

# Post Boy

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



July 2023  
Volume 56, Issue 7

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](mailto:president@renostamp.org)

**Vice President** – Nadiah Beekun  
[vp@renostamp.org](mailto:vp@renostamp.org)

**Secretary** – Jeanne Paquin  
[secretary@renostamp.org](mailto:secretary@renostamp.org)

**Treasurer** – Erik Fields  
[treasurer@renostamp.org](mailto:treasurer@renostamp.org)

## Directors:

George Ray

Dave Gehringer

[dave@renostamp.org](mailto:dave@renostamp.org)

Howard Grenzebach  
[howardg@renostamp.org](mailto:howardg@renostamp.org)

Dave Parsons  
[davep@renostamp.org](mailto:davep@renostamp.org)

Eric Moody  
[eric@renostamp.org](mailto:eric@renostamp.org)

**PB Editor & Webmaster**  
John Walter  
[editor@renostamp.org](mailto:editor@renostamp.org)

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

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## Announcements

### Meetings –

**July 8** - 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.  
There will be a Board meeting after the regular meeting.

**July 22** - 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.

**July 29-30 - Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show.** Free admission and parking at the National Bowling Stadium, 300 Center St., Reno.  
Volunteers needed for setup on Friday, July 28 starting at noon.

**Online Auction #28** –ends at noon on July 6. Email bids to **Dave Parsons:** [NSSSauctions@gmail.com](mailto:NSSSauctions@gmail.com)  
View auction lots: <https://renostamp.org/auction/>

There is no philatelic quiz this month. You can earn more Auction Bucks by attending and volunteering at the stamp show on July 29-30. Here are the answers for the June quiz.

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

### Postal rate increase on July 9, 2023. Last Reminder

First class letter goes to **66¢** (↑ 4.7%)

Post card goes to **51¢** (↑ 6.2%)

Overseas (1 oz.) \$1.45 goes to **\$1.50** (↑ 3.4%)

## Post Boy Reporter

**June 10 meeting** – The attendance was 22 members including two members via Zoom. **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **Howard Grenzebach** provided the refreshments.

**James Steckley** made announcements about USPS new issue stamps, and the receipt of more donations.

**Erik Fields** reminded members about the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30. Member exhibits are needed. The USPS approved the two show cancels about the USS Nevada. **John Walter** revised the displays at the Vassar post office. He also reported on the Post Boy and website. The online auction #28 starts June 27 and ends July 6 at noon.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes and a bonus prize won by **Ken Hopple**. The money of \$11.50 was won by **Eric Moody**.

The live auction had 52 lots plus 14 donation lots with a total of 51 lots selling for \$477.00. **Mike Potter** and Gary Atkinson were the auctioneers with **Nadiah Beekun** and **Howard Kadohiro** helping.

**June 24 meeting** – Attendance was 23 members including one member via Zoom. A visitor today was Ken Milliard who is moving from Montana to Sparks. He collects U.S. and when his move is completed, he plans to join the NSSS.

**Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to setup the tables and chairs. Refreshments were provided by **Erik Fields**. Some large donated lots will be in the July 8 live meeting auction.

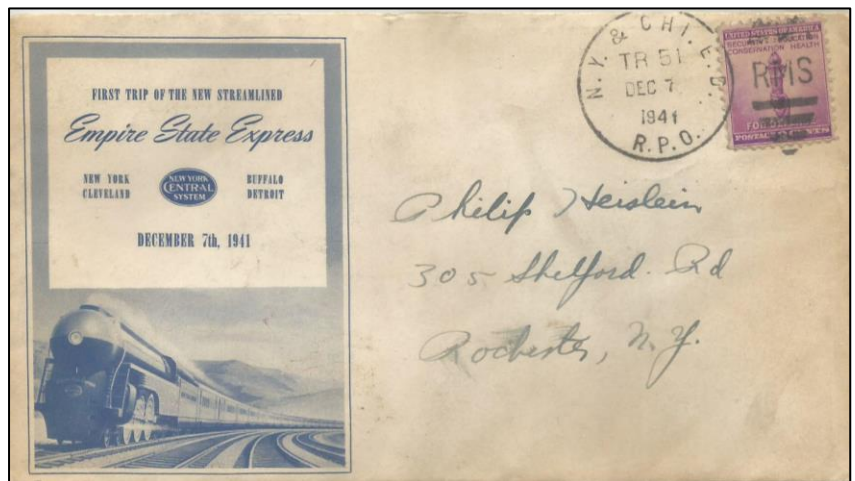
**James Steckley** was frustrated when recently mailing some items at the post office, mainly a 6x9 envelope with a metal clasp and a large size post card. Both items cost almost twice what he expected and way over the first-class rate. **John Walter** reported on his activities with the Vassar post office displays, the Post Boy newsletter and the club website.

