



The Post Boy

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

JUNE 2025
VOLUME 58
ISSUE 6

President	James Steckley	president@renostamp.org
Vice President	Nadiah Beekun	vp@renostamp.org
Secretary	Will Eubanks	secretary@renostamp.org
Treasurer	Erik Fields	treasurer@renostamp.org
Directors	Dave Gehringer	dave@renostamp.org
	Eric Moody	eric@renostamp.org
	Jeanne Paquin	jeanne@renostamp.org
	Dave Parsons	davep@renostamp.org
	John Walter	webmaster@renostamp.org
Post Boy Editor	Will Eubanks	editor@renostamp.org
Webmaster	John Walter	webmaster@renostamp.org

Nevada Stamp Study Society
P.O. Box 2709
Sparks, NV 89432
renostamp.org

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!

In this issue:

Upcoming Events

[A Note on Security and Cash Handling](#)

[The Post Boy Reporter](#)

[A Ship Cover Posted at Sydney, Nova Scotia](#)

[“Wow! You’re a Stamp Collector?”](#)

[“What’s the Matter with the Mail?”](#)

[Early U.S. Postal Savings Items on Cards](#)

[Quiz: Fairs of the World](#)

[Vassar Post Office Display](#)

Upcoming Events

Sat. June 14 In-person and Zoom meeting starts at 10 AM. Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table.

Sat. June 28 In-person and Zoom meeting starts at 10 AM. After announcements 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.

Stamp Shows

1	Jun. 6–7	SOPEX	Medford
2	Jul. 26–27	Reno	Reno
2	Aug. 14–17	GASS	Chicago
3	Dec. 6–7	PENPEX	Redwood City

Announcement: Membership Renewals

- 6 Membership chair **Mike Potter** has announced that membership renewals for the 2025–2026 year will begin on
- 8 **June 1** in order to expedite the publication of a new membership directory this fall (it is planned to be released sometime after the August elections). If you have updates to your information in the directory, please contact **Mike** at potter0465@sbcglobal.net.
- 10

Reminder: Sign In at Meetings!

Auction Bucks coordinator **Maggie Griener** would like to remind everyone to please sign in at the front table each meeting! Otherwise you’ll lose those oh-so-desirable Auction Bucks that can be spent at the Auction Bucks auction in November. Please sign in *legibly*!

A Note on Security and Cash Handling

Treasurer **Erik Fields** has noticed that some cash and auction/consignment lots have been going “missing” recently. Because of this, **Erik** would like to remind everyone to a) keep a close eye on your cash, stamps, and other valuable possessions while at meetings, b) be welcoming to yet aware of strangers and visitors, and c) **do not crowd the Treasurer’s table or distract the Treasurer** when people are paying for their items, especially during consignment weeks when purchases are spread out over the course of an hour.

The Post Boy Reporter

May 10

President **James Steckley** and Vice President **Nadiah Beekun** were absent, so Director **John Walter** ran the meeting. **Erik Fields** and **Maggie Griener** brought doughnuts and brownies, respectively—**Barbara Stanfield** happily reported that the sign-up sheet for bringing refreshments in 2025 has been filled. 20 members attended in-person, and **Tom Reyman** joined *via* Zoom. **Ken Hopple** brought a friend, Andre, who usually collects coins and banknotes but is also interested in stamps.

John Walter conveyed that the May 24 all-donation auction has ballooned to 60 lots including about 2,000 first-day covers. Treasurer **Erik Fields** reported that the storage unit (\$1,056/yr) and this year’s stamp show security fee (\$2,187) have been paid. Sign-up sheets for exhibits at the show are now available—there will be no judging, exhibits are for display only! Also, the possibility of restarting the mailing list for stamp show advertisement postcards was discussed as a means to cut down on expenses. **George Ray** mentioned that he gave a business card to someone possibly wishing to sell their exhibit frames. **John Walter** reminded everyone that the APS officer elections end on June 14; you can vote by mail or email. **James Steckley** will be organizing the clean-out of the storage unit, likely in June.

Following the raffle (**Gary Atkinson** won the \$10 prize; there was no bonus), **John Walter** and **Dave Gehringer** gave presentations on their recent trip to WESTPEX in San Francisco. **John** covered general information about the event and showed his new acquisitions, including U.S. aerograms and Japanese covers;

Dave showed several U.S. Navy ship covers featuring custom postmarks commemorating Japan’s surrender at the end of WWII (USS *Missouri*, Tokyo Bay, 9/2/45).

