

# Post Boy

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



May 2024  
Volume 57, Issue 5

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 –

**May 11** – 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.

**May 25** - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, the presentation will be a review of activities at WESTPEX.

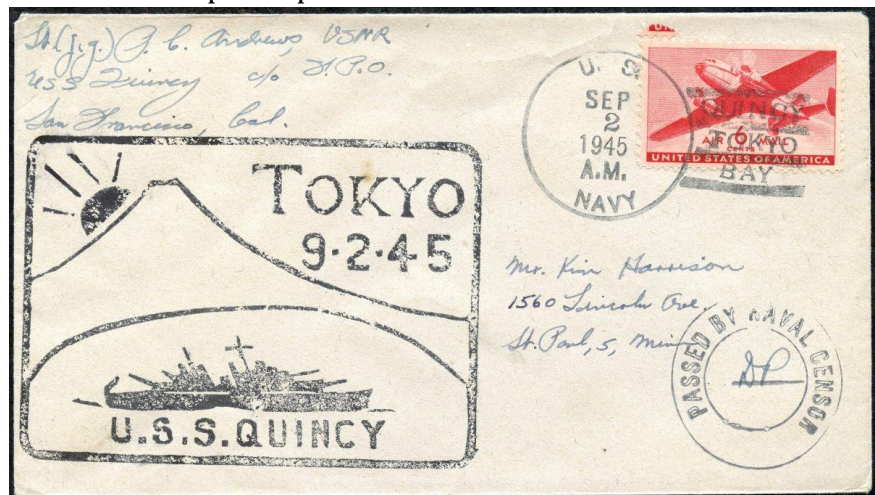
Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. Extra lots may be added as lots are sold.

There is a Board meeting after the general meeting.

**Online Auction #35** – All lot descriptions and images are due by noon on May 12. The auction will start at noon May 14 and end at noon on May 23. Email auction lot info to **Dave Parsons**:  
[NSSSauctions@gmail.com](mailto:NSSSauctions@gmail.com)

Take a look at the profiles of new members on page 3. Say hello when you see them at the meetings.

The **2024 WESTPEX report** starts on page 4. Lots of pictures and activities our members participated in.



Tokyo Bay cover from USS Quincy at the Japanese surrender Sept. 2, 1945.  
Fantastic cover Dave Gehringer obtained at WESTPEX.

## Post Boy Reporter

**April 13 meeting** – **Eric Fields** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Attendance was 22 including one member via Zoom and two guests (Michelle and Rob). This was the first meeting for **Lynn Jenkins** who joined today. **Eric Moody** provided the refreshments.

**James Steckley** reported on the April USPS issues and the surprise announcement for a Hank Aaron stamp. He attended the latest APS Stamp Chat which featured Mental Health & Prisoner of War Mail from WWI. He also attended the British Empire Study Group webinar about the Entertainment Tax. Both webinars are available on YouTube. The USPS is proposing a second rate increase this year for July 14; First Class letter will go to 73¢, second oz. to 28¢, post card to 58¢, and overseas to \$1.60. James thanked **JJ Johnson** for book and catalogue donations. The family of a former, deceased member donated some items. WESTPEX, April 26-28, was discussed with a few members planning to attend.

**John Walter** reported on his club activities which include the Post Boy, updating and archiving all the club information on the website, and monthly Vassar post office displays.

**Eric Fields** reported on the Reno Stamp Show, July 27-28. Only a few dealer tables remain to be sold. The Exhibitor Prospectus is available on the website: <https://renostamp.org/show/2024/2024-Exhibitor-Prospectus.pdf> **Harvey Edwards** submitted the show cancel proposals to the USPS for approval: the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberty Bell Slot Machine and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Night Flights with Reno being a stop.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 donated prizes and the bonus prize going to **Scott Mathews** and the money prize of \$18.50 went to **Kent tucker**.

The live meeting auction had 56 member lots and 10 donated lots. **Howard Grenzebach** was the auctioneer with **Nadiyah Beekun** helping. A total of 61 lots sold, including 9 donated lots for \$472.50. **Steve Foster** and **Erik Fields** helped with the auction accounting.

