

Post Boy

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



December 2023
Volume 56, Issue 12

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:

Dave Gehringer
dave@renostamp.org

Howard Grenzebach
howardg@renostamp.org

Dave Parsons
davep@renostamp.org

Eric Moody
eric@renostamp.org

John Walter
editor@renostamp.org

PB Editor & Webmaster

John Walter
editor@renostamp.org

<https://renostamp.org/>

PO Box 2907,
Sparks, NV 89432

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Announcements
2. Post Boy Reporter
3. Christmas Party
4. Dunning on U.S. Mail
6. 2023 Volunteers – Thanks
7. USS Medusa
8. Quiz – First Issues
9. New Postal Rates 2024
9. 1974 Experimental Christmas Stamps
10. Vassa Post Office Display

Announcements

Meetings – No meetings in December

Dec. 9 – Christas/Holiday Party – starts at 11:00 a.m. See page 3 for all the details.

The American Philatelic Society announced the 2023 Star Route awards on Nov. 7. The Nevada Stamp Study Society received a **GOLD** for our website and a **LARGE VERMEIL** for the Post Boy newsletter. As you know both those activities are performed by **John Walter**. Thanks also to all the members who contribute original articles for the Post Boy.



Online Auction #31 – Started on Nov. 28 ends Dec. 7 at noon. Email bids to **Dave Parsons**: NSSSauctions@gmail.com

There are 73 lots including collections, individual stamps, and some accumulations. Winning lots can be picked up at the Christmas party on Dec. 9. Go to <https://renostamp.org/auction/> to bid on the lots.

July 27-28, 2024 – Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show at the International Bowling Museum, National Bowling Stadium. So, mark your calendar now. Volunteers will be needed – see **Erik Fields** if you want to help.

Philatelic programs are needed for the second meetings of the month. Show-and-tell about an individual item or special topic you are working on are popular. **Dave Gehringer** is putting the calendar together for 2024.

**Happy Holidays – Merry Christmas –
Happy New Year**

Post Boy Reporter

Nov. 11 meeting – The attendance was 23. **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **John Walter** provided the refreshments.

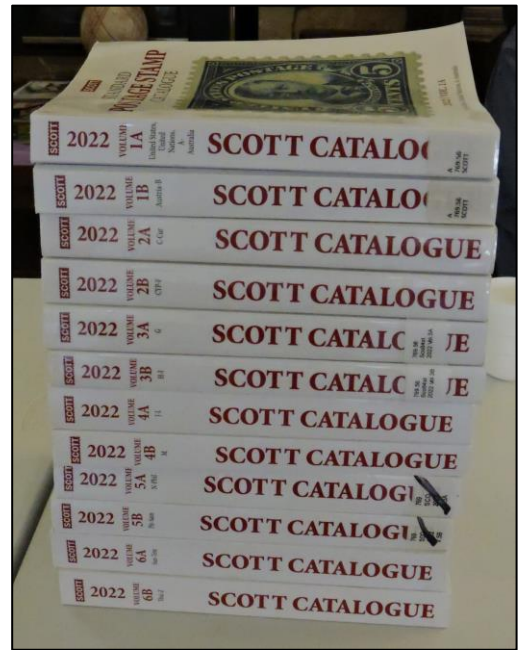
James Steckley read the names of the military veterans in the stamp club. A “new” set of 2022 Scott catalogs has arrived and ready for check out for 2 weeks (from meeting to meeting).

Kirsten Walter volunteered to maintain the list for pot-luck items for the Christmas/Holiday party on Dec. 9. **John Walter** had some Veterans Day display items and a signed poster from Pvt. Fred Schreibert who participated in the Iwo Jima battle in 1945.

The rest of the meeting was having fun using Auction Bucks earned throughout the year for any volunteer activity that benefitted the stamp club. A total of 59 donated items were “sold” using \$143,070 Auction Bucks.



The most expensive item was \$50,000 for a shoe box of post stationery, the next most expensive lot was \$22,000 for a 1895 silver dollar, shown on the left. Five wine bottles were sold with the most expensive \$13,000 for a 2017 Argentine vintage. The auctioneers were **Gary Atkinson** and **Mike Potter** with **Nadiah Beekun** helping.



Nov. 25 meeting – **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Attendance was 20 including one member and one guest via Zoom. Refreshments were provided by **Eric Moody**.

