



# 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:  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at 10 AM  
Silverada Estates Clubhouse  
2301 Oddie Blvd., Reno  
([map](#)) ([Google Maps](#))  
All are welcome!

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## Upcoming Events

**Sat. May 10** In-person and Zoom meeting starts at 10 AM. After announcements there will be a presentation by **John Walter**, **Dave Gehringer**, and **Jeanne Paquin** about WESTPEX. Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. The spring Board meeting will follow (note date change from April 26).

**Tue. May 13–Thu. 22** Online Auction #40. Lots are due by email to Dave Parsons by Sun. May 11. Auction closes at noon on May 22. Limit 20 lots per member.

**Sat. May 24** In-person and Zoom meeting starts at 10 AM. After announcements we will have our second all-donation live auction with about 60 lots (note date change from April 26).

## Note from the President

Volunteering is part of being a member of a club like ours. We need help with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party (see Jeanne or Maggie), the show—help setting up, breaking down, and greeting visitors at the entrance—that is only a two hour stint and we need two members at the table at all times.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, we are trying to clean out a storage locker that we are renting to hold exhibit frames that we don't use. The date that we need as many hands as possible will be announced soon.

## Stamp Shows

May 23–25	<a href="#">Rocky Mtn.</a>	Denver
Jun. 6–7	<a href="#">SOPEX</a>	Medford
Jul. 26–27	<a href="#">Reno</a>	Reno
Aug. 14–17	<a href="#">GASS</a>	Chicago

## The Post Boy Reporter

April 12

by John Walter

The meeting had 30 members in attendance, including 2 *via* Zoom. A new member, **Pete Test**, joined today. He collects general U.S. stamps, federal and state duck stamps, and Canadian stamps. Refreshments were provided by **Maggie Griener**.

President **James Steckley** announced that the first-class postage will likely increase to 78¢ on [July 13]. James is organizing an all-donation auction for the May 24 meeting, with an expected 45–50 lots.

**Jeanne Paquin** discussed preliminary plans for the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in August. She intends to distribute a questionnaire in the May *Post Boy* to gather more feedback and suggestions.

Membership chair **Mike Potter** reported that the club has 71 members.

The April and May 2 USPS new stamp issues were projected on the screen by **John Walter**. John also reported on Linn's Stamp Poll. Our stamp club was one of 15 clubs to submit mail-in ballots. The best commemorative was the 10-design Autumn Colors and the worst was the Alex Trebek stamp.

Show chair **Erik Fields** stated that about half of the dealer tables are confirmed with checks. The show covers will feature a cachet for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. postal service on July 26 and a club cachet for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 27. **John Walter** and **Howard Grenzebach** displayed one-page exhibits entitled *My Favorite Things* to encourage members to begin preparing one-page exhibits or more for the stamp show.

**George Ray** conducted the raffle, awarding 10 prizes and a bonus prize won by **Scott Mathews**. Scott also won the \$20 money prize.

The live auction included 58 member lots and 6 donation lots. A total of 43 lots sold for \$631.50. The auctioneers were **Gary Atkinson** and **Mike Potter**, assisted by **Nadiah Beekun**. **Erik Fields** and **Steve Foster** managed the accounting.

April 26

Amidst light April snow, 27 members (Zoom was available thanks to **Harvey Edwards** but there were no at-



Figure 1: James Steckley and some of his clocks.

tendees) gathered and enjoyed **Eric Moody's** refreshments while welcoming back **Ken Hopple**. This near-average attendance was despite several members attending WESTPEX in San Francisco. Membership chair **Mike Potter** reported a total of 72 members. He recommended delaying the publication of the new member directory until after the upcoming August elections. He also noted that NSSS members can join APS with a \$10 discount—further savings can be obtained by opting out of mailed newsletters.

President **James Steckley** reminded everyone about the upcoming all-donation auction on May 24. He also announced the new postage rates effective [July 13]: first-class 78¢, postcard 62¢, and international \$1.70.

After an intermission and the raffle, **James Steckley** gave a presentation on one of his (many) other hobbies—clockmaking (Figure 1).



