

Post Boy

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



January 2023
Volume 56, Issue 1

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

Officers:

President – James Steckley
president@renostamp.org

Vice President – Nadiah Beekun
vp@renostamp.org

Secretary – Jeanne Paquin
secretary@renostamp.org

Treasurer – Erik Fields
treasurer@renostamp.org

Directors:

George Ray

Dave Gehringer

dave@renostamp.org

Howard Grenzebach
howardg@renostamp.org

Dave Parsons
davep@renostamp.org

Eric Moody
eric@renostamp.org

PB Editor & Webmaster
John Walter
editor@renostamp.org

<https://renostamp.org/>
PO Box 2907,
Sparks, NV 89432

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Announcements

Meetings –

Jan. 14 - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m.

After announcements, committee reports and raffle, there will be a live auction. Members can have up to 5 lots on the auction table. Extra lots may be added up to 60 total lots. After the regular meeting there is a Board meeting - all members may attend.

Jan. 28 - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m.

After announcements, committee reports and raffle, there will be a philatelic presentation. Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. Extra lots may be added as lots are sold.

Online Auction #25 – All lot descriptions and images are due by noon on Jan. 15. The auction will start at noon on Jan. 17 and end at noon on Jan. 26. Email auction lot info to **Dave Parsons**:
NSSSauctions@gmail.com

Reminder: Postal rates will increase on January 22, 2023.

First Class letter 1 oz. - 63¢ Additional oz. - 24¢ Post cards - 48¢
International letter 1 oz - \$1.45 International post card - \$1.45
Plus all special handling (Priority and Express) rates are also increasing.
Overall postal increases are 4.2%
Another postal rate increase is planned for July.

Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30, at the National Bowling Stadium. Same venue as last year. Plan now for having an exhibit in the show. Volunteers are also needed for a variety of “chores” to make the show a success. Contact **Erik Fields** to volunteer.

John Walter has all the stamp club pictures from 2022 posted on the club website: <https://renostamp.org/gallery.html>

Multiple pages of pictures for club meetings, stamp show, picnic, Auction Bucks auction, post office and library displays, and the Holiday Christmas party.

Post Boy Reporter

Dec. 10 - Holiday Christmas party – Attendance was 23. **James Steckley** and **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the room. **Barbara Stanfield** and **Jeanne Paquin** were also early to decorate the tables. **Jeanne Paquin** brought the turkey and **Susie and Dave Gehringer** brought the ham.

Emma Sehr had gifts stolen at least 4 times. Table decorations with lighted gift boxes were raffled after the gift exchange. **Donovan Sehr** served as the Master of Ceremony calling out the ticket numbers.



Table set up.



James Steckley making announcements.



Donovan & Emma Sehr with Santa.



Nadiyah Beekun opening a gift.



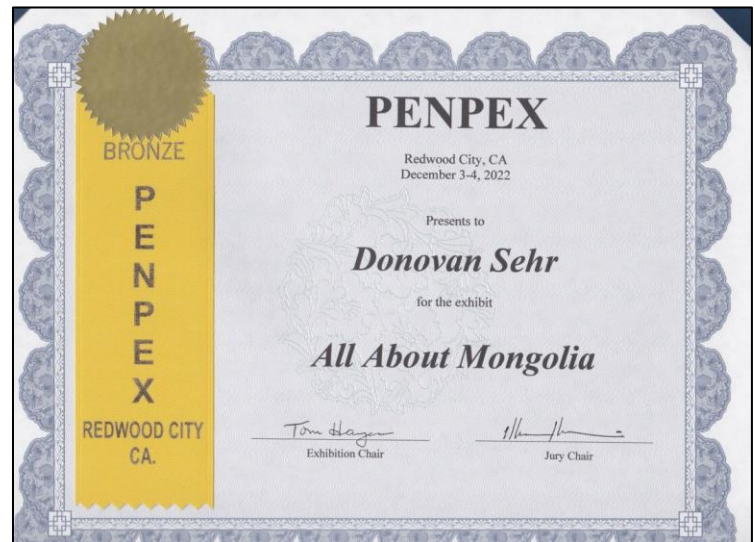
John Walter, photographer, with Santa.



Donovan Sehr as Master of Ceremony.

