

Post Boy

Connecting and supporting stamp collectors, of all ages and interests, in Northern Nevada since 1975



May 2022
Volume 55, Issue 5

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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Announcements

Meetings –

May 14, 2022 – No In-person meeting. Meeting will be via Zoom. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. but sign in early to socialize. **James Steckley** will discuss “The 1 cent Magenta” video from the British Empire Study Group.

May 28, 2022 – In-person and via Zoom. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. Come early to set up your consignments lots – 10 per member. After the raffle there will be a philatelic presentation with **John Walter** and **Dave Gehringer** reporting on their WESTPEX experiences.

Mark your calendar – July 23-24 for **Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show** at the National Bowling Stadium, 300 N. Center St., Reno.

Online Auction #19 – all lots with images and descriptions are due by noon Sunday, May 15.

The bidding starts at noon May 17 and ends at noon May 26.

Email lot descriptions to Dave Parsons at NSSSauctions@gmail.com.

Auction webpage: <https://renostamp.org/auction/>

Not so good news received at the April 9 meeting. The *Bring a Can if You Can* promotion was halted by the Silverada Estates manager because of problems created by residents. **George Ray** will have more details at the May 28 meeting. Also, the manager can no longer guarantee our meeting dates and times.

Volunteers needed – Stamp show Exhibits Chair urgently needed to solicit exhibits for our show in July.

A social media coordinator is needed to monitor our Facebook page.

Time Out Tuesday at South Valleys library stamp collecting program had 4 participants. **James Steckley** discussed some interesting collecting terms and why people collect things. No new collectors present.

Post Boy Reporter

April 9 meeting – Attendance was 28 members (24 in-person and 4 online via Zoom). There were also two visitors, Kevin and Jake, who participated in the live auction. **Tony Cueto** who joined in November attended his first meeting.

Erik Fields and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Refreshments were provided by **Jeanne Paquin**.

Erik Fields reported a volunteer is needed for Exhibit Chair for our stamp show July 23-24. **Harvey Edwards** showed the two cover designs for the stamp show – 50th Anniversary of Landsat and the 100th Anniversary of start of the 4th Bureau definitive series. The initial cachet design shows Rutherford B. Hayes (11¢) stamp.

The raffle drawing was conducted by **Betty Mudge**. The drawing had 10 donated prizes along with a bonus prize won by junior member **Donovan Sehr**. **Scott Mathews** won the money prize of \$10.50.

Mike Potter was the auctioneer for the live auction with **Nadiah Beekun** and **Howard Grenzbach** helping. There was a total of 49 lots and 5 Blue Sheet (donation) lots. A total of 41 lots sold for \$408.00.



Mike Potter, upper left, auctioneer for live auction.

April 23 meeting – Attendance was 20 members (18 in-person and 2 via Zoom). **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to setup the tables and chairs. Refreshments were provided by **Steve Foster**.

Dave Parsons reported on the Online Auction #18. The auction had 75 lots with 81% sold. Total of successful bids was \$410.20. The club received \$181.50; member proceeds were \$228.70. The total online auction proceeds through Auction 18: \$14,500.85, with \$4,549.60 going to the club.

The raffle drawing was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **Eric Moody** and the money prize went to **Dean McKay**.

The audio-visual equipment was setup by **Harvey Edwards**. The philatelic presentation was a video “No Longer in Service” part 1 showing the USPS history from the beginning of mail service before stamps were used in 1847. First postmaster was Benjamin Franklin, but King George III dismissed him because of his leanings towards the colonies becoming independent of the Crown.

In 1775 Franklin was renamed to Postmaster General by the colonies. In 1785 stagecoaches began carrying the mail and in 1811 steamboats were used to move the mail.

Prior to 1912, mail carriers were charged with handing the mail to the recipient. If they were not home, they had to try the next day. After 1912 the universal home delivery was established as it is today.

2022 WESTPEX Report

By John Walter

The 3-day stamp show was held in the same venue, the Marriott Hotel in Burlingame, Ca next to the SF airport. I attended all 3 days with **Dave Gehringer**. On Friday morning we left an hour later than usual and what good planning. We only had a 20-minute traffic stoppage as we reached Donner summit. The chain control people were dismantling the portable facility and opening I-80. There was about 18 inches of snow at the summit, but the road was just wet and no ice as we drove through the area.

We arrived in Burlingame about 1:30 p.m. and checked in at our hotel, then immediately went to the show. WESTPEX advertised 62 dealers and 260 exhibit frames with 46 exhibitors. Lots of show visitors walking around to visit the dealer booths on Friday afternoon. Saturday was also busy with Sunday seeing the usual slowdown of visitors.