James Steckley announced upcoming stamp shows Penpex (Dec. 2-3) and Westpex (April 26-28). No new USPS stamp issues in December. James had some Japan collections for the online auction on display. No new stamp donations were reported.

Erik Fields discussed the 2024 Reno Stamp Show. The first dealer has paid, only need 10 more. Erik had a few ideas for the show cancels which will be decided on early in 2024.

John Walter reported on the Post Boy and website awards and the new Vassar post office display with Christmas related material.

Mike Potter announced paid membership of 63 with a few members yet to pay for 2023-24 membership. He will contact those members again about renewing.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **Robert Bernal** and the money prize of \$8.50 went to **Erik Fields**.

The philatelic program was a continuation of the video on “Stamp Collecting 101.”



Dec. 9 - Christmas-Holiday Party

The social event of the year will be Saturday, Dec. 9, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse. For those who want to help with decorating the tables, that time starts at 10 a.m.

Family members are invited. This is a pot-luck meal with the main entree being turkey. Members are asked to bring pot-luck items, such as, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, Hors D'oeuvres, desserts, etc. Contact Kirsten Walter (775-851-7968 or veganlady97@gmail.com) letting her know what food you are bringing.



Please bring your own beverage, plate and utensils for everyone in your party. Bottled water is provided.

There is a gift exchange. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$15 value) for each person attending and mark philatelic, male, or female. The gifts can be “stolen,” after unwrapping, up to three times. Confused? Come and participate in the fun.

Christmas/Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Silverada Estates Clubhouse

2301 Oddie Blvd., Reno

December 9, 2023

10:00 a.m. – Room setup, Table decorations, and social time.

11:00 a.m. - Hors D'oeuvres, pre-meal snacks & conversation

11.30 a.m. - Main meal **Turkey - then Gift exchange**

If you want to participate in the gift exchange:

**Bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$15 value) for each person attending.
Tag gift if specifically for female, male, or philatelist.**

**Please bring a plate and silverware for each person and
your own drink (wine is OK). Bottled water is provided.**

Spouses and family members are welcome.

**If you have not signed up to bring a food item,
please call Kirsten Walter 775-851-7968 or email veganlady97@gmail.com**

An accurate count for those attending is needed by Monday, Dec. 4

The room setup and table decorations start at 10 a.m.

Dunning on U.S. Mail

By Patrick Crosby

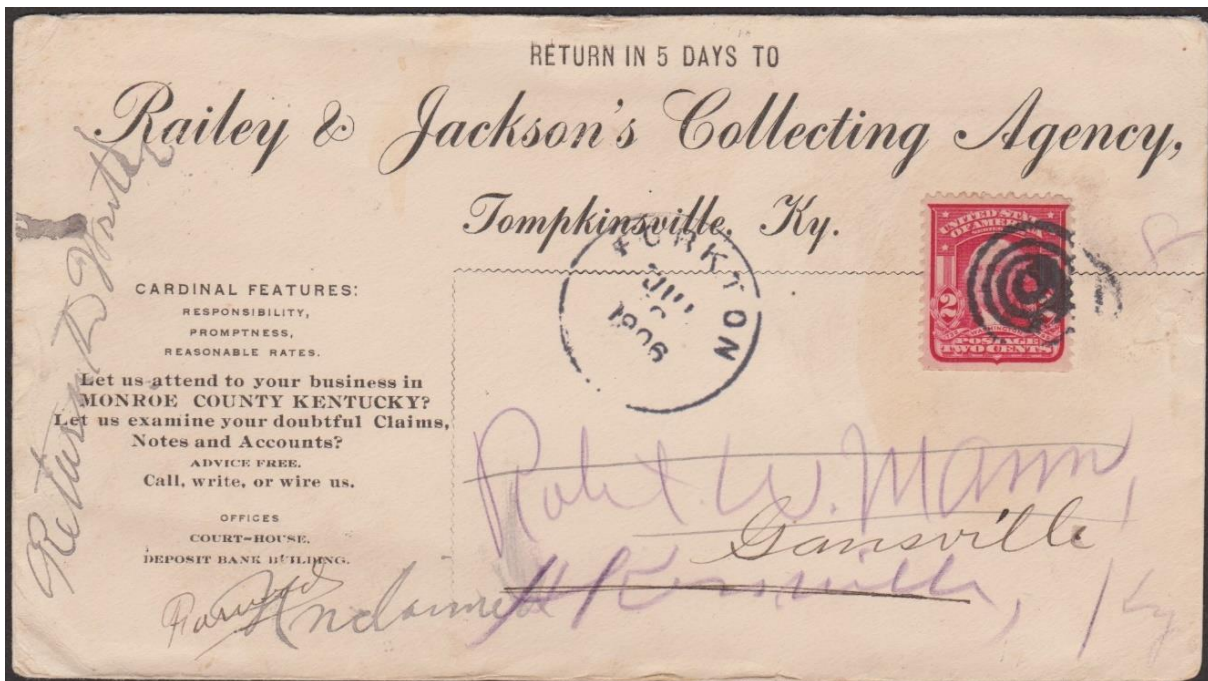
The first thing I noticed when I glanced at the featured cover was the large, ornate “Collecting Agency” where the postage stamp should be. “Well, well,” someone like a family member or postal clerk might think, “Robert must be in debt and they’re after him.” This is also what the collection agency is hoping, putting pressure on the addressee.

