

THE SRSC NEWSLETTER

*The Santa Rosa Stamp Club: Promoting the study,
knowledge, and enjoyment of stamp collecting.
APS Chapter 1584*



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Santa Rosa de Lima and Editor's Note

Dennis Buss

Most collectors probably recognize the 1937 stamp depicted in the newsletter banner. The stamp shows Santa Rosa de Lima, the patron saint of Peru. According to Wikipedia, she “was a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic in Lima, Peru, who became known for both her life of severe asceticism and her care of the needy of the city through her own private efforts. A lay member of the Dominican Order, she has been declared a saint by the Catholic Church, being the first person born in the Americas to be canonized as a saint.” Our city was named in honor of her. Note the garland of roses she wears on her head. The stamp is listed in the Scott Catalogue as a postal tax stamp #RA28. Proceeds from the sale of the stamp were used to help erect a church in her honor. The current catalogue value is 25 cents mint or used.



Less often seen is the 10 sol airmail issue of 1936. This beautifully engraved stamp in carmine and brown is listed as C39, the highest denomination in an airmail set of 24 stamps. Scott lists the catalogue value as \$125 mint and \$110 used.



This issue of the Newsletter pays tribute to the contributions of our long-time member George Land. Once again Steve Brett has found a way to find the humor in collecting stamps this time in his attempt to find the most beautiful of all United States issues. We conclude with Paul von Gottfried's call to recover the lost art of letter writing. And what better excuse is there to show off that letter than with a beautiful commemorative stamp as he suggests?

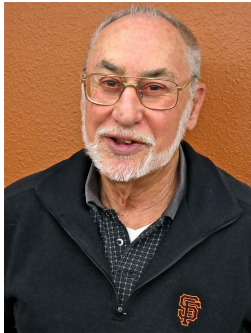
At our February meeting George Land announced that he and his wife Diane have sold their home in Camp Meeker and will be moving north to Oregon or possibly Washington. George and Bob Kirk are the founding fathers of our current Santa Rosa Stamp Club. As a result of their initiative, a meeting was held in the main Santa Rosa branch of the Sonoma County Library on November 3, 2011 to explore the possibility of setting up a club for the Santa Rosa region. Among the approximately thirty-five collectors attending, a strong interest was expressed in

taking the next steps in founding a club. In February 2012 we officially adopted a set of By-Laws and elected officers. The late Martin Feibusch was elected as our first president. George agreed to serve on the first Executive Board as well as to become our first auctioneer. We were off and running and we are still going strong today. George has supported the club in numerous ways over the years by continuing to serve on the Board, contributing articles to our newsletter, supporting our auction by always having interesting lots for sale, and assisting members of the public looking for advice on their inherited collections. George's friendly and cheerful presence at our meetings will be sorely missed. A couple of weeks ago I was pleasantly surprised to receive the following biography of George prepared by his wife Diane. I can't think of a more fitting way to say goodbye and to show our gratitude for all that George has done for our club than by sharing this with you.

George Land

Diane Land

A native of Iowa, George grew up in Long Beach, CA. He graduated from high school in 1953 & soon began his "lifelong career" as a Long Beach mailman. He loved this job & thought it would be forever. But soon the draft board was leaning on him & he joined the Navy.



The Navy sent him to Radio School & pounded the Morse Code into his head for 6 months. After graduation, he was sent to the Naval Air station at Moffett Field. Big surprise — they used teletype & George never heard Morse Code again!

But George was changing & maturing in the Navy. Now he wanted to learn more & he became enthusiastic for more knowledge. Leaving the Navy & his post office "career" by the wayside, George enrolled at San Jose State. But what would his college major be? Now he thought about his early years of stamp collecting. He knew where all the world's countries are. He took a Geography class & that was it! Geography became his major for both B.A. & M.A.

While at SJS, George noticed Diane, who was preparing to become a teacher. Soon, they were engaged, then married. They even appeared on a forgettable TV show, "It Could be You." And it was them! They received a honeymoon week in Las Vegas with all expenses paid.