## In Search of the Royal Philatelic Collection by Margaret Griener

My friend Rebecca and I had the great good fortune to take a trip to London and Paris a couple of summers ago. We had read that our favorite Broadway show, *Phantom of the Opera*, was closing in New York City after a long run, and even though we had each seen it several times over the years, we decided we had to go once more, and what better excuse to go to Europe and what better place to see that play than London. So we made reservations, bought show tickets, plane tickets, and were on our way.

Rebecca had in mind purse shopping, but I very much wanted to see the royal stamp collection. The collection is the largest in the world, estimated to be worth \$10–14 million [£7.5–10.5 million], and contains every stamp ever issued by Great Britain [and empire], except for of course that little bit of paper, the *Mona Lisa* of stamps, the one-of-a-kind British Guiana one-cent magenta (Figure 2). The royals had an opportunity to bid on the magenta at an auction years ago, and I can tell you, if I had only that one space to fill in my album and had the money to bid, I would have raised my paddle in a heartbeat.

Stamp collecting was a hugely popular hobby in the mid- to late-1800s, and the royals were in a unique position to collect the worldwide issues of the British Empire, as well as a lot of what's in the British Museum, and issues were added to the collection over the years, most significantly by King George V.

A royal charitable trust owns the crown jewels and artwork, but the royal collection was personally owned by Queen Elizabeth. King Charles may have inherited it, or the queen may have bequeathed it to the trust. Since the royals probably don't have to list assets publicly, I don't know who own it now, but I wanted to see it.

If I had my cell phone on the trip I could probably have easily Googled where the collection is kept. I should have thought of that before leaving home. We visited the Tower of London and saw the crown jewels; surely it was there somewhere, but no. I got nothing but blank looks from any docent I asked, "Where is the royal stamp collection?" We visited Windsor Castle; no one knew. I asked museum people, hotel doormen, and waiters. Churchill's granddaughter, and Charles and Diana's chef joined our group for dinner; they didn't know, and although I had the pleasure to converse with many different people, no one knew. You would think these people were

unfamiliar with what postage stamps are. Maybe it's an age thing.

I was able to look longingly into the windows of Stanley Gibbons' stamp shop, warmly lit and inviting, but I didn't go in. I was with a non-collector, and I knew once I was inside I would be reluctant to leave, not to mention poorer.

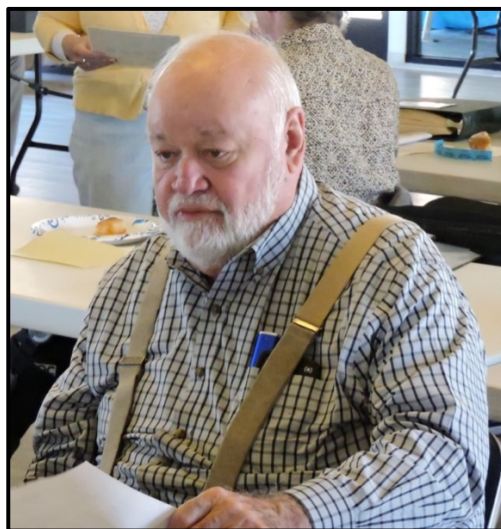
Finally, using the hotel's computer, I found the answer—St. James' Palace, in a vault watched over by the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection and available only to serious students of philately (for which I think I qualify, but that would probably be a hard sell with the Keeper).

So, we had a great trip, saw the play, ate at some wonderful restaurants, but I didn't get to see the royal stamp collection.



**Figure 2:** The unique 1856 British Guiana 1¢ magenta (#13) in true color (top) and with an infrared filter (bottom). It was most recently sold in June 2021 to Stanley Gibbons of London for \$8.3 million.

## New Member: Pete Test



***Pete Test** joined the stamp club at the April 12 meeting. When asked to provide some personal information, he wrote this:*

I began collecting stamps around 14 years old. An old friend of my mother was an avid collector from Canada. She kindled a stamp collecting urge in me and later gave me some of her collection.

After I was really hooked, I realized **Kay** and **Ed Williams** were well into many years of stamp collecting. Kay and Ed were very close friends with my parents and, being childless, they were like second parents to me and my brother. After Ed passed, Kay and I shared our collecting together. I was interested in U.S., Canada, Mexico, and especially duck stamps (probably because I hunted and later became a wildlife biologist).