Most of my time was spent attending society meetings since I belong to the United Postal Stationery Society, Ryukyu Specialists Philatelic Society, Saginaw chapter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, and the American Philatelic Society.

Plus, I always enjoy attending the Hawaii Philatelic Society meeting which provides some macadamia nuts straight from Hawaii. The presentation by Harold Tuchfeld was extremely interesting entitled *"The Intimate Trans-Pacific Embrace: San Francisco & Hawaii 1876-1916."* I learned a lot of Hawaii history listening to the follow up questions and discussion on the island's early history.

The Schuyler Rumsey live auction was in action for 4 full days. Nothing like witnessing live bidding by in-person, telephone and Internet bidders. Talking with a few bidders, some lots were being sold for 2 to 10 times over estimated values. WOW!

The exhibit area had many postal history 10-frame exhibits with many Large Gold awards. The dealer bourse area was busy every time I walked through. I did manage to receive a check from Ed Dimmick who will be at our show in July. Two other dealers expressed an interest, and I gave them a Dealers Prospectus. Richard Clever (Asia Philatelics), and frequent dealer at our show sold most of his stock at auction and was helping at Jim Dempsey's booth, A & A Stamps. Jim Dempsey will also be retiring later this year.




Stamp Art dealer booth.

I represented our stamp club at the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies. Some interesting reporting: The California Collector's Club has disbanded; the Alameda Stamp Club has only 6 members; Sacramento Philatelic Society has about 200 members; the Council is looking for a new webmaster; Fremont Stamp Club cannot get someone to be president, so they have a different "host" volunteer run each meeting. Tom Hayes will chair the speaker's bureau and Vesma Grinfelds will remain as chair for show judges. Only two exhibit-judged shows in the Bay Area – Penpex and Filatelic Fiesta.

The Mailomat By James Steckley

The Mailomat was developed by the Pitney Bowes Co., founded in 1920 by Walter Bowes (1882-1957) and Arthur Pitney (1871-1933), in cooperation with the U. S. Post Office Dept. and first placed into service in New York City on May 17, 1939. It was developed also for use in those areas of the country where postal services were few and far between.



The "MAILOMAT"
COIN-OPERATED LETTER BOX

... furnishes postage and mailing service, day and night, to people who have letters to mail ... and no stamps. It is a coin-operated U. S. mail box and postage meter.


To mail a letter you (1) drop coins in a slot (2) dial your postage value (3) insert your letter ... and away it goes, stamped, postmarked and automatically deposited for collection. No adhesive stamps ... no stamp-licking ... no premium for postage.

This "self-service post office" prints U. S. meter stamps in denominations up to 32¢ on letters of various kinds and sizes, including Air Mail, Special Delivery and foreign mail. It can handle as many as 72 letters a minute.

The "Mailomat" was developed by Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co., Stamford, Conn., in cooperation with the U. S. Post Office Department, to provide the public with stamp-buying and mailing facilities at times and places where they are not now available ... in post office lobbies, hotels, stores, railway terminals and other public places.

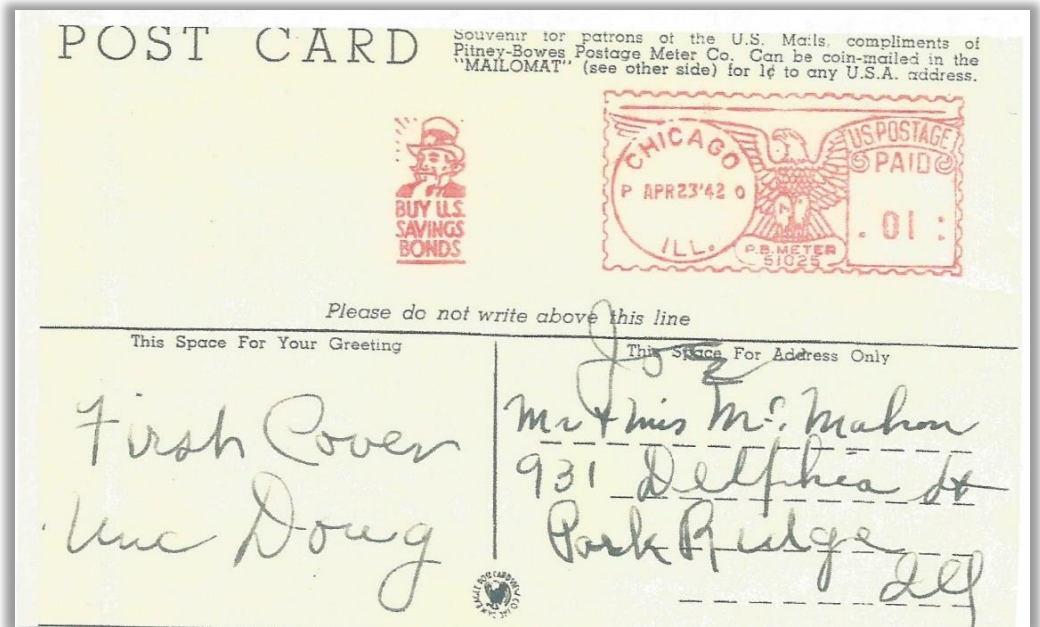
Streamlined mailing . . . no adhesive stamps required

