

Post Boy

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



April 2024
Volume 57, Issue 4

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 –

Apr. 13 – In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, there is a live auction. Members can have 5 auction lots, more can be added up to total of 60 lots.

Apr 27 - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, followed by a philatelic presentation.

Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. Extra lots may be added as lots are sold.

There is a Board meeting after the general meeting.

WESTPEX – April 26-28 at the Marriott Hotel in Burlingame, CA, next to the San Francisco airport. The exhibit area will feature more than 250 frames, including participation by the Royal Philatelic Society London, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, Colombia-Panama Philatelic Study Group and the Canal Zone Study Group.

The bourse (sales area) will include more than 70 national and international dealers in stamps, postal history, and postal stationery along with a four-day auction by Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions.

Numerous specialty societies, clubs and study groups will hold meetings and seminars. The editor enjoys attending the Hawaiian Philatelic Society and the Ryukyu Philatelic Society plus the local chapter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. The Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies (of which our club is a member) meets on April 27.

WESTPEX is the largest stamp show on the west coast.

Online Auction – There is no online auction this month.

The editor is soliciting original articles for the Post Boy. Pick an item from your collection, do a little research, and share with club members.

Post Boy Reporter

March 9 meeting – **Eric Fields** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Attendance was 26 including 2 via Zoom (living in Scottsdale and So. California). **David Sampson** visited via Zoom in the past. Today he attended the meeting and joined the NSSS. **Howard Grenzbach** provided the refreshments.

James Steckley reported on the USPS stamp issues for release this month. He also discussed the Zoom webinar sponsored by the NY Collector's Club. He announced upcoming stamp shows in Sacramento and Oregon.

John Walter reported on his club activities with the monthly Vassar post office display showing pictures and discussing this month's Post Boy. He needs original articles with a scan of the item for future issues.

Eric Fields has "old" show covers on sale from 50¢ up to \$2.00 depending on the year. Erik filed the IRS post card form for our non-profit status. No taxes are due. He again reminded everyone about the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show on July 27-29. **Jeanne Paquin** volunteered to coordinate the exhibits for the show. The Exhibitor's Prospectus is available from Jeanne or on the website:

<https://renostamp.org/show/2024/2024-Exhibitor-Prospectus.pdf>

Dave Gehringer is soliciting speakers to present a program. A generous donation of stamps was received from **JJ Johnson**.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 donated prizes with the bonus item going to **Scott Mathews** and the money of \$12.50 went to **Eric Moody**.

The live auction had 53 member lots and 7 donated lots. **Gary Atkinson** was the auctioneer with **Betty Mudge**, **Nadiah Beekun**, and Dave Stafford helping. A total of 41 lots sold for \$294.75.

March 23 meeting – The attendance was 22 members including one member via Zoom. **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **Erik Fields** also provided the refreshments.

Joe Allen attended his first meeting and joined the club. He collects worldwide up to World War II. Membership is now 67. **James Steckley** showed images of upcoming USPS new stamp issues.

James and **John Walter** showed a digital copy of the preview Siegel Auction catalog for the William Gross collection who managed to collect every single U.S. stamp. The auction starts on June 14 with the only copy in collector's hands of Scott 85A (1861 1¢ Z-Grill), estimated to sell at \$4,000,000 - \$5,000,000. Just one album page of the grill stamps has a catalogue value over \$7,000,000. And yes, there is an inverted Jenny, Scott 3a, position 69 to bid on. You can download the preview catalogue at <https://siegelauctions.com/desp/Gross-Preview.pdf>

The club online auction ended on March 21 with 13 lots of 44 selling for \$194.00. **Erik Fields** discussed the stamp show with 2,000 postcards printed. Some will be taken to WESTPEX, April 26-28.

The raffle with 10 prizes was conducted by **George Ray**. The bonus prize went to **Betty Mudge** and the money of \$7.50 went to **Mike DelGrosso**.

Multiple show-and-tell presentations were given by three members. **James Steckley** wanted to inform the members not to expect a big return on their stamp collection. Some good quality stamps purchased decades ago still have the same catalogue value: mainly the \$5.00 Alexander Hamilton (1053), and 50¢ Zeppelin (C18). But his (10¢) Bulk Rate Eagle coil strip of 5 #A32333 did appreciate (\$175.00), so he figures he broke even or slightly ahead.



Scott 85A -1861 1¢ Z-Grill.
Only copy in collector's hands.