Although I continued to buy and collect stamps for some time, with career and location changes, I had less time to work on stamps but continued to accumulate them. Now that I have retired, the interest reinserted itself. Kay Williams also gave me her collection when she passed—leaving me a lot of work reorganizing.

I still buy duck stamps (each year) and try to keep up with Canada, and some U.S., if I like them. I knew Kay was a long-term member of this club and decided I may find some friends with a similar interest and be able to give me advice as I try to catch up in the stamp collecting world.



## Forbidden: “United States of America”

by Patrick Crosby



phenomenon era, “On one day at Coney Island, New York, over one million cards were mailed.” There was no time scrutinize each mail piece, but unmailable matter was to be pulled at any point of transit if noticed.

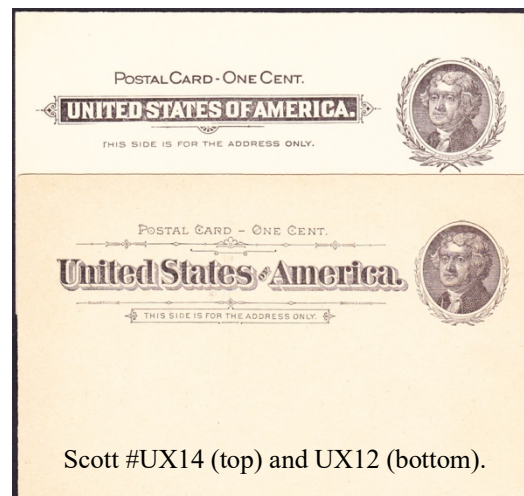
Shown above is a medley of forbidden “United States of America” postcards. The second from top includes the also forbidden “Postal Card” and is an illegal copycat of an 1894 government postal card (Scott #UX12, bottom right).

Stated clearly in its *Daily Bulletin* from January 18, 1904, the USPOD tells all Postmasters:

“The law officer for this Department advises that cards issued by private persons bearing on the address side the words “United States of America” are in “likeness or similitude” of the regular United States postal card, and therefore in violation of law, and unmailable.”

A grace period was allowed for postcard sellers to trim their stock, and the law took effect July 1, 1904. The term “unmailable” (the USPOD also uses nonmailable) means an item is prohibited from being transmitted in the mails. At this time if unmailable cards were deemed to be of value they would be sent to a Dead-Letter Office. Otherwise they were to be disposed of as waste paper or perhaps destroyed by the Postmaster (see my Feb. 2017 *Post Boy* article “Obliterated Postcards—Postal History or Trash? Both”).

Not only does the featured comic postcard (top) have “United States of America” but it is a direct knock-off of an 1898 government postal card (Scott #UX14, bottom right) save for using “Private Mailing Card” and a stamp box instead of a printed stamp. Although unmailable, this card was cancelled July 3, 1905 and seems to have made it through to the addressee with its Orange, NJ, received postmark. It was mailed from Brooklyn, NY, Coney Island Station. It seems the sender was enjoying a day at Dreamland, which was one of three amusement parks on Coney Island, the other two being Steeplechase Park and Luna Park. In his *Nevada Post Card Album*, Robert Greenwood states that during the postcard



Scott #UX14 (top) and UX12 (bottom).



## WESTPEX '25—A Report and Impressions by John Walter

At least five NSSS members attended the event on various days from April 25–27, with a few present for all three days. The attendees included **John Walter**, **Dave Gehringer**, **Jeanne Paquin**, **Mike Del Grosso**, and **Howard Kadohiro**.

A brief overview: the show featured 65 dealers, including several from overseas, 50 volunteers who facilitated the event, 56 exhibitors showcasing 260 frames, and five days of live Schuyler Rumsey auctions. Additionally, there were 38 philatelic meetings and first-day ceremonies by the U.N. Postal Administration and U.S. Postal Service.

I attended the Hawaii Philatelic Society meeting, where Robert Hill presented *Samuel G. Wilder and the Stamps of the Kahului Railroad*. His presentation provided new insights, generating interesting questions from approximately 30 members present. The camaraderie among members and the sharing of macadamia nuts from Hawaii were particularly enjoyable.