Collection of mail from coin-operated letter box



The customer simply dropped money in the coin slot, dialed the correct postage denomination, and inserted the letter in a slot. The machine printed a meter stamp containing the date of mailing and held the letter until it was collected by the postal workers.

Mailomat machines were slowly removed from service between 1960 and 1970 due to diminished demand.



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

A Mediterranean Journey By Tom Reyman

The French shipping company Compagnie de Navigation Paquet or CNP was established in 1860 to provide transportation of freight and passengers from its home port of Marseille, France and Morocco. During the later years of the 1800's and into the early 1900's, the shipping service expanded to ports around the Mediterranean Sea as well as The Canary Islands and the cities around the Black Sea.

One of the frequent stops was at Alexandria, Egypt, the main seaport for Egypt. To reach this port from other parts of Egypt, including Cairo, goods and passengers needed to use the Egyptian railroad system.



The registered cover above was sent from Cairo on December 19, 1908, addressed to Valence, France. From Cairo the mail would have travelled by train to Alexandria to meet the CNP ship to sail to the home port of Marseille and there to be transferred to the Paris-Marseille Railroad. The destination of Valence, in the French government department of Drome, is a city on the railroad line and on the Rhone River about 245 km (about 150 miles) North of Marseille. The cover was delivered on December 25.

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 Six Cents Orange U.S. Airmail Envelope

By Patrick Crosby

I see it all the time. An online seller of a U.S. 6¢ orange airmail envelope with borders measures the width of the “6” and if it’s 6 mm promptly says hooray! I have a \$65/\$30 (mint/used) envelope. But what the seller actually has is the cheapest of this envelope’s varieties, catalogued at \$1.75/\$1.00. Keep reading and I’ll point out how this cheapest variety could be worth \$200/\$100. [All values from United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS).]

What do the sellers do wrong? They forget that the first step for classifying the stamp is determining which of two basic dies it is. If it is Scott die 2 then it’s time to measure the width of the “6”, which could be 6½ mm, 6 mm, or 5½ mm (Scott UC3, UC4, and UC5 respectively). If it is Scott die 3 no measuring is necessary since the “6” is always 6 mm wide, and herein lies the confusion. The easiest ways to spot differences between die 2 and die 3 are shown in the chart.



Die 2. Tail rudder is semi-circular

All bars in “E” of “POSTAGE” are of equal length

Scott UC3 (die 2a)

UC4 (die 2b)

UC5 (die 2c)

Die 3. Tail rudder leans forward

Middle bar of “E” in “POSTAGE” is noticeably shorter than the 2 other bars

Scott UC6

Re-entry die. Same as Die 3 except:

Front strut on right wheel is a thin line beginning forward on the wheel

Tail rudder is separated from the tail wing by an orange line

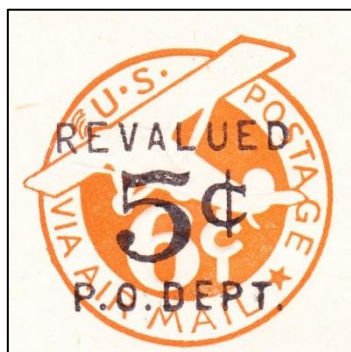
(Scott UC6 var.) first seen in early 1944

Not mentioned in the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue’s long description of the 6¢ airmail envelope varieties is what the UPSS calls the “Re-entry die”. This occurs on the die 3 (Sc. UC6) letter size envelope and comes with or without a border of red and blue lozenges. Heavy usage of the printing dies necessitated one working die to be recut and this is the “Re-entry die”, easily spotted with the plane’s right wheel front strut (usually fat) being a skinny line off the forward part of the wheel.