Our newest member, **Joe Allen**, wanted to tell us about a purchase from a European dealer of some North Korean souvenir sheets. They were inexpensive and nice to look at. Here are a few images.



Yes, North Korea is a member of the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies. There are 191 member nations.



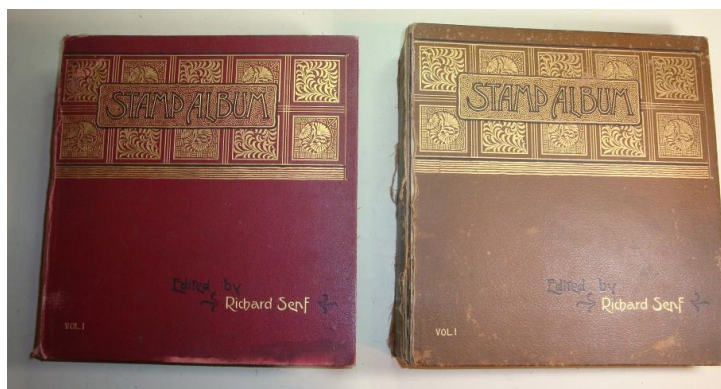
The souvenir sheet shows 8 stamps with fairy tales from 8 different countries.



This stamp (part of S/S issued in 1981) is for an Icelandic Fairy Tale.

Steve Foster gave a very informative talk, with many slides, of his repeated visits to a stamp store in Burma. He talked about his many purchases, especially of stamps and sheets in old albums. He became friends with the son and grandson of the store's owner.

Here are two leather-bound albums with stamps he purchased.



New Member Profiles

Herman De Groot joined the stamp club at the February 10 meeting. He was born in Amsterdam 95 years ago. He helped his father in the family bakery and food business which had dealings with the Germans (before the war). He moved to Canada, had 2 children, then moved to California and had 3 more children. Herman attended chef school and worked in the food industry and retired from United Airlines.

Herman collects worldwide which he started as a young lad with his father. His collection is mainly Europe 19th century stamps up through WWI material.

Please say hello to Herman at a meeting. He has some fascinating stories to tell.



Kent Tucker joined the stamp club at the February 24 meeting. He says he collects everything. His profile will come later.

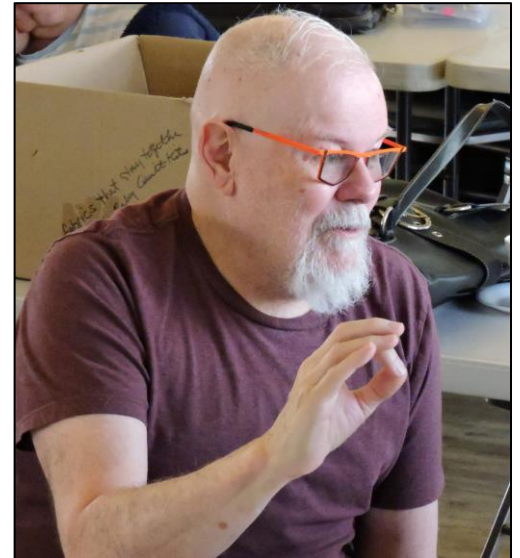
David Sampson joined the stamp club at the March 9 meeting.

Here is his bio: I was born in Ohio in 1949 (that says it all, doesn't it)? In the late 1950's, my father collected US Commemoratives. I recall buying stamps and approvals from the H. E. Harris Stamp Co.

Besides Harris, the largest department store in Columbus, the F & R Lazarus Co., had a stamp department! There was also another dealer who had a shop downtown that I occasionally visited.

While a Boy Scout, I earned the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge.

In the 10th grade, I had a German language teacher who was also a stamp collector. He advised me to collect 'dead' countries. So, I began collecting the Baltic States (prior to their seizure by the Soviet Union), Danzig (Freie Stadt Danzig) and stamps of the Third Reich.



On ideological grounds, I steadfastly refused to collect the stamps of Communist countries.

When I entered Ohio State University, I boxed up my collection, as I had neither time nor money to pursue it. My collecting resumed after the Berlin Wall fell.

I still collect pre-1944 Baltic States, Danzig and the Third Reich. I can now collect East Germany as it is a dead country.

My interest in the hyperinflation era in Germany has driven me to collect the Weimar Republic. (My knowledge of the German language has helped me immensely in this area as virtually all the reference material is in German.)