May 24

Over the past few months, donations have accumulated significantly. **James Steckley**, the Donations Chair, organized 59 auction lots to be sold at a single auction. This marked the second all-donation auction of this year. 28 members attended in person with one *via* Zoom. **Betty Mudge** provided refreshments. During the raffle, **Eric Moody** won the money and **Scott Mathews** won the bonus.

Mike Potter served as the auctioneer, with **Nadiah Beekun** providing assistance. **Erik Fields** manually entered buyer bids, and **Will Eubanks** assisted using the club’s Excel auction spreadsheet. The auction proceeded smoothly, with all lots selling for a total of \$833.00.

There was some vigorous bidding, particularly for the \$100-face-value stamp lots, which started at 20% face value and ultimately sold at 35% to 65% of face value. Numerous albums, stock books, and cover albums were available, satisfying those members who were willing to bid and contribute to the stamp club.

A huge thank-you goes to **James Steckley** who single-handedly reviewed all the donation material and then made the 59 lots for the auction. As usually happens, more donations were received at the meeting so these will be in an upcoming auction.

Online Auction #40

The club’s 40th online auction ended on May 22. **John Walter** prepared the auction webpage with images and lot descriptions, while **Dave Parsons** tracked the lots and updated bids four times during the 10-day auction. The auction had 75 lots with 27 selling for a total of \$429.30. See the auction lots and final bids here: [Auction 40](#)

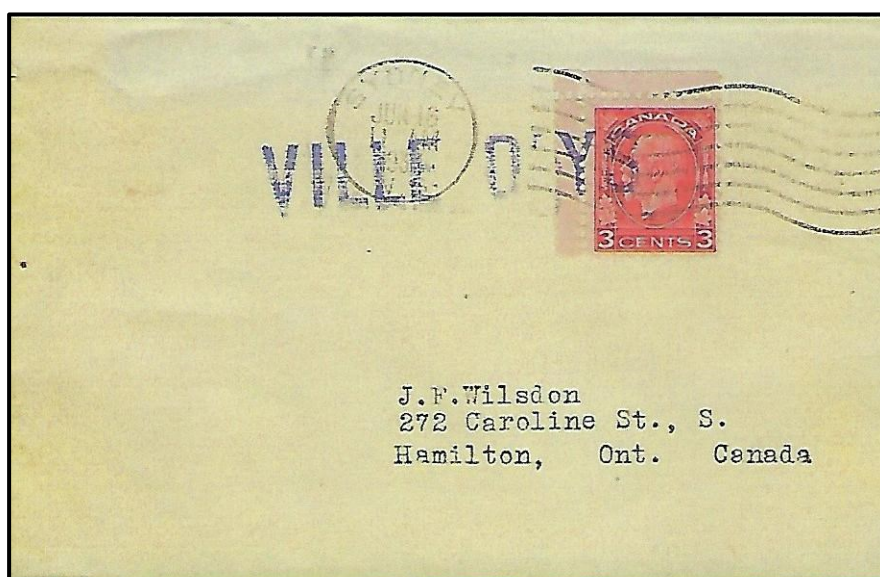
A Ship Cover Posted at Sydney, Nova Scotia

by Tom Reyman

The Saint Pierre and Miquelon Islands, located just off the south coast of Newfoundland, are officially a Territorial Collectivity of the government of France. As such, the French Navy has provided military protection for the islands and for the fishing rights of its citizens since the late 1800s. After World War I, the French government purchased the British warship HMS *Andromeda* and renamed the ship *Ville d'Ys* (*City of Ys*). Through the 1920s to the beginning of World War II, the ship was assigned patrol duty around the islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon and the fishing locations around [Newfoundland's] Grand Banks and Iceland to maintain the fishing rights of the Saint Pierre and Miquelon citizens. The ship did have docking permission at several Canadian ports such as Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and periodically stopped at those cities.

This philatelic cover, with a cancellation date of June 16, 1934, shows the hand stamp of the *Ville d'Ys* ship name on an envelope with a Sydney postmark. [I] questioned under what circumstances the cover would receive a hand stamp with the ship name when the mailing was directed to Ontario, presumably not being carried by the ship to its destination. With the assistance of some other philatelists, [I] found the answer to that question.

Based on the information from [various reference articles] it appears that the subject cover was probably prepared on board the *Ville d'Ys* while the ship was visiting Sydney. The cover was franked with the Canadian stamp (Unitrade #197) and then hand-stamped with the VILLE D'YS ship identifier. The ink from that hand stamp is on top of the postage stamp. The mailing was then sent to the Sydney post office for processing. That conclusion was reached after examining the postmark and noting that the Sydney cancellation was applied over the hand stamp. At that point, the cover entered the normal post office system for delivery to the recipient in Hamilton, Ontario.



