



The Post Boy

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

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In-person and virtual meetings:
2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10 AM
Silverada Estates Clubhouse
2301 Oddie Blvd., Reno
([map](#)) ([Google Maps](#))
All are welcome!



Figure 1: The holiday party group, with gifts in the center.

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Upcoming Events

January 11 In-person and Zoom meeting starts at 10 AM. After announcements, committee reports, and the raffle, there will be a live auction. Members can have up to 5 lots on the table—more can be added to a total of 60 lots.

January 25 In-person and Zoom meeting starts at 10 AM. Members can have up to 10 lots available for consignment at this meeting. More lots can be added as others are sold. Presentation topic TBD.

In February Online auction #38 will take place—details TBA. We also plan to have a donations-only auction.

August 14–17 [Great American Stamp Show \(GASS\) 2025](#)—Chicago. Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg IL 60173. Admission free, hotel rate TBA.

Christmas Holiday Party Pictures by John Walter

The annual party was well-attended, with 30 members and family having fun on December 14. **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the chairs and tables. **Barbara Stanfield**, also an early arriver, decorated the tables. **Maggie Griener** came early to prepare and warm the turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes.

Since everyone was hungry, the food was ready around 11 AM. After the social time and eating, the fun started with the gift exchange. Those who wanted to participate in the exchange brought a wrapped gift which was placed on the central table. Tickets were given on the individual's arrival.

Our junior member, **Donny Sehr**, with help from Evelyn Kennedy, started the process with the first number drawn for **Jeanne Paquin**. The last number drawn was for Kirsten Walter. There was unexpected snow during most of the party. One member who just moved to Carson City from the San Diego area remarked about the snowy background. He was impressed.



Figure 2: Evelyn and Donny drawing the first ticket.



Figure 3: Jeanne Paquin (center) had the first number. Ruth Paxton, Jeanne's sister, on the left.

When the exchange started, gifts were chosen, unwrapped, and “stolen” a few times. Here are some of the pictures ([Figures 1 to 7](#)).

Manitoba to Arizona—1909 by Tom Reyman

Recently, while looking through some of my neglected boxes of covers, I rediscovered a cover sent from Waskada, Manitoba [wus-KAY-duh] to Winslow, Arizona ([Figure 8](#)). I am sure that I was drawn to buying this cover because of the Canada-to-Arizona routing (I live in Arizona). But how did it get from a small farming town in Manitoba to a small railroad town in Arizona in 1909? This is the probable route:

Waskada is located near the border of Manitoba and North Dakota. The closest rail line is at Napinka, Manitoba, about 18 miles away. The cover left Waskada on



Figure 4: Gary Atkinson with a 2025 philatelic calendar.



Figure 6: Terri Edwards opening a gift. Notice it's snowing outside.



Figure 5: Steve Foster showing the *Stampin'* game and the book "Private Die Match Stamps". He just "stole" the gift items from **John Walter**.



Figure 7: Kirsten Walter with the last gift. Notice again the snow outside.

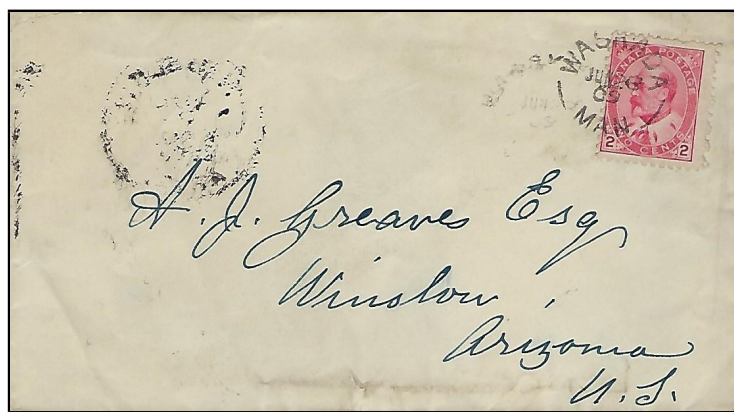


Figure 8: 1909 cover sent from Waskada, MB to Winslow, AZ.

June 6, 1909 and likely traveled by stage to Napinka to meet the Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) train to Estevan, Saskatchewan. There, the rail line heads southward, crossing the border at Portal, North Dakota and follows the Soo Line tracks (controlled by CPR) to Minneapolis.

