

Post Boy

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



February 2023
Volume 56, Issue 2

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 –

Feb. 11 - 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.

Feb. 25 - 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 #26 – All lot descriptions and images are due by noon on Feb. 12. The auction will start at noon on Feb. 14 and end at noon on Feb. 23. Email auction lot info to **Dave Parsons**:
NSSSauctions@gmail.com
Final Bids for Auction #25: <https://RenoStamp.org/auction/>

Take a look at the articles in this issue. One article is about “A Not Nearly Round the World Cover” in 1929 and another article on a “Pam-Am Around the World Cover” in 1947. Very interesting reading.

For those who could not attend the Jan. 28 presentation on “Dear Doctor Junk Mail” letters, images on page 9 show one of the covers with the contents of the dear doctor letter and pharmaceutical advertisement. **John Walter** has 14 of these covers. Researching these covers he found a census of 16 covers sent by Ayerst Laboratories with two covers overlapping, which means a census 28 different covers. Anyone else have Ayerst Laboratories first day covers with contents?

On page 3 is the summary of the Board meeting of Jan. 14. Please take a look and forward any suggestions for club projects. At the same time volunteers are needed especially as the club prepares for the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30.

Post Boy Reporter

Jan. 14 meeting – The attendance was 27 members including one member via Zoom. **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **Dave Gehringer** provided the refreshments.

Mike Potter reported on membership total of 54 with 19 waiting for renewal. With sadness we learned Jeannie Atkinson, wife of Gary, passed away on Dec. 20.

James Steckley made announcements about the APS stamp show in Cleveland, August 10-13, and WEST-PEX in Burlingame, CA, April 28-30. Numerous new January postal issues were shown on slides with dates of issue. Members were reminded that Nominations are open for election of President, Treasurer and two Director positions. Nomination forms are available at each meeting or contact **John Walter**. Due date for the nomination form is July 1.

Robert Bernal announced that he is a “grandfather” as his dog had four puppies. Instead of cigars, he passed around some old picture postcards for members to keep. Many of the cards pictured the treasures of Egyptian King Tutankhaten.

John Walter gave a report on the club’s website, the Post Boy newsletter, and the post office and library displays around town. The annual club registration with the NV Secretary of State for a non-profit group was done. He placed all the 2022 club activity pictures on the website: <https://RenoStamp.org/gallery/>

Erik Fields reminded members about the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30. The dealer’s prospectus is now on the website. **Dave Parsons** announced online auction #25 starts Jan. 17 at noon.

The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with 10 prizes and a bonus prize won by **Eugene Smoots**. The money of \$10.50 was won by **Dave Parsons**.

The live auction had 46 lots plus 5 donations lots with 38 lots selling for \$249.50. **Gary Atkinson** was the auctioneer with **Nadiah Beekun** and **Howard Kadohiro** helping.

Jan. 28 meeting – Attendance was 28 members including two via Zoom. Ron Matteri also attended via Zoom and indicated his desire to join our stamp club.

Erik Fields and **James Steckley** arrived early to setup the tables and chairs. Refreshments were provided by **John Walter**.

Dave Parsons reported on the Online Auction #25. There was a total of 64 lots with 65% being sold with \$218.00 in gross sales.

The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **Scott Mathews** and the money prize of \$11.00 went to **Eric Moody**.

Dick Simmonds had a fall because of balance problems and is really slowing down.

The program, “Dear Doctor Junk Mail Letters” was presented by **John Walter**. He discussed First Day Covers mailed by Ayerst Laboratories from 1965 to 1968. Each Art Craft cacheted cover had a letter with information about the new issue stamp followed by a few paragraphs about the pharmaceutical product being advertised, along with an insert about the drug. Doing some research on the covers, John discovered only 28 FDCs in an online census sent by Ayerst Labs including the 14 covers that John possesses. Since John worked as a nurse practitioner, he talked about the drugs being advertised and some taken off the market after litigation because of medical complications, such as endometrial and breast cancer, heart valve problems and pulmonary hypertension. Nice mix of philatelic and medical information.