Topically, I am interested in propaganda stamps, railway stamps, and Swiss Soldatenbriefmarken (these were Cinderellas used by Swiss soldiers during their annual military duty). I have even thought about collecting stamps of blood-sucking parasites...

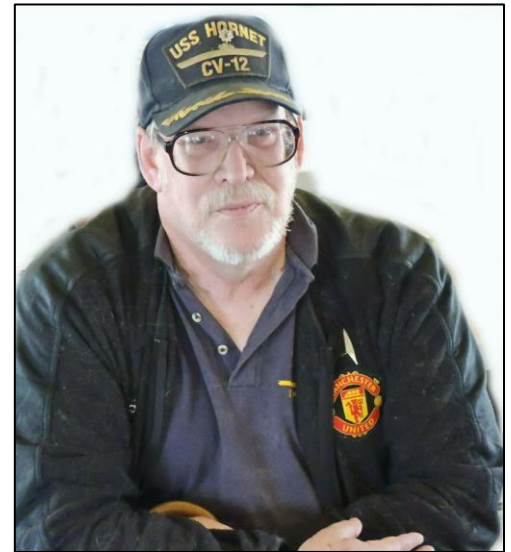
I still enjoy going into my office, turning off all the distractions (TV, computer and my smartphone) and working on my collection.

Joe Allen joined the stamp club at the March 23 meeting.

He collects worldwide from 1840–1947.

He served in the U.S. Navy and proudly wears the hat for his USS Hornet (CV-12) duty. The USS Hornet is an Essex-class aircraft carrier that served during World War II. After the war, it was modernized and then served during the Vietnam War and as a recovery ship for Apollo space missions.

He belongs to the San Jose Stamp Club and the Forever Imperfs club.



Pictures from March meetings



March 9 meeting – members looking over the live auction lots.



March 9 meeting – Gary Atkinson, auctioneer, with Nadiah Beekun helping.

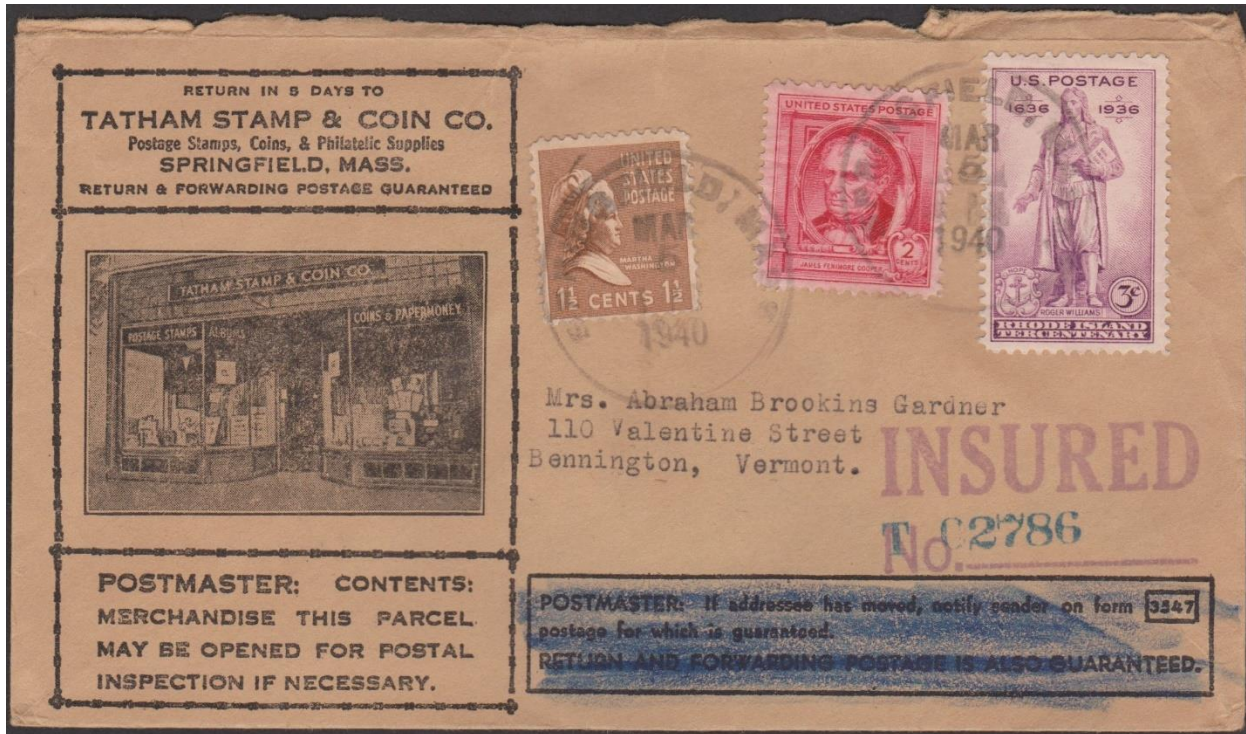


March 23 meeting – some of the members waiting for the meeting to start.