“Wow! You’re a Stamp Collector?”

by Margaret Griener

When I tell people that I am a philatelist, I get some strange looks, so I hasten to add that that word is spelled with a *ph*, not an *f*, that I collect stamps, and there are usually follow-up questions like, “Really?! How long have you been collecting?” and “How did you get interested?” or, commonly “Oh, my grandfather used to collect stamps!”

I grew up in a small Northern California town with a small downtown—think one stoplight blinking on and off—and a small library where I spent many hours reading and dreaming about far-off places with exotic names like Zanzibar and Bora Bora and Tanganyika. Downtown we had a Sprouse–Reitz dime store, sort of like a Woolworth’s. During the heyday of stamp collecting, many large department stores like Macy’s and Gimbel’s had stamp departments, and in the hobby section of our Sprouse–Reitz they sold little packets of stamps from exotic countries where I would spend my 50-cent allowance.

Then my parents announced we would be moving to the big city. Goodbye Alturas, California, hello Sparks, Nevada, Manogue High School, Dominican sisters armed with rulers not to whack our knuckles but to measure how long our uniform skirts were. We had a very cute Polish exchange student, and to this day I have a lot of Polish stamps.

Also, to my delight, Reno had an entire store selling just stamps. It was down by the recently demolished main Reno Police station and owned by a grumpy little German man named Alfred. His shop was grubby and dusty and filled with treasures and there was always something interesting for sale in his inventory.

My collecting tastes have evolved and changed over the years, narrowed to the classic era (U.S. and worldwide), and my stamp budget has grown to many times my childhood allowance. I don’t care if a stamp has been graded or certified or (lightly) hinged or whatever is currently in vogue to raise catalogue values. If it’s been hinged, that just tells me that someone loved it enough to save it and put it in an album. If it’s not engraved, it’s not a real stamp in my opinion. I stopped faithfully collecting new U.S. issues when the USPS started issuing unsoakable self-adhesive stamps. I was sure that was an experiment doomed to failure, but I guess I was wrong, and, like the pandemic, it spread worldwide.

But I still love collecting and filling those empty spaces in my albums, looking and sorting and learning about world history and culture that those little pieces of paper reflect. A British Guiana one-cent magenta may be just around the corner waiting to be discovered—hopefully by me! Hope springs eternal.

“What’s the Matter with the Mail?”

by Patrick Crosby

Here is an example of a postal card used twice between friends in 1906. Emma writes, “What’s the matter with the mail??” and draws a small stamped letter that travelled from a mailbox to Africa, then circling New Jersey before being delivered. Clara responds by erasing most of the mailing address (she left “Miss”) and replacing it with Emma’s name and address, then she correctly adds 1¢ postage. Clara’s reply defends the post office’s delivery speed, and she was right—the card was delivered twice in three days.



Early U.S. Postal Savings Items on Cards

by Patrick Crosby

Against the wishes of banks and other money lenders who for nearly 40 years had fought off the notion of savings deposits being held through the U.S. Postal Office Department, the United States Postal Savings System was inaugurated in 1911. It was immediately popular because many immigrants were already familiar with such a system through their previous home country. Also, banks were perceived by many as being untrustworthy and there was a scarcity of banks in rural areas, especially the far west. These accounts would pay 2% once a year.

Deposits to an individual's account would be done at a post office but could only be made only in whole dollars. In order to allow customers of modest means to accumulate a dollar deposit, 10¢ Postal Savings stamps, to be purchased at a local post office, were issued in early 1911. These stamps were first issued in orange (Sc. PS1) and then a switch was made to blue (Sc. PS3) in August. Customers could pick up an unstamped savings card at a post office or purchase a savings card with the first 10¢ Postal Savings stamp already imprinted. These latter cards were at first printed in orange (Sc. PS2, UPSS PS1) and later in blue (Sc. PS4, UPSS PS2) and since they were not meant to travel through the mails they are not postal stationery items, but are certainly collectible. A filled up card or a partially filled card plus cash could be redeemed at a post office as deposit into the customer's account. The postmaster "cancelled" all the stamps to prevent illegal reuse, sometimes using a redemption handstamp.