The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, & Pacific would have received the cover at Minneapolis, taking it to Kansas City. The ATSF (Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe) had a main hub at Kansas City and the trains traveled southwest to Amarillo, Texas, then Albuquerque, New Mexico, and continued to Winslow, Arriving on July 3, 1909.

Winslow was a major stop on the ATSF for crew changes and for adding helper engines for the long climb to Flagstaff, Arizona (elev. 6,910 feet), only 57 miles west of Winslow (elev. 4,850 feet). The Winslow-Lindbergh Regional Airport was designed by Charles Lindbergh and, when it opened in 1934, it was the only all-weather airport between Albuquerque and Los Angeles. Winslow became a CAM 34 stop for east- and westbound airmail aircraft.

Pins and Needles

by Patrick Crosby

This article has no point, just philatelic odds and ends relating to pins and needles.

Philip A. Kemper of Dayton, OH was a dealer mostly focused in fabrics and related goods. Most of his customers were Catholic convents and schools around the country. One of his customers was St. Mary's school in Virginia City, NV, with the Sisters of Charity. In 1992 I purchased 3,500 government postal cards of Mr. Kem-

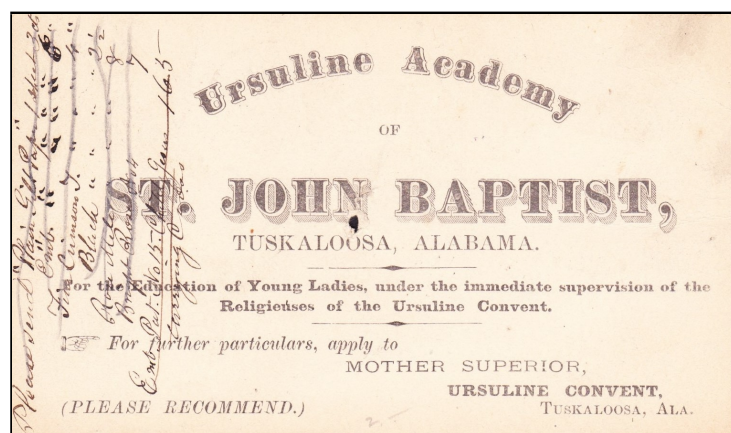


Figure 9: Ursuline Academy advertising card used as an order form.

per's business correspondence dated from 1876 to 1892. I paid 4¢ each and most had spindle holes from his method of organization ([Figure 9](#)).

A spindle is basically a big needle on a base still in use at some restaurants and its hole is a big detriment to postal cards. Sometimes when ordering, the nuns wanted to make sure the right color or quality of an item was sent and so they would attach a cloth or thread sample to the card using a straight pin.

[Figure 10](#) shows a Scott UX7 from Bowling Green, KY with a short pin still attached.

Another card from Mechanicsburg, PA ([Figure 11](#)) has eight pin holes along with an order from Mrs. Jones. There were at least three attachments, and she mentions, "... like the sample". Mr. Kemper would line out items in pencil as the orders were filled. Of course, with sewing goes needles—Mrs. Jones asks for "one paper geffer needle" and another order asks for "zephyr needles No. 18 & 20". *Geffer* and *zephyr* are out-of-fashion terms referring to fabric quality and were once in common usage.

This correspondence included not only orders but also complaints—mostly "Where's my order?" But as Sister Scholastica politely writes, "Instead of attributing any fault to you about the detention of the pkg. I feel much indebted for your uniform kindness and attention towards us." [Card not shown.]

Injury to postal workers and damage to postal equipment could be caused by straight pins attached to cards like above, and the large safety pin attached to the Odd Fellows fraternal organization's card ([Figure 12](#)) could do the same thing. This card, with its corny joke, is dated Oc-