The Ryukyu Philatelic Specialist Society meets annually at this show. Having joined a few years ago, I appreciated Gary Weiss' presentation on *Collecting Miyako Provisionals*, despite not collecting in this area. Following the meeting, I had lunch with President Jon Kawaguchi and Director Ron Cassel, who showcased his impressive collection of Miyako Gunta stamps.

On the dealer floor, I conversed with **Scott English**, APS Executive Director, to express gratitude for his decade-long service and to wish him well in his future endeavors as he transitions to a new position outside the State College area.

The Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies [of which the NSSS is part] convened on Saturday, represented by myself, **Dave Gehringer**, and **Jeanne Paquin**. Our *Post Boy* newsletter is distributed among other Council clubs.

As members of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, **Dave Gehringer** and I attended the Saginaw Chapter meeting where Steve Shay presented *Collecting Naval Covers*. The session was insightful, with eight members participating.

Between meetings, I explored the exhibits. One stand-out moment was encountering the #C3a inverted Jenny (position 94, [Figure 3](#)) in the exhibit titled “U.S. Inverts

and Select World Rarities Under 100 Extant”. The exhibitor also displayed #294a, 295a, and 296a ([Figure 4](#)), plus many more rarities. Engaging with the exhibitor was enjoyable as the exhibit attracted significant attention.

Exhibit awards ranged from Large Vermeil to Large Gold, with most receiving Gold awards. Guest societies presented outstanding exhibits, including the American Helvetia Philatelic Society, the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, the Mexico–Elmhurst Philatelic Society, and the Rhodesian Study Circle.

I spoke with numerous dealers and made several cover purchases. While some dealers reported satisfactory sales, others expressed disappointment. Overall attendance appeared lower than expected, a sentiment echoed by most dealers. A few dealers show interest in participating in our July show, to whom I distributed Dealer Prospectuses.



Figure 3: #C3a “inverted Jenny”.

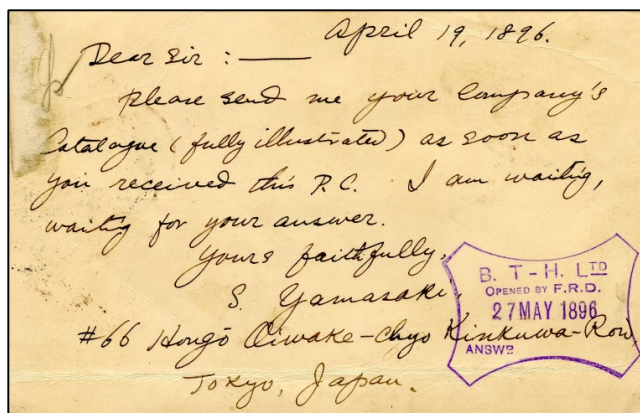
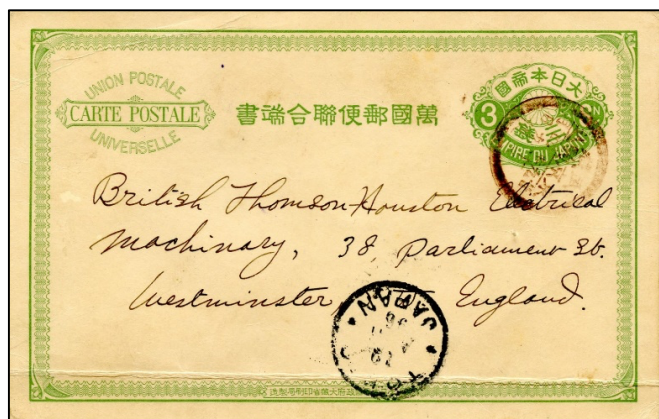


Figure 4: Pan-American inverts #294a (1¢), 295a (2¢), and 296a (4¢).

## Westpex 2025 Purchases

By John Walter

Items added to my various collecting interests.