There is nothing wrong with dunning, which is demanding payment for a debt, unless it reaches a point of harassment. But the USPOD/USPS (Post Office) does not want it on mail matter where it could be defamatory. The Post Office considers it Libelous Matter and therefor unmailable (or nonmailable) by Post Office regulations effective June 8, 1872, to present. Included in an 1888 U.S. Act by President Grover Cleveland and given “Special Notice to Postmasters” in a Post Office Daily Bulletin was:

And all matter otherwise mailable by law upon the envelope or outside cover or wrapper of which, or postal card, upon which indecent, lewd, lascivious, obscene, libelous, scurrilous, or threatening delineations, epithets, terms, or language, or reflecting injuriously upon the character or conduct of another, may be written or printed, are hereby declared to be non-mailable matter, and shall not be conveyed in the mails...

Every offense was considered a misdemeanor with fines of \$100 to \$5,000 and/or a sentence of one to ten years at hard labor and postmasters could lose their positions. Serious stuff!

There may have been more dunning problems with postal cards and postcards than envelopes since in 1910 “Cards that dun an addressee in such a manner that reflects negatively on the addressee for failure to pay bill” were singled out as being unmailable.



Railey & Jackson's Collecting Agency was in the small city of Tompkinsville, Kentucky, with a population of 500-600 persons in 1906. Notice the advertising on the left side of the envelope which includes “Let us examine your doubtful Claims” and “Advice Free. Call, write, or wire us.”

Their office was in the “Court-House” which sounds quite distinguished and trustworthy. There is an enclosure showing that property taxes were unpaid. For whatever reasons (seems fishy) the cover was not considered to be libelous by the Forkton post office or the other three offices in transit. Delivery to Robert Mann was fruitless, and the mail sat at one post office for almost six months, despite the request to “Return in 5 Days”. There are three manuscript markings on the front reading “Forward”, “Unclaimed” and “Return to Writer.”



Cropped reverse of cover with four cancels explained on the right.

Here is the order of the post office cancels, all in Kentucky: origin cancel from nearby, very small Forkton, JUL 10, 1906 (also the date on the enclosure), addressed to Akersville then forwarded JUL 14, 1906 to Gainesville, received on JUL 17, 1906 where it sat unclaimed until it was returned to the writer from Gainesville on JAN 2, 1907 and received at the return address post office, Tompkinsville, on JAN 4 1907. Today Tompkinsville still has a post office but the three other towns are DPO's (discontinued post offices).

References:

- Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service (Washington, DC) issue # 2529 JUN 10, 1888; issue 9579 JUL 28, 1911, www.uspostalbulletins.com
- Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011 (Bellefonte, PA: American Philatelic Society, 2011) 403, 405
- Richard W. Helbock, United States Post Offices Volume IV – The Northeast (Scappoose, OR, La Posta Publications, 2001)

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.

OFFICE OF
R. G. RAILEY,
TAX COLLECTOR FOR SHIRIFF W. D. WHITE

Tompkinsville, Ky., 7-10-1906

M. Robert Mann

Your unpaid Taxes for the year	
1902.....	1.20
1903.....	
1904.....	
1905.....	
Postage.....	.02
Total.....	1.32

These Taxes have been placed in my hands for immediate collection. If you will settle at once, you will avoid the expense of the levy and sale of your property. You will please bring or send the money immediately to me by check, Money Order, or Registered mail, including postage for mailing your Tax Receipt.