Tatham Stamp & Coin Company, Insured

By Patrick Crosby

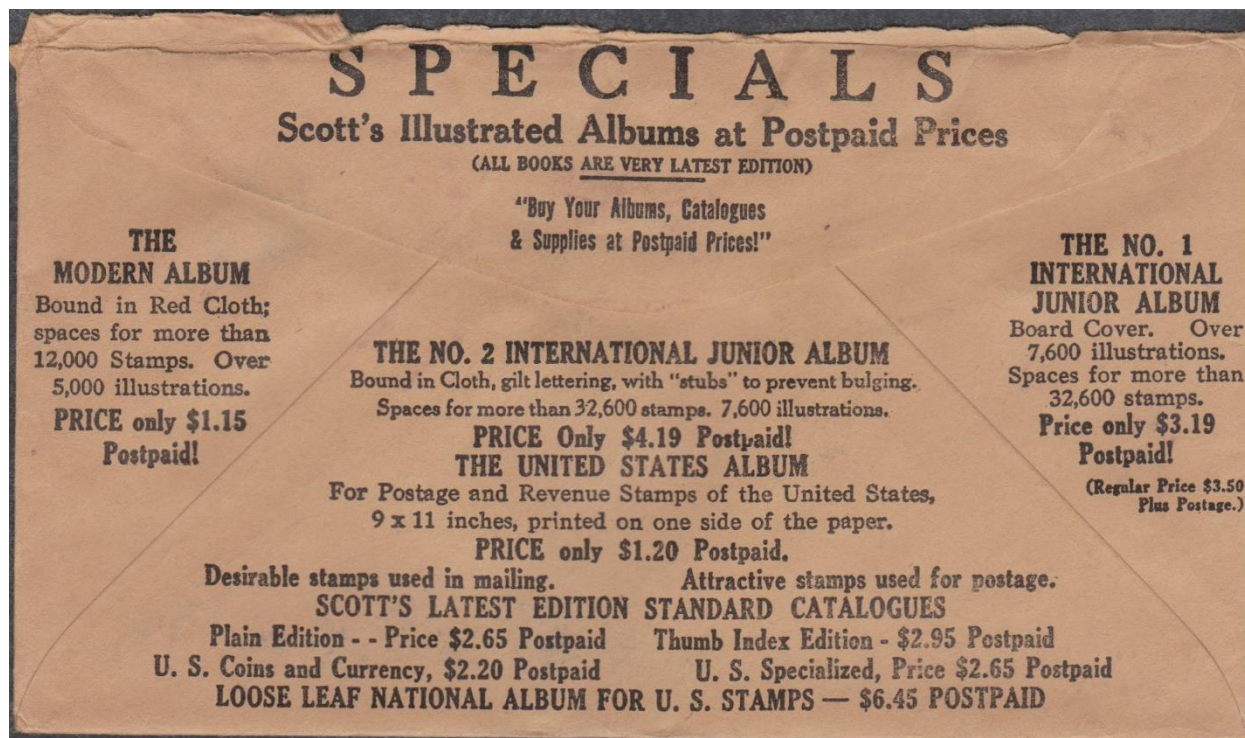
When I saw the storefront on the featured stamp and coin dealer's cover I wanted to walk inside, pull up a stool along the glass display cases and ask, "Do you have any boxes of covers I can look through?" But, alas, my cover is from March 1940, and by June of that year the dealer was in his new, not nearly as inviting, building.



Tatham Stamp & Coin Company of Springfield, MA, not only had a retail store but also sold extensively by mail all kinds of stamps, philatelic catalogs and supplies. The prices on the back of the featured envelope appear quite cheap. At \$2.65 I could afford to buy a new Scott U.S. Specialized Catalog every year! Tatham also published and sold an annual coin catalog and many specialized postage stamp booklets including "The Postage Stamps of the Confederate States of America" and one on the two-cent 1893 Columbian Exhibition stamp. These "Tasco" brand booklets often contained all of the actual stamps being described.