NSSS Board Meeting Report - January 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at noon with a quorum present. The minutes of the October 22, 2022 meeting and today's agenda were approved.

Erik Fields submitted a written Treasurer's report: The cash box held \$203.31, and the checking account balance was \$12,139.41. The 2022 Financial Statement was approved. The stamp show had a loss of \$474, membership dues was \$1,067, auctions and donations generated \$3,116 income. Total revenue for 2022 was \$3,260.70. Total expenses were \$2,761.

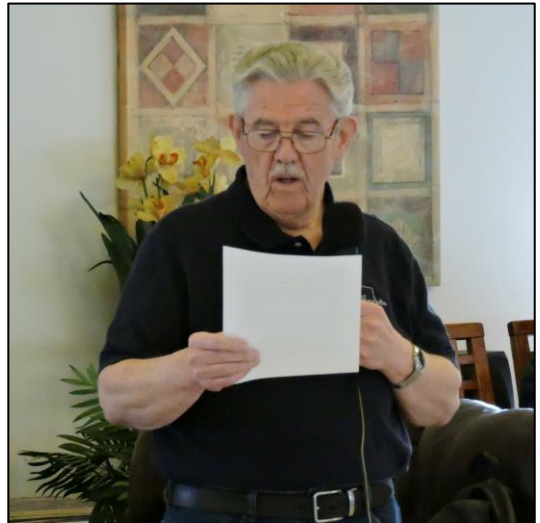
Under old business, a set of updated Scott catalogs had yet to be purchased but the search for a recent set continues. The penny box material was again approved to be placed in the meeting live auctions for disposal.

Under new business it was discussed and approved to spend no more than \$400 for a new projector for meeting presentations and Zoom. **Nadia Beekun** is to gather information about the best one to buy. Currently the club owns a laptop computer, PA sound system, remote video camera, Bluetooth mic/speaker, and a wired microphone. All this tech gear is used at each meeting. **John Walter** has been bringing his personal projector to the meetings.

The Vassar Post Office contact for the show cancellations is Mr. Anthony McDonald. He was contacted but no reply yet.

Committee reports: **James Steckley** reported no new donations; **John Walter** submitted a written report on his activities with the Post Boy (total of 120 pages published in 2022), the website (occupies 1.3 GB of server space with 88 folders and 6,764 files with an annual cost of \$42), a display at Carson City library in October and monthly displays at the Vassar post office; **Dave Gehringer** is soliciting speakers for meeting presentations in 2023; **Dave Parsons** reported on online auctions.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.



James Steckley, President



Some of the members at the January 14 meeting.

