's piano, remailed cards are scarce.

I found the featured card at Sacramento Philatelic Society's SACAPEX 2021 show in a dealer's \$1 box (then he gave a discount on my entire purchase!). Rемаiled cards have never been declared illegal, but some uses were frowned upon by the U.S. Post Office Department and Postal Service.



**A 2¢ stamp correctly pays the letter rate for the second mailing of this fraternal organization card.**



**Notice includes, "If a receipt is desired, return this card with TWO CENT Stamp attached."**

An exception was the remailing of fraternal organizations' assessment cards (sample above) which were an efficient and cheap way to conduct business and, since many government officials were themselves members, complaints of favoritism fell on deaf ears.

#### *Reference:*

Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011 (Bellefonte, PA: American Philatelic Society, 2011) p. 44 and 49 [Available from APS].

Fricke, Charles A., "Remailed Postal Cards Served as Payment Receipts," Linn's Stamp News, April 11, 2005, pp. 12-13.

#### *Further reading:*

Lawrence, Ken, "Collecting Postal Cards, Post Cards, and Postcards as Postal History," The American Philatelist, October 2021, pp. 895-915.

*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.*

## January Quiz – General Deliveries

By Eric Moody

Many countries, the United States among them, like to commemorate their generals and other military heroes on postage stamps. See if you can identify the following general officers, some of whom were undoubtedly delivered in your own mail.

- (1) This movie star was a U.S. Army Air Corps bomber pilot during World War II, and later became a brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve. Shown on a 2007 “Legends of Hollywood” stamp, he is  
(a) John Wayne      (b) James Cagney      (c) Gary Cooper      (d) James Stewart
- (2) The leader of the Free French resistance after Germany defeated France in 1940 was a prominent military figure. Depicted on French stamps (Scott #1322-1325) shortly after his death, he was General  
(a) Henri Petain      (b) Pierre Laval      (c) Henri Navarre      (d) Charles de Gaulle
- (3) The 1970 dedication of this monument honoring Confederate leaders that was carved on Stone Mountain, Georgia, was commemorated on a stamp (#1408). The Southern generals shown in the controversial sculpture, and on the stamp, are  
(a) Stonewall Jackson      (b) Albert Sydney Johnston      (c) Robert E. Lee      (d) Jefferson Davis
- (4) The supreme American and Allied commander in the Pacific during World War II, he later spectacularly disagreed with President Truman over military strategy during the Korean War. Depicted on a U.S. stamp in 1971 (#1424), he was  
(a) Omar Bradley      (b) Dwight Eisenhower      (c) Mathew Ridgway      (d) Douglas MacArthur
- (5) Arguably the preeminent figure in South America’s wars for independence against Spain (1812-1824), this Venezuelan-born military commander is pictured on stamps of Venezuela (#22-135), Peru (#181), Bolivia (#53) and Colombia (#467). He is  
(a) Jose de San Martin      (b) Simon Bolivar      (c) Benito Juarez      (d) Bernardo O’Higgins
- (6) Referred to by some of his contemporaries as “Old Blood and Guts,” this aggressive World War II American tank commander was honored on a U.S. stamp in 1953 (#1026).  
(a) Benjamin O. Davis      (b) Bernard Montgomery      (c) George S. Patton, Jr.      (d) H.H. “Hap” Arnold
- (7) It wouldn’t happen today, but this Civil War Confederate general appeared four times on U.S. stamps between 1937 and 1995. He is  
(a) Joseph E. Johnston      (b) Robert E. Lee      (c) Stonewall Jackson      (d) J.E. B. “Jeb” Stuart
- (8) He is the only five star general who became President of the United States. Shown on a number of U.S. stamps (#1383, 2513, etc.), he is  
(a) George Washington      (b) U.S. Grant      (c) Dwight D. Eisenhower      (d) Andrew Jackson



- (9) A dashing war hero and U.S. Army general (commemorated on stamp #3330), he was an ardent advocate of the development of military air power between World Wars I and II – to the point that it got him court-martialed and demoted. This controversial officer was  
 (a) Charles Lindbergh (b) Eddie Rickenbacker (c) H.H. “Hap” Arnold (d) William “Billy” Mitchell
- (10) This career U.S. Army general was commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War I, and is depicted on a regular issue U.S. stamp of 1954-1968. He is  
 (a) Jon J. Pershing (b) Douglas MacArthur (c) William Sibert (d) George C. Marshall
- (11) This old soldier, a veteran of the Mexican War, was commander of Union forces at the beginning of the Civil War. He didn’t last long but did get his portrait on U.S. stamps, beginning in 1870 (#142).  
 (a) Nelson A. Miles (b) George McClellan (c) Winfield Scott (d) Henry Halleck
- (12) A handful of generals have become U.S. Presidents. Which one of these (shown on stamp #326) was never a general?  
 (a) James Garfield (b) William McKinley (c) Rutherford B. Hayes (d) Zachary Taylor

The January 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)

<b>Dec. Quiz Answers:</b> 1. c 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. a 7. b 8. d 9. b 10. d 11. b 12. d
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## Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show July 23 & 24, 2022

Where: Hall of Fame Museum, National Bowling Stadium  
 300 N. Center Street, Reno, NV 89501-1129

When: Saturday, July 23, 2022 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Sunday, July 24, 2022 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Official Event**

Admission and parking at the bowling stadium are free.

Eleven dealers and the U.S. Postal Service will have booths.

There will be up to 40 frames of competitive and non-competitive exhibits using American Philatelic Society frames with 16 pages per frame.

A special cachet cover with a pictorial cancellation will be offered, along with hourly door prizes.

## Vassar Post Office Display

One of the display cases at the Vassar post office was changed by **John Walter** in early December. The theme was to celebrate the new year using stamps, covers and commemorative pages.



2022 Year of the Tiger stamp  
Planned issue in New York City  
January 20, 2022



Will be in panes of 20.

Looks like an angry tiger.