Member's Exhibits at Penpex, Dec. 3-4, 2022

Donovan Sehr, our junior member, had his "All About Mongolia" exhibit win a Bronze. He is very proud of the certificate and ribbon.



He has decided that he will perhaps create a new exhibit for the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30.

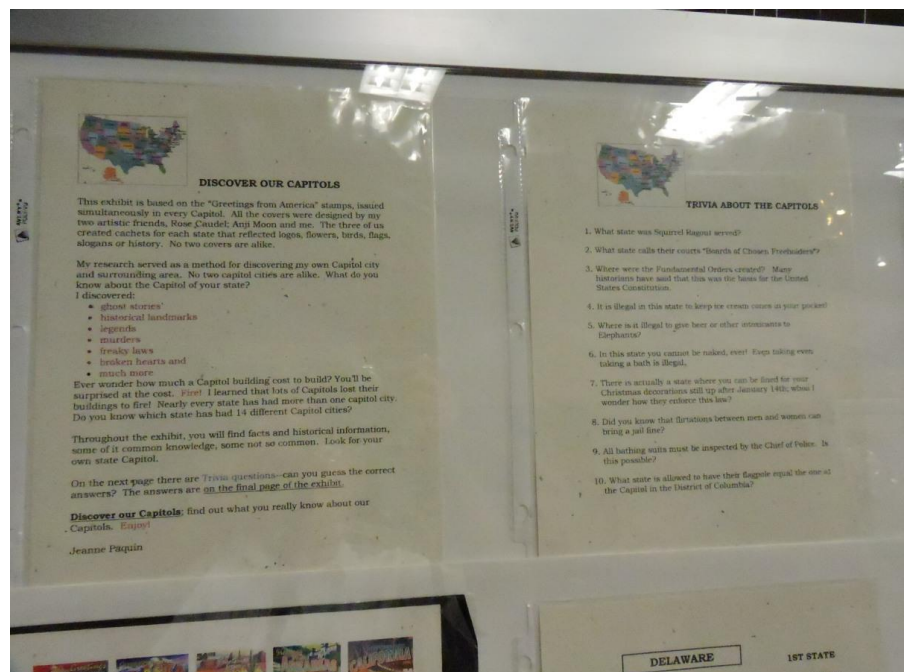
Donny is 10 years old, an A student, and is involved this season in a private Soccer league.

Jeanne Paquin entered her 5-frame exhibit "Discover the Capitols" which won a Large Silver and ATA award.

The exhibit is all about odd and strange laws that pertain to each capitol city.