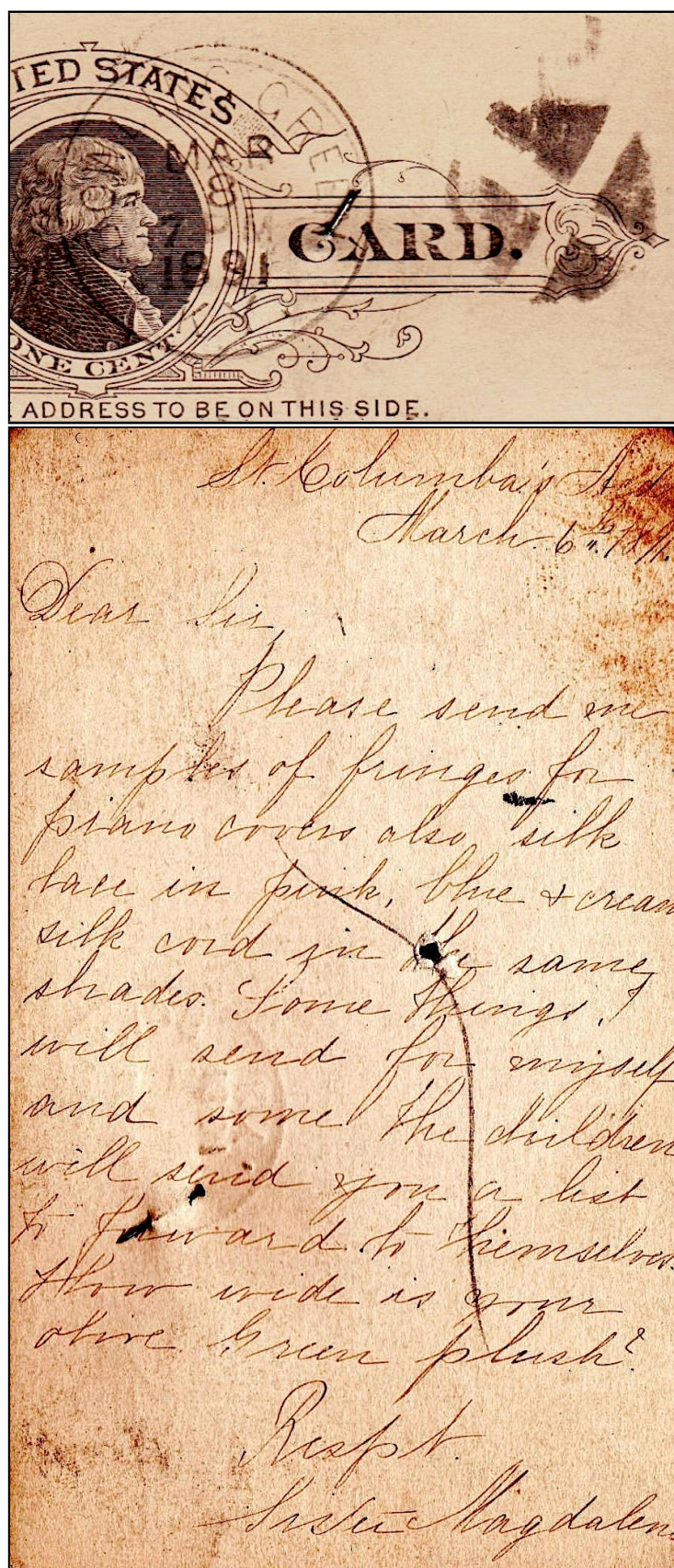


Figure 10: Bowling Green cover with postmark landing on the attached pin: Close-up (top) and message on reverse (bottom).

Mechanicsburg March 21 1896
 P. Koenig
 Sir
 will you please send me ^{sample}
 2 lb of scarlet geranium wool like the
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = scarlet variegated =~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = green =~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = of white single yellow =~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = black =~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = scarlet = like the sample~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = of light scarlet =~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = green like the sample~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = scarlet variegated~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = bright blue single~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{4}$ = = split, scarlet near the sample above~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{2}$ doz sheets perforated paper medium~~
~~1 sheet of gilt-card board as cheap as possible~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{2}$ doz snattoes $8\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 24 if you have~~
~~3 yard white lava canvas $\frac{1}{2}$ yard wide~~
~~100 dot worth of white worst Beeds about~~
~~as long as this ^{if you have} one paper thread~~
~~medium size~~
 ~~$\frac{1}{2}$ doz bunches of white cotton star braid~~
~~25th bunch and oblige you Mrs Jones~~

Figure 11: Order from Mechanicsburg, PA.



Figure 12: Address side (top) and view side (bottom) of Odd Fellows card.

tober 29, 1907, long after the February 16, 1907 USPOD directive banning all such attachments. Nonetheless, this card was allowed to pass through the mail with its large pin. In the message then sender writes “air” for “are”.

The Century 21 International Exposition (aka Seattle World’s Fair) was open from April 21 to October 21, 1962 (note the 21s). The USPOD issued a 4¢ commemorative stamp (Scott 1196) showing the fair’s 0.9-mile monorail and its 606-foot tower, the Space Needle, which at the time was the tallest structure west of the Mississippi. There was a modest U.S. Post Office station with the public portion being not much more than coin-operated machines, letter drop boxes, and writing tables. 99% of the items mailed from the fairgrounds were cancelled with a *Space Needle*, WA machine cancel only available during the fair. The postage stamp was not ready for opening day and the first day of issue was April 25, 1962, with Seattle (not Space Needle) as the official first-day city.



