

Post Boy

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



March 2024
Volume 57, Issue 3

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 –

March 9 – 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.

March 23 – In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, a philatelic presentation will follow.

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

Online Auction #34 – All lot descriptions and images are due by noon on March 10. The auction will start at noon March 12 and end at noon on March 21. Email auction lot info to **Dave Parsons**:
NSSSauctions@gmail.com

Experts Needed: [APEX](#) needs members for its Expert Committee. At present, areas of special need include **China, Japanese overprints, Indian area, the Middle East, and Latin America.**

If you are interested in being an APEX expert, please contact Ken Martin, APS Director of Expertizing.

A philatelic resume including references is appreciated. Ken can be reached at the APS offices, kpmartin@stamps.org or **814-933-3817**.

The editor is soliciting articles for the Post Boy. With the very active club auctions, some nice material is changing hands. A scan of the item and a short story about the item, why you bid on that item, and how it fits into your collecting area should be easy to put together. If you lack a scanner, a photo (from cell phone is OK), or bring the item to a meeting and a photo can be taken.

Post Boy Reporter

Feb. 10 meeting – **Eric Fields** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Refreshments were provided by **Dave Gehringer**. Attendance was 19 including one guest. The guest, Herman de Groot, was born in Amsterdam and remembers open-air stamp markets.

James Steckley reported on the new USPS issues in February. He attended last week's webinar by the British Empire Collector's Club. The latest donations are in today's live auction (10 lots). James reminded everyone that the 50th anniversary of the NSSS is coming in 2025. Now is the time to start planning activities.

John Walter showed pictures of the Vassar post office display for this month. He also showed numerous pictures of the Carson City library display. The library display was set up by **John Walter**, **Dave Gehringer** and **Harvey Edwards**. While the display was being set up, Dave made a reservation for a Stamp Collecting class for library patrons on Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. We were also approached by the Executive Director of the Carson City Historical Society who asked if NSSS would give presentation to her group in the future.

Dave Parsons reminded the members that online Auction #33 would start on Feb. 13. He also reported that some Penny Box material will be in the meeting auction and the consignment table each month.

Eric Fields reported on the Reno Stamp Show, July 27-28. The venue is reserved, has some dealer checks, the Exhibitor's Prospectus will be done shortly. **Harvey Edwards** showed three mock-ups of show cancels; 125th Anniversary of the Liberty Bell Slot Machine, the 25th Anniversary of the Recovery of Grissom's Liberty Bell 7, and the 100th anniversary of night mail flights where Reno was a stop.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 donated prizes and the bonus prize went to **Dave Gehringer** and the money prize of \$7.00 went to **John Walter**.

The live meeting auction had 54 member lots plus 10 donated lots. A total of 43 lots were sold for \$342.00. **Gary Atkinson** and **Mike Potter** were the auctioneers with **Howard Kadohiro** helping. **Steve Foster** helped with putting the lot sellers and buyers in the Excel spreadsheet.

Feb. 24 meeting – The attendance was 22 members including one member via Zoom. Two members joined today, **Herman DeGroot** and **Kent Tucker**. The membership is now at 65. Both new members have very interesting backgrounds, and their profiles will be in the April Post Boy.

Erik Fields arrived early to set up the meeting room and put the coffee pot on. **Robert Bernal** provided lots of homemade refreshments. **James Steckley** discussed the area stamp shows and bourses for the next



John Walter showing the post office and library display pictures.



Some of the members at the Feb. 10 meeting.

couple of months. **Tom Reyman** reported via Zoom on the Arizona National Stamp Show (Feb. 16-18). His full report, with pictures, is on page 4.

John Walter reported on displays at the Vassar post office and Carson City library. He is seeking original articles for the Post Boy. **Dave Parsons** reported on the club's online auction just completed: 33 lots of 70 total lots sold for \$272.00. The total for all 33 online auctions is just over \$20,000 with \$5,562 going to the stamp club. The next auction starts March 12. There is no auction in April as both Dave and **John Walter** will be traveling. Dave reported he has a "penny" box of Canada stamps that can be taken home and then each stamp selected is 2 cents. Some other stamps from the penny boxes are on the consignment table.

Erik Fields gave an update on the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show (July 27-28) with more dealer checks received.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with the usual 10 prizes and the bonus prize won by **Robert Bernal** and the money prize of \$14.00 went to **Scott Mathews**.

The presentation on "U.S. Stamp Joint Issues" was presented by **Dave Gehringer**. He was surprised that the U.S. had at least 44 joint issue and in one case a tri-issue with Sweden and Finland. He showed most of the issues and a few first-day-covers with cancels from both countries.