Doug Kelsey reported in “Linn’s Stamp News” (March 7, 2005) that this six-cent airmail envelope was “...the most heavily used U.S. stamped envelope in history. At the height of its production, more than 40 million per month were manufactured and distributed to servicemen during World War II.” Although there was

free surface mail provided for service personnel, airmail letters or cards required U.S. domestic rate postage.

An example of military usage of the “Re-entry die” is shown on an U.S. Army Postal Service postmarked cover with six cents postage due paid in Portland, OR, likely for a second unit of weight. Although the domestic airmail rate was 6¢ per ounce at the time, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates (p.94) also shows 6¢ “To/from overseas US military personnel, per ½ oz”. The left side of the envelope is sealed with examiner’s tape and it was “Passed by U.S. Base Army Examiner 1932”. The return address of this service woman indicates 1st Field Hospital A.P.O. 72, which was an Army Post Office in the Philippines. Also, the 235 in the postmark dial is an A.P.O. number that includes the Philippines.



The six cents orange airmail envelope was issued July 1, 1934, and there are many interesting collectible avenues at very reasonable prices. The domestic airmail rate jumped to 8¢ during 1944, then dropped to 5¢ during 1946 when the envelope was revalued to five cents with a 5¢ surcharge on top of the stamp.

Revalued to Five Cents
On all die 2's and 3
Common varieties



Revalued to Seven Cents
On all die 2's
Tough! \$50 to \$5,000

Rates were raised at the beginning of 1949 back to six cents, then a rate change to seven cents during 1958 finds our six cents orange envelope revalued to seven cents with a 1 cent surcharge to the left of the stamp. For nearly 30 years this envelope served our country and was certainly battle tested.

References:

- Dan Undersander, editor, *Catalog of the 20th and 21st Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States* (Chester, VA: United Postal Stationery Society 2016)
- *Scott 2019 Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers* (Sidney, OH: Amos Media, 2018)
- Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011* (Bellefonte, PA: American Philatelic Society, 2011) [Available from APS]
- Jim Forte and Richard W. Helbock, *A Price Guide to U.S. A.P.O. Cancells of the Second World War*, postalhistory.com/Military/APO/apo_contents.htm [free to use]

Patrick Crosby is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society and collects U.S. postal stationery, stamps and postcards with an emphasis on postal history.

May Quiz - Colonial Connections

By Eric Moody

1. The Federated States of Micronesia was formerly the Caroline Islands (or Carolines), which at one time were a colonial possession of this European country that produced stamps for them between 1899 and 1919.
(a) Spain (b) Great Britain (c) Germany (d) France
2. The British West African colony of Gold Coast had several of its stamps (Scott #148, etc.) over-printed in 1957 when the colony gained its independence under the name
(a) Sierra Leone (b) Gambia (c) Mauritania (d) Ghana
3. Now a Special Administrative Region of China, Macau (Macao) issued its last stamps (#1010-1011) as a longtime overseas territory of this country in 1999.
(a) France (b) Portugal (c) Great Britain (d) Netherlands
4. Presently located in Yemen, this port on the Arabian Peninsula, which had its first stamp issued in 1937, was a British crown colony and a strategic Allied military base during World War II. It is
(a) Bahrain (b) Muscat (c) Dubai (d) Aden
5. Damao and Nagar Haveli were districts in a colonial territory on the west coast of India. They are shown on stamps (#552-559) released in the 1950s when the area was still a possession of this country.
(a) France (b) Portugal (c) Spain (d) Netherlands
6. This group of islands in the South Pacific formerly constituted a condominium jointly administered by France and Great Britain. From 1908 to 1980, when the islands became the Republic of Vanuatu, both the governing countries issued stamps for them, and all stamps carried values in both French and British currencies. The islands were known as
(a) New Caledonia (b) Wallis and Futuna (c) New Hebrides (d) Reunion
7. German Southwest Africa, which became a colony in 1890, was seized during World War I by Allied forces from the Union of South Africa. From that time until it became Namibia in 1990 the area was administered by South Africa, and was known - and issued stamps - as
(a) Basutoland (b) Orange Free State (c) South West Africa (d) Bechuanaland
8. This Caribbean nation, a French possession until 1804, shares an island with another country. Between 1915 and 1934 it was occupied by foreign troops – from what country? (A hint can be found on the country's 1941 stamp #338).
(a) Dominican Republic (b) France (c) Great Britain (d) United States
9. During the later 19th century (up to 1890) the stamps of Heligoland, a pair of small islands in the North Sea, sometimes carried denominations in two national currencies (#14, etc.). What country did the islands belong to in that period?
(a) Great Britain (b) Denmark (c) Poland (d) Germany

