

Post Boy

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



June 2024
Volume 57, Issue 6

In-person & Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M.
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Announcements

Meetings –

June 8 – 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.

June 22 - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, followed by a philatelic presentation by **Dave Gehringer** “U.S. Naval Ships – A Life Story.”

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

July Online Auction #36 – All auction lot descriptions and images are due by noon on July 14. The auction will start at noon July 16 and end at noon on July 25.
Email lot information to **Dave Parsons**: NSSSauctions@gmail.com

Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 27-28 – National Bowling Stadium, 100 University Way, downtown Reno. Free parking in the stadium garage and free admission. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at the meetings in June and July.

Nominations & Elections – Nominations are needed by July 13 for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary (both 2-year terms), and two Directors (for 3-year terms). Nomination forms will be at the next few meetings. Contact **John Walter** if interested in running for office. The elections take place at the annual picnic on August 10.

Be sure to check this month’s quiz on “Immodest Postage.” See how **Eric Moody** addresses the topical subject of nudity-on-stamps. See if you can answer the quiz questions by looking at some stamps.

Post Boy Reporter

May 11 meeting – **Eric Fields** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Attendance was 26 including 3 via Zoom and two visitors. **Betty Mudge** provided the refreshments.

James Steckley reported on the USPS new stamp issue for release this month – pane of 16 celebrating Ansel Adams. He announced upcoming regional stamp shows in California and Oregon. James received a donation of an old album, which will be in today's live auction. **Dave Gehringer** donated two first day covers of the \$1.00 Floral Geometry issued at WESTPEX. One of the covers will be in a future meeting raffle.

Mike Potter reported the membership at 70. **John Walter** attended a webinar on U.S. counterfeits. Interesting points included most forever stamps are being counterfeited, lick-and-stick stamps not being counterfeited, tagging is pretty good, and low cost 1¢ to 10¢ **with tagging** are in the market. The USPS low denomination stamps do not have tagging. Oops. Coil stamp countfeiting does not seem to be a problem right now.

John Walter gave an update on the Post Boy and website. *Linn's Stamp News* is interested in using our monthly quizzes written by **Eric Moody** as a new feature in Linn's.

Eric Fields reported on the status of the Reno Stamp Show. Only two dealer tables remain to be sold. Members were reminded to get working on exhibits. The Exhibitor Prospectus was available at the meeting. Show post cards were distributed to dealers and the free table at WESTPEX. **Jeanne Paquin** is the show exhibit chair. She now has 4 confirmed exhibits including one junior exhibit.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 donated prizes with the bonus item going to **Joe Allen** and the money of \$14 went to **Eric Moody**.

The live auction had 54 member lots and 6 donated lots. **Gary Atkinson** and **Mike Potter** were the auctioneers with **Howard Kadohiro** helping. There was spirited bidding on many lots with 50 selling for \$450.50.

May 25 meeting – The attendance was 31 members including three members via Zoom. **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **David Sampson** provided the refreshments.

James Steckley showed images of upcoming USPS new stamp issues in June. He also reminded everyone of the increased postal rates on July 14. **Scott Mathews** donated a folder and animal stamps which will be in the next meeting raffle.

Dave Parsons reported on the online auction #35 which ended on May 23 with 27 of 56 lots selling for \$146.00. The auction seems to have the same six sellers and the lots are decreasing. At the Board meeting it was decided to reduce the online auctions to every 2-3 months. The next auction will be in July, then Oct.

Erik Fields reported on the Reno Stamp Show – At least one more dealer is needed. **Jeanne Paquin** reminded everyone more exhibits are needed. There is no frame fee for exhibiting.

Mike Potter reported two new members joining today: **Jeff Waldman** who collects U.S. plus worldwide pre-1945. He also is a dealer using hipstamp.com. **Gary Gregory** also joined, and he is a general collector.

The raffle with 10 prizes was conducted by **George Ray**. There was no bonus prize, The money raffle of \$12 went to **Eugene Smoots**.

John Walter received an email from Jay Bigalke, editor of Linn's Stamp News, asking if **Eric Moody's** quizzes could be included as a monthly feature in Linn's. Eric will discuss the matter with Jay.

Howard Kadohiro and **John Walter** gave slide presentations on their WESTPEX experiences and some nice purchases.

Howard Kadohiro collects Hawaii town cancels and found some at WESTPEX. He also found a USS Arizona and USS California naval covers shown below. He also showed some interesting covers from Wake Island and Midway Island via Clipper Air Mail.



USS Arizona ship cancel Sept. 7, 1940, to Los Angeles, CA.