Levy on your property will be made without further notice.

My office is in the Court-house, with the Superintendent, opposite Sheriff's office.

Very Truly Yours,
R. G. RAILEY, Tax Collector.

Insert in “Dunning” cover.

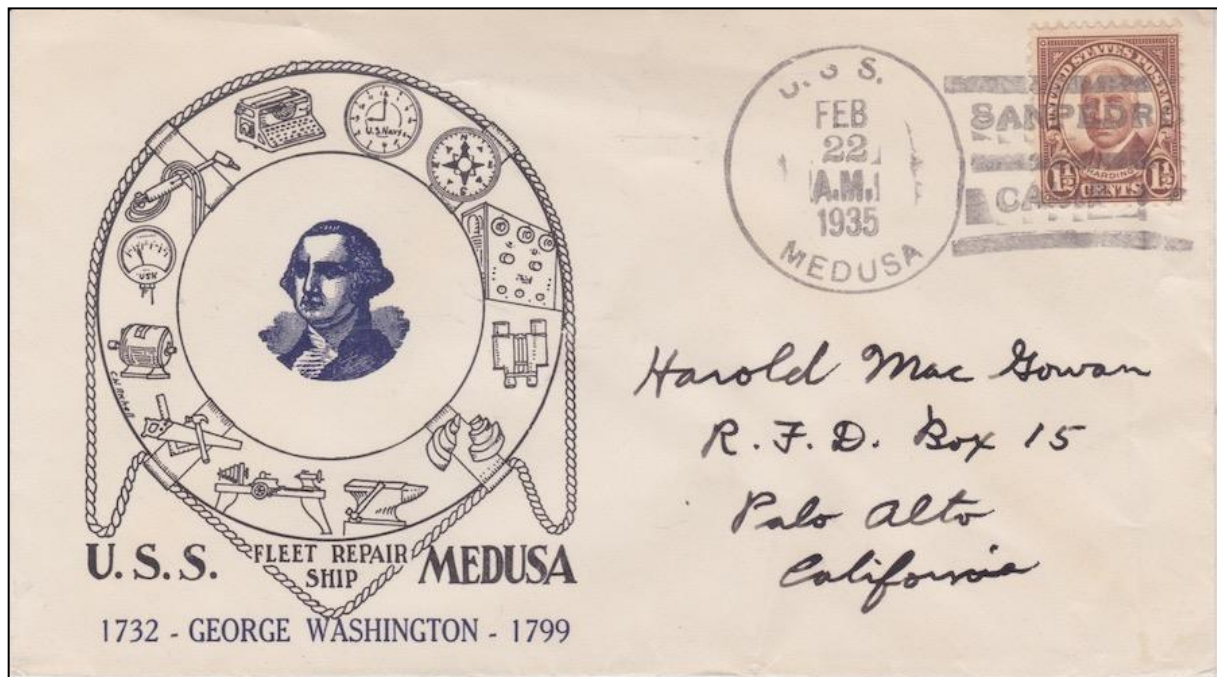
2023 Volunteers & Activities

At the end of the year the stamp club recognizes those members who have served the membership in various ways. If you don't see your name on the list, there are things you can do to enhance your club participation. Our president can fit your skills to different club activities. In addition to the officers and directors, here are our extraordinary volunteers:

- Archivist - **John Walter** (using the NSSS website & club laptop computer)
- Program Chair - **Dave Gehringer**
- Get Well & Sympathy Cards – **Howard Grenzebach**
- Donations Chair - **James Steckley**
- Nomination & Election Chair - **John Walter**
- Sign-In Log & Auction Bucks Accounting/Distribution – **Betty Mudge**
- Silverada Clubhouse Meeting Place Liaison – **George Ray**
- Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show special cancellations - **Harvey Edwards**
- Post Office and Library Displays:
 - Vassar Post Office – **John Walter** (every 4-6 weeks)
 - Carson City Library – **John Walter & Dave Gehringer**
- Storage Unit – **Mike Potter**
- Online auctions - **Dave Parsons (auction master), John Walter (webpage)**
- Auction accounting - **Erik Fields (live auction) and Dave Parsons (on-line auction)**
- Meeting Room setup - **Erik Fields and James Steckley**
- Council of Northern CA Philatelic Societies Liaison – **John Walter**
- Penny Boxes – **Eugene Smoots, Dave Parsons, and Jeanne Paquin**
- Raffle Coordinator/Operator and Auction Bucks recorder – **Betty Mudge**
- APS Liaison & Ambassador Membership Program – **Mike Potter**
- Membership Chair – **Mike Potter**
- Member Database & Directory - **Harvey Edwards**
- Librarian - **Dave Gehringer**
- Webmaster - **John Walter**
- Post Boy Editor - **John Walter**
- Post Boy quiz master – **Eric Moody**
- APS Estate Advisory service – **Gary Atkinson**
- Youth Program - **Dave Gehringer**
- Refreshments Coordinator – **Barbara Stanfield**
- Auctioneers for meeting auctions – **Gary Atkinson, Mike Potter, Erik Fields, Howard Grenzebach**
- Auctioneer's Assistants – **George Ray, Nadiah Beekun, Howard Kadohiro.**
- Original Post Boy articles - **Pat Crosby, Tom Reyman, John Walter, Howard Grenzebach, Dave Parsons, Nadiah Beekun, James Steckley, Dave Gehringer.**