Here are two slides from the presentation.



Arizona National Stamp Show Report

February 16-18, 2024

By Tom Reyman, Show Chairman

Since this was our first stamp show, we didn't know exactly what to expect. The venue worked well at the Holiday Inn Mesa. The Phoenix Philatelic Association and the Mesa Stamp Club provided the help need to have a successful show.

We had very good attendance. Our guess was that we would have 250 to 300 people, but we had about 440 attendees over the three days. Almost all the dealers reported that they did well with most well over their expenses.

The 50 frames of exhibits were great and received a lot of positive comments. It was a "people's choice" show and one club member provided excellent awards from the shows where he won awards (Native American pottery, and Asian vases). I even won two awards for my exhibits.

The dealers liked the venue especially having carpeted floors and great lighting. Many said that they would be glad to return next year to the same place.

It is a little too soon to talk about next year's show, but we know we can put on a better show, maybe even have room for 3-4 more dealers and 12 more frames at the same location. The date of a 2025 show is Feb. 14-16, 2025. A block of 30 rooms is reserved for show attendees.



Tom Reyman with one of his exhibits.



The exhibit awards table.

Exhibit frame for Legends of the West issue.

“Dear Doctor” From the Australian Antarctic Territory

By Patrick Crosby

I just got this cover and before I put things away, I research them first, which is a good time to write an article.

Talk about a DPO (discontinued post office) – Wilkes Station in the Australian Antarctic Territory, was evacuated in 1969 since it was a fire hazard with its discarded chemicals, explosives, hydrogen gas cylinders, oil drums and leaking fuel. The facility moved across Newcomb Bay to Casey Repstat (replacement station), or simply Casey. Every 4 or 5 years when a big thaw occurs a visitor can view the usually buried Wilkes Station through the ice, frozen in time.



The featured postcard from c.1961 is postmarked Wilkes, Australian Antarctic Territory, which was a research center established by the United States in 1957. Planned for just two years of use, the station was taken over by Australia in 1959, closing in 1969.

From the mid 1950's to the early 1960's the U.S. based, multinational health care company Abbott Laboratories employed a marketing campaign using picture postcards mailed from around the world with colorful postage stamps sent to doctors in the United States and Canada (perhaps other countries, too). The printed “handwritten” message promotes a drug, oftentimes Pentothal, and begins with “Dear Doctor”, then signed “Abbott”. A French chemical and pharmaceutical company, Rhône-Polenc, was promoting their drugs in the same way (in English), signing “Polenc”.

The Abbott “Dear Doctor” cards were mailed from places like Portugal, Jamaica, Greenland, Mauritius, St. Pierre & Miquelon, and Thailand. But the most remote place of mailing has got to be Wilkes Station in Antarctica. Yes, this is a philatelic item. In fact, Abbott Laboratories was actively encouraging stamp collecting. This is also a legitimately used advertising cover.



Australian Antarctic Territory Scott L2.
The "7d" can barely be seen under the "8d" surcharge.

The postage stamp shows workers, a loading weasel (snow truck), and oil drums. It is Australian Antarctic Territory Scott L2 from the then still current first issues of 1957-1959. The stamp was printed with a 7d (pence) value but never issued that way. Instead, it was surcharged with a negative "8D" in dark blue, which paid the Australian international surface letter rate. Since Australia claimed such a large amount of Antarctica (since 1933, over 2.2 million square miles) and other countries were vying for their own slices (literally - check the stamp's map), the postage stamps were a reminder that Australia was serious about their claims in Antarctica. Empha-

sizing this idea, the stamps were sold and valid for use throughout Australia and its territories.

References:

- To view some other "Dear Doctor" postcards go to <http://www.HipPostcard.com> and visit Pauline's Postcards store, search "Doctor."
- Kenneth A. Wood, *This Is Philately*, (Albany, OR, Van Dahl Publications, 1982).
- www.En.wikipedia.org (Wilkes Station; Australian Antarctic Territory).
- *Scott 1989 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume 1*, (Sidney, OH, Amos Press Inc., 1988).

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.

March 25 is Medal of Honor Day

Medal of Honor Established in 1863 - Only U.S. decoration until World War I, then Congress restricted medal to "persons who perform the most extraordinary acts of heroism." Cachet is original painting by David K. Stone.