Figure 13: Century 21 cover.



Figure 14: Homemaker stamp.

The exposition cover shown is from the last day of the fair. Its *Space Needle*, WA hand stamp (Bomar S62-01), was available from opening day to closing day, but most items mailed from the grounds received the machine cancel. In black, this hand stamp is valued at \$5, and in red (as shown, [Figure 13](#)), \$20.

Beginners in needlework would show the various stitches they had learned on an embroidery sampler. The 5¢ USA Homemaker Issue of 1964 (Scott 1253, [Figure 14](#)) with its farm-scene sampler commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Smith–Lever Act of 1914, which in part taught new agricultural methods to farmers.

The U.S. Postal Service stamp pin showing one of eight 22¢ booklet Special Occasions stamps of 1987 was an appropriate gift to me ([Figure 15](#)). Nowadays stamp pins are sold attached to “collectable cards” which also include the stamp with a first-day cancellation and are sold for \$10 and \$15. Don’t even think about mailing one of these cards.

Our fine editor [sic] is always on the lookout for short *Post Boy* stories. Do you have a philatelic pin or needle to share?



Figure 15: Special Occasions pin.

References

- William J. Bomar, *Postal Markings of United States Expositions*, 2nd. BJB Philatelics: North Las Vegas, NV, 1996.

Patrick Crosby collects U.S. postal stationery, stamps, and postcards with an emphasis on postal history.

Dave Stafford Reminisces

by Dave Stafford

My first job I got in Reno was working at the Crest Theaters. It was located on Second Street between Virginia and Sierra Streets on the north side. There were two other movie theaters just a block or so away on First Street. There was a good relationship between the theaters. If their theater needed more popcorn to sell, I would be sent to take them popcorn or bring popcorn back to our theater.

One day I noticed a sign that had stamps on an entrance to a basement shop. It was located on the north side of First Street in the middle of the block. I had just gotten back from seeing my mom in Davis, CA. She gave me a small portion of my stamp collection to bring back to Reno. She said that my baseball collection had been stolen along with guns, fishing equipment, and tools from the garage. This was in 1969.

At the time I didn't think too much about it because I hadn't paid much for them back in the 1950s and 1960s. My favorite team was the New York Yankees, and my favorite player was Mickey Mantle. I had over a hundred cards of him, including five rookie cards. I remember that because I wanted to get two more rookie cards to match his number 7 uniform. I didn't realize I had lost a small

fortune until Roger Lauderdale told me in the 1980s. I will get to him later.

So I had my plate block collection (from 1958 to 1963) and five pages of old U.S. stamps mostly from the 1970s and 1980s. I had gotten those stamps from a schoolmate friend, Freddy, who lived eight houses away. He had gotten them from his dad. Freddy didn't really want them, and his dad said maybe he could trade them for baseball cards that he liked. Freddy said that his dad got them from his third-great-grandfather who was born in the 1830s. They were passed down to his sons to keep the collection going. His dad said he didn't mind giving them to Freddy if he was going to be happy getting baseball cards that he liked and wanted. An end to an era and I got the stamps for maybe 50 baseball cards that he picked out of my dupes. I can't remember his favorite team and players. I have no idea about the stamps. This was in 1958. I tried getting those stamps off the pages, but I damaged a lot trying. They had been glued or backs licked and (MNH) put on the page.

I happened to see some stamps for sale in a Woolworth's-type store in Davis. I bought some to build packets that had on-paper stamps. There were instructions on how to get them off the paper. I wish I had known this after damaging all those old U.S. stamps. Live and learn. I put those five pages with stamps in an envelope and put them away. I liked soaking the new stamps off the paper and finding where they were from.

My mom was a mash nurse in the 1940s and was the street nurse for our housing block in Davis. One day, she was helping a lady and noticed she was sorting stamps she had just brought from a hospital on the east coast. We got introduced and I told her when she was ready to order some more to let me know and I would buy some at the same time. She helped me learn about stamps.

