

Post Boy

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



March 2023
Volume 56, Issue 3

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 –

Mar. 11, 2023 - In person and online 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.

Mar. 25, 2023 - In person and online Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, there will be a philatelic presentation by **James Steckley** on “Speedboats and Stamps.” Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. Extra lots may be added as lots are sold.

Online Auction #27 – All lot descriptions and images are due by noon on Mar. 12. The auction starts Mar. 14 at noon and ends Mar. 23 at noon. Email auction lot information to **Dave Parsons**:
NSSSauctions@gmail.com.

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

Special days this month include Pi Day on March 14 (article on page 3) and, of course, St. Patrick's Day on March 17 (see page 10 for Vassar post office display). This is one of the covers in the display.



Post Boy Reporter

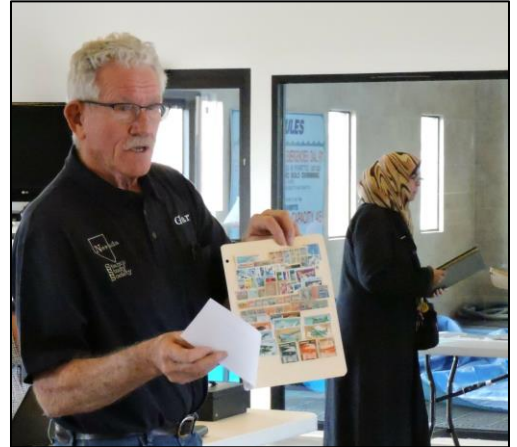
Feb. 11 meeting - Attendance was 26 members (23 in-person and 3 online via Zoom). **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. No refreshments arrived. Oddie Blvd. was closed from the Interstate to past Silverada St. where the clubhouse is situated. It was confusing to locate the clubhouse if you did not know the streets in the area.

James Steckley showed stamp images and talked about the new postal issues for February. He also discussed the Mississippi stamp pane with the map error on the back. Michigan's upper peninsula was in Wisconsin. **Mike Potter** reported 65 paid members, hopefully more to follow. **John Walter** reported on the Post Boy and need for original articles. He also discussed the club's website and Vassar PO displays.

Erik Fields reported on the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show (July 29-30). He is soliciting dealers and asking for a volunteer to coordinate and solicit exhibits.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **George Ray** and the money prize of \$9.50 went to **Jeanne Paquin**.

The live auction had 51 member lots and one donation lot. A total of 39 lots sold for \$340.00. **Gary Atkinson** and **Mike Potter** were the auctioneers with **Howard Kadohiro** and **Nadiah Beekun** helping.



Auctioneer, Gary Atkinson, and Nadiah Beekun in back helping.

Feb. 25 meeting – **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the meeting room and have the coffee pot ready. Attendance was 23 members including 3 via Zoom. Attendance was surprising since early this morning was the last of snowfall each of the last three days and still with some ice and snow on the roads. **Steve Foster** provided the refreshments.

Announcements were brief: **Mike Potter** reported 65 paid members, **Tom Reyman** reported that Aripex 2023 (Feb. 17-19) had decreased attendance and no exhibits. Dealers were disappointed on the attendance.

George Ray conducted the raffle with 10 prizes and the Bonus prize went to **Mike Potter** and the \$9.00 money prize went to **Steve Foster**.

Online Auction #26 concluded on Feb. 23. With 89 lots listed, 58 lots sold (65%) for \$583.50.

Dave Gehringer gave an excellent presentation on “Pan America’s Test Covers” using the current 10¢ air-mail stamp issued Aug. 15, 1941. He showed 34 covers addressed to the Pan American office in 28 countries and the return to original sender. Arrival dates in the countries had postmarks on the back and the receiving dates recorded when received back in the U.S. After the presentation, **Tom Reyman** on Zoom showed a Nov. 1, 1946, Pan American test cover he has.



Cover received Kingston, Jamaica- Nov. 2, 1946
Resent and received in Erie, PA on Nov. 5, 1946

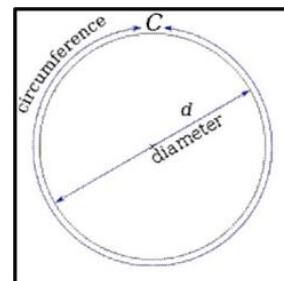
Pi Day 2023

By John Walter

Pi Day is an annual celebration commemorating the mathematical constant, the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, commonly stated as 3.14. It has been represented by the Greek letter π since the mid-18th century, though it is also sometimes spelled out as "pi". Pi Day is observed on March 14.