USS Medusa AR-1
By Howard Grenzebach



Raffle prize at a recent club meeting.

Above is a cover won as a raffle prize drawing using three tickets I purchased for only a buck! It's amazing what you can win for only a dollar for three raffle tickets. This cover was possibly made by K. E. Brown (return address on back) in the print shop aboard the Medusa, a repair ship that was launched in 1923 and commissioned about a year and a half later in 1924. Built to service repairs on battleships at sea as well as the aircraft serving on them.

The ship was based in San Pedro, CA at this time but saw earlier service in the Caribbean based out of Norfolk, VA. Her finest service, however, was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

During the Pearl Harbor attack her crew downed at least two Japanese aircraft and a possible third. They had one bomb dropped on them, that missed, by the first aircraft they shot down. They spotted a periscope in the water off their bow and opened fire with a machine gun and 3-inch anti-aircraft shells. Then watched a destroyer sail over it dropping depth charges, probably destroying it. I have a copy of the entire report, if interested.

There are a large number of covers from the *USS Medusa* (one with a similar cachet and many other cachets) that would make an interesting collection in itself and possibly a one or two frame exhibit.

The *USS Medusa* was decommissioned after service through WWII on November 18, 1946.

Howard Grenzebach is currently a Director of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.

Quiz – First Issues

By Eric Moody

1. The first stamp issued by the government of the Confederate States of America, in 1861, carried a portrait of
(a) George Washington (b) Thomas Jefferson (c) Jefferson Davis (d) Andrew Jackson
2. A kaori tree appeared on the first stamp of this Pacific island country in 1980.
(a) Samoa (b) Tuvalu (c) Kiribati (d) Vanuatu
3. The first U.S. Migratory Bird Hunting permit stamp (“Duck stamp”) appeared in
(a) 1924 (b) 1934 (c) 1938 (d) 1944
4. Queen Isabella II of Spain appeared on this country’s first stamps in 1855.
(a) Nicaragua (b) Philippines (c) Cuba (d) Ecuador
5. In 1853 Christopher Columbus was featured on the first postage stamp of this Latin American country.
(a) Mexico (b) Colombia (c) Venezuela (d) Chile
6. King George I appeared on the initial stamps of this country in 1886.
(a) Tonga (b) Ivory Coast (c) Norway (d) Nigeria
7. The first stamps of Mexico in the 1850s and early 1860s featured portraits of
(a) Hernan Cortes (b) Benito Juarez (c) Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (d) Emperor Maximilian
8. A flying angel appears on the first airmail issue (#C1, in 1948) from this country.
(a) Vatican City (b) Spain (c) Israel (d) Ireland
9. The earliest Greek stamps, from 1861 into the 1890s, all featured an image of
(a) Greece’s reigning king (b) Olympic athletes (c) the ancient Greek god Hermes (Mercury)
(d) the Acropolis and Parthenon
10. New Guinea’s first stamps, in 1897, were issued while it was a European colonial possession. The colonizing country was:
(a) Great Britain (b) Netherlands (c) France (d) Germany
11. Finland’s first stamps, issued in 1856, appeared while it was part of this country’s empire.
(a) Great Britain (b) Austria-Hungary (c) Russia (d) Turkey (Ottoman Empire)
12. The first postage stamp issued on the continent of Africa, in 1853, came from:
(a) Orange River Colony (b) Cape of Good Hope (c) Egypt (d) British East Africa
13. (bonus question) Great Britain’s Penny Black of 1840 is recognized as the world’s first postage stamp. It was followed in 1843 by the New World’s first stamp, a “Bull’s Eye” issue from:
(a) Argentina (b) Bermuda (c) Canada (d) Brazil

The December 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

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

New Postal Service Prices for 2024

Price changes to take effect Jan. 21, 2024.