By Howard Grenzebach

C. DAVID LAMBIRD, M. D.
201 15TH STREET
SPARKS, NEVADA

RENO, NEV.
OCT 7
630PM '35

Remember - OCT 7
PREPAID
FOR

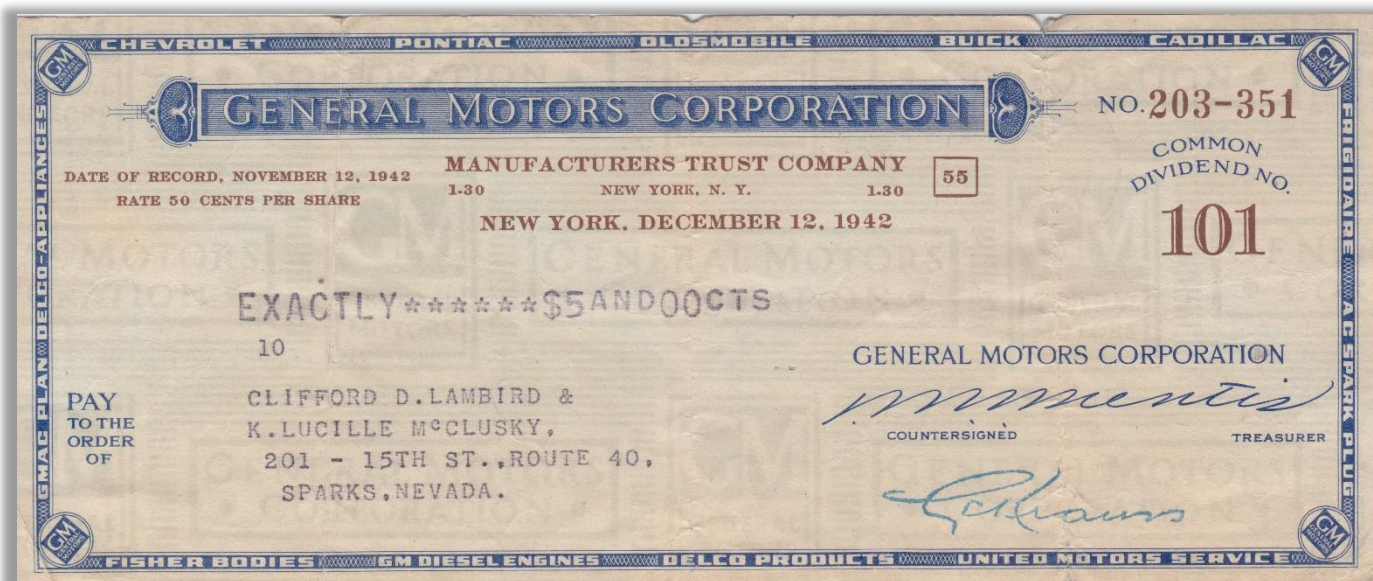
FROM RENO, NEV.

25c such
#272

James Peterson
1712 N. Virginia St
Reno, Nevada



Inside I found a smaller envelope, pre-addressed to C. David Lambird, M.D., in Sparks, with an invoice for “professional services” with handwritten “Immediate payment is requested at this long overdue account of \$124.00.” Ah, for the good old days!



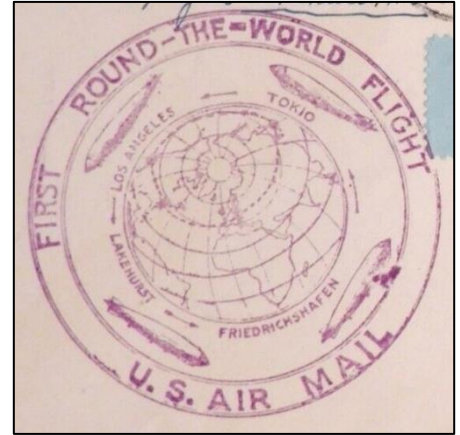
February 2023

A Not Nearly Round-the-World Cover

By Patrick Crosby

Letters and cards were eagerly sent by stamp collectors to be placed on a 1929 round-the-world flight on no less than the German airship L.Z. 127, the *Graf Zeppelin*. The mailed articles were also to receive a large, attractive "Round-the-World" handstamp cachet. Now, a cover that made it all around the world, or at least across an ocean, on a zeppelin is certainly desirable. But I am happy with the featured postal card from the same flight which never left the United States. First some background.

The United States Post Office Department (USPOD) accepted a suggestion by Germany to participate in flying covers and cards (private postcards or government postal cards) on the *Graf Zeppelin* "...scheduled to sail August 7, 1929, on a round the world cruise starting and ending at Lakehurst, NJ via Friedrichshafen, Germany, Tokio, Japan, and Los Angeles, Calif." The airship would then fly back to Germany. Not just mail was carried, but it was said that the passenger list looked like an international *Who's Who*. Mail for the flight had been forwarded to New York, NY (and later to Los Angeles, CA) from post offices across the nation whose postmasters had been notified.