But I didn't spend \$1.65 just for a dreamy picture. This cover is "Insured" and I wondered why I don't own any other covers with Insurance Service? The reason is the service is available only for third and fourth-class items, not first-class mail, which has no intrinsic value. The cost of the insurance with up to \$5 of indemnity was 5¢ but did not include any of the safeguards provided with Registry or Certified Mail Services which first-class and other classes of mail could add if desired.

Since the featured envelope contained stamps (merchandise), no written communication, and "May Be Opened for Postal Inspection", it could be sent third-class. First-class postage was 3¢/ounce for a letter in 1940, but two ounces could be sent for the third-class rate of 1½¢ if the sender was in no hurry since the third-class mail was the last to be processed.



Along with the return address the corner card includes "Return & Forwarding Postage Guaranteed." Forwarding is not included with third-class mailings. If needed and the addressee's forwarding address was known the item was to be forwarded with 1½¢ postage due (a second third-class mail fee, as if mailed anew). If the addressee refused to pay the postage due or if there was no forwarding address to begin with, then the item was returned to the sender who "guaranteed" to pay the return fee of 1½¢.

If Tatham Stamp & Coin Company wanted the new, forwarded address (if any) they would request a Form 3547 be sent to them by the post office with the mailing information. In this case they did not want to pay 2¢ for Address Correction Service and so they crossed out their guarantee at the bottom of the envelope in blue crayon.

It's reported that over the years some first-class mail patrons have uselessly paid for Insurance Service which postal clerks marked "Insured" in error. There are Tatham Stamp & Coin Company covers I've seen paying 5¢ for insurance service and 3¢ postage - not for first-class postage, but for up to four ounces of wonderful stamps at the third-class rate.

References:

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 postcards with an emphasis on postal history.

Manufactured Covers

By John Walter

I received these two covers in a club meeting raffle over a year ago. A busy cover with crossed off forwarding addresses. Both look identical except for the addressee names: Cover #1 addressed to Mr. Wm. Forsythe, Foreman and cover #2 addressed to Mr. Geo. Kluft.

The cover stamps are from: German Democratic Republic, Chile, San Marino, and French West Africa (Afrique Occidentale Francaise).

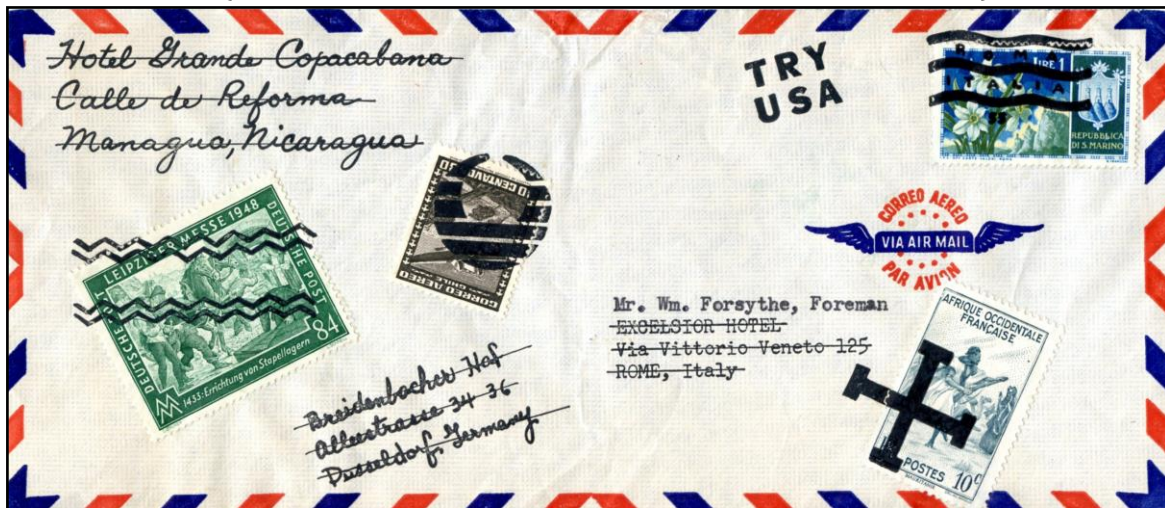
Nice covers, real stamps but fake everything else. The stamps appear to be in the same place on each cover with identical "postmarks." There is nothing on the reverse, and no date.

