



STAMP  
STUDY  
SOCIETY

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POST BOY

# N.S.S.S.

*Presents*

## *The Post Boy*

August, 1998

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Boy, was that a picnic. For those that missed this year's annual outing missed a lot of good food and great companionship. Although, prior to the picnic, there was a Board and General Meeting. A lot was discussed and some items were decided upon at the meeting. After that, the picnic took on a note of festivity and there were lots of food and drink. The heat of the day was curtailed by various means of sun shading, such as, a tarp and a canopy and various trees. As the afternoon progressed the heat became moderate and pleasant. A great time was had by all. Elna and I want to thank everyone for your help in making this picnic successful. Also, we have a pan left here. It a porcelain cream colored with brown daisies on it. I'll bring it to the first meeting in August.

By this time you'ahl will have notified that the meeting scheduled for the second Sat. of the month has been changed to the Third Sat. of the month, due to HOT AUGUST NIGHTS. NO PARKING WAS AVAILABLE. THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD AND FIFTH SATURDAY OF AUGUST. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR.

One of the items discussed at the picnic meeting was the silent auction. This will be replaced with a regular mini-auction or a members selling table or a consignment table or what ever you members would like to have for this part of the program. This has been the program for the second meeting of the month. The original idea was to have a business meeting on the first meeting of each month along with a mini-auction. The second meeting was to have a speaker or some type of program along with a silent auction. Well, it didn't quite go that way. So, what would **YOU MEMBERS** like to have for the second meeting of each month. Please let the program chairman know asap.

Coming up in will be the Stamp Show at Park Lane Mall on Oct. 17th. Dan Forgues is chairing this event. He needs plenty of help. It is a one day affair, but we need persons to sort of be present and visible for security's sake. This is a job for members, with badges, to be walking around the exhibits and dealers' booths and keeping an eye on things. In other words, make our presence known. There will be a need for members to set-up and take-down exhibit frames. Also, there will be a need for exhibits. Look through your collections and, I am sure, you will find enough material to fill, at least one frame. There are sixteen (16) pages to a frame. It doesn't matter if the stamps are mounted or in clear stock pages. It doesn't matter the subject or the value of the collection. These pages will provide viewers with an overall view of stamp collecting and the simplicity of this hobby. Contact Dan Forgues for information on [this project](#).

One subject that seems to be an interesting one to collect, is lighthouses. Each one has an unique history and a lot of them are pictured on stamps. On the next page is a painting of the Smeaton's Eddystone lighthouse. This lighthouse was pictured on the New Zealand 3d stamp, as shown.

The Smeaton's Eddystone lighthouse was the third lighthouse to be built on the specific location. The first was the Winstanley's lighthouse, built in 1703. This location had a steep foundation. A 30 degree slope to contend with. The building was difficult and time consuming. It took hours for the workers to get to and from the site, due to the tidal changes. On Nov. 14, 1698, after many battles with waves and bad weather, Mr. Winstanley climbed to the top to light 60 tallow candles. The structure lasted to 1703, The faults in design could not match the weather or the waves and wind. In Nov. 1703, Winstanley and his men went to the lighthouse to inspect it. That night a furious storm arrived and by the next morning the lighthouse and all the men were gone.

The second lighthouse was built by John Rudyerd. He faced the same structural problems, but approached them. Mr. Rudyerd use the opposite of design and building materials at Winstanley. First, he shaped the building in a cylindrical design, narrowing at the top. He used a mast in the center of the building to give it strength and flexibility. Then he covered the exterior with the best and strongest lumber over the stone outside surface. This would provide a smooth surface to buffet the winds and water. Mr. Rudyerd faced the same weather problems as his previous builder and this delayed the construction many time. 273 tons of granite were used in the base to provide ballast. The final height was 71 feet. All went well and in 1706, the candles were lit, just 3 years after the fall of the first lighthouse. This lighthouse stood until 1755. In Dec. 1755, a fire destroyed the upper wooden structure. The lead roof melted and the whole building collapsed.

It 1759, John Smeaton was approached to build a third lighthouse. He, too, faced the same weather conditions as those before had faced, but he changed the design and the materials of constructing this newest lighthouse. He used stones, weighing 2 and one half tons, cemented into a previous cut step. Stone by stone he rebuilt the base of the lighthouse. The first stone was placed into position on June 12th, 1752. Then, on Oct. 8, 1759, 4 years after the fire took the previous lighthouse, Mr Smeaton provided and sent 3 keepers to the lighthouse to light up lantern. He was himself was prevented by bad weather to going out to the lighthouse, but he did enjoy seeing the first light from nearby Plymouth Hoe. This achievement made his name known throughout out the shipping world. The lighthouse was in use until 1877.