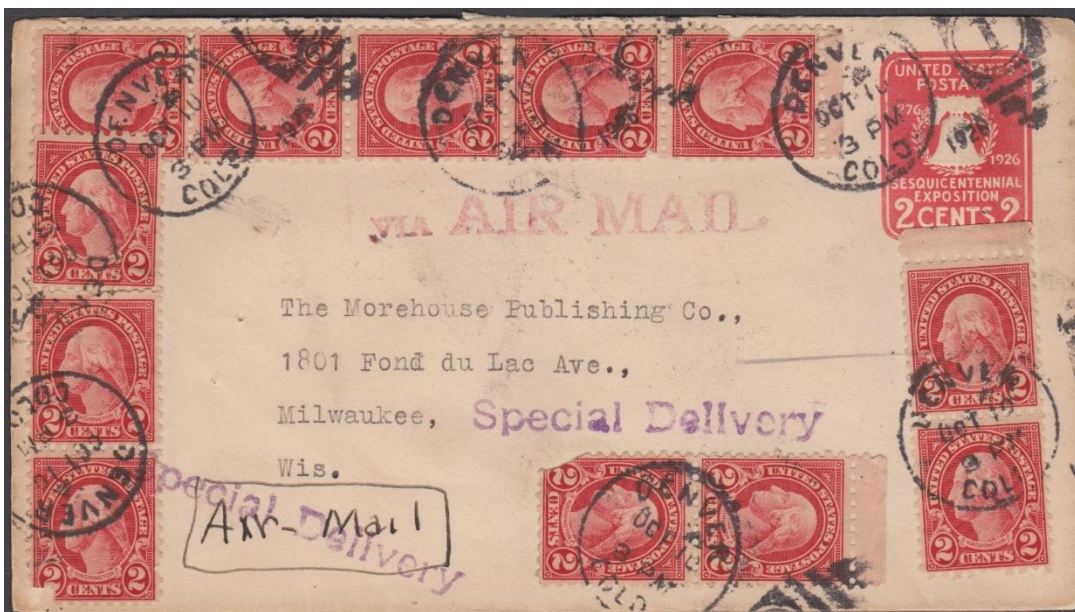
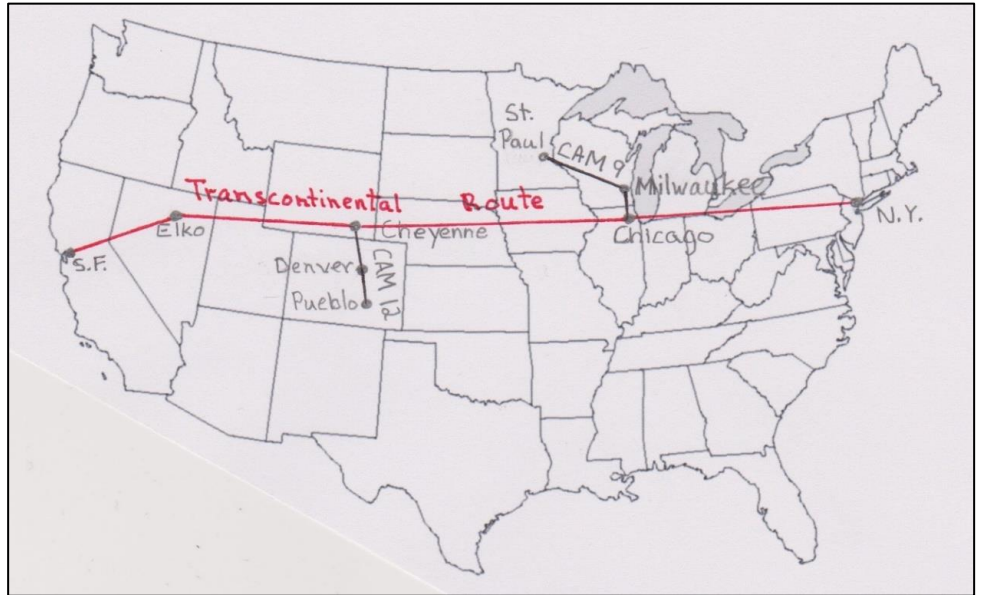
What Capitol city burned down 14 times?

Answer - Montpelier, Vermont.



A 1926 Contract Air Mail Cover By Patrick Crosby

Private steamships and railroads carried the U.S. mails, so why not private airlines? By mid-1924 the U.S. Government-operated transcontinental air mail route from New York to San Francisco was up and running. It was divided into three zones: New York to Chicago, Chicago to Cheyenne, WY, and Cheyenne to San Francisco. The next step was to add feeder lines from different parts of the country, and this was accomplished in 1926 employing private contractors. The U.S. Post Office Department (USPOD) granted contracts to private companies for transporting mail via airplane through a bidding process. Various companies received a contract for a Contract Air Mail route (CAM, "route" is understood), the first being flown Feb 15, 1926.



Cancels on reverse

The featured cover from Oct 10, 1926, falls right into a short time period of confusion with the air mail rates and growth pains for the fledgling commercial airline industry. This cover, which also received Special Delivery service, looks contrived with its 2¢ stamps around the perimeter, but this isn't the case. Regular issue postage stamps were always permitted for air mail and special delivery use and someone had a lot of 2¢ stamps. The postal clerk was careful to keep the postmarks out of the address area. The twelve 2¢ (Scott 583) on the current 2¢ postal stationery envelope (Sc. U522) add up to 26¢ postage.

Special Delivery was 10¢ and paid for an expedited delivery to the addressee (one try) from the Milwaukee post office. Air mail rates were a source of frustration for postal customers and employees. Hard to tally fees (needed to determine the airline contractors' compensation) and P.O. forms reluctantly and incorrectly filled out gave the USPOD accountants headaches.