**April 27 meeting** – The attendance was about 25 members including two members via Zoom. **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the meeting room. A new member, **Jon Miller**, joined today. This brings membership to 77. **James Steckly** provided the refreshments.

**James Steckley** mentioned the next few webinars sponsored by the New York Collectors Club and the British Empire Study Group. Our members have attended these webinars in the past and found them to be very informative.

The club received two donations, one from someone in Denver. He sent a bag of stamps on and off paper along with 27 - 8¢, 10¢ and 13¢ plate blocks, most with twenty issues each. **James Steckley** received a call from a guy wanting to sell some Celebrate the Century books. These were donated to the club with a value of \$9.60.

**Harvey Edwards** mentioned the new contact person at the Vassar post office is Justine Maaka.

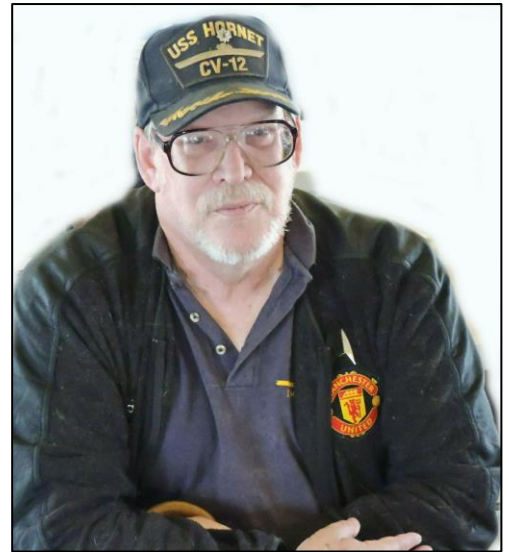
The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes awarded. The money prize of \$5.50 was won by **Betty Mudge**.

**Harvey Edwards** oversaw the A-V equipment. The presentation was three videos showing the handling of mail in the United Kingdom in 1935. Most interesting and very labor intensive; hand sorting, hand canceling, workers were all men in shirt, tie and smock! Attention to the video presentation was 99%.

## New Members Profile

**Joe Allen** joined the stamp club at the March 23 meeting. "I was formerly an APS member, and San Jose Stamp Club member in CA. My stamp collecting started over fifty years ago: lost German collection (since replaced) in early 1980's, collected U.S. however bottom fell out in 2010 and sold my U.S., U.N., complete Ryukyus, all Kosovo U.N. series and U.S. Revenue collection. However, I made enough to survive three years living in the Bay Area off the sale, and that was to a dealer. It was a great collection.

"I did not want to quit, so in the early 2000's Subway Stamps in New York started selling high quality reprints of maybe best albums ever printed - the Scott Brown 1840 to 1940. I have my current collection mounted in 20 Scott specialty albums. Maybe 85% of all my stamps are under a buck. No new issues, well almost, I have found several Scott numbered stamps missing a spot, so made room. And I have found several pages of stamps no longer numbered by Scott. I have an Italy Scott 16. I think it is identified from a stamp library copy 1940 Scott catalog. Today the number is missing the imperf as there just is no perf. Maybe locally done? My main collecting interest now is worldwide 1840-1940."



**Lynn Jenkins** joined the stamp club on April 13.

"I have been a coin and stamp collector since I was in grade school. Both of my grandfathers were also collectors. I collect mostly commemorative stamps. I also collect Carson City coins."

Lynn had a lot of fun at his first meeting participating in the raffle and the live auction.