Back to 1969! I have those five pages of older stamps and took them to a stamp shop in Reno. My first thought was how could anyone have a basement store a block from the Truckee River. I knew about the floods they had in Reno on a regular basis. I met this man (C. A. Visconti), and I can't remember a thing about what he looked like. What I remember was that he was glad to see those stamps until he saw how many were damaged. He still wanted to buy some. He picked the blackjack #73, 114, and 232. I remember those stamps. They were all unused and nicely centered. I can't remember if they had any gum. He offered me \$50 for the three stamps. I ac-

cepted his offer. I felt great about this since I only traded 50 baseball cards for all the stamps 11 years prior.

We started talking, and I noticed [in my collection] this one stamp you could hardly see. It was heavily canceled and way off-center. He took out his magnifying glass, looked at it, and said he might be interested in buying it also.

“Can I look at it too?” I said.

He gave me the magnifying glass, and when I looked “through” the cancel, the ship was upside-down! It was a #294 1¢ green Pan-American.

“That must be real rare. What’ll you give me for it?”

“How about letting me have it on consignment?” he said. “I’ll give you half of what I sell it for.”

I’m no fool. I said okay. We shook hands and he said he would call me in a month or two. I got his phone number, which I called a month later. A lady answered and had no idea who C. A. Visconti was. I drove to the shop, but it was closed. I guess I could have filed a police report, but what evidence did I have? I never looked up what the stamp was worth. If he had offered me \$200, or even \$100, I would have taken it.

At this time, I was only paying \$50 a month for rent while working full-time at Crest Theater. I had enough money, and things were going to get even better. I have no idea where Mr. Visconti lived or if he is still alive. I will never forget that stamp and I always thought I may see it again someday. It hasn’t happened yet but I’m still looking 50 years later. I must admit I haven’t really searched very much.

I still had my plate blocks. I really was not interested in them anymore. My mom had given me some family postcards from the 1910s and 1920s along with a list of family names. I then became interested in looking for this material and decided to sell my plate block collection. I wanted to put the plate blocks in glassines or an album. They wouldn’t fit, so I took off the selvage. They were no longer plate blocks, but they fit on the album pages. Live and learn!

I took them to some stamp dealers and a pawn shop where I was buying 8-track tapes. I still have two business cards from T&A Stamp and Coin that was on Second Street. Ken Booth and A. L. “Buzz” Nelson were the dealers. They told me the bad news about how I had ruined a lot of plate blocks. I think I still got paid the face value of about \$25. I would see these dealers a few years later.

I was busy trying to find relatives’ postcards, photos, and other items. I started going to all the nearby auctions and antique dealers. I found some things once in a while. I started working at John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks in 1971 making \$14 a day selling change, then \$15 paying jackpots. I became a keyman at \$20 a day, then shop mechanic at \$23 a day. Yes, money was important to me!

This is how I first met **Eric Moody**, he left soon after and I worked there another 3+ years. I got fired in 1974 when I first learned that life was not always fair—my word against a 12-year mechanic and drinking buddy of the boss. It was sickening. I did what I was told to do and got fired even though this mechanic came to work drunk.

Thank God I had met Roger Lauderdale in 1972 and was busy selling postcards and other stuff with him. At this time, I was living in my \$50-a-month room and at Wedekind Road Apartments. I had a girlfriend since 1972 whose mother frowned on her daughter living with a man and not being married. When her mother came to Reno to visit, I went to the \$50-a-month room until she left; then I was back to Wedekind Road. Then my girlfriend decided to leave Reno because UNR didn’t have a couple of classes she needed to graduate. She didn’t want to get married until she graduated. She met someone else who had a job and lots of money. That ended our relationship. I finally got a job at the Nevada Club in 1975. I bought a duplex house in Stead. I kept the \$50 room! I worked six days a week: four days from 4 AM to noon and two days from 3 AM to 11 AM. It was great! A lot of work got me in great physical condition.

I would get off work and go see Roger Lauderdale every day. In the meantime, I met **Eric Moody** at the Nevada Historical Society while I was researching some unidentified real-photo postcards. I had them spread out on a table looking at a book when this guy came over to see if I needed help. I was shocked to see it was Eric. He then told me that they bought material for their collections, if they need it.

This was the start of a 30-year business relationship with NHS. Roger Lauderdale and I bought all sorts of great items for them. I had lots of money. I had found \$4.3 million in a bag dropped by security guards at the Nevada Club. I picked up the bag and took it to the office where they told me to take it immediately to Lincoln Fitzgerald over at First National Bank. I did so and he wrote down my name. Following that, I got a \$10-an-hour raise to be

making \$22 an hour. This was in 1977. More work duties, more respect, and the rest is history. When the Nevada Club closed on December 31, 1986, I was making \$38 an hour, six days a week. Yes, in 1986!