**Erik Fields** reported on the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30. A few more dealers are needed. Exhibits are still needed. Volunteer sign up sheets will be at the July meetings for the setup on July 28 and registration desk during show hours. Contact Erik if you can help. The post office has ordered the special show cancels for each day of the show featuring the USS Nevada.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **Mike DelGrosso** and the money prize of \$8.00 went to **John Walter**.

The presentation by **James Steckley** blended his philatelic hobby with wood-working. He showed his model of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited J3a Dreyfess Engine built from plans over a six-month period. He showed a picture taken of the engine in 1981 when his father took him to see it in person. Much of the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited was told with pictures, a few covers, and personal accounts. A wonderful presentation with some fascinating railroad history.

*(continued on page 3)*



**A First Trip cover of the Empire State Express from New York to Buffalo, Cleveland, then Detroit, dated Dec. 7, 1941. The cachet shows a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited engine.**

## New Member – Robert Dragone

**Robert Dragone** joined while attending his first meeting on June 10. When asked to provide a brief philatelic profile, Robert responded with the following.

"I began researching stamps and stamp related products when I was between 7 to 11 years of age while living in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Of course, I grew up, and was out of the hobby for many years. It found me again, with all my knowledge still intact, a few years ago; about 6 months before the start of the pandemic.

A Ziploc bag was dropped in my hands, I reluctantly accepted, for some favors, and I was off and running, completely obsessed with all things philatelic.

Ironically, without eBay, I would have very little to show for the past few years. I have clocked thousands of hours on that online medium. I do lean towards worldwide stamps and less covers or revenues.

I feel these tell more of a story and can easily be made into presentations. One of my recurring thoughts about stamp collecting is the lack of an attainable degree from a university. The hobby, although profound, and more or less ethical, I would think, a degree in philately, would hold more weight than the expertizing speculation we now have.

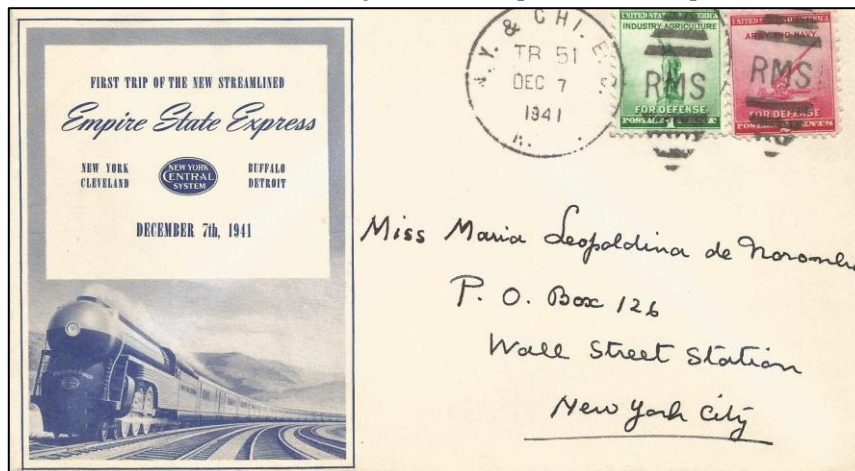
My two cents on the future of philately. Thank you for letting me be a part of this vast hobby and the warm welcome I received at my first meeting on June 10. It was fun participating in the meeting live auction both as a seller and bidder. What Fun!"

Robert lives in Chico, CA.



(continued)

Here is another cover from Dec. 7, 1941, for the same route that has enclosed information card on the history of the Empire State Express.



### First Trips — New Streamlined Empire State Express December 7, 1941

A HAPPY coincidence with the Golden Anniversary of the Empire State Express, the New York Central System is pleased to herald the entry into regular passenger running of two magnificent new streamlined stainless steel Empire State Express trains, the finest day trains in the world.