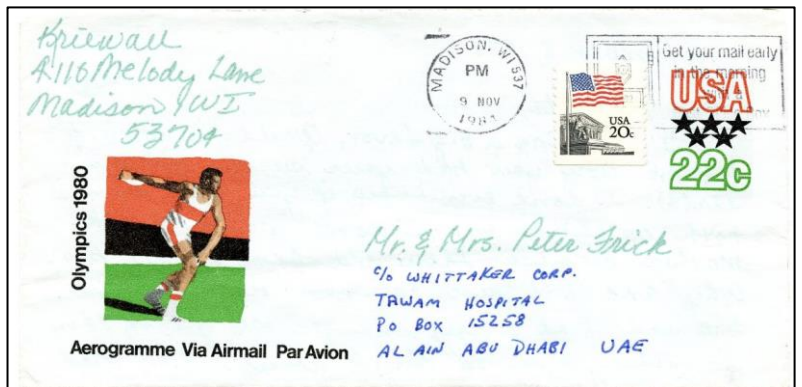


USS California ship cancel Sept. 20, 1940, to Los Angeles, CA.

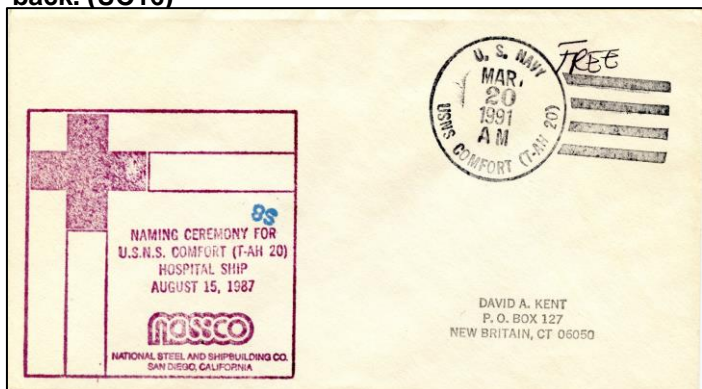
John Walter showed slides of some interesting WESTPEX exhibits, talked about meetings he attended, and showed some purchases of U.S. early postal cards sent to Canada and Europe. He also showed some navy hospital ship covers from the USS Solace (AH-5), USS Consolation (AH-15) and the USAHS Mercy (TAH-19). His other collecting area is U.S. aerograms sent overseas. He found one aerogram that was missing from his used aerogram collection – addressed to a hospital in Abu Dhabi where a family member had ear surgery and the writer wanted to know why he did not tell his mother about the surgery. John counted 12 NSSS members who attended WESTPEX. Below are some of his purchases.



Sent Oct. 20, 1947 to Teheran with a type written letter responding to an article in the "Hollandia Post." There is a receiving cancel on back. (UC16)



Sent Nov. 9, 1984 to a family member in Tawam Hospital in Abu Dhabi inquiring about his ear surgery. (UC 52)



USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20) ordered to stand down on Mar. 11, 1991, at the end of seven-month deployment in support of Gulf War (Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm). She got underway from Bahrain anchorage with a skeleton crew of 380. She was then assigned as part of a 15-ship Atlantic Amphibious Task Force.

The rubber stamp cachet is from the naming ceremony in 1987.

New Members



Jeff Waldman has been collecting stamps for about 55 years and has been an online stamp dealer for 18 years under the name Bay Stamps on both eBay and <https://hipstamp.com/store/bay-stamps>. Being recently priced out of San Diego, we are now living happily in Indian Hills, south Carson City with the sweeping views of the Sierras. Folks are so much friendlier up here, and the birds and animals coming through our backyard is such a pleasure! Having come from a city with just one season (warm/hot), I finally got my first experience shoveling snow! Now that I live here, there is no "bay" for Bay Stamps, but I still like the name!

Although I started collecting at a young age with Liberty, Statesman and Citation albums, it was my pride and joy to finally own International Parts I and II. As I began filling them, I quickly fell in love with pre-1945 U.S. and Worldwide classic stamps, and never looked back. If stamps have more than two colors or are photogravure printed, they aren't collected...but here's a secret that you can't tell my "classic" stamp friends: I have smaller collections of tall ships, coral reefs, and stamps-on-stamps that I continue to enjoy.