I was renodave on eBay and spent a lot of money there as well as locally and at postcard shows out of state. Maybe next month I will get back to some earlier stamp stuff and more. Friends say I need to write a book because I have had so many different things in life happen—good and bad. Maybe next month I will get to tell you how I met **Nadiah**. That's it for now.

Quiz: Firsts and Lasts

by Eric Moody

The following questions all relate to the first or last stamp issues of countries, colonies, or political regimes around the world.

1. This empire's last stamps (#96–98), which did not carry an image of the emperor, appeared in 1888. The former state was the
 - (a) Austro-Hungarian Empire.
 - (b) Ethiopian Empire.
 - (c) Empire of Brazil.
 - (d) Chinese Empire.
2. Lundy Island, off the west coast of England, has long produced stamps of its own that are affixed to mail carried privately to the mainland for deposit in Britain's Royal Mail (for which British postage is added). Lundy's first stamps, created by the island's owner, Martin Harman—the self-styled “King Harman I”—appeared in
 - (a) 1919.
 - (b) 1929.
 - (c) 1939.
 - (d) 1949.
3. The first stamp of this independent republic, formerly a state of the Soviet Union, was issued in 1992 and features a picture of an ornate 19th century necklace. The country is
 - (a) Georgia.
 - (b) Kazakhstan.
 - (c) Ukraine.
 - (d) Turkmenistan.
4. The final stamp (#24) featuring a portrait of this European nation's last imperial ruler was issued in 1871, in the wake of a disastrous war that ended the empire. The country where these events occurred is
 - (a) Germany.
 - (b) France.
 - (c) Austria.
 - (d) Russia.
5. The first postage stamp (#108, see note after #120) intended for use on mail from Antarctica was produced in 1908 by this country.
 - (a) Australia
 - (b) the United States
 - (c) New Zealand
 - (d) Great Britain
6. The ruler of the Empire of Mexico in the 1860s had been a European archduke. Depicted on the short-lived empire's final stamps (#31–34), he was
 - (a) Frederick of Prussia.
 - (b) Humbert of Italy.
 - (c) Maximilian of Austria.
 - (d) Ferdinand of Spain.
7. The last issue (#271) from the monarchy of this country (under King Sisavang-Vong) appeared in 1975. The southeast Asian nation is
 - (a) Cambodia.
 - (b) Laos.
 - (c) Vietnam.
 - (d) Brunei.
8. Just before the Free City of Danzig became part of an expanding Germany in 1939, it issued a final stamp: a commemorative (#240) depicting this famous scientist.
 - (a) Gregor Mendel
 - (b) Louis Pasteur
 - (c) Niels Bohr
 - (d) Wilhelm Röntgen
9. The first stamp of the U.S.-administered Panama Canal Zone, issued in 1904, was an overprint of a 2-centavo Panamanian stamp (#16) that had originally

been released in

- (a) 1882.
 - (b) 1892.
 - (c) 1902.
 - (d) 1904.
10. The last postage stamp (#2876) issued by this country, in December 1992, celebrated Stamp Day. A former European nation, it is
- (a) Yugoslavia.
 - (b) East Germany.
 - (c) Czechoslovakia.
 - (d) the Soviet Union.
11. The last stamps issued by Macao under Portuguese administration, in a set that offered a “retrospective of Macao’s Portuguese history”, appeared in December of
- (a) 1995.
 - (b) 1999.
 - (c) 2000.
 - (d) 2009.
12. This Pacific island nation’s first two stamps, in 1979, featured its national flag, the Houses of Parliament in London, and its own modest House of Assembly.
- (a) Kiribati
 - (b) Tuvalu
 - (c) Vanatu
 - (d) Micronesia

The quiz is worth 120 Auction Bucks. Please give your answers to **Maggie Griener** at the next meeting or email them to postboyquiz@renostamp.org.

December Quiz Answers

1c, 2b, 3b, 4c, 5d, 6b, 7d, 8b, 9d, 10a, 11c, 12c.

From the Editor

What do you think about this new layout? If you have questions, comments, or constructive criticism, please send an email to editor@renostamp.org.

A few people still receive *The Post Boy* by snail mail. If you would like to be added/taken off the snail mail mailing list (or the email list), please let me know in person, by email, or by snail mail.