Handstamp cachet used on flights.



This cover was prepared in Los Angeles and flown to Lakehurst, NJ.

Departure was at 12:40 a.m., Aug. 8, 1929, and the airship cruised at an average speed of 70.7 mph for 21,200 miles in just under 21 days, 8 hours. Including all the varied flight destination possibilities for collectors, 43,000 pieces of mail were carried. Most of the USPOD mail was prepared in New York, NY, but covers for the last legs of the journey, like the featured **cover above**, were prepared in Los Angeles, CA, using the same round cachet as New York but only if the cover's cross-country trip ended in Lakehurst, since some covers remained on the return flight to Germany.

There were different letter and card fees depending on which segments of the flight a cover was to travel, which a sender was to note on the front of the cover. Card fees were half those of letters. For examples, Lakehurst to Germany - letter \$1, card 50¢; Lakehurst to Tokyo - letter \$2, card \$1. Round the world (Lakehurst to Lakehurst) letter - \$3.50, card \$1.75. These were special fees for being aboard the *Graf Zeppelin* and additional regular USPOD international postage rates were required – 5¢ for letters and 3¢ for cards. Not all mail for the flight was posted in the U.S., so there are foreign usages to collect.

The above rates were first published in the *Postal Bulletin* of Aug. 1, 1929, the flight departed Lakehurst Aug. 8, 1929, but it wasn't until the Aug. 15, 1929, *Postal Bulletin* that the fees and postage for the last spans of the journey were announced, and these were for the combined charge (fees and U.S. postage). From Los Angeles to Lakehurst - letter 60¢, card 30¢. The featured card is overpaid by 1¢, but the large 10¢ (Sc. C10) and 20¢ (Sc. C9) airmail stamps are more appropriate than the 29¢ in added definitive stamps sometimes seen on this 1¢ postal card. The sender correctly marked the card "By German Airship L.Z. 127 from Los Angeles to Lakehurst N.J."

The *Graf Zeppelin* touched down in Los Angeles from Tokyo on Aug. 25, 1929. The featured card was then placed on board and flew only cross-country.

Cards arriving at Lakehurst at the end of the cruise were postmarked with a light green, dated International machine cancel illustrated with a zeppelin and "Graf Zeppelin Round-the-World Flight" within. Items that were to continue on the return trip to Germany did not receive this cancel.



Now for the special (to me) part. Jan. 1, 1949 is generally considered the first day there was a domestic airmail card rate. This meant 4¢ for a card and 6¢ for a letter, and a new airmail postal card was issued. But over 20 years previously, for one day and one day only (Aug. 28, 1929), there was a domestic airmail card rate in effect of 30¢ for the last leg of the Round-the-World *Graf Zeppelin* cruise, Los Angeles, CA to Lakehurst, NJ.

Note that the much-desired U.S. *Graf Zeppelin* airmail stamps (Sc. C13, C14 and C15) were not issued until 1930, meant for a different special flight of the *Graf Zeppelin*, the Europe-Pan American Round flight. In browsing USPOD *Postal Bulletins* I found these high value stamps (65¢, \$1.30, and \$2.60) presented a unique problem – the stamps were being removed while covers were in transit. A district postal inspector was to be notified of every such occurrence and "...all such depredations shall be traced to its source." If time allowed, senders (collectors) were to be notified so new covers could be prepared.

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. Nos. 15059, 15071, 15280) 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) [Available from APS]

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

Pan-Am Around the World Service 1947

By Tom Reyman

After World War II, Pan American Airways continued to expand its flight services to additional destinations. The FAM (Foreign Contract Air Mail) 14 and 18 routes were enlarged.

FAM 14 was the westbound route from San Francisco across the Pacific Ocean. Its main stops were Hawaii, Wake Island, Midway Island, then Tokyo, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong, China, and Bangkok, Thailand.