The new "Empires", only recently received from the builders, are this day commencing daily service between New York and Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit. During the course of extensive test runs and an exhibition tour, the new successors to old "999" and the Empires of fifty years ago have captured the hearts and won the approval of the thousands who have seen the striking exteriors and the pleasing interiors of these modern silver chariots. Built to order of stainless steel, the new trains are as comfortable to travel in as they are beautiful to look at.

We believe that you will feel with us that the Empire State Express trains reflect the modern spirit and tempo and are the last word in speed, smoothness of operation and travel comfort, and that they are truly symbolic of the progressiveness of American railway transportation. We trust that you will take the glorious daytime ride via the scenic Water Level Route which the new streamlined Empires make more delightful than ever — one of the classic trips of America.

**NEW YORK CENTRAL SYSTEM**  
Hudson River — Mohawk Valley  
Niagara Falls — Lake Erie  
Route of the Empire State Express



## Going to Our Stamp Show

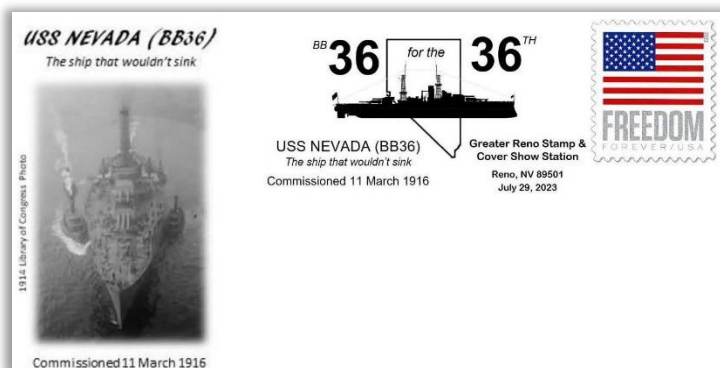
On July 29 and 30 the Nevada Stamp Study Society is hosting the 2023 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show. Once again, it will be held in the Hall of Fame Museum on the first floor of the National Bowling Stadium. It is located at 300 North Center Street with free parking in the stadium garage. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

In addition to the dealer bourse and exhibits, we will also have a youth table and information to introduce new collectors to the hobby. Free stamps, album pages and hinges will be available.

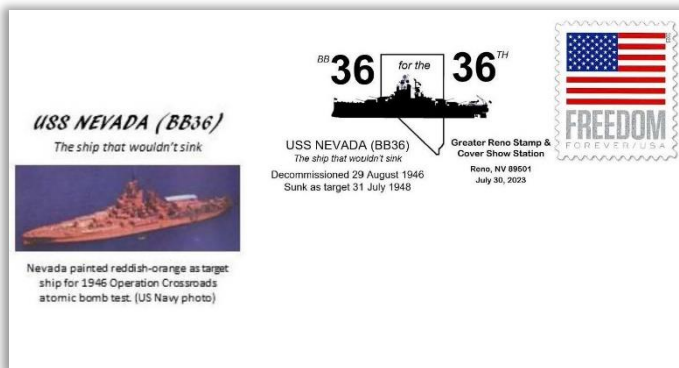
A cachet cover with a special show cancellation for each day will be offered, along with hourly door prizes. The cachet and pictorial cancels will feature the USS Nevada “The ship that wouldn’t sink.”



Entrance to the Bowling Stadium with our show banner.



Mockup of July 29 Show Cover.



Mockup of July 30 Show Cover.

Before arriving at the show, consider some tips for a successful show visit: Create a want list. Pack a pair of tongs. Set your budget. Be prepared to convey to the dealer your collecting interests and standards, i.e., mint, NH, used, F-VF, VF, superb, graded, etc. If the dealer doesn't have it in stock, they may be able to watch for it and contact you if the item appears. Bring cash for most purchases, since not all dealers accept credit cards. Don't forget to wear your club name tag. The dealers do notice, and you can always ask for a discount as a club member. You also may consider contacting the dealer ahead of time to see if they can bring something specific. Many dealers have large inventories, and they cannot bring everything to the show. If you click on the show page at <https://renostamp.org/show.html>, you will find a diagram of the dealer table placements and a list of the dealers with emails.