Being an irrational number, π cannot be expressed exactly as a common fraction, although the fraction $22/7$ is commonly used. Consequently, its decimal representation never ends and never settles into a permanent repeating pattern. Also, π is a transcendental number - a number that is not the root of any non-zero polynomial having rational coefficients. This transcendence of π implies that it is impossible to solve the ancient challenge of squaring the circle with a compass and straightedge.

Although ancient civilizations needed the mathematical constant to be computed accurately for practical reasons, it was not calculated to more than seven digits in Chinese mathematics and to about five in Indian mathematics in the 5th century.



The circumference of a circle is slightly more than three times as long as its diameter. The exact ratio is called π .

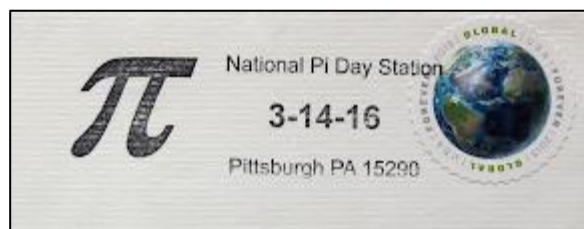


2013 Italian stamp honoring the 2300th anniversary of the birth of Archimedes showing π and math calculations.

The historically first exact formula based on infinite series, was not available until a millennium later, when in the 14th century the Madhava-Leibniz series was discovered in Indian mathematics.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, mathematicians and computer scientists discovered new approaches that, when combined with increasing computational power, extended the decimal representation of π to over 13.3 trillion (10^{13}) digits. Scientific applications generally require no more than 40 digits, so the primary motivation for these computations is the human desire to break records. However, the extensive calculations involved have been used to test supercomputers and high-precision multiplication algorithms.

Because its definition relates to the circle, π is found in many formulae in trigonometry and geometry, especially those concerning circles, ellipses or spheres. It is also found in formulae used in other branches of science such as cosmology, number theory, statistics, fractals, thermodynamics, mechanics, and electromagnetism. The ubiquity of π makes it one of the most widely known mathematical constants both inside and outside the scientific community. Several books devoted to it have been published, the number is celebrated on Pi Day and record-setting calculations of the digits of π often result in news headlines. Attempts to memorize the value of π with increasing precision have led to records of over 67,000 digits.



Special postmark on Pi Day 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA with USPS Global forever stamp.



A First Day Cover from Portugal for a Pi Day stamp issued March 14, 2012.

Pi Approximation Day is observed on July 22 (22/7 in the day/month format), since the fraction is a common approximation of π . Since that is my birthdate, I naturally found this subject very interesting.

There are many examples of personal Pi Day stamps on the Zazzle.com website.



The stamp inscription reads:
LOVE is like π
NATURAL • IRRATIONAL • IMPORTANT



John Walter is the editor of the Post Boy and webmaster. He collects Japan, used U.S. postal stationery including aerograms.

Pan American Test Covers

By Dave Gehringer

To encourage the greater use of airmail for the exchange of communications between the United States and the West Indies, Central and South America, a public test of the speed of air-mail facilities between these countries had been arranged by Pan American Airlines