I used Microsoft Copilot AI to see if the hotels are legit:

Copilot - I'm sorry, but I couldn't find a hotel by the name "Hotel Grande Copacabana" in Managua, Nicaragua.

Copilot - The **Excelsior Hotel** you're referring to is likely **The Westin Excelsior, Rome**, located at **Via Vittorio Veneto 125**. This luxurious hotel is situated in the fashionable Via Veneto area.

Copilot- The **Breidenbacher Hof** in Düsseldorf is a prestigious 5-star hotel located centrally on the Königsallee boulevard. (Comment; that is not the same address as on the cover.)



This was a lot of fun using AI to ask questions and verify information. Using AI was fast and never had to use Google or leave my Word program. Copilot delivered the information right on my desktop split screen.

April Quiz – Latin American Political Leaders

By Eric Moody

1. Jose de San Martin, a hero in several South American countries for his role in their wars against Spain for independence (1810-1824), appears on numerous 19th century stamps of this nation.
(a) Argentina (b) Ecuador (c) Venezuela (d) Chile
2. Bernardo O'Higgins was an early 19th century revolutionary leader and later head of government ("Dictator") in this country:
(a) Peru (b) Uruguay (c) Chile (d) Columbia
3. Cuba has featured a number of the island's revolutionary leaders on its stamps (#264, 1318, 1696, 2665, etc.). They include all the following except
(a) Jose Marti (b) Fidel Castro (c) Fulgencio Batista (d) Che Guevara
4. Alberto Fujimori, son of Japanese immigrants, was president of this country in the 1990s:
(a) Venezuela (b) Panama (c) Brazil (d) Peru
5. This woman was the First Lady of Argentina in the middle of the 20th century. She became an extremely popular political figure before her death at age 33 and has appeared on numerous Argentinian stamps (#599, 607, 1974, 2660, etc.). She is
(a) Maria Batista (b) Eva Peron (c) Isabel Allende (d) Carmen Miranda
6. Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was a hero of the revolutionary wars against Spain – and subject of early postage stamps – in all the following countries except
(a) Venezuela (b) Colombia (c) Peru (d) Nicaragua
7. The Somoza family (Anastasio Somoza Garcia and his sons, Luis Somoza and Anastasio Somoza Debayle) firmly ruled this Central American nation from the 1930s to the late 1970s, and occasionally appeared on its stamps (#783, 995, etc.). The country is
(a) Honduras (b) Nicaragua (c) Panama (d) Costa Rica
8. This famous writer, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 1910, lost the presidential election in Peru in 1990. Pictured on Peruvian stamps in 2005 and 2011, he is
(a) Gabriel Garcia Marquez (b) Jorge Luis Borges (c) Carlos Fuentes (d) Mario Vargas Llosa
9. Alfredo Stroessner was military dictator (officially president) of this South American country from 1954 until his overthrow in 1989. The country, which featured Stroessner on many of its stamps (#486-490, 537, 1452, etc.) is:
(a) Bolivia (b) Uruguay (c) Venezuela (d) Paraguay
10. This reformist president of Mexico before and after France's attempt to establish Austrian Archduke Maximilian as emperor of the country in the mid-1860s, is depicted on numerous Mexican stamps of 1879-1882.
(a) Miguel Hidalgo (b) Lopez Rayon (c) Benito Juarez (d) Mariano Abasolo
11. The last Aztec emperor, Cuauhtemoc, was first honored on a Mexican stamp in
(a) 1856 (b) 1874 (c) 1895 (d) 1920

12. The first individual to be represented on a stamp (#45) from this South American country was Joaquin Suarez, the first interim head of state in 1828 after independence and later president, 1843-1852. The country is
(a) Argentina (b) Uruguay (c) Chile (d) Colombia

The April 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

March Quiz Answers: 1. c 2. c 3. b 4. a
5. b 6. c 7. b 8. a 9. c 10. a

Vassar Post Office Display

The post office display was changed by **John Walter** with the themes for baseball and cartoon characters. Each wall frame has space for 6 pages and maybe a few covers.



Quiz Hint: For those of us without Scott catalogs, AI works very well to answer the questions. You might have to ask the question and then provide the choices. I used Copilot in my Microsoft Edge browser.