Some members have expressed concern of the merits of doing a show. It seems like finding dealers and exhibitors who are interested in participating is becoming more of a challenge every year. In addition, our show does not make money for the club (last year it was -\$400). Making money is not the reason we have these shows. The show is a very important element of the goals of the club, which are to help “connect and support stamp collectors of all ages and interests” as well as attract new collectors.

There are many folks in our community who have inherited a stamp collection from a family member or a friend and have no idea what they have and what they should do with it. For some, our stamp show is their "Eureka" moment of realizing they may have something special and not a random mess of little pieces of paper. In addition, like any event, successful or not, contributes to making our community a more exciting place to live.

Our stamp show is an official Reno Artown event. The show is listed in the Artown pamphlet and on their website: <https://artown.org/event-details.asp?ID=5187>.

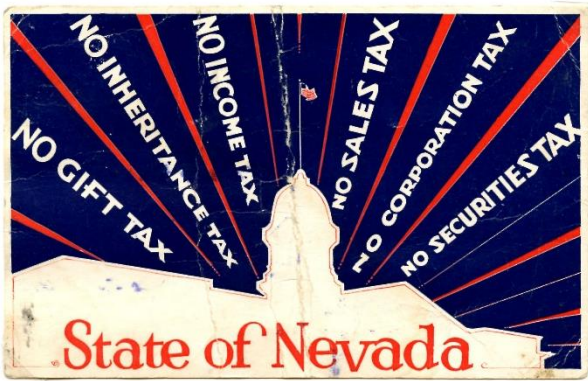
Don't forget the exhibits. There is space for up to 40 exhibit frames (16 pages per frame).

Club members are encouraged to write about one or more of your favorite items and tell why you like that item. The item can be one stamp, a group of stamps, or cover(s). You are the storyteller. The "My Favorite Thing" pages will be on display in the Bowling Stadium lobby and in the exhibit area. This is also a great way to let everyone know what you collect and what you get enjoyment from.

The best thing about a stamp show is being able to interact with like-minded people about the joys of stamp collecting. Unlike our semi-monthly stamp meetings where we only meet for a few hours, you can spend two days with your stamp collecting friends.

**A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS**

This postcard from fall 1946 spells out just why so many people re-locate to Nevada, especially those from the tax crazy micro-managers in California State Government.



BUT, lest we Nevadans whether native or trans-planted become complacent, watch out for those "public service" union people (like teachers) and those weak-kneed pols in Carson City who are constantly probing and dreaming up new ways to circumvent our State's Constitutional money grabbing tax protections.

They dearly love to squander your hard earned money on some hair-brained idea and then march to the TV camera and brag about how government has "saved" us from some trumped up phony-baloney problem or boogey-man.

These people love tell us it is all "for the children" and then pee it away on schemes that only fatten their larders, buy votes, and dig deeper into our lives and liberties with their rules and regulations intended to micro-manage our businesses and lives from cradle to grave.

**My Favorite Things page with a State of Nevada picture post card from 1946 outlining benefits of moving to Nevada.**

**A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS**

Just when do we collectors and accumulators flirt with the idea of having some Zeppelin stamps and/or covers?



For me, I was in my mid 20's, beyond military service and before marriage and a family. No mortgages and no station wagon payments. In other words, when I had some "beer" money, or make that "Zepp" money.

And, it was before knowing that this area of philately can quickly become very pricey, especially covers.

It didn't take long before I abandoned this collecting area. But, there are still some reminders and reminders floating around in various album nooks and crannies, and as shown here.

**My Favorite Thing page from Stan Cronwall. More pages can be viewed on the club website <http://renostamp.org/favorites-1.html>**