What kind of work does a Geography graduate go into? George went to work for a college textbook store. But soon he was missing geography & wanted to return to his subject. Back to SJS for a teaching credential. The college sent him to Irvington High School in Fremont for Observation. Then he returned as a student teacher & finally for a job. There he stayed for 27 years. Along the way, he called on another lifelong hobby — Baseball History. He originated & taught an elective course, History of Sports, which was mostly Baseball History.

In 1994, the Fremont District solved their financial problems by offering early retirement to older, higher paid teachers. George took the deal & retired at age

59. After 27 years, he began his other career — retirement. He has 24 years in this career & is going strong.

How did stamp collecting reappear? It was 1979 when George received a Fulbright position to England. The family, with two young daughters, spent a year in England while George taught Geography. Curious, he went to a couple of stamp auctions & the old interest returned. Back home again, the interest gained momentum & he joined stamp clubs in Fremont, Walnut Creek, & later, in Santa Rosa. He is also a member of nationwide clubs, APS, International Worldwide Collectors, & Armed Forces Stamp Collectors. Baseball interest continued & he did a course at Sonoma State, "First 50 Years of Baseball History."

Currently, George follows the auctions at Harmer-Schau. He is also a Board Member & Auctioneer for the Santa Rosa Club & he operates the mail auctions for the Armed Forces club.

The Most Beautiful Stamp – A Paltry Opinion

Steve Brett



NO, NOT
THIS ONE!

Dear members:

I've periodically suggested that we would generate some writing contributions from our club membership if we would only pick the right topic. In taking up this theme, I want to get the ball rolling by offering the first vote on what I believe to be the most beautiful stamp.

My vote is for the 3 cents Centennial of the American Poultry Industry stamp. Amongst the virtues of Scott 968 is its distinction of being the first U.S. postage stamp to feature an egg (and, it isn't over easy). The 3 cents denomination in the right lower corner rests inside an egg. I love this stamp for another reason. It features an absolutely beautiful chicken. In sepia. The chicken is of the Henway Breed. "What's a Henway?" you ask? About 3½ pounds. Seriously, the stamp depicts the Light Brahma Rooster, chosen because it was the oldest breed in America. The original stamp concept included a profile of President Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President (1923-1929). The poultry industry will always be grateful to Silent Cal who gave an enormous boost to the poultry industry in his first run for the office. Coolidge promised Americans "a chicken in every pot." That's a darn sight better than Jerry Brown who promises every Californian a little pot with every chicken!



You must admit that the Light Brahma chicken is a beautiful bird. Please forgive me for a slight digression – my Grandma Becky swore that the best chickens

came from Kosher butchers. One Friday she went to the Kosher butcher in Brighton Beach and, per usual, she asked for a chicken for Sabbath. Sol, the butcher, grabbed a chicken and began wrapping it in paper. "Not so fast," declared my grandma. "I want to see it." With that she took the chicken off the counter and began examining it - pulling on its wings, neck feet and finally giving it the 'smell test.' She plunked it on the counter and said to Sol, "how can you sell such dreck (miserable stuff)?" To which the butcher replied: "Tell me, Mrs. Benjamin, could you pass a test like that?" Back to philately. Scott 968 was issued in New Haven, Connecticut on September 9, 1948. Paul Ives, editor of *Cackle & Crow* magazine, suggested the idea for the stamp in 1947. He sold out the entire extra printing of *Cackle & Crow* in October, 1948 using radio spots touting a picture of a hot chick centerfold. That issue, by the way, was the most confiscated magazine during the Boy Scout Jamboree in the summer of '48.

Congressman Antoni N. Sadlak addressed the First Day Ceremony to a very large crowd in New Haven. We are fortunate to have an excerpt of his speech: "So seldom do we count our blessings that we readily fall into the habit of minimizing the importance of certain segments of our food producing sources. The poultry industry is a good example. The issuance of this stamp is a means of paying tribute to American genius which has built this vast business." In 1948 the poultry industry produced and processed broilers, turkeys, ducks, eggs and breeding stock to the tune of \$3,500,000,000. In today's dollars that's \$35 billion. And this was without the help of Colonel Sanders who was on duty guarding the Midnight Bunny Ranch in Searchlight, Nevada.