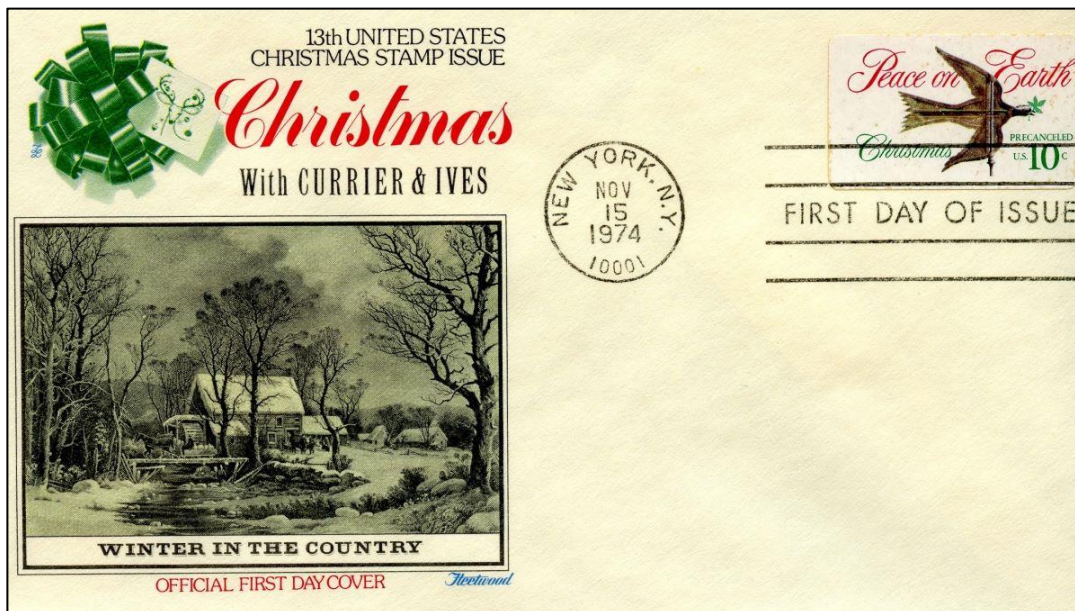
Product	Current Prices	New Prices
Letters (1 ounce)	66 cents	68 cents
Letters (metered 1 ounce)	63 cents	64 cents
Domestic Postcards	51 cents	53 cents
International Postcards	\$1.50	\$1.55
International Letter (1 ounce)	\$1.50	\$1.55
Additional ounce price will remain at 24 cents		

The Postal Service is also seeking price adjustments for Special Services products including Certified Mail, Post Office Box rental fees, money order fees and the cost to purchase insurance when mailing an item.

The price tables are also available on the Postal Service's website at pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index.

1974 Experimental Christmas stamp

The first self-adhesive stamps were die-cut, stripped, rouletted, and cut into finished panes. They were also given crossed center slits to prevent them from being removed from envelopes and reused. Unlike today's self-adhesive stamps, these didn't touch each other. Instead, lines of backing paper were included in between each stamp.



On the edge of each sheet were 10 self-adhesive tabs with plate numbers and a variety of phrases including "Self Sticking Stamps," "Remove from Backing," and "Do Not Moistten." The 1974 Christmas stamp was issued November 15, 1974 in NYC.

In the end, both the USPS and stamp collectors deemed the self-adhesive experiment a failure. The production was too expensive, and crosscuts didn't prevent the stamps from being reused. Collectors discovered that the rubber-based adhesive left brown spots on the stamps and covers. Here is a nice example of a first-day-cover with typical glue stains around stamp edges with bleed-through stains on the stamp.

Vassar Post Office Display

The post office display was changed in the middle of November to celebrate Thanksgiving (Nov. 23), Hannukah (begins Dec. 7), Kwanzaa (begins Dec. 26) and, of course, Christmas. The two large wall display cases face a large outside window which creates a reflection problem if the picture is taken in front of the frames. So, this is the best I can do.



Some Forever stamps to use on this year's Christmas mailings.