## A “Vera Cruz Incident” Postcard

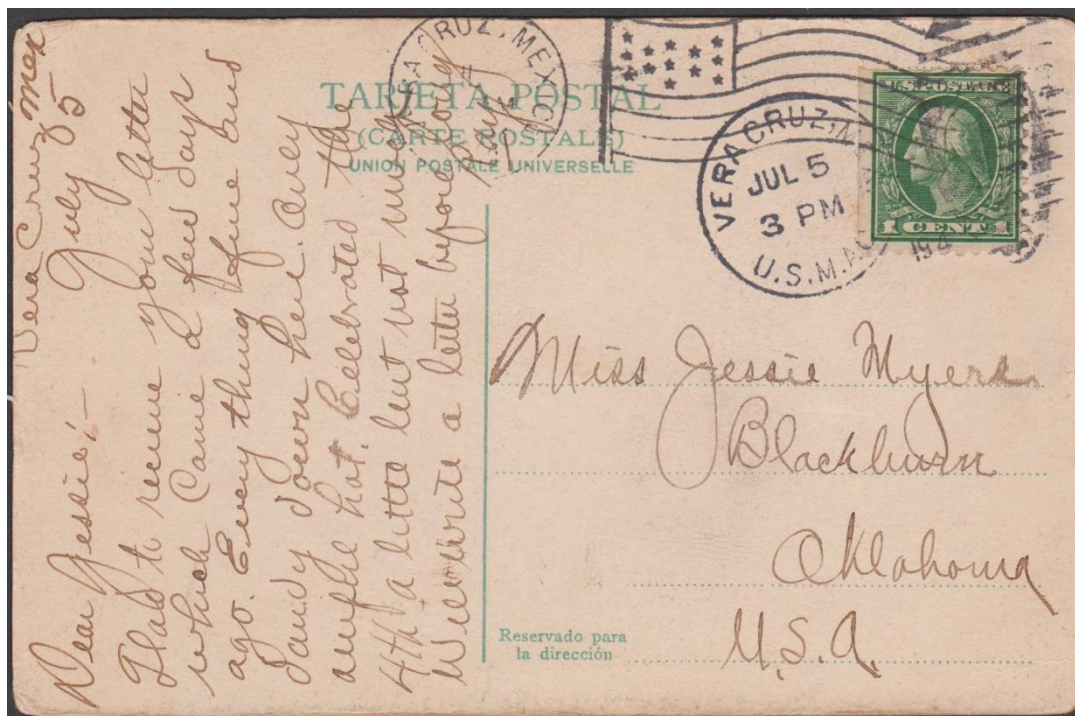
By Patrick Crosby

President Woodrow Wilson had slapped an arms embargo on Mexico, then he felt that that the United States had been snubbed by what he considered the illegitimate military regime of General Victoriano Huerta. So, on April 21, 1914, the U.S. invaded the important Gulf of Mexico port at Vera Cruz (or Veracruz), then quickly the rest of the city was occupied. This occupation lasted 6 months. As the description on a view card rationalized it:

Vera Cruz Port, to which hastened the United States Battleships “Vermont,” “Georgia” and “Nebraska” in order to protect the American lives, interests and property endangered by the Revolution.

The Vera Cruz Incident created a great deal of foreign anti-American sentiment. By July, General Huerta was forced into exile and the Constitutionalists took control.

On April 24, 1914, the U.S.P.O.D. established the United States Mail Agency, Vera Cruz, Mexico, for the use of the approximately 2300 U.S. Marines and Naval personnel, as well as for the use of locals and foreign citizens. The postmaster of New York City sent a spare hand power canceller (flag killer already in place) made by the American Postal Machines Company with a new dial reading “VERA CRUZ, MEXICO”, put in use about May 11th.



The featured card has this “American flag cancel” and also a handstamp duplex cancel reading “VERA CRUZ, MEX. U.S.M.A.G. JUL 5 1914”. These cancels can be found correctly cancelling a Mexican stamp if the mailed item was for elsewhere in Mexico. U.S. stamps were used for items locally mailed in Vera Cruz and for items to the U.S. or other countries. U.S. postal services ended November 23, 1914.

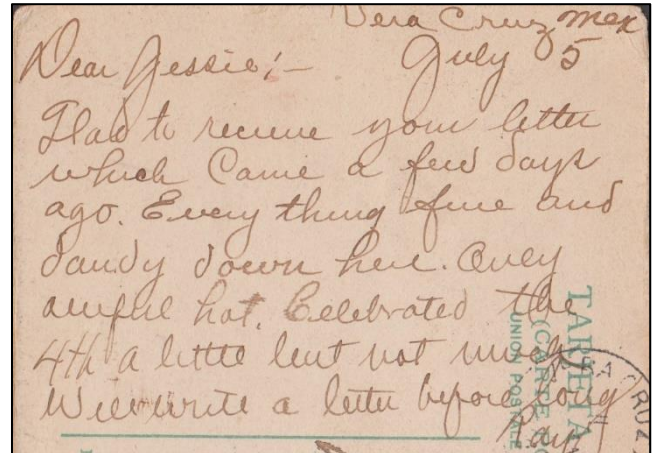
There was no military free mail yet, being instituted in 1917 with World War I. On April 27, 1914, the U.S.P.O.D. said U.S. domestic postal rates applied for mail to or from the U.S. Mail Agency, Vera Cruz, and the U.S. or its possessions. This means 1¢ for the featured card sent to the U.S. mainland.