Vital Statistics:

The stamp measures 3.8 cm by 2.5 cm.

Quantity issued: 52,975,000.

Printed by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing.

Printing Method: Rotary Press.

Color: Sepia

What makes a stamp beautiful? I think this one meets all the criteria: Portraiture – prettier than Martha Washington. Pictorial content – chicken comes before an egg; Topical value – one gorgeous chicken (if you look closely, he's watching you). Detail and Aesthetics – there's no mistaking this bird for a retiring grackle.

I challenge any SRSC member to top this one. If he or she does, well, I guess I'll have egg on my face.

**DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND WESTPEX 2018
The Bay Area's Premier Stamp Show
April 27-29
San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel**

Letter Writing

Paul von Gottfried

In their 1999 book, *Letters of the Century, 1900-1999*, authors Lisa Grunwald and Stephen J. Adler write “letters give history a voice.” Letters offer prime source insight into the social and historical record of the time. The authors go on to bemoan the decline in the quality and quantity of letter writing since the advent of the cell phone and electronic communication.



Two salient points. First, if letters give history a vocal and written record, stamps give colorful anecdotes. I remember the joy as a youth in receiving letters from a friend or relative. I would first examine the sender, the stamp and the postmark. If I was not sure of the commemorative subject, I would look up the relevant information in our encyclopedia or go to the library to do research (which made my mother proud since she was a research librarian) on the person or subject. The stamp was my window into the fabric of the letter. There is nothing like holding a letter in your hand, examining the postmark and stamp, checking the return address and feeling the quality and texture of the paper and the envelope and letter. I believe people still

treasure letters.

Second, letter writing is becoming a lost art form. Too often we send brief tweets, bleats and hurried snippets. These fragmented, staccato blitzkriegs are emblematic of our 21st century society. One simply has to examine the tweets of the president to illustrate how far letter writing has declined in quality and quantity. How will future generations judge our voices?

I have to admit that apart from the one page occasional Christmas letter, the last thing of importance I wrote was my Aunt's obituary almost 6 years ago. I am grateful to family and friends, many from the stamp club, who have written beautiful and whimsical letters offering insight into the social and historical activities of the year 2017. I did write a long letter to a friend in New Jersey recently about the fires here. She wrote me that while she had needed to hear my voice, the in depth letter I sent filled with personal reactions and insight gave her a better perspective than the newspaper articles and TV coverage. Back in the 1970's, I wrote my sister faithfully every week for over a year while she did research for her thesis in Europe. Sometimes I wracked my brain for more information, it was about as productive as a dog attempting to give birth to kittens. Upon her return, my sister told me that my letters were an anchor from home and helped keep her going.

I would like to suggest that each club member write a nice, long letter to a friend or family member. Pick a nice stamp. I am currently using the recent Charlie Brown or the National Parks issues. Then take the time to share your thoughts and feelings with the people you love. It will help you feel better and I bet the recipient will appreciate your thoughtful, beautiful letter. And no, I'm not being paid by the United States Postal Service.

SRSC

The Santa Rosa Stamp Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm at the Finley Community Center, 2060 W. College Road, in Santa Rosa. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Following a discussion of club business matters, the meetings feature a philatelic presentation and a member auction. For further information about the club visit our website at <http://www.santarosastampclub.org/home.html>

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George Land

Executive Committee Members

Paul von Gottfried, Don Test, Dennis Buss,
Susan Dixon, Steve Brett, George Land, and Jim Scholz



Members are encouraged to submit articles for the Newsletter. Whether it is a short piece about an interesting stamp or cover in your collection or a more extended article about some aspect of philately, your submissions are welcome.

See Dennis Buss, the Newsletter editor.

Mark Your Calendars

WINEPEX 2018

October 5-7 at the Marin Civic Center,
the North Bay's only major stamp show.

Sponsored by the Redwood Empire Collectors Club,
Winepex is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The show features single frame exhibits and a dealers' bourse.