India – Commemoration of First Air Mail

By Tom Reyman

In 2011, India issued a set of stamps to commemorate the first air mail flight on the Indian sub-continent which had occurred 100 years earlier on February 16, 1911. What makes this early flight so remarkable worldwide is that this was the first official carriage of mail by air. Some mail had been carried by air before this, usually placed in the pilot's pocket and flown to a destination. These flights with mail were not condoned by the local authorities or by any local Post Office.

In 1911, two Sommer biplane aircraft were brought to India for demonstration purposes. As part of the demonstration, it was proposed that some mail could be carried by air across the Ganges River from Allahabad to the town of Naini. The local Postmaster approved the idea and over 6,000 pieces of mail were prepared. All mail was cancelled with a unique hand stamp stating, "First Aerial Post, UP Exhibition, Allahabad, 1911".

One of the pilots travelling with the planes was French aviator, Henri Pequet. It was he who was given the opportunity to carry the mail. He completed the flight in 13 minutes and made history as the first official air mail pilot. The subject 2011 cover shows a picture of the aircraft used by Pequet.



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.

Quiz – United States Trivia

1. The U.S. placed the Kansas and Nebraska overprints on sale at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 1929. The stamps were issued as an experiment to combat post office robberies by making it impossible to sell the stamps outside of the state where they are stolen . The use of the “control” overprints was discontinued. Why?
a. Post office robberies declined **b.** a Federal Court ruled that any stamp issued by the Government had to be available for use in all 48 states **c.** who knows it was a Government decision
2. Mail was moved by 56,571 miles of pneumatic tubes between Post Offices and railroads in New York, Chicago, St Louis, Philadelphia, Boston, and Brooklyn. The last of these operated in New York until:
a. 1933 **b.** 2011 **c.** 1953
3. The U.S. Canal Zone Postal Service went into operation and issued its first stamps in:
a. 1894 **b.** 1904 **c.** 1914
4. A figure of denomination must appear on postage stamps used for international mail. Strictly speaking, the U.S. “A,” “B,” “C”, and the others that followed must be classified as “local postage stamps” because they are not valid for international use. However, that usage has been tolerated:
a. True **b.** False **c.** Another case of an urban legend
5. On July 1, 1938, the U.S. Post Office began requiring that all matter bearing pre-canceled stamps where the postage was 6 cents or more include the user’s initials and the month and year on the stamp. For pre-cancel collectors, this was the beginning of what they term:
a. “Extras” **b.** “Dateds” **c.** “Specials”
6. In an attempt to render a better accounting of U.S. Government postal costs, Official Stamps were re-introduced in 1983. Later they were named “Penalty Mail” stamps, along with postal cards, stamped envelopes, and both plain and window types. The previous iteration of Officials had been declared obsolete in:
a. 1917 **b.** 1906 **c.** 1883
7. The U.S. introduced its first aerogramme on April 29, 1947. The indicium had a value of:
a. 15 cents **b.** 10 cents **c.** 8 cents
8. When it was discovered that the U.S. Postmaster General James Farley presented a “favored few” imperforate sheets of U.S. stamps, the philatelic community was in an uproar. To help tamp down the anger, the U.S. Post Office placed on sale at the Philatelic Sales Agency a number of stamps imperf without gum. These “special printings” were available to the public only from March 15 to June 15, 1935. These are known as:
a. Farley’s Follies **b.** Farley’s Fantasies **c.** Farley’s Frauds
9. Perfins were authorized by the U.S. Post Office Department on May 8, 1908. These are designs, initials or numerals perforated in postage stamps by private firms and governmental agencies to discourage stamp theft and misuse. Collecting these would be a challenge. In the U.S. alone, recorded perfins exceed:
a. 2500 **b.** 5000 **c.** 6400
10. A U.S. Special Handling stamp was issued April 1, 1925 with a face value of 25¢. On June 25, 1928, 10¢, 15¢ and 20¢ denominations were added. Affixing a Special Handling stamp to 4th Class mail does what:
a. Nothing – the stamps were withdrawn in 1959 **b.** Insured that it is accorded the same handling as 1st Class mail **c.** Upgrades the handling to second day delivery

The March quiz is worth 100 **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

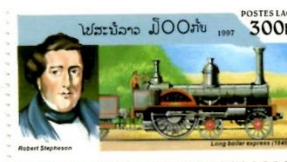
For the past 10 years ago or so, club members have been encouraged to make a single page exhibit for our stamp show. The title would be “My Favorite Thing” or something along that line. Here is a page from Stan Cronwall who passed away in 2019. More pages are archived: <https://renostamp.org/exhibits.html>
This page is just the opposite (according to Stan).