I mentioned three zones of the Government's U.S. Postal Trans-continental Route, and for letters each zone or part of a zone required 8¢ postage per 1 oz. In 1923 8¢, 16¢, and 24¢ stamps were issued to meet these zone rates. Any necessary ground transportation for mail to get to or from a transcontinental



Scott C4, C5, C6.

air mail route airport was included. However, beginning in 1926 if any part of a CAM flight (or two) was also used, then 5¢ was added for each CAM flight. Each early CAM was given a number representing when the contract with the USPOD was signed, not the order of first flights. The featured cover required one transcontinental route zone and two CAM flights. With Special Delivery, the postage should be 28¢ [$8 + (2 \times 5) + 10 = 28$]. I think the cover with 26¢ postage was underpaid by 2¢ and I don't notice where a 2¢ stamp may have come off.

Using the cover's marking and information from U.S. Postal Bulletins on Contract Air Mail, here is its timeline:

- Oct 10, 1926 (Sunday), 3:00 p.m. Denver north to Cheyenne, 100 miles, air mail on CAM 12 (Cheyenne, WY via Denver and Colorado Springs to Pueblo, CO, established May 31, 1926, daily) 5¢ postage.
- Oct 11, 1926, 5:30 am leaves Cheyenne east to Chicago, IL on transcontinental air mail route. This is one entire zone only, so 8¢ postage.
- Oct 11, 1926, 7:00 p m arrives in Chicago.
- Oct 12, 1926, 5:45 a m leaves Chicago north to Milwaukee, WI, 90 miles, air mail on CAM 9 (Chicago to Milwaukee and La Crosse, WI and St. Paul, MN, established Jun 7, 1926, 5 times weekly) 5¢ postage.
- Oct 12, 1926 (Tuesday), 6:50 a m arrives in Milwaukee. Private circular date/time stamp indicates the cover arrived at the addressed publishing company (via Special Deliver) at 7:45 a.m.

During this confusing period another source of irritation was the "Via Air Mail" handstamp as seen on the cover. By itself, without being qualified, this meant that the sender wants and should have paid for all useful air mail routes available, in this case two CAM's and one transcontinental zone. If for example the sender didn't want to pay 5¢ for air mail for the first leg of the journey from Denver to Cheyenne, he would write "Via Air Mail Cheyenne to Milwaukee".

The CAM 9, which included from Chicago to Milwaukee for the featured cover, began service in a period of severe dust storms (first flight Jun 7, 1926), with only two of the contract company's six flights arriving at the destination and the death of a pilot. The company was relieved of its CAM contract, which was eventually awarded to Northwest Airways, effective Oct 1, 1926, on that day one of their planes crashed. Northwest Airways (soon renamed Northwest Airlines) had been in operation for one month and wanted a part of the lucrative post office CAM business.

Life for many became a lot easier on Feb 1, 1927, when the U.S. continental air mail rate became 10¢ no matter how far or how many air mail routes were employed. However, this was for ½ oz., not the previous 1 oz. The 10¢ map air mail stamp (Sc. C7) was already available.

Charles “Slim” Lindbergh became the chief pilot for the Robertson Aircraft Co. and flew the first mail route between St. Louis and Chicago, CAM 2, on Apr 15, 1926. “Slim” was happy to have regular, good-paying employment. On Nov 3, 1926, Lindbergh lost a plane, the second in two weeks. Things did not look good for him, but he was not grounded. Charles Lindbergh loved flying challenges and disliked flying in calm weather.



Scott C10, Spirit of St. Louis.

While a CAM pilot he dreamed up a transatlantic flight to Paris, non-stop and solo, and then flew it on May 20-21, 1927. On his return he inscribed one photograph, “I am proud to have done it for America. My reward will be your continued use of ‘air mail’.” Of course, this also meant a lot to the confidence and success of the fledging commercial airline industry as the use of air mail soared. He became an instant celebrity and then, in a tribute to Lindbergh, his plane, the “Spirit of St. Louis” and his transatlantic route were soon shown on a 10¢ air mail postal issue (Sc. C10, issued Jun 18, 1927). It is said Charles Lindbergh did more for the promotion and success of early U.S. air mail than any other individual.