There are lots of stamps with lighthouses as their subject and all have just as an interesting history as the Eddystone lighthouse.

## Eddystone Lighthouse



### **The Hazard: Eddystone Rocks**

The Eddystone Rocks sit in the English Channel, about 9–14 miles southwest of Plymouth. Mariners have feared them for centuries—Christopher Jones of the *Mayflower* called them “a wicked reef of 23 rust-red rocks” that threatened every ship entering the area.

### **The First Lighthouse (Winstanley’s Tower, 1698–1703)**

The construction was timber, highly ornate, almost whimsical. It was the first lighthouse ever built on an open-sea rock. Fate: Completely destroyed in the Great Storm of 1703, killing Winstanley and the keepers. This dramatic loss became one of the most famous lighthouse disasters in maritime history.

### **The Second Lighthouse (Rudyard’s Tower, 1709–1755)**

The construction was primarily timber and stood for nearly 50 years. Fate: Burned down in 1755 after the lantern caught fire.

### **The Third Lighthouse (Smeaton’s Tower, 1759–1882)**

The construction was interlocking granite blocks inspired by the shape

of an oak tree which revolutionized lighthouse engineering; the dovetail stone technique became standard. Fate: Foundation destabilized by rock erosion; upper portion dismantled and re-erected on Plymouth Hoe as a monument.

**The Fourth Lighthouse (Douglass Tower, 1882–present)** The construction was of massive granite tower, far stronger and taller than its predecessors. The height: 49 m (161 ft); Automation in 1982; Current Status: Still active, operated by Trinity House. This is the lighthouse seen in most modern photographs including the one above—rugged, cylindrical, and built to withstand the worst seas in the Channel.

### **Why the Eddystone Story Matters**

The Eddystone sequence is a micro-history of engineering progress: From ornate timber to fire-resistant stone; From trial-and-error to scientific engineering; From human keepers to full automation.

Few sites on Earth have hosted four completely different lighthouse designs, each representing a leap forward in maritime safety.

*(This page was added in February 2026 after archiving this Post Boy issue.)*

While on my vacation at Lake Almanor, Elna and I visited several antique shops. In one, in Greenville, I found an interesting set of pictures in a postcard folder. They were of the big earthquake that hit and devastated a section of Southern California. This happened at 5:55 P.M. on March 10, 1933. It comprises of pictures of East Anaheim St., Long St.: apartment house, Compton, CA: City Hall, Huntington Park, City Hall of Compton, CA: East Long Beach Methodist Church: Huntington Park High School: Main street, Compton, CA, a large market at the corner of Main St., and Long Beach Blvd, Compton, CA: End of Rainbow Pier, Long Beach, and a picture taken while the earthquake was still trembling. Official damage was estimated to be \$58,000,000. A huge sum for the 1933 period. 124 dead and hundreds injured. It took 11 seconds and was recorded to be the most severe tremblor ever recorded in the United States at that time. You never know what you can pick up here and there. It was a lot of fun just visiting these stores. Although, one might have trouble picking out the real antiques and those that are made today to look like antiques.

Junior collector's quiz.

20 auction bucks for each correct answer:

The following First Day Cover, pictured below, is for honoring Paul Revere:

1. What church tower is depicted in the cachet?
2. What was his trade?
3. What were the signals from the tower of the church.
4. In what city did he begin his famous ride?
5. Why was he warning the people?



As of July 27, 1998 the following stamps will be issued by the United States Postal Service:

- July 22, 32 cent Stephen Vincent Benet. Literary Arts Series. FD, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.
- July 29, Tropical Birds, Great American definitive series. Panes of 33. FD of issue Pleasantville, NY 10570. (Home of the Reader's Digest?)
- July 29, Breast Cancer Awareness. (semi-postal) 32 cents plus 8 cents. FD. Washington, D.C. 20006. Hillary Clinton and PG William Henderson will preside.
- July 30, 20 cent Ring-necked Pheasant. Coil Stamps of 100. FD. Somerset, NJ 08873-9991.
- July 30, 20 cent Ring-necked Pheasant. Booklet of 10.
- Aug. 3. Alfred Hitchcock. Legends of Hollywood. FD. Los Angeles, CA
- Aug. 8. 32 Cent Organ & Tissue Donation. FD. Columbus, Ohio.
- Aug. 27. Four Centuries of American Art. FD Santa Clara, CA 95050. APS Summer STAMPSHOW '98.
- Sept. Celebrate the Century 1930-39. Pane of 15-32 cents. FD?
- Sept. 16. 32 Cent Ballet. FD. New York City. NY 10199.
- Sept. 32 cent Klondike Gold Rush. FD, Nome, AK 99762.