It's a common looking Washington stamp which is a little special. It is perforated 10 on 3 sides and has one straight edge (on the left) indicating it could be from a booklet pane, which it is. The regular perf 10 sheet stamp, Sc. 424, is first known 3½ months after this card was posted while the booklet variety of this perf 10 stamp, Sc. 434d (pane of 6), had been issued December 18, 1913.

Especially beginning July 6, 1914, many philatelic covers were produced, some quite creative with older U.S. commemoratives and even some with Parcel Post stamps. These covers are much less desirable (even shunned by) some collectors than the covers used for commercial, private and military purposes. This message seems to be from a serviceman.



The view side of the card shows a dock in “Veracruz,” the navigation offices, and a lot of excess ink from the flag cancel machine.



Message from the address side of card.

Vera Cruz Mex July 5

Dear Jessie: Glad to receive your letter which came a few days ago. Everything fine and dandy down here. Celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> a little but not much. Will write a letter before long. Ray

Conflicts have their consequences, and the Vera Cruz Incident resulted in the death of 22 U.S. servicemen with 70 wounded. Mexico lost about 160 with another 200 wounded. Thankfully, this was the beginning of a relatively calm period in Mexican history.

References:

- Frederick Langford, Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Pasadena: Frederick Langford, 2008) 73.
- The Daily Postal Bulletin (Washington, DC) issue #10417, 10419, 10597 [www.uspostalbulletins.com](http://www.uspostalbulletins.com)
- [www.Britannica.com/event/United-States-occupation-of-Veracruz](http://www.Britannica.com/event/United-States-occupation-of-Veracruz)
- Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011 (Bellefonte, PA: American Philatelic Society, 2011)
- Scott 2019 Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers (Sidney, OH: Amos Media, 2018)

*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.*

# Airship *Los Angeles* Flight to Porto Rico 1925

By Tom Reyman

The United States Navy acquired the ZR-3 airship *Los Angeles* as part of the reparations from Germany after World War I. This airship was built in 1923-1924 by the Zeppelin company as their designated LZ 126 and was then assigned to the U.S. Navy. Instead of being outfitted as a weapons platform (as other World War I Zeppelins were), this Zeppelin was configured as a passenger-carrying airship including passenger seats, sleeping berths, and a full-service kitchen. When construction was completed in August 1924, the airship was filled with hydrogen gas and, after test flights, it was flown to the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, New Jersey in October 1924. Here it was drained of the hydrogen gas and refilled with safer helium gas.

In November 1924, the airship was commissioned as the *USS Los Angeles* (Navy designation ZR-3) and was assigned to the U.S. Navy. The Navy went on to conduct training and operational readiness flights before embarking on long-distance flights to Bermuda in early 1925.