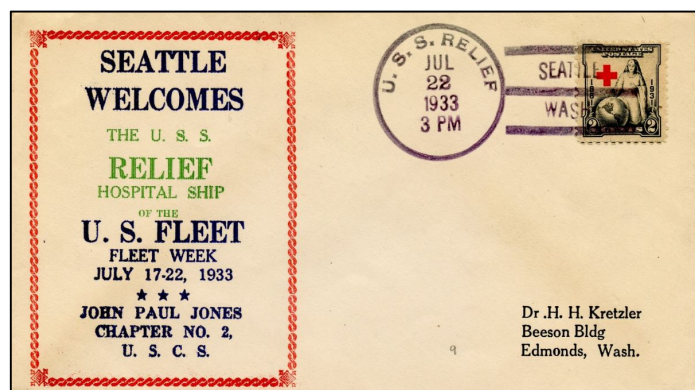
To add to my Japan collection: An early postal card sent April 19, 1896, from Tokyo, Japan to British Thomson Houston Electrical Machinery in Westminster, England, requesting their illustrated catalog.



Japan Tsugitaka-Taroko National Park first-day cover issued on March 10, 1941.



Two cancels on Jan. 1, 1951 cover, sent via Sea Jug Post in the Sea East of Miami. Sent to Oakland, CA. Obviously, a souvenir cover, but nice.



As a member of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, I collect U.S. Navy hospital ship covers. I have a few from the U.S.S. Relief (AH-1) but this one caught my eye because it was canceled on my birth date of July 22. (Wrong year though.)



## Quiz: UK Stamps

by Eric Moody

The UK, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or simply Great Britain as it's still commonly known to the rest of the world, was the first country to issue postage stamps, and it has been a prolific producer of the paper scraps since then. This quiz contains questions relating to both the nation's old and recent issues.

1. Britain's—and the world's—first postage stamp, the “Penny Black”, was issued on May 6, 1840. It was followed the next day by the “Twopence [this color]”.  
(a) Brown (b) Yellow (c) Blue (d) Green
2. This Englishman is credited with being responsible for introducing the first postage stamps, the adhesives produced in 1840.  
(a) Robert Peel (c) James Stephenson  
(b) Rowland Hill (d) Arthur Wellesley
3. The first British stamp with a horizontal orientation appeared in  
(a) 1913. (b) 1902. (c) 1884. (d) 1882.
4. A stamp of 1971 (#651) depicted this famed English poet and his signature.  
(a) William Blake (c) John Keats  
(b) William Wordsworth (d) J. S. Eliot
5. An inventively-themed set of stamps in 1990 (#1304–1313) featured famous  
(a) moustaches. (c) shoes.  
(b) smiles. (d) rabbits.
6. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this children's literary fantasy was commemorated with a set of stamps (#2064–2068) in 2002.  
(a) *The Wind in the Willows*  
(b) *The Reluctant Dragon*  
(c) *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*  
(d) *Peter Pan*
7. The long-running Machin definitives, which were introduced in 1967 and featured a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, derived their name from  
(a) their designer.  
(b) their place of first issue.  
(c) a scale used to determine complimentary colors.  
(d) their first printer.
8. These noisy devices, often used in celebrations, are shown on Britain's 1997 Christmas stamps (#1776–1780).  
(a) rattles (c) crackers  
(b) French horns (d) drums
9. Which one of these Channel Islands does not issue its own stamps?  
(a) Guernsey (c) Jersey  
(b) Alderney (d) Sark
10. This king, depicted on stamps in 1936, was never actually coronated.  
(a) Edward VII (c) George V  
(b) Edward VIII (d) George VI
11. What monarch appeared on more postage stamps than any other British ruler?  
(a) Queen Victoria (c) King George VI  
(b) King George V (d) Queen Elizabeth II
12. This famous London theater, opened in 1599 to showcase a group of actors that included William Shakespeare, was celebrated in a 1995 set of stamps depicting “Bankside Theatres”. The playhouse, of which a replica hosts performances today, was  
(a) The Swan. (c) The Globe.  
(b) The Rose. (d) The Good Hope.

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](mailto:postboyquiz@renostamp.org).

**April quiz answers** 1b, 2b, 3c, 4a, 5c, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9b, 10d.

## Vassar Post Office Display

by John Walter

The two wall frames at the main Reno post office have a new display for May. One frame for Armed Forces Day, celebrated on May 17, has commemorative panels for Distinguished Marines and Soldiers, the USAF, Women in Military Service, and Hispanic Americans in Service. There are also covers for the U.S. Coast Guard. The second frame has material for Memorial Day, May 26. There is a nice cover for the Four Chaplains killed on the USS *Dorchester* and a couple of covers recognizing the Gold Star Mothers.