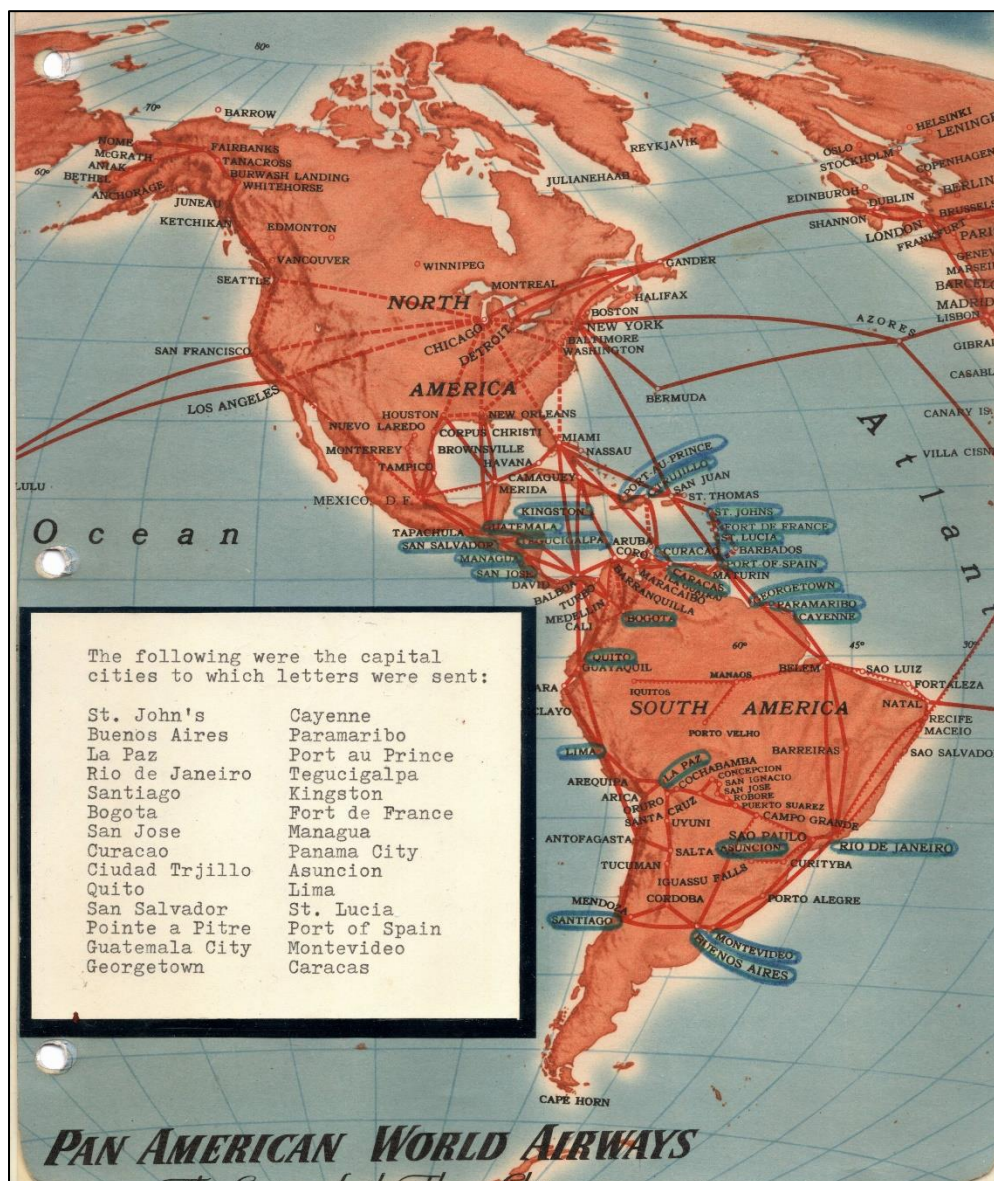
For one day only on November 1, 1946, persons desiring to participate in this test could do so by addressing an envelope, prepaid with 10 cent air-mail stamp to "Pan American World Airways System, Air Mail Test" at any of the capital cities of the 28 participating countries.

The envelopes were mailed in "regular fashion" on Nov. 1, 1946. Upon arrival at their destination (the Pan American office), the date of receipt was stamped on the back. Return postage was paid by Pan America and mailed through regular air mail channels from each particular country.

Below are a couple of the test covers that were shown during the club presentation on Feb. 25, 2023.

Most of the covers shown were created and sent by Dorothy Schoenfield in Erie, PA. There were also a few covers created by Herman Taylor, from Port Arthur, TX. He used #10 business sized envelopes with the new 10¢ airmail stamp.

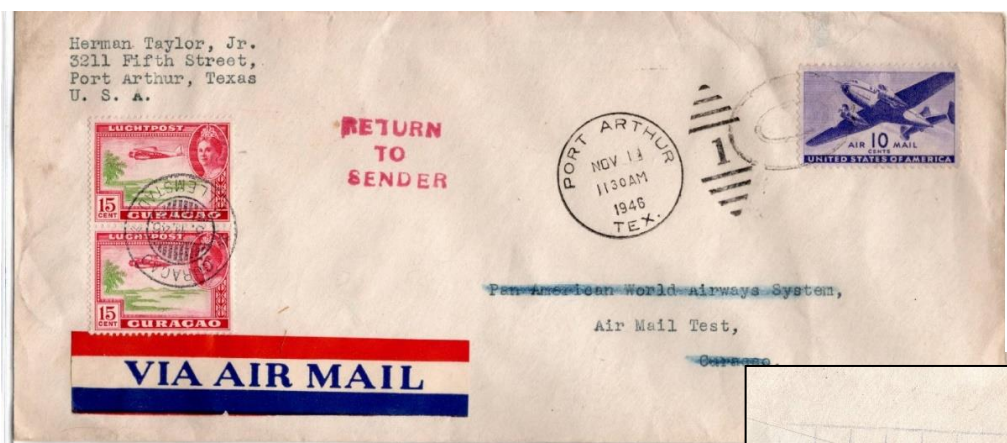
Airmail Transport Plane Series, Scott C27, issued Aug. 15, 1941, used on most test covers.