FAM 18 was the Eastbound route from New York across the North Atlantic, traveling through Europe to Rome and Turkey and then to the Middle East and on to India.

On June 26, 1947, Pan-Am made Calcutta, India a destination for both FAM 14 and FAM 18 as both routes were extended to that city. This event made it possible for travelers to fly around the world on one airline and to do it in either direction.



This first flight cover was sent from San Francisco on a FAM 14 Westbound flight to Calcutta. The cover cachet notes that both FAM 14 and FAM 18 were recognized as the Around-The-World routes. The postmark shows that it left San Francisco on June 26 and the backstamp indicates it arrived at Calcutta on June 30. The additional backstamp of New York on July 4 completes the FAM 14 to FAM 18 route. The mailing was finally delivered to the addressee in Sacramento.



Calcutta and New York backstamps.

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.

February Quiz - Elephants, Pink and Otherwise

By Eric Moody

The postage stamps of many countries have featured elephants, which range in character from photographic and realistic depictions to fanciful artwork, including cartoons. Even pink pachyderms, of the sort seen as alcohol-induced hallucinations in the 1941 animated film *Dumbo*, have adorned stamps. The following questions all relate to our world's "elephant postage."

1. In 1988 this West African country featured an "African forest elephant" in a set of stamps (#634-637) promoting the World Wildlife Fund.
(a) Nigeria (b) Togo (c) Gabon (d) Angola
2. A brown origami elephant is depicted on a 2011 stamp (#3373a) that is part of an "origami designs" set celebrating that year's PhilaNippon stamp expo in Yokohama, Japan. This unusual stamp was issued by:
(a) Japan (b) Gambia (c) China (d) South Africa
3. Pink elephants, the colorful variety shown as hallucinations in the animated film *Dumbo* (1941), are featured on "personalized" postage stamps that were produced by Zazzle.com during 2016-2018 for use in this country.
(a) Canada (b) Australia (c) New Zealand (d) United States
4. An extinct elephant-like prehistoric creature, the Stegodon Ganesa, is shown on a stamp (#232) issued by this Asian nation in 1951.
(a) Burma (Myanmar) (b) India (c) Thailand (d) Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
5. An elephant is depicted on the first stamp (#167) released by this African country after it transitioned from French colony to a republic late in 1958.
(a) Burundi (b) Senegal (c) Ivory Coast (d) Sierra Leone
6. *Dumbo*, the lovable big-eared flying elephant who starred in the animated 1941 film of the same name, was featured on a U.S. stamp (#4194) that was part of a set showcasing:
(a) circus animals (b) cartoon characters (c) Art Deco icons (d) the Art of Disney
7. In 1955 this Southeast Asian nation issued a set of stamps (#304-308) that showed heroic King Naresuan (ruled 1590-1605) mounted on a war elephant.
(a) Laos (b) Cambodia (c) Thailand (d) Burma (Myanmar)
8. This East African country's 1991 set of stamps featuring animals of the National Game Parks, included an elephant (#718) among its subjects.
(a) Tanzania (b) Mozambique (c) Somalia (d) Kenya
9. In 1995 this African country issued a stamp commemorating Hannibal, the Carthaginian general who, in 218 BCE, famously led war elephants across the Alps into Italy during the Second Punic War between Carthage and Rome. (Unfortunately, no elephants are depicted on the stamp.)
(a) Egypt (b) Morocco (c) Tunisia (d) Libya