Scott 1684

References:

- Donald B. Holmes, Air Mail an Illustrated History 1793-1981 (Clarkson N. Potter, New York, NY, 1981).
- The Postal Bulletin (Washington D.C.) (esp. No. 13504, 13983, 13987, 14056, 14082, 14083) available for free at www.uspostalbulletins.com.
- Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011 (Bellefonte, PA: American Philatelic Society, 2011) esp. pp. 84, 85, 88 [Available from APS].
- Scott 2019 Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers (Sidney, OH: Amos Media, 2018).
- En.wikipedia.org (see “United States airmail service” subtitle “Contract Air Mail (CAM) service,” includes a transcontinental air mail route map and a CAM’s map, also “Stout Metal Airplane” and “North-west Airlines”).

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.

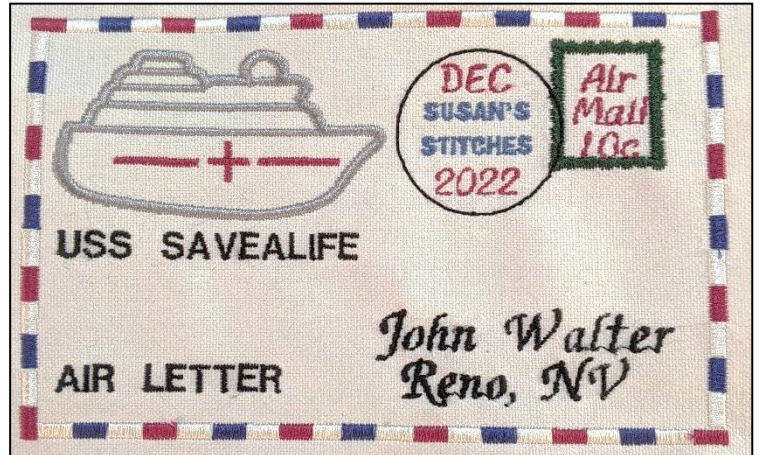
Holiday Gift Stitching

By Susie Gehringer

For me, it is still the season for gifting. I like to create gifts which, at least to me, are appropriate for the recipient. Each year is a different concept or idea while still being personally hand created for the individual. All the handcrafted gifts which were being mailed for this Christmas were completed just in time. Those for local friends were (are) still in process.

Dave and I also wanted to give something personal to John, Kirsten and Dee Anne Walter. However, time elapsed and I wasn't finished. I easily found machine embroidery patterns for Kirsten and Dee Anne already purchased and in my catalogs of at least a bazillion patterns. (Well, maybe not quite that many.) Hard to compete with Dave's collection of postal interests.

I asked Dave if he knew John's interests, and after considerable discussion and planning, we arrived at the idea which you see completed here. We finally decided on an AIR LETTER or AÉROGRAMME concept. An Air Mail stamp, Postal cancellation, Cachet, Addressee and (the really challenging part) the border.



A test stitching was not done. This is the original. The border is composed of 64 rectangles in three colors. Getting them the same width, length and aligned was challenging. They are close but not exact. I enjoy the challenge of putting my imagination to work and my patience to the test.

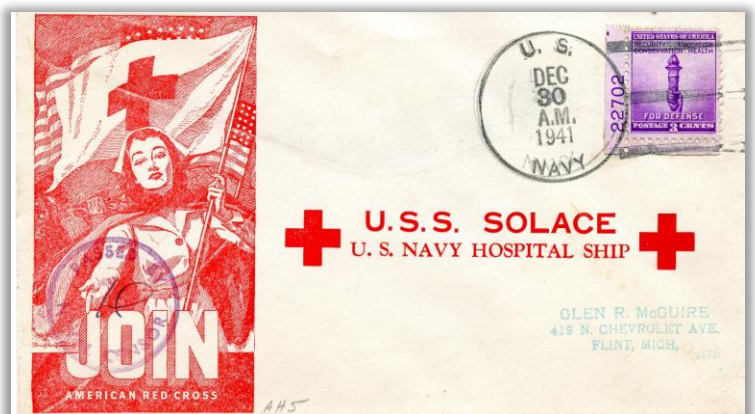
After embroidery is complete each stitched square is backed with fabric and lined with insulator and heat reflective material. This one will be 10 1/2" finished to use under a hot plate or mug.

Susie is married to Dave Gehringer, NSSS Director.

After seeing the embroidered patch, Susie was asked for a writeup on the project. John Walter collects used U.S. aerogrammes, Navy hospital ship covers and other used U.S. postal stationery. All those concepts were incorporated in the above. Thanks, Susie.