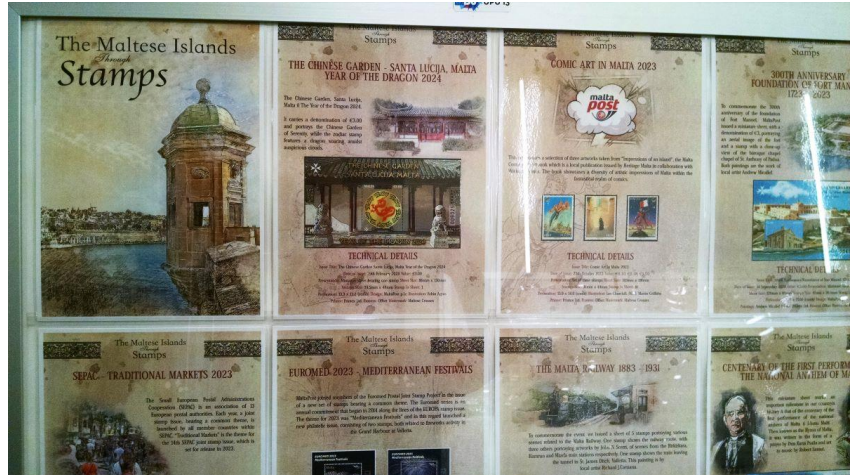
**Jon Miller** joined on April 27. His profile will be in the next issue. He collects Duck stamps.



Photos from the April 13 meeting.

## 2024 WESTPEX – Report About the Show By John Walter

The interesting aspect of this year’s show was the Universal Postal Union’s North American competitive exhibits. Attendees were encouraged to vote for their favorite UPU exhibit from 28 countries. The exhibits are traveling the world this year and will be in Paris, May 29-June 1, then Seoul, Oct. 7-11, and finally in Shanghai, Nov. 29-Dec. 3. What an opportunity to see this “traveling road show” of exhibits. The UPU was created in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.



**The Maltese Islands Stamps exhibit frame. One of 28 countries with an exhibit.**



**First Day Cancel cropped from cover.**

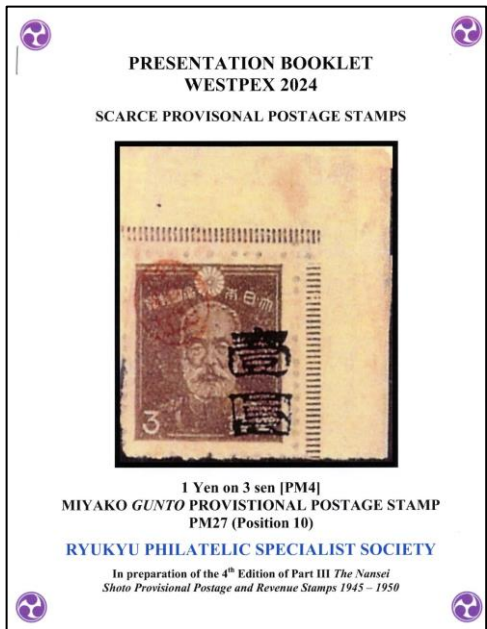
Two First Day Ceremonies were held Friday morning. The USPS issued the \$1 Floral Geometry stamp and the U.N. added to the Endangered Species series of stamps. I missed both ceremonies since our carpool did not arrive at the show until around noon on Friday, April 26.

This year’s exhibits had more frames (276) than I remember in the past 10 years. Exhibit frames spilled over from the Grand Ballroom out into the hallway. A few other attendees also remarked they have never seen frames in the hallway.

If anyone was looking for dealers, there were 66 booths with every space taken. Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions had 4 full days of live auctions. There were also 33 meetings open to the public (yes, I counted them). There were a few more meetings that were members only.



In my case I attended a few specialty society meetings starting with the Hawaiian Philatelic Society which had a great presentation on Hawaiian history and its postal cards. The attendees shared some “imported” macadamia nuts and shared some stories.



As a member of the Ryukyu Philatelic Specialists Society, I have been attending these meetings for about 10 years. The presentation was on the “Errors, Freaks and Oddities of the Currency Conversion Issues” (Scott 43-55). The presentation booklet (cover shown on the left) this year had images of scarce provisional stamps.

The society is looking for a few of the early provisional issues that may or may not exist. Of course, color images are needed for a new monograph that is being prepared for publication later this year.