I spent my early years between Sausalito, Palo Alto, and Santa Cruz before living in London, England for two years attending the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (I sing, act, and play guitar). Having bombed out in Hollywood in the mid-1970's, I returned to college and received a B.S. in Earth Science from UCSC, and got my Masters in Geology at Oregon State University. I worked for years as a scientist at environmental consulting firms, and finally worked for Naval Facilities Engineering (NAVFAC) in San Diego for about 15 years. I finally retired on December 31st, which is giving me time to get all these stamps organized, scanned, and listed!



Gary Gregory joined at the May 25 meeting. He is a "general collector" of everything U.S. and worldwide. Gary had a lot of fun at his first meeting talking with other members.

On the right is **Jeff Waldman, Ken Hopple** and **Scott Mathews** conducting some stamp business at the May 25 meeting.



Die Schweizerischen Soldatenmarken (Swiss Soldier Stamps)

by David L Sampson

The last time Switzerland was invaded by a foreign army was 1799. The 1815 Treaty of Paris established its neutrality. The Swiss Army guarantee Swiss neutrality. Compulsory military service is required of all male citizens; women may serve voluntarily. Basic military training lasts 18 weeks (23 weeks for special forces).

Presently, after basic training, the soldier must take six, 3-week refresher courses in the next nine years. After nine years, under the current scheme, the soldier is discharged. During WW2, soldiers were not discharged until they were 60!

During training, a soldier would utilize the Feldpost (Military Post Office.) It was free, but subject to military censorship. Prior to 1940, soldiers were not compensated for loss of wages during their required military service. This placed a severe burden on some soldiers. As a result, Soldatenmarken (Soldier Stamps) were created. The stamps were created by the individual units and the money obtained from their sale was used to support a soldier welfare fund to aid the poorer soldiers. This problem was not solved until 1940 when an 'earning adjustment' was established.

Collector's Perspective

There are hundreds of stamps each with multiple variations; most of the variations are related to paper type and paper color. The regular issues are usually inexpensive; rare color variations, paper type and errors are very expensive. I am content to collect only the regular issues.

Wittwer's catalog has a grand total of 3111 Soldier Stamps. I estimate that if you consider all variants, the total is over 6000!



Almost all Soldier Stamps indicate the name of the issuing unit. These are sometimes challenging to decipher as they may be abbreviations of German, French or Italian words.

Speaking of decipherment, the stamp pictured here (an issue of the 159 Company, II Battalion), is overprinted with the word 'Abdrätte.' Even Google Translate could not tell me what this word meant! I spoke to a stamp dealer in Zurich who told me that 'Abdrätte' is a word in the dialect spoken in Basel. He said the word means 'we are finished,' but has the spirit of 'we're out of here!' I have not been able to clarify the date August 20, 1945. I may have been the date the Swiss Mobilization ended or it may have been the date that this unit was demobilized.

Values for the following varieties are valued in the [Wittwer catalog](#). The fact that the catalog is now twenty years old makes the absolute valuations well nigh worthless: Perforate; Imperforate; Souvenir sheet with 4 perforate stamps, but **without** printing on the sheet's border; Souvenir sheet of 4 imperforate stamps, but **without** printing on the sheet's border; Souvenir sheet with 4 perforate stamps, but **with** printing on the sheet's border; Souvenir sheet of 4 imperforate stamps, but **with** printing on the sheet's border; (Feld)postally used on cover.

Although not listed in the Wittwer catalog, there are other kinds of blocks, e.g., 2 x 3 blocks (two rows and three columns), cruciform blocks as well as souvenir sheets with a single stamp.

Swiss Army Regulations

During the First and Second World Wars, the Swiss Army was dominated by officers from the German-speaking cantons, although the Commanding Officer during the WW2 was General Guisan who came from the French-speaking canton of Vaud. Interestingly, during peacetime, there are no Generals, only Colonels (today, with 'rank inflation,' there are no Generals, only Lieutenant Generals in peacetime).

As to be expected from German-speaking officers, extensive regulations were developed for the issuance of Soldatenmarken. I do not know why, but German-speaking nations have a propensity towards 'laws and regulations.'

While on active duty, outgoing mail sent for official purposes was free, but could be 'decorated' using Soldatenmarken; mail of a non-official nature still required stamps issued by the Swiss Post.

The design of a Soldatenmarken could not contain the symbol of a Posthorn (whose use was reserved by the Swiss Post) or a monetary value, say '5 Rp.', as this would suggest it could be used for regular postage, which they could not.

Order 125 from 4/26/40: Soldatenmarken as well as the number to be printed had to be approved by the High Command. They could only be produced by larger military units; smaller units were specifically prohibited from producing them. Smaller units, however, could get together to obtain permission to produce Soldatenmarken.