In a recent article from Stamp Collector magazine there is an article featuring Ernest Borgnine. The Milwaukee Philatelic Society pictured him in his clown makeup. The cachet is on a set of four multi-colored souvenir envelopes. They were issued in conjunction with the July 29-Aug. 2 Milwaukee's Great Horse-Drawn Circus Parade. Borgnine, who is a stamp collector, is a frequent participant in the annual two hour parade, walking its length as one of the many clowns. All elaborately carved antique circus wagons carrying animals and other floats must be drawn by horses. No motor-driven vehicles are used in the parade. Similar to Mule Days in Bishop, CA. There were 75 circus wagons, plus many other activities and subjects related to the circus. Orders of the covers can be sent to MPS Circus Covers, Box 1980, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1980. Make checks out to the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc. Include a self-addressed No. 10 envelope for the return of the covers.

Have you noticed the new Japanese stamp? It is a die-cut irregular design. The stamps picture house-hold pets. It has met with some confusion and distrust. Even some of the postal clerks have been upset and confused with the stamp.

Canada will issue the second installment of the three-year long program on Scenic Highways. The stamps will be issued on July 28. These stamps feature the scenes along the roadways of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Yukon. This issue will coincide with the 125th anniversary of Prince Edward Island joining Canada. It will feature scenes along route 20.

In an article from a journal of yore, the author recommends the investment of the year should be all the stamps of Bahrain, Kuwait and Muscat with the St. Edward's Crown watermark and surcharged in annas. The information was dated June, 1957. Was it a good investment? I don't know.

For the more mature members the following questions are worth 25 Auction Bucks for each correct answer. The subject is stamp subjects:

1. What two countries were provoked into a war over the issue of a stamp by one of the countries?
2. What country has the longest-lived mail delivery system and it exists to this day.  
Clue: It called Dak or Dawk system.
3. What was stamp collecting known as before the term *Philately* was invented.  
Clue: The country was France.
4. There are ten (10) major types of U.S. Stamps. Can you name them?  
since this may be more difficult than usual, each correct will receive 5 auction bucks.

Did you know in 1918 the British government counterfeited stamps from Austria, Bavaria, and Germany. It was hoped that by sending mail to smaller countries the German government would develop a financial crisis. The smaller countries would not be suspicious of the stamps and with the propaganda on the mail, the allies hoped for their support. The program was never implemented.

However, in WWII, the British did circulate the German "Hitler Head" stamps. They were used to spread rumors of dissension in the German army.

This information, as well as some of the above, was found in Mystic's Guide to Stamp collecting.

Here is an interest bit of information gleaned from Scott's Stamp Monthly, Dec. 1995. It is a theory on the disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Randall Brink.

After the takeoff in a souped-up Lockheed *Electra* on a route departed from the one announced, she headed for the Marshall islands instead of the announced Howland Islands. They crashed on Mili Atoll. The Japanese captured them on nearby Jaluit Atoll and retrieved the plane.

A Japanese ship then took Amelia and Noonan from Jaluit to imprisonment on Saipan. On the way, it offloaded Amelia's plane on the tiny island of Taroa. Brink speculates that what's left of Amelia's plane remains hidden there.

Why no search? And what about Amelia's lost mail

Brink writes that Taroa was neutralized by World War II bombardment and bypassed by the Allies on their way to Tokyo.. U.S. troops never occupied the island. Few outsiders have visited it since the last Japanese went home after surrender. Natives avoid the maze of unexploded bobs left in the wake of war.

"Protected by the dangerous explosives," Brink writes, "as well as by the isolation and unchanging weather, many of the above ground buildings remain virtually as the were in 1945. It is safe to assume that the underground facilities are equally unchanged."

"Sitting in one, in all probability...is the fuselage of a Lockheed *Electra*, perhaps still containing the 6500 first day of issue philatelic covers.

Expedition, anyone?.