With the Postal Savings Act of 1910 Congress instructed the Postmaster General to issue designated stamps for the exclusive use in the administration of the act. Beginning in December, 1910, Official stamps not to be used on regular mail were issued in denominations of 1¢, 2¢, 10¢, 50¢ and \$1. The Scott U.S. Specialized Catalog lists these early stamps as O121–O126. The 1¢ stamp is shown on the message half of a message/reply postcard from Washington DC to Oakland, CA, May 2, 1912, asking the Postmaster for the second time to estimate the amounts of Postal Savings items needed for the coming year. The Postmaster seems to have made his notes in pencil, then filled out and mailed the reply half back to Washington, DC.

Postmasters were required to report monthly on the status of their Postal Savings accounts. Beginning in September, 1913, a special Official postal card with printed stamp, address and form was used. Since this card has a stamp with denomination and was meant to be mailed it is postal stationery (Sc. UZ1, UPSS O1). In September, 1914, these cards were recalled, being replaced with non-stamped cards and after only an estimated 50,000 had been issued.

References:

Harry K. Chiles, United States Savings Stamps (United States Stamp Society, Kary, TX, 2012)
United States Postal Card Catalog 2020 (United Postal Stationery Society, edited by Lewis E. Bussey, 2020); the new 2025 edition available at upss.org



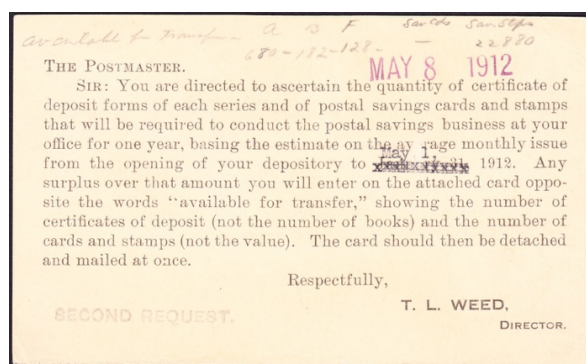
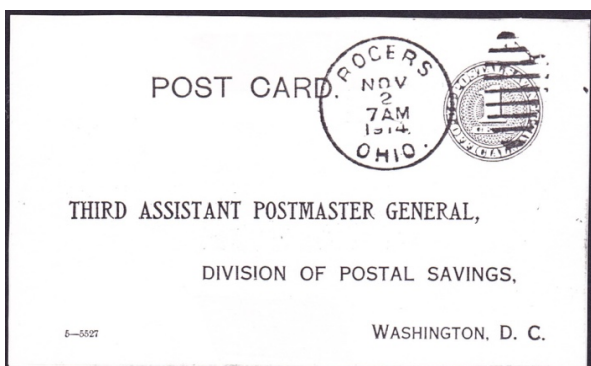
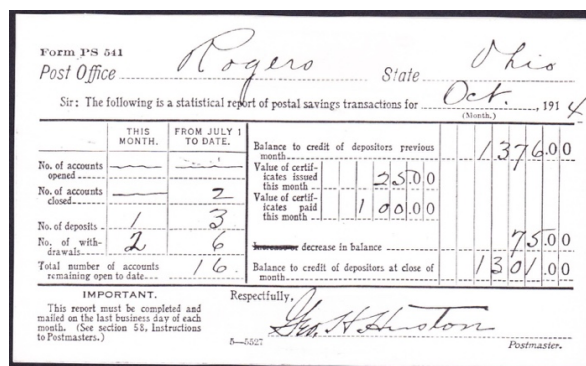
Mint Postal Savings card Sc. PS2.



Redemption handstamp from a Sc. PS2 reverse.

Postal Savings card Sc. PS4
with nine Sc. PS3 stamps.

Official Mail Postal Savings 1¢ stamp Sc. O124.

Reverse of card with 1¢ official stamp
requesting account estimates.A variety of Sc. UZ1 with a colorless dot between
the "O" and "S" of "Postal" (UPSS O1a).Reverse of Sc. UZ1 with
Postal Savings activity form.

Quiz: Fairs of the World

by Eric Moody

Official World's Fairs and international exhibitions, smaller organized fairs, and various other public exhibitions of a similar type have been featured on the stamps of many countries. These questions focus on some of these celebratory events.