Firms printing stamps had to ensure that only the authorized number were printed; all proofs, errors, etc., were to be immediately destroyed. Under no circumstances were stamps to be delivered to third parties.

After the production of a run of Soldatenmarken, the plates used in the printing of the stamp were to be destroyed under the supervision of the unit commander or given to the unit commander for his retention.

Public sale of Soldatenmarken was prohibited as was any written or spoken marketing. *This regulation was obviously not observed by the stamp collecting community. In contravention of Swiss Army regulations, during both the First and Second World Wars, the collecting of Soldatenmarken became very popular among military and civilian collectors.*

The Soldatenmarken of a unit may be sold (to soldiers of that unit) only so long as the unit is in existence.

Soldatenmarken which were purchased from the unit's Quartermaster (Fourier) were specifically prohibited from being sold for resale or for collecting purposes.

Here are some examples of the Swiss Soldier stamps:



11th Company, Mountain Combat Engineers. Interesting in that it shows an 'Active Service' Date of 1940 and not 1939, when the Swiss Army was first mobilized. This was the first and only issue for this unit. The coat of arms on the

left is for the Canton Valais; on the right, Canton Bern. The use of the Germanic Fraktur typeface is uncommon.



5th Company, Bakers. The stamp issued in 1939 has been overprinted to strike out '1939' and replace it with '1940.' On most Soldatenmarken,

strike outs would not have been employed.



1st Supply Company. Being located in French-speaking Canton, 'CP. SUBS.1' is French for 1st Supply Company. Although doubtless activated in 1939, they did not issue a stamp until 1940.



I wish I knew the full background story for this issue (I have observed this problem in many types of collecting, that is, everybody knows 'what' exists, but information regarding 'why it exists' is often missing!

The stamp was clearly issued for a 'Telephone and Signal Detachment' for some unit. The next line of the stamp reads 'STAB INF. REG. 21.' In US Army parlance, this would be the 'Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC)' of the 21st Infantry Regiment. I speculate that the line 'STAB INF. REG. 21' is, in fact, an overprint. That is, the stamp, previously authorized for a 'Telephone and Signal Detachment' was overprinted and used by the 'STAB INF. REG. 21.' Note that the stamp has a red overprint as well that reads 'Remobilisierung 16.9.40' or 'Remobilization September 16, 1940. I would hazard to guess that the 'T' in the yellow square flag was used to indicate the location of the original signal detachment within the encampment.

My opinion is that the original detachment was called up in 1939 (as noted at the bottom of the stamp), then 'disbanded,' only to be reorganized and remobilized in 1940 as the HHC of the 21st (Infantry) Regiment. Rather than design their own stamp, the HHC just overprinted the Telephone and Signals Detachment's stamp. You have to admire those thrifty Swiss soldiers! As you have learned, these Soldatenmarken were not postage stamps, but 'tokens' to indicate that a donation had been made to that unit's 'charity fund' for the benefit of soldiers serving in that unit.

Where To Find Them

At stamp shows, Soldatenmarken are treated as 'Cinderellas;' rarely do Soldatenmarken collections appear in U.S. auctions. At the 2024 WESPEX Show, I asked every dealer and only one has a single piece of postal stationery and it was absurdly overpriced.

Surprisingly, there is a fair selection of Soldatenmarken available on eBay. A search on the Internet for 'schweizerischen Soldatenmarken zum Verkauf' will find European dealers selling them. A big downside here is Swiss dealers (who are more likely to have them than German dealers) either will often either not ship to the US or charge an exorbitant amount for postage!

David Sampson is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member. He collects pre-1944 Baltic States, Danzig, the Third Reich and now East Germany as it is a dead country. Interest in the hyperinflation era in Germany has driven him to collect Weimar Republic.

June Quiz – Immodest Postage

By Eric Moody

One of my aims with the quiz is to get people to look at stamps they may never have noticed before - this quiz should do that...

Most people probably haven't even thought about it, but nudity has long been a feature of world philately. Since the later 19th century, the unadorned human figure and, in the case of women, bare breasts, have appeared on the stamps of many countries, most commonly as depictions of works of art, allegorical figures, gods and goddesses of classical mythology, ancient Olympic athletes, or people in "primitive" cultures. On occasion they have also appeared as elements of public health campaigns. The following questions all relate to nudity as it has, quite publicly, made its immodest way through postal systems around the globe.