Received in Curacao, Netherlands West Indies, Nov. 2, 1946.

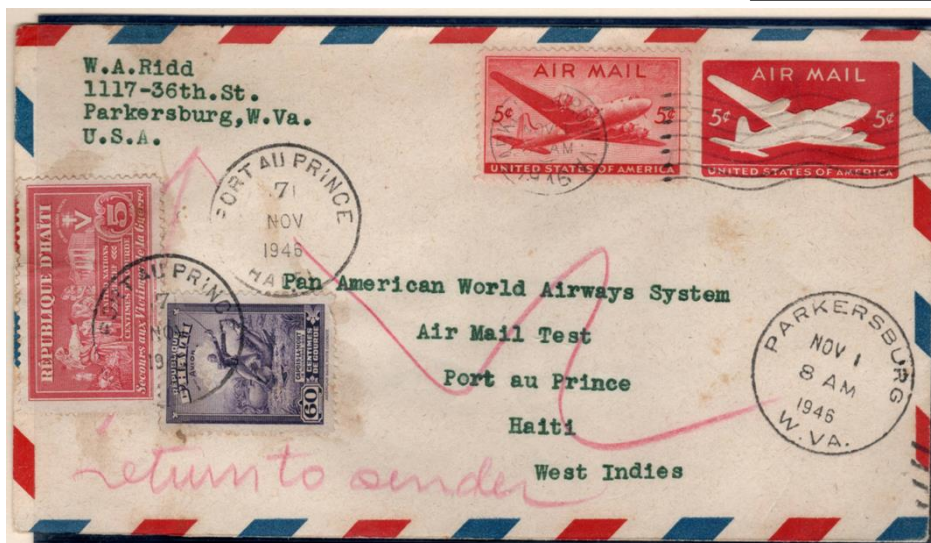
Resent and received in Erie, PA on Nov. 5, 1946.



Received in Curacao on Nov. 4, 1946.

Pan American Airways, General Agents mark is below.

Typical receiving and resending cancel on reverse. ↓



Received in Port au Prince – Nov. 4, 1946

Resent from Port au Prince and received in Parkersburg, W.Va. – Nov. 9, 1946.

Dave Gehringer is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society, and he collects U.S. naval covers with emphasis on USS Lexington and some destroyers. He also collects U.S. booklet panes and postal cards.

Civil War Patriotic Cover

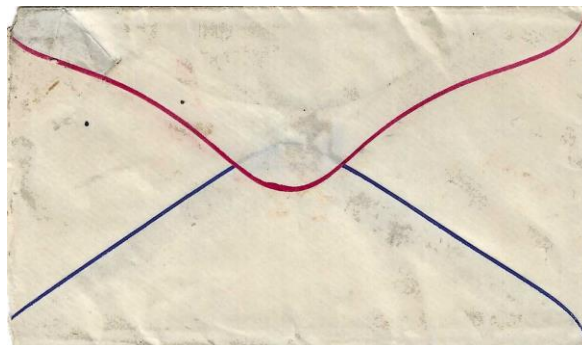
By Tom Reyman

New Orleans, Louisiana was the largest city and most active port in the Confederate States during the American Civil War. The Union naval and field forces under the command of Flag Officer David Farragut were able to defeat the Confederate defenses and capture New Orleans on April 24, 1862. From that date, the Union Forces maintained possession of the New Orleans city and the surrounding area.

The subject cover was sent from New Orleans on April 28, presumably in 1862, by one of the Union Force members, Arthur N. Chase, to his wife in Nottingham, New Hampshire possibly to inform her of the successful capture of the city. (The initials A. N. C. in the lower left corner indicate who was the sender). The postage stamp on the cover is Scott #65 which was issued in 1861. The sender marked the back of the envelope with blue and red ink to show the patriotic colors of the Union Forces.



Back of cover



References:

- Hickman, Kennedy. "American Civil War: Capture of New Orleans." ThoughtCo, July 31, 2021, [thoughtco.com/American-civil-war-capture-of-new-orleans-2361180](https://www.thoughtco.com/American-civil-war-capture-of-new-orleans-2361180).
- Rand McNally 2020 Road Atlas, Page 132.

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.