A FEW OF MY *LEAST* FAVORITE THINGS

Back around 2000 or perhaps it was 2001, I was thinking about getting my feet wet in the world of philatelic exhibiting. From the time I was a young boy lying in bed at night listening to the freight locomotives straining to climb a hill in our town, trains were source of fascination and what dreams were made of.

These stamps come from a topical “collection” in three stock books purchased from a dealer’s ad in Linn’s.

The books were offered at something like \$35.00 each or the lot at \$100.00 plus shipping.



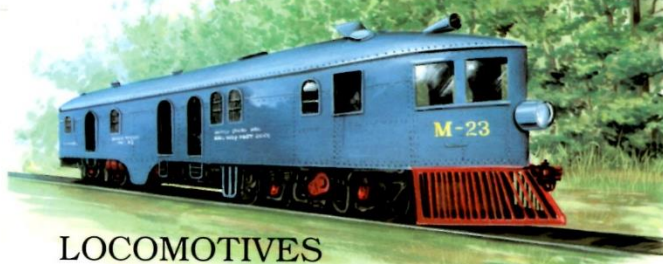
What a way to jump start my move into a collection of train stamps, and hopefully an exhibit.

On examination, the stock books contained a lot of stamps as advertised.

Most are from small African and Asian countries, “Sand Dune” countries with no railroads, or islands so small you could throw a stone from the ocean on one side into the ocean on the other side.

This doesn’t necessarily mean that the stamps don’t belong in a collection, but overall it was a bit disappointing.

Now, how can I cast these into an interesting exhibit; steam versus diesel, or the evolution of locomotives, or select a specific type of engine and attempt to find all the stamps that depict it, or display them in ten or twenty five year increments of time showing the development of train travel.



LOCOMOTIVES

Well, here we are “X” years later. The stock books remain on the shelf (less the stamps shown on this page) undisturbed since I placed them there.

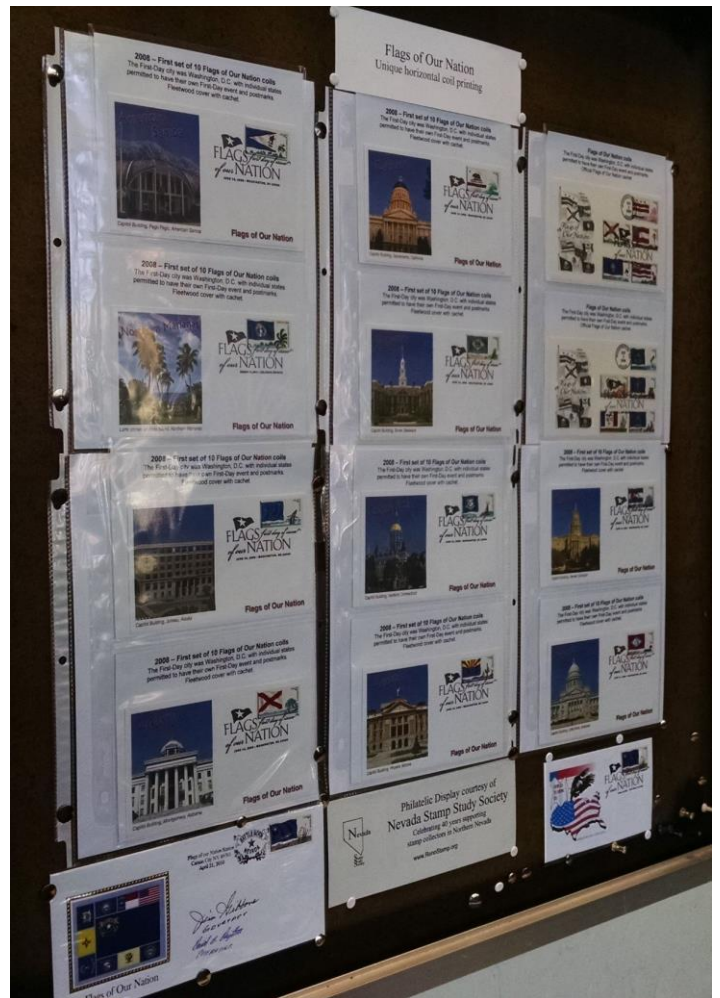
Anybody got a good idea for an exhibit? Anybody wanna buy them? I’ll make you a screaming deal!

Vassar Post Office Display

The display frames were changed by **John Walter** with material for St. Patrick's Day and some Flags of our Nation covers. John wanted to have display pages for a baseball theme, but those pages were still at the Carson City library.



John was able to take a picture of the above display face-on without too much light reflection. The camera was held over his head to reduce some glare.



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