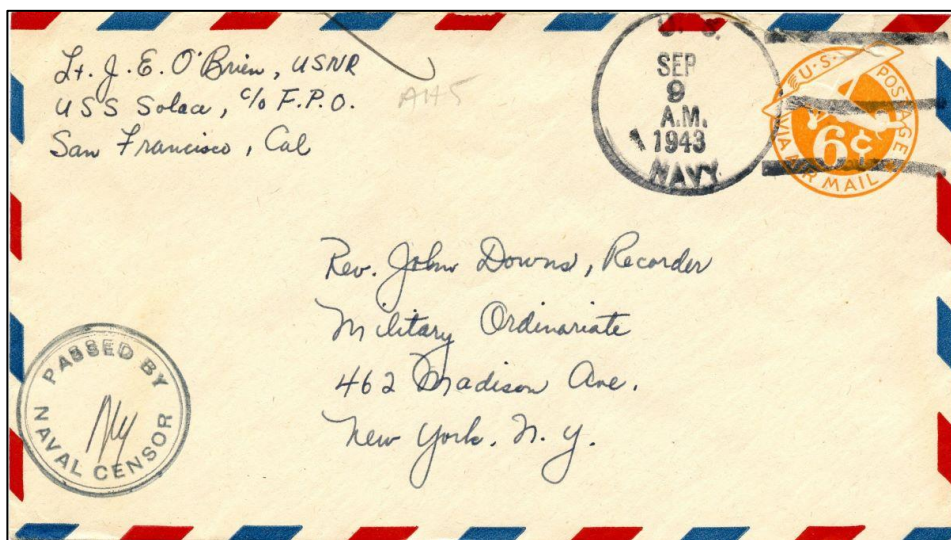
I represented our club at the Council of Northern California Philatelic Society meeting. Their quarterly newsletter “Council Courier” is sent to all our members via email.

**Larry Crain** had a presentation on “Collecting Columbia or Panama.” He showed stamps from both countries that can be used as topical/thematic subjects. It was lots of fun presented by one of our club members.



**Larry Crain giving a presentation on “Collecting Columbia and Panama.”**

The last meeting I attended was the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, USS Saginaw Chapter 59. I am a member of both the chapter and the national organization. Steve Shay gave an excellent talk on the “Battleship USS California.” Steve is the Secretary of USCS and coordinates monthly Zoom presentations offered by the USCS.



**Nice cover sent in 1943 with naval censor mark from the hospital ship USS Solace AH-5. She was at Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack.**

I joined the Universal Ship Cancellation Society a few years ago when they had their national convention at WESTPEX. At that time, I did not collect any ship covers. I joined the USCS since members were great to talk and share stories with. **Dave Gehringer** is a USCS member for many years and talked me into starting a new collecting area. And here I am collecting hospital ship covers. I added 7 covers and two picture post cards to my collection.

In addition, I viewed most of the exhibits with extra time at some of my favorites. The exhibit on "U.S. Postal Cards 1873-1918" (11 frames) I especially liked since it had 4 copies of UX17. Only 500 cards were preprinted with return address and the rest destroyed. **Dave Gehringer** has a used copy and I have an unused copy. The exhibitor lives outside the U.S. and it's amazing he had such a collection. "The Beacon Airmail Stamp" (8 frames) was another favorite. I have never seen as much material on this one stamp as was in this exhibit.



The postal card exhibit with four copies of UX17.



**Larry Crain** had an exhibit on "Postcards: Colombia 100 Years Ago" (3 frames). It received a Gold Award.

Robert Pope (Sacramento Philatelic Society) will be bringing his exhibit "Overprints of Mexico Hidalgo 5 Centavo War Issue 1911-1917" to our stamp show in July.

There was time to visit dealers looking for items on my want list. WESTPEX attracts a few overseas dealers which helps me locate U.S. aerogrammes sent to overseas addresses. This year I came home with nine aerogrammes in this category. All the items will be shown and discussed at a club meeting.