Shown here is one of John's latest acquisitions of the U.S.S. Solace canceled only a few weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack. On the left over the cachet is a censor's mark.

The cover was a purchase at the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento in August.



January Quiz - National Symbols and Landmarks

By Eric Moody

1. Large stone pyramids are famously associated with ancient Egypt, but native structures of this type also appear on stamps (#C71, C88, 635, etc.) of this country.
(a) Tunisia (b) Mexico (c) Libya (d) Ireland
2. The dodo, a flightless bird that became extinct in the 17th century, was last seen on this island, which has featured the fowl on some of its stamps (#287, 328, etc.).
(a) Madagascar (b) Ceylon (Sri Lanka) (c) Cuba (d) Mauritius
3. The Statue of Liberty in New York is a U.S. symbol, but it has appeared on the stamps of other countries, most obviously this nation which has a close connection to the statue.
(a) Liberia (b) Great Britain (c) France (d) Canada
4. The small Asian nation of Singapore has this mythical creature (featured emoji-style in a 10-stamp set in 2017) as its official mascot.
(a) dragon (b) unicorn (c) mermaid (d) merlion
5. Stamps of this European nation don't carry the name of the country, but do have portraits (often in silhouette) of the reigning monarch.
(a) Denmark (b) Luxembourg (c) Great Britain (d) Norway
6. A stylized chrysanthemum flower, a royal symbol, was featured on stamps of this country until the late 1940s.
(a) China (b) Japan (c) Thailand (d) Korea
7. The emperor's yacht was a standard feature on the colonial stamps issued by this country before World War I.
(a) Japan (b) Great Britain (c) Russia (d) Germany
8. Australia's unique marsupial the kangaroo has been depicted on numerous stamps of that country. It made its first appearance on a stamp issued by the British Commonwealth nation in
(a) 1890 (b) 1901 (c) 1913 (d) 1927
9. The tulip, official flower and an important economic resource, has been depicted often on the stamps (#503, 807, etc.) of this country.
(a) China (b) Belgium (c) Netherlands (d) Germany
10. Christ the Redeemer, is a famous 98 foot-high statue that is perched on a mountain peak above this South American country's best known city. It has appeared on a number of stamps (#392-393, 1765, etc.) issued by the country, which is
(a) Chile (b) Brazil (c) Argentina (d) Peru

11. The deserted ancient city of Angkor Wat, obscured for centuries by jungle overgrowth but now largely excavated, has become a great tourist attraction for this Southeast Asian country, which has featured it on numerous stamps (#23-25, 152-156, etc.).
 (a) Laos (b) Thailand (c) Malaysia (d) Cambodia
12. A barrier built many centuries ago to keep out invading “barbarians,” it extends for thousands of miles along the old northern border of a modern nation. Shown on that country’s stamps (#1443, 1479-1482, 2611, etc.), it is known as
 (a) Hadrian’s Wall (b) the Maginot Line (c) the Land Walls of Constantinople (d) the Great Wall of China

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

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

A note on last month’s quiz: Due to a typographical error that slipped by the quizmaster, question 5 in the December quiz may have been very difficult to answer correctly. The “Eskimo dog” appeared in a set of stamps issued by Canada in 1988 – not 1958, as the question indicated.

Did You Know

In Vietnam, 2023 is the Year of the Cat. The Vietnam zodiac replaces the rabbit used in the Chinese zodiac. These two stamps were issued on Dec. 1, 2022.

The Vietnamese zodiac follows the Chinese zodiac for much of the remaining 11 years of the lunar cycle, although Vietnam replaces the ox with a water buffalo.



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Do you also know the Scott catalogs lists about 2,100 stamp issuing authorities that have produced stamps. Try to obtain just one stamp from each entity. What a collection that would be.

This example is from the Orange Free State which was established in 1854 and lasted until the British shut it down in 1902.

Vassar Post Office Display

The main Reno post office on Vassar Street has provided two wall frames for the Nevada Stamp Study Society to have monthly philatelic displays. **John Walter** does a great job with U.S. material using covers, stamps, commemorative panels and other appropriate items. In addition to the New Year stamp frame display pictured in the December Post Boy, John added this Civil Rights Pioneers material to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, celebrated on January 16.