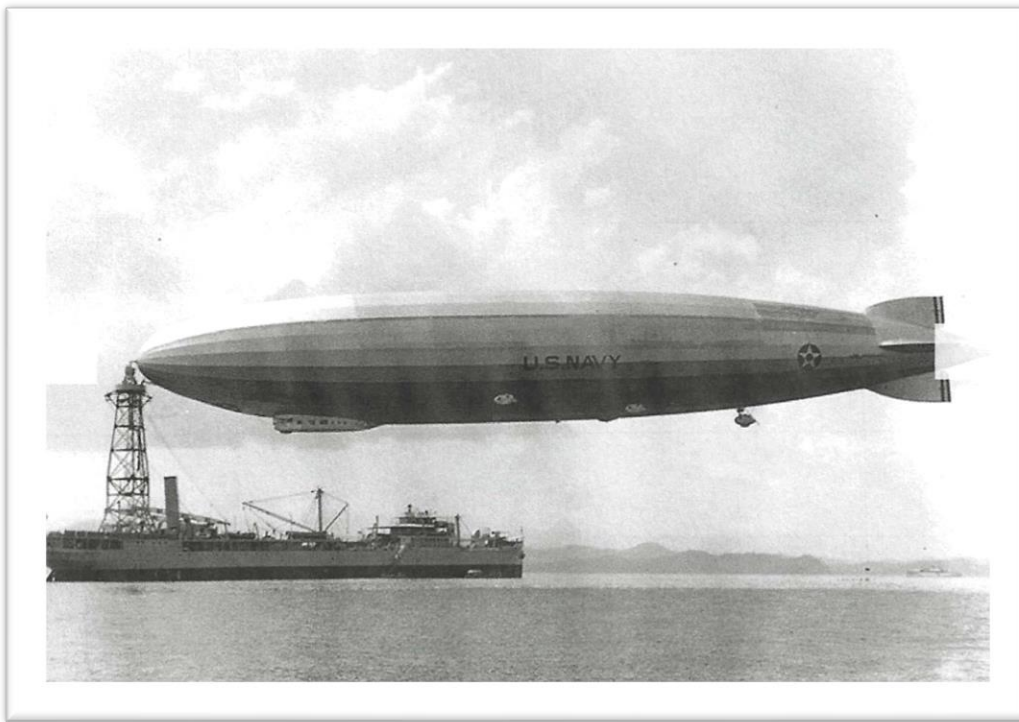


Figure 1 -  
The USS  
Los Angeles  
being refueled by the  
USS Patoka,  
a Navy oiler  
which had  
been outfitted as an air-  
ship tender.

On May 3, 1925, the *Los Angeles* began a training flight to Porto Rico from Lakehurst, arriving on May 4. The return flight to Lakehurst was completed from May 8 to 10.

Figure 2 is a cover that was flown on the Porto Rico flight. Figure 3 shows the San Juan, Porto Rico receiving postmark.





Figure 2 – Cover to Porto Rico

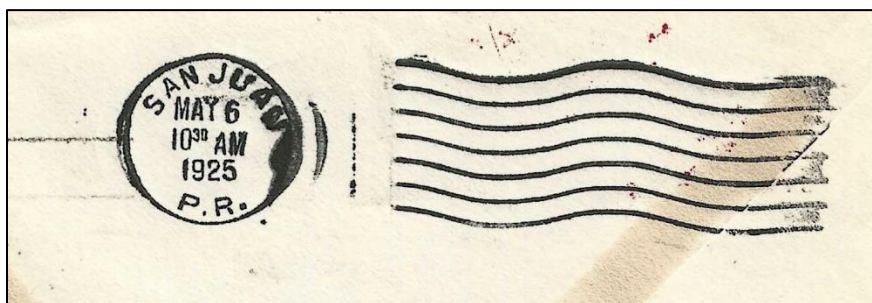


Figure 3 – San Juan backstamp

The *Los Angeles* spent several years completing training flights that included destinations of Minneapolis (Minnesota), Panama, Cuba, Fort Worth (Texas), and Cleveland (Ohio) for the 1930 Cleveland Air Races.

The *Los Angeles* continued to be used for training and demonstration flights until 1932. Other U.S. airships, the *USS Shenandoah*, the *USS Macon*, and the *USS Akron* had crashed but the *USS Los Angeles* continued to meet its mission requirements. As interest in airships faded in the U.S. because of fiscal difficulties and other restraints, the *Los Angeles* was placed in storage except for a few non-flight experiments in 1934 and 1937. It was finally decommissioned in October 1939.

#### References:

- Special Airship Mail and Postcard Catalog 2005; Frost Publishing, Petersburg, VA, 2004; Pg 51.
- <https://www.airships.net/us-navy-rigid-airships/uss-los-angeles>
- <https://welweb.org/thenandnow/zr-3.html>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/uss-los-angeles\\_\(ZR-3\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/uss-los-angeles_(ZR-3))

**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.

## Vassar Post Office Display

The display for July reflects not only the U.S. Flag but also stamps and covers on the Drafting of the Constitution and the Signing of the Constitution. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year **John Walter** has been changing the display at the main post office. The visits usually are every 4 – 6 weeks depending on the philatelic celebrations.

Future topics for display will be Hot August Nights (Classic Cars) and the Reno Air Races.



Each display frame easily accommodates 6 pages plus some space for a few loose covers. Some of the display material also can be viewed in exhibit frames at our stamp show. Exhibit frames will be in the Bowling Stadium lobby and by the registration desk inside the museum.