Addressed to Teheran, Iran in 1947



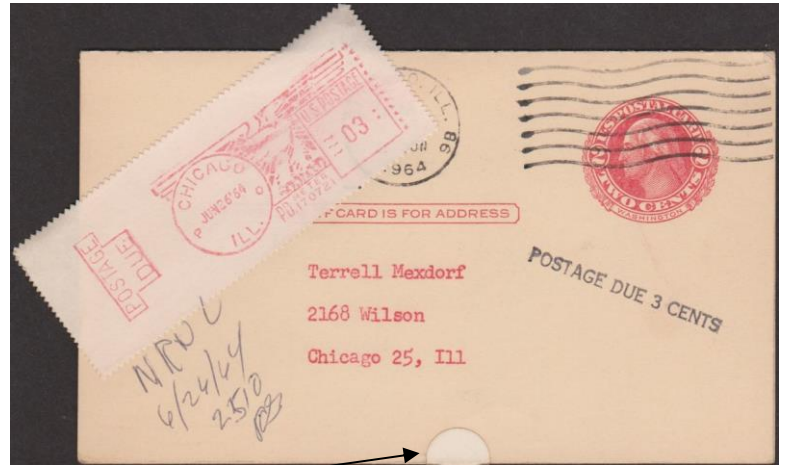
Sent in 1960 to APO 253 (Evreux, France (Normandy)).

I counted at least 11 club members who attended WESTPEX. We all have our own stories and I hope we can all share them at future club meetings. The above report is just a sampling of the fun we had.

## A Message-Reply Card Used as an Envelope

By Patrick Crosby

The common Scott UY13 2¢ double postal card was issued because of a 1952 postage rate increase, but the featured card was not used until 1964 when the card rate was 4¢ for domestically used cards. However, this double card was used as an envelope to send an insert and therefore required the letter rate postage of 5¢. The Chicago, IL, post office marked the card “Postage Due 3 Cents” and held the card for two days before a Pitney Bowes 3¢ “Postage Due” meter label was paid for and applied at the post office. It’s surprising that the label’s corners were never bent over when delivered and have survived through collectors’ hands.

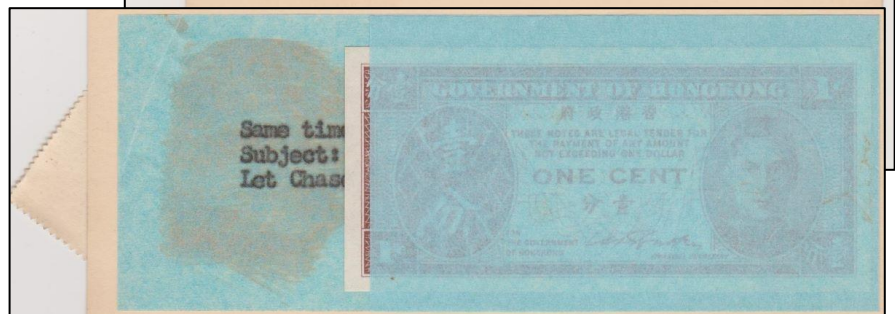


Folded Message-Reply card as sent through the mail.

The small seal at the bottom of the card to hold the halves together was discouraged by the USPOD but allowed. The idea was for post office clerks to easily inspect between the cards and the seal made it a bit harder. When they did look, they found an unusual enclosure – a folded tissue paper with a typed message partially glued to the card, then a One Cent Government of Hongkong (sic) banknote slipped inside an opening. The currency states that it is “...Legal Tender for the Payment of Any Amount Not Exceeding One Dollar.” The fractional currency c.1945 features King George VI and is, as always, blank on the reverse and not worth much then or now.



The typed message on the tissue paper reads: “Same time – same place – July 2<sup>nd</sup>. / Subject: 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Willetts – Jude / Let Chase know about dinner.” The dated pen notation below the meter label could be a postal control marking with initials. What about the 2¢ stamp on the blank reply half? It could not be applied towards the original mailing, but if desired could be separated and used as a reply or single card. I’m glad it wasn’t.



Close-up of enclosure inside the folded card.

**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.

## New Zealand Two pence By Howard Grenzebach

In 1905 a collector named Hansberg was writing a book about the first stamps of New Zealand. He convinced authorities in the postal administration that sales of his book would popularize their stamps and including reprints in black could help meet that end.