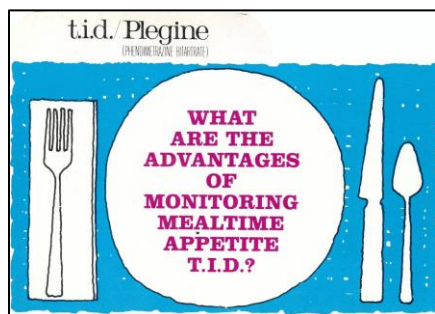
10. A 1980 stamp from Togo (#1071) features the Walt Disney character Goofy receiving this from an elephant:
 (a) a banana (b) a kiss (c) a teakwood log (d) a shower
11. An elephant is featured in a set of circus commemoratives that was issued by this country in 1993.
 (a) Germany (b) United States (c) Japan (d) Argentina
12. A stamp (#2179) showing a sandalwood carving of an elephant, and whose paper was “impregnated with sandalwood scent,” was produced in 2006 by this Asian country.
 (a) Thailand (b) Cambodia (c) India (d) Malaysia

The February 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

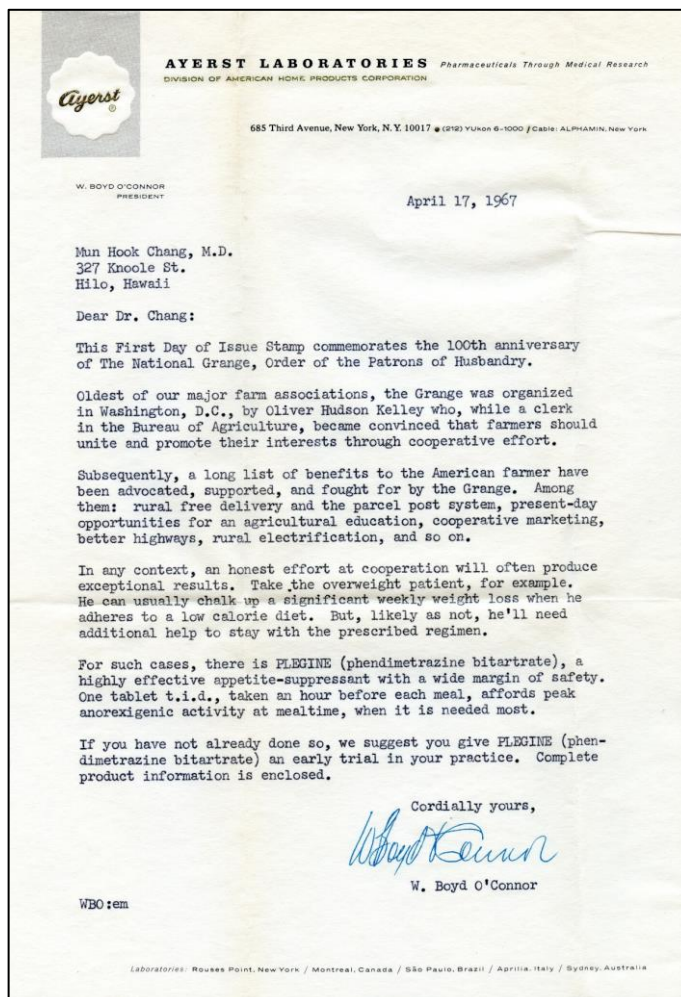
January Quiz Answers: 1. b 2. d 3. c 4. d
 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. c 9. c 10. b 11. d
 12. d

Dear Doctor Junk Mail

Here is one of the Ayerst Laboratories First Day Cover with the Dear Doctor letter and the pharmaceutical advertising discussed in the Jan. 28 presentation by **John Walter**.



This medication, Phendimetrazine, was one of the first oral drugs to suppress the appetite for weight loss. In 1990 it was combined with another drug to create Phen-fen which was taken off the market in 1997 because of complications with heart valve problems and pulmonary hypertension. Philatelic and drug information in one presentation – what a combination.



Vassar Post Office Display

With the month of February, the philatelic display was changed to reflect three important events. There are three pages honoring Black History & Heritage Month. President's Day is also honored with three pages of covers.

The second wall frame has lots of information on Love stamps and the many traditions associated with the word Love. Remember your love on Valentine's Day.

This is the 10th year **John Walter** is putting up monthly displays at the main post office in Reno.



The next library display will be at the Carson City library during July. It will be great advertising for the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30.