1. In 1933 this southern European country featured a nude woman as an allegory of "Flight" on one of its early airmail stamps (#C14). The country is
(a) Italy (b) Greece (c) Spain (d) Monaco
2. Milo of Crotona (Croton), a celebrated wrestling champion of the ancient Olympics, is shown as he participated in the games – unclothed – on a stamp (#200) from this country which was celebrating the modern Olympic games of 1908.
(a) Turkey (b) Italy (c) Greece (d) France
3. During the 1880s and 1890s, two stamp designs, "Peace and Commerce" and "Navigation and Commerce," both of which feature bare breasted female allegorical figures, were used on numerous postal issues for this nation's colonies and post offices abroad.
(a) Spain (b) Portugal (c) France (d) Great Britain
4. A 1997 stamp (#727) of French Polynesia features a painting of a nude Polynesian woman ("Te Arii Vahine") that is the work of this famous artist who lived in the islands at the end of the 19th century.
(a) Henri Matisse (b) Paul Gauguin (c) Vincent van Gogh (d) Auguste Renoir
5. Nudity first made an appearance on U.S. stamps in 1875, when bare breasted representations of an allegorical "Peace" and Hebe, a goddess from Greek mythology, were featured on two entries (#PR29 and PR31) in a set of special stamps. The special issues were of this type:
(a) parcel post stamps (b) newspaper stamps (c) official stamps (d) special delivery stamps
6. In 1999 a stamp (#2713a) depicting the classical Greek statue Venus de Milo was issued by this country, which held the sculpture in one of its museums.
(a) Greece (b) Italy (c) Sweden (d) France
7. A 1947 stamp (#37) from a colony in western Africa shows a young native woman, bare to the waist, sitting beside the Bamako Dike in the Sudan. The stamp, which can be found in many collections, was issued by
(a) French Sudan (b) Senegal (c) French West Africa (d) French Equatorial Africa
8. "La Maja Desnuda" (The Naked Maja), a famed painting by Francisco Goya, first appeared on a stamp – a notorious Spanish issue – in 1930. Since then, it has been featured on stamps of other countries, among them this South American nation that was quite fond of postal nudity in the 1970s and '80s. The country, which reproduced Goya's painting on two issues (#1646, #1816) in the 1970s, is
(a) Argentina (b) Venezuela (c) Colombia (d) Paraguay

9. Greek stamps of the 1890s and early 20th century often featured athletes of antiquity, customarily naked, and gods and goddesses of Greek mythology, also often without clothing. Depicted more often than any other god or athlete, was this swift messenger of the gods, known later in Roman mythology as Mercury.
 (a) Apollo (b) Proteus (c) Nike (d) Hermes
10. In 2012 the Czech Republic issued a mini sheet with two stamps on it, each containing a key detail of a painting reproduced on the sheet. The playful painting, by modernist Czech artist Frantisek Kupta, depicts two nude women on a beach. One is seated on a horse, the other is
 (a) standing on a pony (b) standing on a big red beach ball (c) building a sandcastle
 (d) doing a cartwheel
11. The story from Greek mythology of “Leda and the Swan,” in which Zeus, in the form of a swan, seduces the mortal Leda, has fascinated painters and sculptors from antiquity to the present, inspiring masterpieces from such artists as Correggio, Rubens, and Dali. It has been depicted both romantically and graphically, and paintings of the encounter have appeared on a number of postage stamps. One of the most elaborate and explicit treatments (involving nudity) is a 1531 painting by the Italian Antonio Correggio, which is featured on a 1984 stamp (#1357) from this Central American country.
 (a) Costa Rica (b) Honduras (c) Nicaragua (d) El Salvador
12. In 2002 a South American country issued a set of stamps that reproduced “ethnographic paintings” made by Dutch artist Albert Eckhout in the mid-17th century. The paintings document native inhabitants, most of whom are naked or scantily clad, of a Dutch colony that existed at the time in northern South America. The country that produced the stamps is
 (a) Colombia (b) Brazil (c) Suriname (d) Venezuela

The June 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

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



Some of our members at the May 11 meeting.

Front table is **Dave Gehringer**.

Middle table is **Jeanne Paquin**, **Marla Greene**, **Betty Mudge**, **George Ray** and **Joe Allen**.

In the back is **Ken Hopple**, **Mo Sung**, **Herman De Groot** and **Eugene Smoots**.

Vassar Post Office Display

This month's display celebrates Flag Day on June 14. But the whole month is featured with stamps and covers displaying the U.S. flag.



Included in the display cases are the advertising post cards for our Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 27-28 in the International Bowling Museum on the ground floor of the National Bowling Stadium, 300 University Way, downtown Reno.

Club members should be busy with an exhibit or at a minimum of having a few one-page "My Favorite Thing" to show the public some of our collecting interests.