They still had plates (probably from 1871) of the two pence Chalon issue so printing them was no problem. A large number of sheets were printed in black and sent to him. Unfortunately, the book was never published, and the hoard of stamps were sold to the Globe Stamp Company in London. About half of those were purchased by Bela Sekula, a stamp dealer and forger living in Monaco who peddled them extensively.

Globe sold another large portion to Cohn McNeil, a dealer from Wellington, NZ., who paid about a nickel a stamp.

In the early 1950s these proof-like items sold for a dime and were used as giveaways to attract approval customers.

Reference: *Linn's Stamp News* forum response to a question concerning this stamp.



Stamp from the author's collection.

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**Editor:** Information on the New Zealand Two Pence stamp using Microsoft Copilot (AI).

“The postage stamp you’ve shared is a **New Zealand Two Pence** stamp. Here are the details:

- **Production Date:** 1855 (with more printing in subsequent years).
- **Description:** New Zealand Postage, Queen Victoria, Denomination: 2d (New Zealand penny).
- **Watermark:** Large star
- **Perforation:** Imperf
- **Color:** Blue (subsequent printings in orange and vermillion)

Scott catalogue image New Zealand A1.

This stamp is a historical artifact from New Zealand’s postal history and represents the value of two pence during that period. The intricate design and color variations make it a fascinating piece for collectors and enthusiasts.”

The subject stamp was probably printed from the 1871 printing plates.



Image from the collection at Canterbury Museum.

## May Quiz – Oil Country Stamps

By Eric Moody

1. This continent-spanning nation commemorated the beginning of its oil industry with a stamp (#1134) issued in 1959.  
(a) Mexico (b) Australia (c) Soviet Union (d) United States
2. Not many airmail stamps have been oil related, but during 1960-1964 this country produced air post issues (#C234-C237) that depicted a plane flying over an oil field which has high mountains in the background.  
(a) Canada (b) U.S. (c) Chile (d) Mexico
3. In 1957 this country's petroleum industry was celebrated on a stamp (#669) that carried an imaginative illustration: an oil derrick and, shooting out from it, cupped hands holding oil.  
(a) Canada (b) Nigeria (c) Mexico (d) Argentina
4. The U.S. State Flag set that was issued between 2008 and 2012, features well pumps in an oil field on this state's stamp.  
(a) Texas (b) California (c) Oklahoma (d) Alaska
5. The centennial of the first oil well in this country that borders on the eastern Mediterranean Sea was celebrated with a stamp (#1327) in 1986.  
(a) Turkey (b) Egypt (c) Syria (d) Lebanon
6. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of oil in this large Middle Eastern nation, long home to oil industry giant ARAMCO's primary operations, was commemorated on two stamps (#1003-1004) issued in 1986.  
(a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) Egypt (d) Saudi Arabia
7. A long-circulated stamp design (which first appeared in 1941 as #512) from this South American nation depicts oil derricks in celebration of the country's petroleum industry.  
(a) Venezuela (b) Chile (c) Brazil (d) Bolivia
8. In 1974 this country issued a stamp (#4168), featuring oil refinery workers, which commemorated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of production in the Tyumen oil fields.  
(a) Turkey (b) Oman (c) Russia (d) Romania
9. An important oil producer, this African nation issued a stamp (#798) in 2006 that commemorated an OPEC conference held in its capital that year.  
(a) Egypt (b) Libya (c) Tunisia (d) Nigeria
10. Active oil wells on prairie land are artistically depicted on a 1950 stamp (#294) from this country.  
(a) U.S. (b) Argentina (c) Canada (d) Australia

11. An oil refinery and an oil well derrick are shown on stamps #388 (1955) and #472 (1963) from this oil producing South American country, which is known more for its mining.  
 (a) Bolivia (b) Argentina (c) Chile (d) Venezuela
12. This European country's important oil fields and refineries at Ploesti were coveted by both sides during World War II. The country, whose petroleum industry was commemorated on stamps (#1184-1186) issued in 1957, is:  
 (a) Russia (b) Poland (c) Romania (d) Bulgaria

The May 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](mailto:postboyquiz@renotamp.org)

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

### Vassar Post Office Display

The two display frames were changed for May with the themes of “Nature of America” and “Memorial Day.”