10. The Ryukyu Islands, near Japan and now part of that country, were administered for decades after World War II by another country – which for a time (1958-1972) showed its currency on the islands' stamps.
(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) Great Britain (d) United States
11. This former Spanish colony on the west coast of Africa issued its last stamp in 1922 (#152) before becoming a part of Spanish Sahara. It was
(a) Rio Muni (b) Rio de Oro (c) Spanish Morocco (d) Ifni
12. During World War I military forces from this country seized the island of Neu Pommern in German New Guinea, renaming it New Britain. Subsequently, stamps for New Britain were produced in 1914-1915 (overprints of German colonial issues from New Guinea and the Marshall Islands). The occupying Allied forces were from
(a) Canada (b) Great Britain (c) New Zealand (d) Australia
13. (Bonus) In 1901 this maritime British colony, which had issued its own stamps since 1855, became part of a larger federal state and gave up its independent postal system. It was
(a) Newfoundland (b) Cape of Good Hope (c) Tasmania (d) Singapore

The May quiz is worth 130 **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

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

August 25-28 at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center
Co-hosted by the American Philatelic Society, the American Topical Association
and the American First Day Cover Society



The 4-day show is not one to miss. It's only a 2-2 ½ hour drive from Reno. This will be the largest show on the west coast.

Admission is free, but you must register to attend. Registration is available at the door or in advance using the online form available here:
<https://stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show/pre-registration>

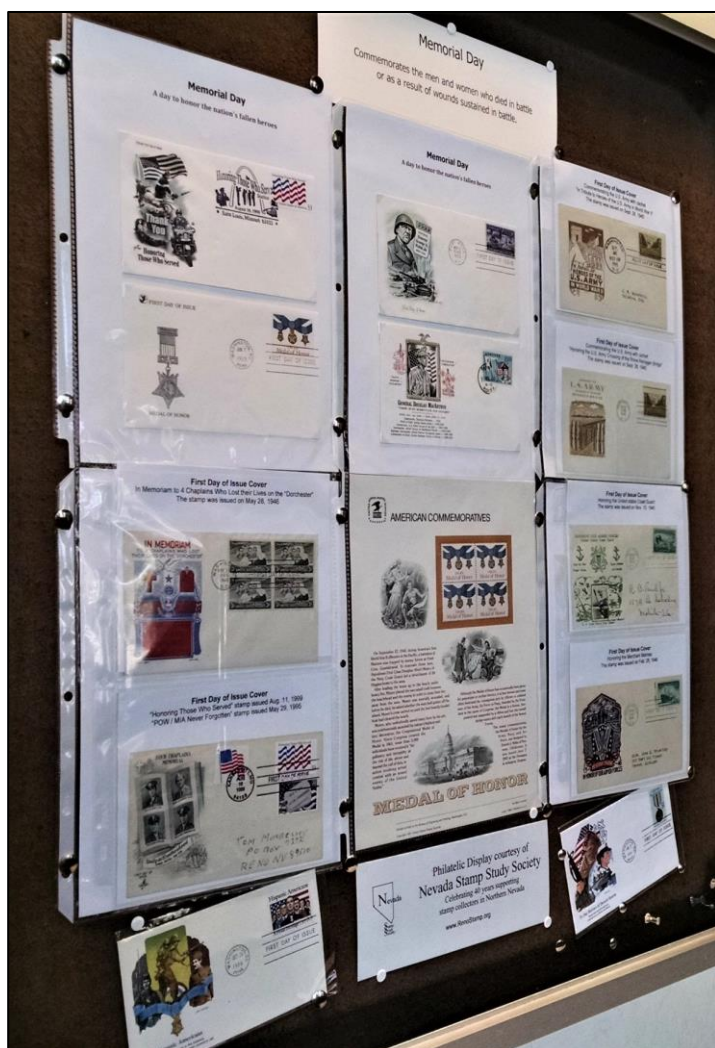
Exhibitor Deadline May 15, 2022

- [2022 Exhibit Entry Form \(fillable PDF\)](#)
- [2022 Exhibit Prospectus \(PDF\)](#)

Vassar Post Office Display

The display cases at the Vassar Street post office were changed with material for Memorial Day (May 30) and Flag Day (June 14). **John Walter** changes the display about every 4-6 weeks depending on national holidays or local events.

The stamp club has exclusive privileges to use the two locked wall frames in the post office lobby.



Memorial Day commemorative stamp pages and covers.



Flag poster, commemorative stamp pages and flag stamp covers.