March Quiz - Cities with Shifting Nationalities

By Eric Moody

Geographic areas change their names and political borders shift over time, sometimes causing cities and towns to change their national identities. The following questions relate to communities that have experienced changes in their country of residence.

1. Now known as Gdansk, Poland, this Baltic Sea city – which in 1938 postally commemorated a native son, the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer (Scott #222-224) – was, for much of its history, culturally and territorially associated with a different country:
(a) Russia (b) Denmark (c) Germany (d) Lithuania
2. Before 1999, mail sent from Iqaluit, now the government seat of the Territory of Nunavut, Canada, was officially posted in the
(a) Province of Manitoba (b) Northwest Territories (c) Province of Saskatchewan (d) Yukon
3. Letters mailed in Tarawa now come from the capital city of Kiribati. A hundred years earlier they would have been postmarked in the British colony of
(a) Soloman Islands (b) Fiji (c) Cook Islands (d) Gilbert and Ellice Islands
4. Mail postmarked Charlotte Amalie in 1915 was being sent from the Danish West Indies. Today letters from that city would be handled by the postal service of
(a) Great Britain (b) France (c) U.S. (d) Jamaica
5. Letters mailed in Gaborone come from the capital of Botswana; if they had been posted in that city in 1950 they would have come from this colonial territory.
(a) Southwest Africa (b) Bechuanaland (c) Southern Rhodesia (d) Angola
6. In 1930 stamps carrying portraits of King Alexander (#53-62) were being used for mail in the city of Novi Sad, which is presently situated in Serbia. When those stamps were postmarked, Novi Sad was in this country.
(a) Bulgaria (b) Czechoslovakia (c) Romania (d) Yugoslavia
7. Residents of Colon, in Central America near Panama City, were using stamps of this country in 1902 – a year before they experienced a change of nationality.
(a) Honduras (b) Colombia (c) Costa Rica (d) Mexico
8. Neunkirchen, located in Saar, a “political football” of a European industrial region which has been controlled by one or the other of two countries over the past century, was using stamps of this nation in 1899, 1939 and 1999 – but not in 1929 (#120-126) or 1949 (#204, 206).
(a) Switzerland (b) France (c) Austria (d) Germany
9. Abu Simbel, an Egyptian village and ancient temple site, is located near the country’s southern border. In 1959 its post offices would have been using the stamps (#461-473) of
(a) the United Arab Republic (b) Sudan (c) the Arab Republic of Egypt (d) Libya

10. Heligoland, comprising two small islands in the North Sea and boasting a single community, is presently a municipality in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein. During its history it has been owned by, among others, Denmark, Great Britain and Germany. In the 1870s, when its stamps were denominated in both pence and pfennigs, it belonged to
(a) Germany (b) Great Britain (c) Denmark (d) Sweden
11. The city of Kyzyl, on the Russian-Mongolian border, is now capital of the Russian Federation Republic of Tuva. In 1930 it was located in this country and was using its stamps (#15-28).
(a) Mongolia (b) Soviet Union (c) Tannu Tuva (d) Siberia
12. The postage stamps of this colonial territory situated at the mouth of the Pearl River in China were succeeded in 1999 by those of a new Chinese special administrative district.
(a) Hong Kong (b) Shanghai (c) Guangzhou (Canton) (d) Macau

The March 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

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

Items from Online Auction 26 that were not sold and still available

Lot 75 - United States: Trans-Mississippi #290 - used.
Catalogue Value: \$35.00 **Minimum Bid: \$7.00 UNSOLD**



Lot 49 - Australia: #1558-62 MNH.
Issued in 1996. The theme is "pets" and pictures a horse, dog, ducks, a cockatoo, and kittens (who can resist kittens). Catalogue Value: \$8.50.
Face value is \$2.70. **Minimum Bid: \$1.35 UNSOLD**

Vassar Post Office Display

By John Walter

The display frames were changed on March 1 with covers and postmarks for **St. Patrick's Day** theme. The postmarks included: Ireland, WV; Kilarney, FL; Saint Patrick, MO; Shamrock Station in Ireland, WV; and Erin, TN.

The **baseball** material were USPS commemorative pages for Baseball Sluggers, Roberto Clemente (1984), Lou Gehrig (1989), Take Me Out to the Ball Game (2008), Legends of Baseball (2000), and Baseball Legendary Playing Fields (2001).



The post office display frames are changed every four to six weeks. The stamp club has exclusive use of the frames in the lobby for the past 10 years. This is a project **John Walter** started with Stan Cronwall who passed away in 2019.

Members can have their own material on display. Six pages fit nicely in each frame.