1. The 1951 Festival of Britain, commemorated on two stamps (#290–291), was intended to showcase the nation's recent technological and economic development as well as artistic and cultural achievements, and also to celebrate the centenary of another grand exposition which has been described as the "first international exhibition of manufactured goods" and whose most famous structure was the magnificent Crystal Palace. The 1851 exposition, which is considered to be the first true World's Fair, was the
 - (a) British Empire Exhibition.
 - (b) Great London Exposition.
 - (c) Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations.
 - (d) British and Continental Industrial Arts and Manufactures Fair.
2. Occupied Germany in 1947, with stamps #B296–B297, and the German Democratic Republic in 1949, with stamps #B15–B16, commemorated this city's prominent marketplace fair which began in the 12th century.
 - (a) Berlin
 - (b) Dresden
 - (c) Hamburg
 - (d) Leipzig
3. The first exposition celebrated on U.S. stamps (#230–245), one that took place in the country in the late 19th century, was the
 - (a) Pan-American Exposition.
 - (b) Columbian Exposition.
 - (c) Trans-Mississippi Exposition.
 - (d) Louisiana Purchase Exposition.
4. In 1964 the U.S. issued a stamp (#1244) celebrating the 1964–1965 World's Fair held in
 - (a) Seattle.
 - (b) New Orleans.
 - (c) Chicago.
 - (d) New York.
5. One of Paris's most famous landmarks was created for the 1889 *Exposition Universelle*, which was held to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution. Depicted on numerous French stamps (#671–672, 2148, etc.), it is the
 - (a) Arc de Triomphe.
 - (b) Louvre.
 - (c) Eiffel Tower.
 - (d) Palace of Versailles.
6. This imaginative exposition of 1915, the largest seen on the West Coast up to that time, was held in San Francisco. Celebrated on U.S. stamps of 1913–1915 (#397–404), it was the
 - (a) Panama–California Exposition.
 - (b) Panama–Pacific International Exposition.
 - (c) Alaska–Yukon–Pacific Exposition.
 - (d) Louisiana Purchase Exposition.
7. The Space Needle, shown on stamp #1196, was the most prominent feature of the World's Fair that was held in this U.S. city in 1962.
 - (a) Seattle
 - (b) Atlanta
 - (c) Chicago
 - (d) Miami
8. The Expo '88 World's Fair, whose most notable structure was the Skyneedle light tower, was held in a major east coast city of this country, which marked the event with a stamp (#1080). The country is
 - (a) Canada
 - (b) Australia
 - (c) India
 - (d) Mexico

9. Japan's—and Asia's—first official World's Fair, which was celebrated by the host country with two stamps (#1029–1030) in 1970, was held in this city.
- Tokyo
 - Yokohama
 - Nagasaki
 - Osaka
10. Two spectacular international expositions took place simultaneously in the U.S. in 1939–1940. One was the Golden Gate International Exposition, which was held on newly constructed Treasure Island just outside San Francisco and celebrated with a 1939 stamp (#852), while the other, whose theme was “The World of Tomorrow” and was also commemorated on a stamp in 1939, was an official World's Fair held in this city.
- Chicago
 - Washington, D.C.
 - New York
 - Boston
11. The Canadian stamp (#469) that commemorated Expo '67, the International Exposition in Montreal during 1967, featured
- the Canadian flag.
 - the fair's Canadian pavilion.
 - a map of Canada.
 - a bird's-eye view of the fair grounds.
12. In 1992 Spain issued more than two dozen stamps (#2670, 2672a–l, 2673a–l) in celebration of that year's Expo '92, a World's Fair held in
- Barcelona.
 - Madrid.
 - Granada.
 - Seville.
13. (BONUS QUESTION) Local fairs in the U.S. were celebrated in 2019 with four nostalgic stamps that
- featured Norman Rockwell paintings.
 - focused on famous state fairs.
 - were imperforate.
 - formed a *se-tenant* panel.

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.

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



Century of Progress stamps (#728–729) commemorating the 1933 Chicago World's Fair.

Vassar Post Office Display

by John Walter

A new stamp display at the Reno post office features U.S. flag stamps and celebrates Flag Day on June 14.



The USPS will issue a new Flag stamp on June 7 in Three Oaks, Mich. Why Three Oaks for a first day?



The Three Oaks Flag Day parade, held annually since 1953 was first sponsored by the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204.

This year the parade celebrates its 73rd year and the U.S. Postal Service is planning on participating in the parade, held on Sunday, a day after the first day of issue for the new U.S. Flag stamp.

The celebration has become a cornerstone event for the village, attracting thousands of spectators and participants each year. In addition to the parade, the festivities include a 5K run, pet parade, Quilts of Valor presentation, fireworks, and a Flag Day market, among other events.

The stamp will have 6 formats: Pane of 20, two different double-sided panes of 20, two different coil rolls of 100, and coil rolls of 3,000 and 10,000.